



News Update (25th September 2020)

Dear families

Welcome to this edition of our fortnightly newsletter. I'd like to start by saying thank you to the students, staff and WESPA representatives who helped our Open Evening run so successfully yesterday. We adapted our normal arrangements to allow small groups of visitors into the school in line with the latest Public Health guidance, so that they could speak in person to senior staff and hear from students about their experiences in the school. These events were oversubscribed and parents who left said that they were very useful. We are running similarly adapted open events in the next few weeks, again with social distancing measures in place and in small groups. Visitors will not be in classrooms while lessons are taking place. Due to popular demand, we will also be running webinars for prospective families. If you'd like to see the video content that we're also sharing with families, please take a look on our website: [a window into our school](#).

Despite the recent announcements about social gatherings, there have been no changes to the required actions for schools' opening. You may be aware that at the end of August the government announced four tiers of intervention which may be used to control the transmission of Covid-19 in schools. Should we move to the first tier, schools will remain open to all pupils but with a requirement that face coverings be worn in corridors and other communal areas of secondary schools where social distancing cannot take place. Face coverings are still voluntary at William Ellis. However, I am asking families to prepare in case we are required to ask all students to wear face coverings in school. We are aware that some students feel more confident when wearing face coverings when others do. Whilst we have been advised that brief contact in corridors within bubbles is relatively safe, face coverings are a sensible precautionary measure to protect people in the school. Staff and students are welcome to wear them in indoor communal spaces such as corridors. Students travelling on public transport should have a face mask with them every day. Disposable face coverings are only designed to be used for a very short period of time and certainly not for a whole day. We are recommending that students have a number of reusable face coverings which can be washed regularly. If your child is wearing a face mask, please watch this video with them [WHO: how to wear a face mask safely](#). Assemblies this week have also focused on the importance of continuing a calm and safe return, in particular about showing consideration to each other and not having close physical contact in indoor spaces.

Like all schools we want to continue and improve the remote learning provision we established during the Summer Term. Students should find their homework set as an assignment on Teams, with any necessary resources to support them. The amount of work set and the frequency is in line with our homework expectations for each subject which are [on our website](#). Parents have asked about lessons being broadcast to students who are isolating – this isn't feasible while lessons are taking place. In other local schools where large groups of students from years 11 have been told to isolate, a combination of remote teaching and learning materials have been provided. We would look to do the same in that sort of eventuality.

As the weather turns colder and wetter, please make sure that students have a coat that is warm and waterproof enough for their journeys to and from school, and at lunchtime and breaktime. We are maintaining good ventilation in classrooms by keeping windows ajar, and so it would be useful for them to also have a jumper (normal uniform and PE kit) and a warmer PE top. Please see the guidance on uniform in previous letters.

Very best wishes for the weekend

Izzy Jones
Acting Headteacher



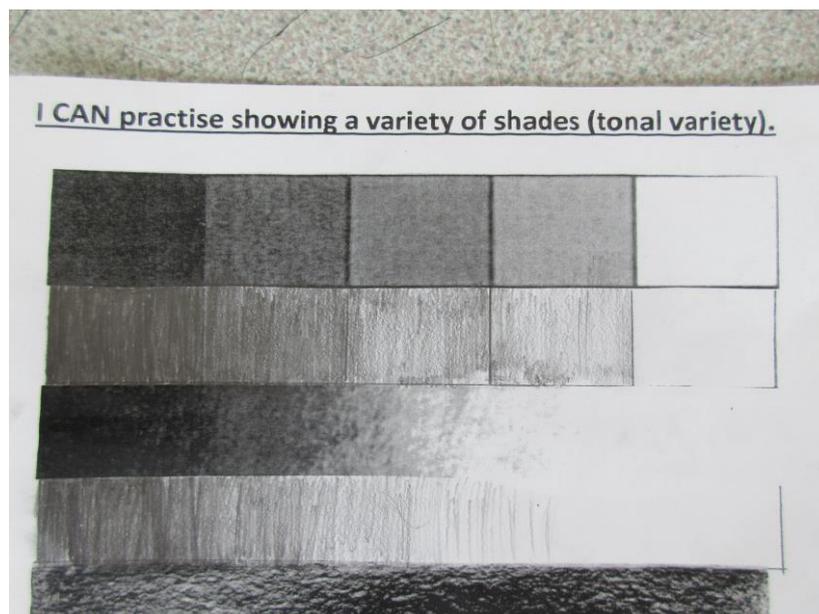
YEARS 7 AND 8

Ms Lawson, Pastoral Leader – Year 7

This week our Year 7s have settled more into life at William Ellis. I have visited a number of lessons where I've been proud to see the boys listening wonderfully, working hard and contributing to class discussions through sharing thoughtful ideas. The praise points have been pouring in and students can now see their efforts displayed on our Year 7 leadership board, a huge congratulations to 7W who are in the lead with this so far! Another way that pupils can compete between houses was in this week's European day of Languages quiz, winners to soon be announced....

Ms Laura Madsen, Head of Art and Design Department

Year seven students have started their first art project at William Ellis aimed at developing their control with the elements of art such tone, line, shape and colour. Here are some examples of some highly skilled work using tone made by Tristan and Chace in 7F.



YEARS 9 AND 10

Horace Parry, Senior Pastoral Leader

Year 9:

What a great cohort so far. Out in the lower playground bubble, Year 9 have been organising team football at lunchtime. Three captains choose teams and rotate, with the winner of the game staying on to face the next opponent. Great spirit and sportsmanship. In class, students have settled in well to the new timetable and by all accounts, they are enjoying lessons - from what I have seen, heard and witnessed- they are! I look forward to sending further positive messages each newsletter.



