



## **News Update (27<sup>th</sup> November 2020)**

Dear families

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Our assemblies this week were led by the Student Council, who reported on their own leadership progress so far this term. All forms now have their own representatives and sports captains, and there are House Captains appointed as well as equalities and diversities champions. In their most recent meeting, the Council identified their priorities for trying to improve facilities in the school, maintain our focus on sustainability, and the praise and concern system. They also had the opportunity to reflect on how coronavirus restrictions have impacted on their experiences of school since they returned in September.

### **Inter-house sport**

Year 11 inter-house football was completed a few weeks ago, with a first-place draw between Burgh and Lauderdale. Other year group inter-house competitions are taking place as the year goes on. Also, 15 students in years 9-11 have been selected to run an in-school event as part of the London Youth Games, which has been adapted this year in line with government guidance. I would like to thank the PE Department for continuing to run inter-house and enrichment activities such as they are possible this term, within the changing restrictions. We look forward to more clubs and activities being able to re-start in the future.

### **Starts and finish times**

This is a reminder that as of this Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, we will be returning to normal, non-staggered, starts and finish times for years 7 to 11. This means that all students will have twice daily registration at 8:35 to 8:50am, and 3:05 to 3:10m. This represents no change for years 7 and 11, who were already having daily registration. This has no implications for 6<sup>th</sup> form.

This means that **all students** must arrive at school by 8:30am, to be in registration by 8:35am. They will be dismissed at 3:10pm by their tutors.

We know that tutor contact and registration routines are an important way of maintaining good relationships and communication and supporting good attendance – both are key priorities especially for students hardest hit by COVID-19 and its effects. The guidance about start and finish times came from Camden and Transport for London to reduce bus congestion but in negotiation with Parliament Hill and La Sainte Union schools, we are still able to achieve a staged use of public transport.

It is important that students only use public transport if they have to. All students that can should walk or cycle to school – especially if they live within 1km of the school. This will stop buses being overcrowded, making them safer for students and members of the public.

Izzy Jones, Headteacher



**Ms Lucy Strike, Associate Assistant Headteacher, English Teacher**

### Literacy update

We know that reading regularly is the best way to support all students' reading skills and will have an impact on progress across the curriculum. To support this, all students are currently reading novels with their form tutors once a week in addition to books we read in English lessons. They are listed here so you can discuss them with your student at home!

In year 7 students will read a selection of the following books across the year:

**'Tin' by Padrag Kenny, 'Time Travelling with A Hamster' by Ross Welford, 'Holes' by Louise Sachar, 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo**

In year 8 students will read a selection of the following books across the year:

**'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman, 'Feather Boy' by Nicky Singer, 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, 'Who let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans, 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver**

In year 9 all students are reading **'In the Sea there are Crocodiles' by Fabio Geda** In year 10 all students are reading **'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas**

In year 11 form tutors read articles connected to their GCSE subject across the curriculum.

What can you do to help your student at home?

- ***Ask your student about what he is reading at school and at home: can you fill me in on the story? What do you think is going to happen next? What clues is the writer giving you? Who is your favourite character?***
- ***Ask your student about any new words he has learnt from his reading or other subjects***
- ***Listen to him read; read together taking it in turns.***
- ***Try to build a regular reading time into homework sessions. Aim for 15 minutes at the beginning or the end.***
- ***Remind your student that he can borrow books from the school library before and after school and during break and lunch time.***
- ***Listen to audio books and look at Brown's Books online to get inspiration for new books <https://www.brownsbfs.co.uk/secondary>***

Where can I get access to free books from home?

You can join Camden libraries online by following this link.

<https://camden.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

You will be issued with a temporary library membership ID. With your temporary library ID and PIN number you can borrow thousands of e-books, e-audio-books, e-magazines and e-newspapers from our Digital Library.



Happy reading!



**Mr Frank Difusco, Associate Head of English**

We are delighted to announce that the annual poetry competition is well underway. Inspired by this year's national poetry day theme - *see it like a poet* - students will have the opportunity to explore poems in tutor time as one of their daily activities. The winning poem from last year's poetry competition was the first poem looked at by students in tutor time this year and can be found below.

Students in KS3 are all studying poetry at the moment in English as well, but for Year 11s this is a great opportunity for them to access some poetry since they will not be required to study the poetry unit in GCSE literature this year. Many students will be writing poems in their English class or in tutor time, but we really want to encourage every student to be proud enough (and brave enough!) to submit their work. They can hand poems in to their English teacher or email them to [fdifusco.202@wes.camden.school](mailto:fdifusco.202@wes.camden.school). Please make sure that students write their name and tutor group on the poem, but other than that there are no other rules or limitations as to what you can submit as your poem.

