



Get in touch: williamellispa@gmail.com Twitter: @WESparentsassoc • Instagram: [william_ellis_school_pa](https://www.instagram.com/william_ellis_school_pa)

Dear WES Parents and Carers

William Ellis School Parents Association (WESPA) welcomes all parents, carers, teachers, staff and friends of the school. WESPA plays an active part in school life at William Ellis and it's a great way to get involved with the school, get to know each other and join in with some fun social events that help fundraise for WES.

Co-Chairs: Fiona (Yr9) & Max (Yr9)

Treasurer: Azeb (Yr9)

Secretary: Juliet (Yr9)

Vice Secretary: Zehra (Yr10)

Cupboard Lead: Hayley (Yr10)

Music Lead: Claire (Yr10)

5K Challenge Lead: Grace (Yr9, Yr12)

Quiz Lead: Zehra (Yr10)

Petty Cash: Julie (Yr8)

Uniform: Linda (Yr8)

Newsletter: Nick (Yr8, Yr12) + Team

Raffle Lead: VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Get in touch...

Email:
williamellispa@gmail.com

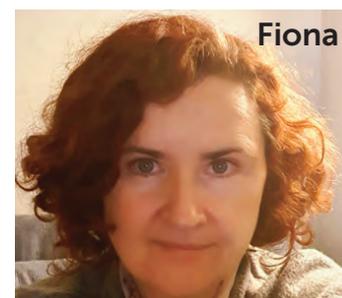
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Spotlight

'Keeping all of us connected'

As of November 2020, WESPA has new co-chairs, taking over from the fabulous Marion. As we are not able to run face-to-face events, we wanted to throw a spotlight on the new co-chairs, **Fiona** and **Max**. Moving forward, we will be throwing the spotlight on to other parents too, so stay tuned!



Fiona

Fiona, parent to Noah in 9W

I GOT involved in WESPA when Noah started at William Ellis. I wanted to be sociable and to support the school that my son would be spending the next 5-plus years in.

It was really encouraging to see how parents, teachers and students worked together to support our school and school community, and I really enjoyed meeting new people and getting involved in events.

Becoming co-chair of WESPA while we're in lockdown is pretty daunting. Fundraising is harder, face-to-face events are off the table for now, and many of us (including me) are trying to homeschool our kids who themselves are dealing with the disruption.

That's why I want us to focus much of WESPA's energy this term on keeping us all connected, supporting parents where we can and giving the boys some much-needed time with friends.

I hope you'll enjoy the range of online WESPA events we have planned that will entertain, inform and most importantly of all, bring us together as a community.



Max

Max, parent to Alonso in 9F

I JOINED WESPA because I loved the sense of community at Alonso's primary school. All the parents would gather their resources, and even if they couldn't physically pitch in, they would turn up, and support when it mattered.

I underestimated the difference in divide between parents, teachers and students at secondary school, as there is no longer the drop off and natter at the school gate.

I would love to create something that feels similar to that, whether through events or by helping to connect the parents.

The parent WhatsApp group has been a huge help, and a lifeline to helping navigate Alonso's first years at William Ellis.

My aim as co-chair of WESPA is to have as many parents and carers involved as possible; all ages, all sizes, all colours, all religions, and all personalities.

WESPA is about belonging to a wider community; knowing other parents in your son's peer group can help hugely with sharing information, being able to ask questions and get answers quickly without feeling like you're harassing the teachers, and also feeling like you're not in this alone.

Events & Activities

We're taking WESPA Talks online

AFTER the success of last year's WESPA talk on youth safety, we are now taking 'WESPA Talks' online.

This series of talks and interviews aims to feature a range of speakers on topics including local history, the environment, and teenage mental health and wellbeing.

We look forward to launching the series with an in-conversation between WESPA and Ms Jones, getting to know our Acting Head.

We're on the lookout for



wide-ranging topics and diverse speakers, so do get in touch if you'd like to volunteer (or volunteer someone else!).

All ideas welcome.

■ To join, please email: williamellispa@gmail.com with the subject titled 'WESPA TALKS'.

Form reps

Each Year 7 & Year 8 form group has a rep that helps communicate and keep other parents in the know via the form WhatsApp groups. Each rep is an admin, and has a line of communication to parents.

Your reps are:

YEAR 7 REPS: Ceri 7B; Coco 7F; Amelie 7K; Holly 7L; Natasha 7W

YEAR 8 REPS: Nick 8B; Julie 8F; Ri 8K; Vicky 8L; Donna 8W

If you would like to join the WhatsApp group for your year and form, please send your name, year/form and mobile number to:

williamellispa@gmail.com with the subject "WhatsApp Group".

WESPA Hosts at home

WE ARE pleased to announce 'WESPA Hosts', a new and exciting way of getting social without leaving the house! With donations as small as £1 per person, we are looking at innovative ways to help fundraise for the school without running face-to-face events, as well as trying to get everyone as involved as possible.

■ For more info, email: williamellispa@gmail.com

Join in the WESPA Nights In

FROM movie nights and quizzes for the boys to wine tasting and cook-along classes for the adults, we want to get the community more socially active.

