



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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4th September 2020

Dear families,

I write to update you on the first week of a return to full opening at William Ellis. For the last two days we have had all students and staff in school, and it has been wonderful to come back together as a school community. Students have engaged in a variety of activities. With their tutors they have been re-introduced to routines and procedures in school, including the very important changes we have made to the school to minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission. Students had curriculum lessons today, ensuring that they finished the week having received high quality teaching and making progress as learners.

Importantly, we have also welcomed new students to the school this week – Year 7 and Year 12 students who have joined us in the LaSWAP 6th form consortium from other schools. They have taken full part in the schools' activities and it has been a steep learning curve for them, having not had a full induction programme in the summer. I would like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to the staff in the school for working so hard to make this week a successful one for students.

I would also like to thank you for placing your confidence in us by sending students back to school. Across the last two days we have had 94% attendance across the school. Although we can never totally remove all health risk, there is also a great risk to students' future development if they are not receiving high quality education. The students have also overwhelmingly shown their appreciation of this through their courteous behaviour and positive attitudes.

We have been mindful of the fact that all families have had different experiences over the past few months. This will mean some readjustment of routines at home as students return to school, and many parents return to work. There may also be some families whose financial circumstances have changed over the summer and may now be looking to apply for Free School Meals. This is done through the Local Authority – Camden information can be found at <https://www.camden.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

The comprehensive detail about the changes we have made to the arrangements in the school can be found on the website. We will be reviewing these at the end of September, unless we receive advice from the government or the Local Authority to do so sooner. We would remind you of the most important things that we all must do to minimise coronavirus of transmission:

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1. If a student or staff member has symptoms of coronavirus or they live with someone who does, they must stay at home and follow the isolation guidance from the government.
2. Wash or sanitise hands whenever asked to and at other times they think that it is necessary, and any sneezes or coughs must be into a tissue or sleeve. They should avoid touching their face, sharing equipment without good cleaning or having hands near their mouth, nose or eyes.
3. People must resist the temptation to greet each other by touching, for example shaking hands or touching each other's shoulders.
4. Allow the school to be kept clean by keeping things tidy – taking care of personal possessions, not littering and putting things away.
5. Following advice to stay home if they are contacted by NHS test and trace about contact with another infected person.

We would welcome your support this weekend in making sure that students are fully equipped and organised for school on Monday, including their uniform, books and equipment. They should also be getting into good routines with homework.

We know that those travelling by public transport are wearing face coverings, and we have made it optional in indoor communal areas. If this applies to a young person in your household, please help them to understand how these should be worn safely: [https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/clothing-masks-infographic---\(web\)-logo-who.png?sfvrsn=b15e3742_16](https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/clothing-masks-infographic---(web)-logo-who.png?sfvrsn=b15e3742_16)

I also enclose a letter about some changes to our behaviour management system for this academic year.

Yours sincerely



Izzy Jones
Acting Headteacher

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