The deadline for this competition is 11th December and winners will be decided anonymously by a student panel. There will be a winner for each house and those winners will be ranked for an overall position. Each winning poet will receive an edible prize, their work published and celebrated around the school and a certificate for their achievement.

**Forgotten Green**

The early morning breeze rustles  
The dew-soaked leaves.  
Its flowers reaching for the sun,  
Its roots stretching for water.



A bee appears,  
Curving through the rust-soaked sky,  
Disappearing as quickly as it appeared.

The day fades,  
The sky bursts its veins,  
Its flowers curl up as the sun is swapped,  
For the glare of neon stars.

A cigarette falls discarded.

The day wakes up to steel hills,  
Iron mountains  
And a small square of shoe-trodden grass.

*By Ben G 8K (now 9K)*



## **Ms Cockcroft, Science Teacher**

*COVID Symptom Study for Schools - your help needed.*

William Ellis has signed up to the COVID symptom study for schools. The COVID symptom study run by Zoe and King's College was set up early in the pandemic for individuals to report their symptoms. With over four million users they have generated new scientific understanding of the various patterns of symptoms seen in different people as a result of coronavirus and provide useful data about your local area.

They have now added a schools project where individuals reporting will be (anonymously) linked to the school so that school-level data can be seen by both parents/carers and school leaders so that we can see how the virus is affecting the school community. If you sign up to report on the app, you will get daily insights for the school and specific bubble as well as helping to safeguard the school community. We need parents and carers to download the app (available from the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app stores). Each day you will be asked to answer simple questions about your child's health and the outcome of any COVID tests they have had. It takes up to two minutes a day and often less. All data is stored securely and in accordance with GDPR; the school will NOT be able to see your name or that of your child.

The more households sign up the more effective this will be - please do help if you can. Any queries please email me [cockcroft@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:cockcroft@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) Thank you for your support.

WESPA Message re app:

Marion, former WESPA Chair, has used the Covid Symptom School Study App to connect her son's existing profile to the William Ellis network. She writes "Connecting to WES on the app probably took less than two minutes and was completed in 4 easy to follow steps. I remember to update most days on this app and it reminds you if you forget. It takes moments to do and is very straightforward."

## **Ms Maclennan, Maths Teacher, PSHE Co-ordinator**

### **Statutory Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education – Parental Consultation**

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, the government has decided that all secondary age children will be taught Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

At William Ellis, our Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum was already covering most of these government requirements. In order to keep you updated with the changes that we have made we are publishing the current schemes of work to the website. We would encourage you look at these and to speak to your child about their PSHE learning to continue these important conversations at home.

<https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/pshe>

In addition to these changes to the curriculum, we have created a Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy. This has been written collaboratively with Camden Council and tailored to our school. As part of the government statutory changes we would like to invite you to consult with us on this policy and to ask any other questions you may have about the changes. Please see the school's website for the policy and schemes of work. There you will



find an opportunity to submit questions ahead of an online consultation which will take place **on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.**

If you cannot attend this session please email our PSHE Co-ordinator directly at [maclennan@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:maclennan@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)

## **Ms Lawson, Pastoral Leader – Year 7**

It has been a busy few weeks for year 7; with the student council starting their discussions, robotics club really making headway with coding and the Maths enrichment project group solving some impressive puzzles.

Next week our focus is going to be on attendance with our weekly raffle being introduced for pupils that make it into school in time every day each week. As we approach the end of a term, a quick update on our current competitions; 7L are currently winning the weekly quiz and 7W the most praise points.

A particular congratulations to those who have won star of the week for displaying exemplary examples of our learner attributes but also a big well done to the whole year group for the ongoing positive attitudes and efforts I have been hearing so much about from your class teachers.

## **Ms Neli, Maths Teacher**

Maths Enrichment Several students in year 7 and 8 came together to participate in their first session of the Extended Maths Project. They worked in teams to try a selection of activities designed to apply their knowledge and skills in a different context. I was proud of the level of curiosity, resilience and collaboration displayed by all the students. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the next session which will take place in January. This is when we will review the Extended Assignments as well as explore other problem-solving strategies.





