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Dear families

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school from the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March, as we know that face to face education is what our students really need – for their learning and also for the sense of a school community that is so important at William Ellis. It's worth remembering how exceptional this recent period has been. Attendance at secondary school has been compulsory in England since 1918, and so for this to be suspended in 2020 and 2021 was truly exceptional. From 8<sup>th</sup> March, it is once again the law that all students must attend school in term time.

### **Return to school and lateral flow testing**

The first thing that we must do as students return to school is minimise the chances of anyone unknowingly bringing coronavirus into the school. For this reason, we will be carrying out lateral flow testing during Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, with students coming to school on a rota for testing and returning home after their test. They will not be in classes until their first test has been taken.

For the return to school to run smoothly, we need consent for students to take part in testing. The testing is being introduced as an additional step for us to keep everyone in our community safer, and there is more information on lateral flow testing attached to this letter from Camden. Please could any families who have not done so complete our school consent form. Click here: [the consent form](#)

**Please complete this consent form by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

The outline timetable for students to return for school for testing and then lessons is here. Precise timings for students by tutor group will be sent out next week, but we wanted to give families timings in outline as far in advance as possible.
















Date	Time	Year group	Comments
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30-12.00pm	Year 11	More details of specific times will be emailed to parents next week
	1.00pm -3.30pm	Year 10	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am-12.00pm	Year 12	Students will arrive at school, do the test and then return home.
	1.00pm -3.30pm	Year 13	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am -12.00pm	Year 9 and 7 B F, K	Subsequent tests will take place in lesson times in the following days
	12.30pm -3.30pm	Year 7 L, W Year 8	
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>8.30 am –3.05pm</b>	<b>All students</b>	<b>All students to attend at usual time. It will be Week A. Tutorial will be period 1 followed by normal lessons periods 2 – 5.</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am -3.05pm	All students	<b>Delayed start</b> to facilitate staff involvement in the new Headteacher selection process

Supporting a smooth and productive return to school will be most successful if we work together to prepare students. Please do look again at the [letter sent earlier this week](#), with important information about social and emotional preparation and also about getting students organised well in advance of a return. It also includes information about remote learning next week.

### **Summer assessment information**

Government decisions about assessments for Year 11, 12 and 13 students were released yesterday. We will write separately to students and families in these year groups, but the graphic below summarises the main decisions.

The final date for schools to submit grades to the exam boards is 18<sup>th</sup> June, and students will be assessed on the work that they have done so far and also work between now and then. Please note that results days are earlier than usual. LaSWAP enrolment dates for Year 11 students and vocational students progressing to new courses will now be 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, once students have received their GCSE grades.

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 <b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a>
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	

### **Supporting recovery for all students**

The government have announced additional funding for students to support learning recovery as schools return and suggested that some of this will take place in the summer. We know that there has been some lost curriculum learning, but also that the ethos of our school is to prepare all students for happy, healthy and successful lives – enrichment, creative and performing arts, outdoor education and social and emotional development have always been critical to this. Therefore, they will be important elements of any recovery provision for students. Once we have more information about funding and parameters, we will let families know about more detailed plans. It is most likely that any activities will take place after 12<sup>th</sup> August. At this stage, we have not been directed by the government that summer holiday activities will be compulsory.

## **In other news**

A number of William Ellis students and one member of staff received Jack Petchey Awards this week. These awards mean different things to different people. The Achievement Awards are not solely for academic achievement – they may be used to recognise a personal triumph for someone who has faced a challenge, a young person who has pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone or it may be an opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of a team player. Each award winner will receive a certificate and will also choose how to spend a £250 grant to benefit their school or organisation. The William Ellis award winners this year were:

**Aman 9L, Drin 11W, Jamie 10W, Jo-jo 9L, Mohammed 10W, Mohammed 1 SPO, Nas 13YTS PHS, Phelan 8W, Suleman 13SPO, Toby 8K, Zac 10B, Zach 11W and Mr Glover, Head of Additional Educational Needs & SENDCo/Teacher of English & Film Studies**

For fans of the Graham Norton show, one of our ex-students, Kingsley Ben-Adir is on the Graham Norton show tonight, on BBC One at 9pm. He is now a successful actor on film and in the theatre. In a recent interview with the Evening Standard magazine, he talked about his experiences of Drama at school, where he was taught by Mr Pratt: "Did he always want to act? Not exactly, he says. But it's the first thing he wanted to do. The exhilaration that he felt in drama classes at William Ellis School for boys 'was my first experience of being present in anything'."

Secondary transfer offer day will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and we look forward to welcoming Year 6 siblings and new families.

World Book Day is on 4<sup>th</sup> March. We will be running some extra special events to share a love of reading – full details will be feature in next week's newsletter.

Camden Safe Travel are consulting on a proposed trial to make Queens Crescent traffic free. The consultation closes this Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> February) at midnight.

They really want to hear from as many people as possible and would appreciate, if you haven't already, that you share your views with them via the following link.

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/queens-crescent-traffic-free-environment/>

Finally, further to the recent emails from WESPA, a reminder to Year 7s to join the WESPA Crystal Maze online event at 7.30pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. If your son would like to attend, you **must register** by emailing [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) with the title as 'Nights in with WESPA', so that they can send you the Zoom link.

Yours faithfully



Izzy Jones  
Headteacher