

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL HIGHGATE ROAD LONDON NW5 1RN

ACTING HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

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Dear families

Alternate to our fortnightly newsletter, I write with some updates about events and information this week. As you know, we have introduced Food Technology to the curriculum for the first time this year, and our GCSE group have completed their first practical lessons. This is a vital step forward in promoting healthy lifestyles with students.

Free School Meal (FSM) provision

We have been mindful of the fact that all families have had different experiences over the past few months. There may also be some families whose financial circumstances are changing and may now be looking to apply for FSM. This is done through your Local Authority – Camden information can be found at https://www.camden.gov.uk/free-school-meals

If students are absent from school for 14 days because they or someone in their household is isolating the school must continue to provide an alternative to FSM. These families should contact the school office to arrange to collect a Sainsbury's voucher.

PE, homework and school photos

As detailed in our newsletter last week, extra-curricular clubs in PE as well as in Music have re-started and many students are attending. Homework club is also running for separate year groups, to support students re-establish good routines in school. Please see the timetable that was sent out with last week's newsletter.

We continue to allow students to come into school fully dressed for PE on the days that they have PE only. Students should not come in other sportswear. However, on Wednesday 23rd September all students in years 7 and 10 will be having their school photos taken. Therefore, these students should come in full school uniform on that day.

A reminder that the school will be closed to all students on Friday 25th September for a Staff Professional Day.

Information about transport

Transport for London have published information and resources to help school students make easier and safer journeys to and from school, and we wanted to share these links with you.

- <u>A video about school bus services</u>
- Free cycle skills training courses are available for all Camden children and adults, register for a session <u>here</u>. TfL have also launched a new online Cycle Skills course that can be found <u>here</u>.
- Information about the <u>Bike to School week</u>, which runs from 28th September to 2nd October

Finally, I'd like to thank all those of you who worked so well with us in implementing the public health advice around coronavirus cases. This includes our staff in school who ensured that all our procedures were followed clearly and robustly, the Camden and Islington Health Protection Team who provided advice and support throughout, and of course the families of the group of Year 9 students who have had to take steps to minimise any risk of further transmission in the community in line with Track and Trace. As I'm sure you know, one of the biggest challenges is ensuring that everyone has access to prompt testing for those with symptoms, so that no one has to isolate unnecessarily. We have sent out with this letter the Camden Council weekly information leaflet about coronavirus testing, including the Kentish Town test centre.

We will be reviewing the changes that we made to routines and systems in the school over the course of next week. If you would like to provide any feedback please do so on <u>this form</u>.

I wish you all safe, happy and healthy weekends.

Yours faithfully

Ms Izzy Jones Acting Headteacher