Mr Sel Pomeyie, Head of Geography



An important part of being a geographer is getting outside into the field to observe and study the world we are learning about. Year 7s recently started a new topic about London 'our home region'. This topic presents several opportunities to get out into the field. The first of these opportunities saw year 7s going out onto Hampstead Heath to sketch the skyline. This will help them to understand the reason for London's location and land use in different parts of the city.

### Ms Conran, Pastoral Leader – Year 8

**The return of afternoon registration:** Afternoon (pm) registration provides an opportunity to celebrate praise as well as support any issues, it's a really important time for tutors and tutees so I am very glad of its return. Students will have twice daily registration at 8:35 to 8:50, and 3:05 to 3:10 from Monday 30th November.

**Homework and extended learning:** Year 8 should be completing 5-7 hours a week (45 to 90 minutes per day) on homework or extended learning. Whether online, on teams or handwritten, all homework, including dues dates, should be written in student planners. Supporting this at home could include choosing a location to leave planners open for your inspection. With the following frequency in mind, all completed tasks should be ticked.



## Homework schedule:

- Once a week for core subjects (English, Maths, Science and Languages)
- Once per fortnight in other subjects.

**Year 8 Student council meeting:** Ensuring student voice has a platform to be heard collaboratively this will be taking place next week. An exciting opportunity, I look forward to sharing the outcomes.

**Poetry competition:** One of my personal favourites, this term is home to our annual poetry competition. The creativity and sharing of unique points of view is truly a treat for us all. This year, National Poetry Day took place on 1 October 2020, and the theme was Vision. Mr Difusco has been providing a poem for Year 8 to explore and consider every Wednesday. This continues to be a delightful mid-week activity to support and inspire our budding poets, as well as those that may not know it. **Poetry competition deadline:** Friday 11th December. Submit poems to house reps, English teachers or form tutors OR email your submission to: [fdifusco.202@wes.camden.school](mailto:fdifusco.202@wes.camden.school)

**Football competition:** Our Year 8 football enthusiasts were elated when informed that the PE department could host this competition. They took the many changes, restrictions and considerations in their stride. I was the only spectator of some seriously impressive skills and sportsmanship echoing from the playground. .....results to follow.

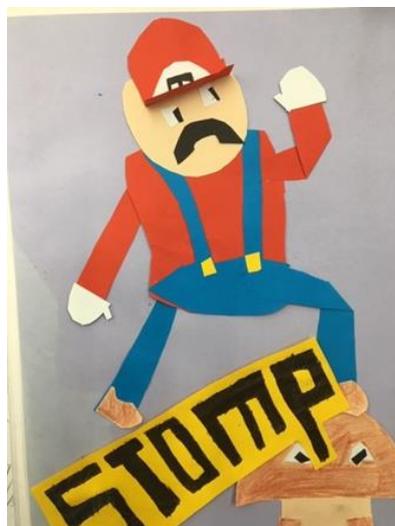
**Assembly focus:** Joining “Manners are free” from my first assembly, “Meanness is Weakness” was the focus of my second. Encouraging recognition that every week is anti-bullying week; we do not accept it and we will not be bystanders to it. Thank you for your continued support in giving these words meaning.

Until next time warm and well wishes.

PS - Please email your tutor (and cc me in) if you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform, equipment, masks or water bottles.

## Ms Laura Madsen, Head of Art and Design:

Year 8 students have been working on a project themed 'text in art'. They have been learning about Onomatopoeia words and then they made them into a collage inspired by Pop Art. Here are some creative examples form 8W - using Mario to illustrate 'stomp' was a very popular idea among the rest of the class!





**Mr Horace Parry, Senior Pastoral Leader – Years 9 and 10**

Well done to all year 9 students and parents for pioneering and successfully taking part in the first virtual parents evening. 96% attendance. We would welcome your thoughts on how the evening went.



Excellent news also for all students taking part in the Year 9 to 7 mentoring programme. The programme runs once a week and involves every student in year 7. So proud of our mentors. Thank you to Mr Walker for organising this.

Well done to Year 10 for having been so mature in coming in on time to school and going straight you Period 1 lessons. Next week means a return to normal timings with morning registration. I have every confidence that Year 10 will rise to the challenge and continue to set themselves the high standards we are used to.

Congratulations to the students who are taking part in the Head Held High project. The six-week project is halfway through. I will report on the outcome of the project in the next newsletter. In the meantime, you can find out further information at: [www.headheadhigh.org.uk](http://www.headheadhigh.org.uk)

## **Ms Christine Mercier-Peart – Senior Pastoral Leader, Year 11**

Thank you to all the boys who have made progress on punctuality to lessons. We still need to be vigilant and we are urging parents to keep supporting boys with the importance of being on time for school/lessons.

