



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
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Dear Students and Families,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to write to you as the Acting Headteacher of William Ellis School from September. This is a highly unusual time in many respects. Having to make up for so much time out of school will be challenging, but as always there will be the excitement and hopefulness of a new beginning. I'd like to take this opportunity to paint a picture of the direction of the school next year.

I will be Acting Headteacher for one year, from September 2020. I am currently the Deputy Headteacher and joined the school in 2015. Previously I worked at Parliament Hill School as Head of History and Politics. I have maintained an interest in these subjects while at William Ellis – I'm currently reading Miranda Kaufmann's *Black Tudors* and *Rebel Ideas* by Matthew Syed. Sue Higgins, who will be working alongside me in an advisory role, led Parliament Hill as Headteacher throughout my time there. She is excited to be back working in the local area and we are both looking forward to renewing a close and constructive working partnership, leading a diverse and inclusive Camden school.

With Sue's support, I am committed to leading the school into a positive future during the 2020-21 academic year and have an excellent team of staff to enable the school and its students to be successful. I'm pleased to say that we have made temporary appointments to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Bernie Lane will step up from Assistant to Deputy Headteacher. Karl Altmann, Lucy Strike, Jeremy Pratt and Guy Forbat, experienced and expert teachers at the school, will also join the SLT.

William Ellis School strives to be a centre for excellence in boys' education, within the co-educational LaSWAP consortium. The school was founded on the idea of fairness for all, regardless of their backgrounds, helping them to celebrate their identity and overcome any challenges that they face. Our school motto, "rather use than fame", is more relevant than ever. Our students need excellent literacy skills, digital and technological competence, and strong emotional intelligence and creativity. These are essential for strong qualifications and access to the careers and further learning that will enable our students to live successful, healthy and happy lives. Writing in the midst of passionate and well-founded calls to challenge racial prejudice and injustice in the past and present, this must include ensuring that the strengths and needs of all our students are celebrated and addressed, helping them to celebrate their identity and overcome any challenges that they face. This requires a focus on personal development and the taught school curriculum, and staff professional development to support this. These aspects are central to my motivation in taking up the Headteacher role.

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Excellent physical and mental health is a central part of future success. We are pleased to have appointed a new Head of PE, Josh Levitt, and a Food Technology teacher, Cauline Ellis – both will help us to ensure that students are supported in these aspects of their lives. As we return to school after such a long period of most students being at home, it is important that this period of recovery and renewal has students' voices and their leadership prominent in the conversation about how the school moves forward. We must also rejuvenate and develop honest, caring and robust relationships between all members of the school community.

All the staff at the school, including me, are sad that we cannot mark the end of the school year or Sam White's departure face to face. However, I look forward to meeting you all as soon as possible in the new academic year, and wish you a safe, happy and healthy summer in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

Izzy Jones