



News Update (5th March 2021)

Dear families

It has been wonderful to welcome larger numbers of students back today, with Year 10s and 11s coming for their lateral flow tests and to meet with their tutors and pastoral leaders. The presence of students gives the school vibrancy and purpose, and we can't wait to see them in greater numbers next week.

The appointment times for students have already been sent out, with Year 12 and 13 coming in for lateral flow testing on Monday and 7, 8 and 9 on Tuesday. When we restart lessons on Wednesday, it will be a genuine new beginning to learning and relationships as we gather again as a community. That seems appropriate for the start of spring and the freshness and growth that it represents.

What will the return to school look like?

All students should return to school for normal lessons from 8:30am on Wednesday 10th March. It will be a week A on their timetable. There will be late start for students on Thursday 11th due to the school's interviews for a new Headteacher – students should arrive at 9:30am.

Many of the measures we took to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission in September will remain in place. However, we have evaluated our previous risk assessment and made changes, also taking into consideration updated guidance from the government. This table is a summary of how we will operate when students are back in lessons.

<u>What will stay?</u>	<u>What is new?</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following main government guidance: isolation of people with symptoms and close contacts, good ventilation, handwashing, maintaining distance, regular cleaning. • Hand sanitising as students enter the room. • Staggered KS3/4&5 break and lunchtimes, and times between lesson changeover. • One way system for students on the stairs at change of lessons. • Designated space for teachers at the front of classrooms. • Takeaway canteen service including hot food. • Students will need to be in PE kit on the days they have PE, and in uniform on other days. • Online assemblies in tutor rooms. • Masks in communal spaces for all: corridors, library. • Regular cleaning of equipment in practical subjects. • Parental visits only by appointment. • Parents' evenings will be online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In classrooms, students should wear masks, and any adults within two metres of students should also wear masks. We expect to have to distribute them. • Teaching will be mainly from the front of the room, to maintain distance between adults and students. • Lateral flow testing twice weekly for all students and staff. • Students should sit in a seating plan alphabetically by surname. • Extra-curricular activities can take place within year groups. • The library will be used by single year groups only each break and lunchtime.



You can work with us to support students with their return to school, by making sure that they do the following before Wednesday 10th March.

- Find and organise their school equipment, which must be brought to school when they return. This includes their planner, exercise books, pens, pencils, a rubber and a ruler, and a refillable water bottle.
- Make sure that they have the correct uniform and PE kit, as listed on the school website. Blazers are optional for the remainder of this academic year, but hoodies are not part of uniform and must not be worn around the school building.
- Plan their journey to school so that they arrive in good time. Students are asked to avoid public transport and walk or cycle to school if they can.
- Remind them of the basic routines for good hygiene that they will need to practice at school, particularly if they have been at home all or most of the time. This includes regular handwashing.
- Make sure that they are getting up at the time they normally would for school, and eating meals at regular times.

Changes to homework and assessment from 10th March

The guidance from the government said that equipment and materials should not be passed regularly between adults and students without being cleaned or left for a period of time. Therefore, as well as having clear routines in subjects such as Art and PE for shared equipment, we have made the following changes to our homework and assessment policies.

- Exercise books should not be taken home, either by teachers or by students.
- All homework should be set through Teams as an assignment, with resources shared digitally.
- All homework should consolidate prior learning. Extended writing tasks for assessment should be done in class, on lined paper.
- As much as possible, staff should use oral feedback and get students to write down the comments and next steps to improve. Teachers can also use online methods, such as Quiz on Teams, for assessment purposes.

This will be in place until the Easter holidays at the least, when we will evaluate the way that it is supporting learning and progress for students.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Izzy Jones'.

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Lateral Flow Testing set up in our gym today:



Ms Lucy Strike, Associate Assistant Headteacher – Whole School Literacy

World Book Day 2021 –

Despite not being together, we were still able to celebrate World Book Day. Teachers collaborated to make this video for students: (student link only)

<https://teams.microsoft.com/#/school/files/World%20Book%20Day%202021?threadId=19%3A5619085068f9494d855f61d38f61cd83%40thread.skype&ctx=channel&context=World%2520Book%2520Day%25202021&rootfolder=%252Fsites%252FAllstaffhandbook%252FShared%2520Documents%252FWorld%2520Book%2520Day%252021>

Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic talk with author and comedian David Baddiel about how he started writing children's novels. They asked thoughtful questions about his life and work. Year 8 had a brilliant time with actor and writer Morwenna Banks, who talked about the process of adapting books for the screen, and producer Tim Searle, producer and director of animation, who discussed his exciting work and how he got into the industry. Again the Year 8s asked fantastic questions about reading, drawing, writing and acting. All the talks were truly inspirational for our students. We were also really proud of the year 7s and 8s for their contributions.