Welcome to Ms A. Robbins who is our new Careers Advisor replacing Ms Lane's maternity leave and Mr Luard. Interviews will start from Wednesday 9th December 2020. We are working towards possible interviews online to double the capacity of appointments. We'll keep you posted.

**MOCK EXAMS:** Boys have already started their revision and been going to interventions/using the study hub. You may have, or will be, receiving an email shortly from Mr Scott regarding the forthcoming mock exams giving all the details needed. Boys will also be given a presentation about times and rules during morning registration. A reminder - no mobile phones or earphones are allowed in the hall during mock exams, following official GCSE exam board regulations. Students will have to leave their phone in their bags in a separate room designated for personal possessions during every exam. They have no choice. Having a phone in pocket in an exam room, even off, is totally forbidden. Please do discuss this with your son as on that day it might be better to leave their phone at home.

**LASWAP VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING EVENTS:** Virtual events held on 26<sup>th</sup> November were primarily designed for students from outside LaSWAP schools, as we will be holding our own events in January, but hopefully our Year 11 families had a look at some of the events on offer - a panel webinar, pathway webinar, pastoral care webinar, FAQs with a director and some videos for each course as well as promotional films done by LASWAP students on departmental content. Please see link: <https://laswap.camden.sch.uk>

After our own LaSWAP events in January, our students will fill in their LaSWAP application forms with guidance from their tutors.

The LaSWAP website is full of information about the different courses we offer and contains new powerpoint presentations about each of the courses offered, with specific information from the course leaders. Please do look at these to try and work out which of the very many courses we offer you are most interested in.

As part of their tutorial programme, Year 11 students have been learning about the different options open to them after this year – including LaSWAP – and we hope any questions have been answered by their tutors. However, if either students or parents have any questions about what being a LaSWAP student entails; what courses they can study; or how the consortium works, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Wilson, Director of Sixth Form at William Ellis by email: [fwilson@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:fwilson@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)



**Join us to find out more about The British Museum!  
Want to hear some gossip about the Tudors?  
What gifts did they give in ancient Britain?**

Dear Colleague,

**FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FROM MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

Camden Adult Community Learning will be running a number of free online workshops for Camden residents in partnership with the British Museum. Residents can get involved, ask questions and hear stories about the following:



Monday 30 November 2020, 11.00-12.30

**History of the British Museum: architecture, artefacts and activities**

The British Museum was founded by an act of parliament in 1753. Since then, the Museum has looked after an ever-growing collection of objects. The building has changed many times. Find out about the architecture, hear the story of how the Museum collections developed and find out about the different activities which take place in the building.



Monday 7 December 2020, 11.00-12.30

**Meet the Tudors: a royal dynasty and its impact on British history (plus some gossip!)**

Find out about the Tudors and explore how their actions affected their kingdom. You will look at the people, gossip and rumours that circulated at the Tudor court. The webinar will include images of objects, spoken information on the period and an opportunity to ask any questions you have about the Tudors.





Monday 21 December 2020, 11.00-12.30

### **It's the thought that counts: gift-giving in ancient Britain**

The end of the year is traditionally a time of gift giving. Giving somebody a present is full of meaning. The act of gift giving can be seen in history going back to prehistoric times in Britain. Come and explore why particular objects were chosen as gifts, how people made an object valuable as a present, who these gifts were being given to and what the gift givers hoped to get in return. The webinar will include images of relevant objects, spoken information and an opportunity to ask any questions.

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### **Speaker**

Dr Katharine Hoare has worked in the Department of Learning and National Partnerships at the British Museum for 20 years. She has a background in history and archaeology, together with a passion for sharing information, stories and enquiry approaches to help everybody understand and enjoy the past.

### **How to enrol:**

Residents can enrol using the following link:

<https://www.webenrol.com/camden/?page=courses&cat=5>

or by calling 020 7974 2148.

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Please forward this information onto your clients, networks, learners and contacts as appropriate.

### **For more information or if you have any questions:**

**Call:** 020 7974 2148

**Email:** [adultlearning@camden.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@camden.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.camden.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.camden.gov.uk/adultlearning)

**Instagram:** [wearecamdenacl](https://www.instagram.com/wearecamdenacl)