Year 10:

My Year 10 Double Languages students have gone through the first round of 'mock' exams in French. All students who took part approached the three parts of the foundation French exam with great maturity and we are hoping to get the results by the end of next week. They will continue following the Year 11 syllabus this year. Bien fait!

GCSE PE: Mr Levitt has reported a great start to the course and is extremely pleased with the progress made by all students in his class thus far.

GCSE Food Technology: It was excellent to see students leaving their Food Tech classroom with beaming smiles and 'home made' chicken salad bowls in hand. We are looking forward to seeing, smelling and tasting some healthy options this year.

Ms Laura Madsen, Head of Art and Design Department

We are delighted that William Ellis has been able to extend its curriculum offer this year with the new addition of Food Technology at GCSE. This week I had the pleasure of visiting our new Year 10 class who were learning about knife skills and making their own salad shakers. All the students produced very tasty looking salads which included different vegetables as well as chicken, pasta and cheese.





At the end of the lesson the students voted for whose salad shaker showed off the most skill in chopping their ingredients up evenly and the presentation of the dish.



Three 'chefs of the day' were chosen - two of whom had made decorations for the top of their salads by arranging cucumber and tomatoes! I would like to thank Ms Ellis who has been working hard to set up this new course and the Year 10 students who seemed like they were already professional chefs!





YEAR 11

Christine Mercier-Peart – Pastoral Leader, Year 11

Another fantastic two weeks for Year 11. Extra-curricular activities have started and it's great to see Year 11 taking up these opportunities. If you go to the sport hall on a Tuesday morning, for instance, you will see Year 11 playing basketball in a good competitive spirit.

Also, our Study Hub is now open every evening after registration where Year 11 boys can find a quiet place to study and where they also can find support - we are lucky to have two helpers from City Year attending the sessions. It has been lovely to see the boys engaged in such a way in their learning. Well done Year 11. Keep it up and stay safe.

LaSWAP

THE SIXTH FORM OF CHOICE

Caroline Smith – Head of Year 12, William Ellis

Students have now settled back into school and studying. There is a very purposeful and welcoming learning environment both in class and the study centre. Students are enjoying the opportunity to share ideas and study skills both with their teachers and each other. During tutorials, students have continued to make progress with their personal statements and university choices. In addition, individual appointments are taking place with Madeleine Landreth, our Higher Education advisor. A Kindness campaign has begun to develop relationships within tutor groups and with the local community. Each tutor group is coming up with their own plan to be carried out after half term. We also had some fun on the Heath whilst it was still warm, by playing rounders. Year 13 vs Year 12. It was a chance for students to bond as a team and to meet other students (outside). Players and spectators had a great time!





LaSWAP

THE SIXTH FORM OF CHOICE

Ms Laura Madsen, Head of Art and Design Department

Our new Year 12 A Level Graphics group have started their first project called *Urban Journeys*. In this unit students start by working on different ways of recording in art.

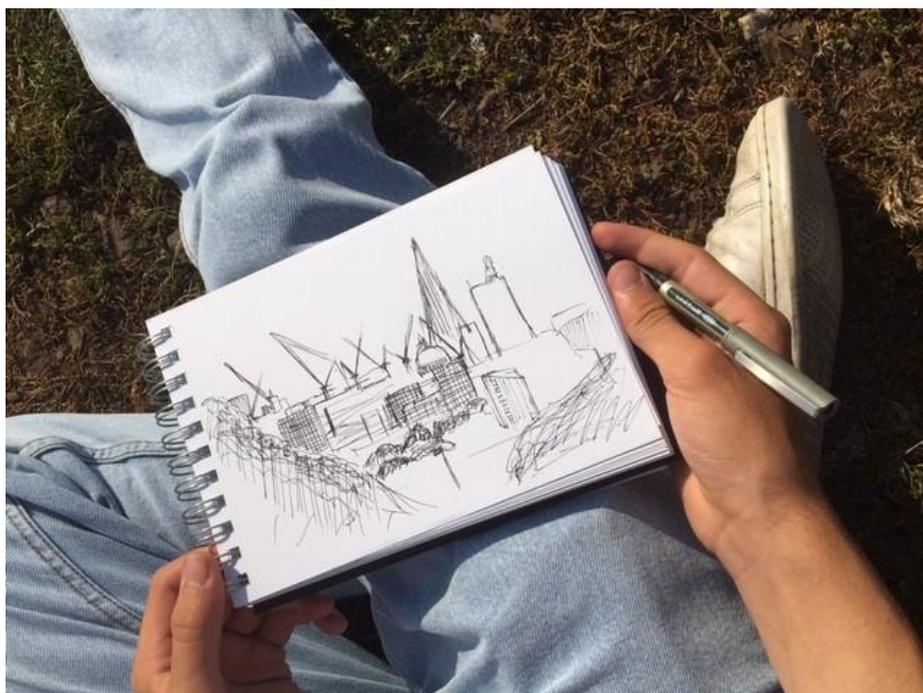
The group went on a walk on the heath and recorded their journey in ten different ways. As well as drawing and painting they collected objects, timed the journey, wrote poems and took photographs to help to inspire their artwork!



It was a very hot a hazy day and the view over London was spectacular.



Here are some of the drawings made by our fantastic Year 12 students:



Jonah



Danie