As we are not able to host face-to-face events, we're trying to get creative! The first date in the diary is for the Year 7 boys. And because they have not been able to experience WES life at its fullest, we are hosting this event for free to help them socialise a bit more, and get them to have some fun.

The free event is a virtual Crystal Maze on Friday March 5th so please diarise the date and encourage all



your boys to take part.

■ To join, please email: williamellispa@gmail.com putting in the subject title of 'WESPA NIGHTS IN'.

Calendar

March

Friday 5th: Night in with WESPA (Year 7 online event)

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th: WESPA Working Weekend at The Mill

Tuesday 30th: WESPA Digital Online Meeting, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 31st: Last day of term

DATE TBC: WESPA Talks: WESPA in conversation with Ms Jones, Acting Head (online event)

Take part in our skills survey, share something to shout about!

THIS is a small survey so that you can tell us more about you.

As a community, we want to get an understanding of who does what, where people are from and what special skills they might have.

If you're a dab hand in the kitchen, if you run your own business, if you have experience in public speaking; all of these are skills that you should

be shouting about.

The idea of the audit is to have a better understanding of our wider community, thus being able to offer more to our boys as a whole.

Careers advice, work experience, even hosting a 'WESPA Talk' are all things that can benefit from filling out the form.

The audit is for William Ellis only,

and will not be shared with any third parties.

It is optional, and you do not have to fill it in, but if you do, it will help us strengthen the wider community.

You never know what you might be missing by not being involved!

■ Click here to link to the survey: forms.gle/1kW4uKyU6gK4RHv99

Events & Activities

Celebrate the Heath's 150th on video

June 2021 marks the 150th anniversary of the Heath being protected. Heath Hands is launching a digital project for young people to send in videos about (1) why they love Hampstead Heath and (2) being out in nature.

The best videos will be shown as part of anniversary celebrations and there are prizes to be won!

Videos should be no more than 30 seconds long - and are best shot in landscape format.

Prizes will be awarded for the best entries (£100) and runners up (£50) in each age group for the two categories.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 12th March.

■ Follow the link for info: <https://www.heath-hands.org.uk/get-digital-details>



Sign up: WESPA Working Weekend at The Mill

WILLIAM ELLIS' centre for outdoor learning, The Mill, is in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. It's situated in the village of Forest Green which lies nestled within the Surrey Hills.

Fingers crossed that the next (covid-mitigated) WESPA Working Weekend can take place on 12th, 13th, 14th March 2021.

Volunteers carry out essential work around the site including maintenance of the grounds and repairs, preparing the site to welcome back WES pupils. Volunteers are welcome to come for half a day or a full day.

■ Check here for updates and to register your interest (parents/carers and teenagers are all welcome):

<https://themillforest-green.co.uk/volunteers>



Camden Forest 2025

A FOREST, and a story forest in Camden! 2025 trees to be planted by 2025!

In the spirit of greening up Camden, and to build a community storytelling project, the idea of a Camden Story Forest arose.

FREE young tree whips are available for



local residents to plant and care for.

Available trees are Crab Apple, Dogwood, Rowan and Wild Cherry.

Please use the website to decide which tree species to choose from and to get advice on planting and after care:

camdenforest2025.wordpress.com

Support us

Closer to our Home Learning Laptop target

A huge thank you to Camden Giving's Social Action Fund, which has awarded £3,000 towards WESPA's Home Learning Laptop campaign, and to The Hampstead and Campden Trust,

which has awarded £2,000.

We have less than £2,000 to raise of our £30k target to bring digital equality for students at William Ellis School, both during the pandemic, but also



throughout their learning at WES.

Each £1 donated will 'unlock' £1 match-funding from the Birkbeck and William

Ellis Schools Trust!

■ Please do spread the word: [virgin-moneygiving.com/fund/homelearninglaptops](https://www.virgin-moneygiving.com/fund/homelearninglaptops)

Need a learning device?

ORIGIN Housing's 'Digital Home-schooling Fund' provides families in Camden with Chromebooks and Data SIMs on loan for six months. If



you're an Origin Housing resident and are in need of a digital device at home, please contact community.development@originhousing.org.uk to request an application form.

Thanks for shopping online

THANK YOU to the 70 supporters who have raised over £900 in FREE donations by shopping online using easyfundraising, including big donations if you change mobile, broadband, fuel supplier and car insurance! WESPA earns a £5 bonus donation every time some-

one new successfully joins easyfundraising and raises £5 as a supporter through this unique link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/williamellispa/?invite=1KH7PM%26referral_campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

Future fundraising goals

- Improving pupil well-being by providing: outdoor seating, shelter, quiet spaces, gardening opportunities, refurbishing the Quad.

Call for your contributions!

WESPA would like to feature students' artwork, photographs, poetry, and short stories based on any of the school's 'pledges'. We would also love to hear which commitments you have been working towards. Please send your contributions as a word document, JPEG image or PDF to: williamellispa@gmail.com

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL PLEDGES

1. To take better care of the environment.
2. To take part in one House event.
3. To take part in fundraising activities and volunteering.
4. To engage with the local community.
5. To challenge prejudice and hate.

Selected items will be featured in our forthcoming newsletters.

WES Houses



Burgh



Fenton



Keats



Lauderdale



Willow