Ms Lawson, Pastoral Leader – Year 7

Hello to all our families, I am so excited to see our year 7s again next week and get back to a bit of normality. I have been yet again astounded at the pupil's resilience and responsibility over the past couple of weeks which has seen them keeping up the momentum and making an effort both with their attendance and their schoolwork.



Last week the pupils had their own version of WES Newsround where we saw lots of example of their work this term as well as a special report from 7L's News Correspondent Henry, teaching us about Mount Vesuvius.



In entertainment news, 7K's Hasan won 1 million 'William Ellis' pounds all because he had the final answer on who wants to be a WES-millionaire – he remembered you have to 'turn in' work when you want to send it to your teacher over TEAMS!

This week we have been enjoying activities based around World Book Day. We had an incredible assembly about why reading is power and Year 7s were lucky enough to have a TEAMS call with author and comedian David Baddiel who read them some extracts from his books as well as answering questions. Well done to all of the year 7s who asked some really interesting questions.

Next week we will see our return to our more regular routines of school life, the pupils will all get to spend the first hour of Wednesday with their form tutors to reconnect with their form after what feels like such a long time apart, in person at least.



We've started our attendance wheel of fortune which will continue when we return to school, any pupil who has had 100% attendance and no lates during the week is added to the wheel and has a chance of winning a prize. Well done to Tristian and Artan who have been our winners over the past fortnight.



I understand this is potentially a really strange time for us all and Year 7 are now having another transition back into school after only a term to get used to things! If you have any queries or concerns over the next few weeks, please do not hesitate to give me an email and we can arrange a time to talk.

Ms Conran, Pastoral Leader, Year 8



LFT and Return to school schedule

For all information regarding lateral flow testing time slots and next week's schedule of return please see whole school information from Ms Jones, Mr Lane and Mr Altmann. This will also be posted on the Year 8 Study Hub.

World Book Day

A massive thank you to Ms Strike and the English Department for organising a World Book Day talk with Morwenna Banks and Tim Searle to speak to Year 8 about their writing for screen and animation. Year 8 did themselves proud, Morweena and Tim were very impressed with the enthusiasm, engagement and range of really well thought out questions. As were we, all the feedback has been really positive, thank you to all who made it possible and well-done Year 8.

Winner of the *Animation in Isolation* competition!

Congratulations to Noah 8B and his family.
On Saturday 27th February, *Poem for Lockdown*, was named the winner of the Animation in Isolation competition in the Canterbury Anifest short film competition.
A proud moment for 8B, Year 8 and the William Ellis community.
Congratulations Noah.
Here's a link to the film, <https://vimeo.com/406950377>.
Check it out!

Study Hub

I will continue to post information of our return on the Year 8 Study Hub. In addition to posts on the main page please visit the 'returning to school' channel for specific items on dates, schedules and information documents.

Uniforms, and school equipment at the ready

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday 10th March. As ever, any questions, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

See you soon, warm and well wishes.

Ms Neli, Maths Teacher

Maths Enrichment

The Extended Maths Project for students in Years 7 and 8 took place online this time around. The session was very different to those in class but again the students impressed me with their enthusiasm and resilience online. It was fantastic to see their excitement when doing a live competition using Dr Frost maths. Well done everybody. I can't wait to see you face to face for our next session this half term.



Ms Cauline Ellis, Food Technology Teacher

Half Term Bake off competition:



Mr Joseph Glover, Head of Additional Educational Needs & SENDCo and Teacher of English & Film Studies

Over the half-term break, the Camden Youth Council conducted a scaled-down election to appoint a new Youth MP for Camden.

The first week lockdown began was the week that the election was due to be held, so it was well overdue!

I am pleased and immensely proud to say that Anes, from last year's Year 11 cohort was elected as the **Youth MP for Camden**.

Those of us that remember Anes may recall that this was his second attempt at being elected Youth MP, having finished in 4th place when he was in Year 9 and he was heavily involved with Camden Youth Council and the School Council while he was with us. After leaving us in the summer, Anes had a short stay at Camden School for Girls but has left to begin an apprenticeship in Project Management at Camden Council; I spoke with Anes and he assures me that while he represents all of Camden's young people in his role as Youth MP, he very much feels that he is still representing Camden on behalf of William Ellis.

Hopefully he will be able to speak to and inspire our students soon!



In December students in the 6th form collected Christmas Gift Food items to be donated to the Camden New Journal food bank. This photo was taken when the CNJ came to collect.

MESSAGE FROM WESPA RE UNIFORM

Please keep hold of any uniform that your son has grown out of – especially good quality blazers so that we can arrange (if allowed) a second-hand uniform sale later in the year. You can bring clean used uniform in a bag to the school office for storage in the WESPA uniform cupboard.

LOCAL NEWS:

Lauderdale House – Heritage Weekend

Sam White, former headteacher, kindly represented the school at a special on-line event last weekend – “Highgate’s Schools – Telling the Tales”. He was joined by representatives from La Sainte Union, Highgate and Channing Schools. They shared information about the history of the schools followed by a lively question and answer session.