



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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Dear families,

It has been great to welcome all our students back face to face into school this week – to see them learning in class, their smiling eyes in the corridor as they say hello and their social interactions. Thank you for all the support you have given them to get back into routines for good learning and making sure that they are fully equipped. Students took part in lateral flow testing in a calm and co-operative manner, and the support staff running the testing centre have commented positively on their responsible behaviour. By the end of next week all of the testing in school will have been completed and we can return fully to an uninterrupted timetable of lessons. We are pleased to report over 95% attendance this week.

Proposed change to term dates

We are proposing a slight change to term dates for this term and the summer term, now that we know the government's plans for assessing students who should have done exams this summer.

Currently, we will break for Easter on Wednesday 31st March, and for the summer on Friday 23rd July. We have to submit assessed grades to the exam boards by 18th June. Results days have moved forwards, to the week beginning 9th August.

To give students more time with their teachers before the assessment deadline, we should consider extending the Spring term for an extra day. This would mean that the last day of this term would be Thursday, 1st April (Maundy Thursday). If we did this, we would finish a day earlier in the summer - the last day of term would be Thursday 22nd July.

If you would like to object to this change, please email info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk before midday on Monday, 15th March. I appreciate this deadline is tight, but we need to make a final decision quickly. We will let families know as soon as a decision is made.

Arrangements for assessment to replace exams

For families with students who were due to take exams this summer, we have attached a Frequently Asked Questions document to share with you what we know about assessment and how it will work in 2021. Please do look at it together and make a note of key points and dates, helping the students to understand it as best they can. There are still some details and supporting materials that we are waiting on – unfortunately, these will not be with us before 24th March. We will share with you as much as we can, when we know it, but it would be wrong to try to guess what the exam boards are going to say at this stage.

Yours faithfully

Izzy Jones
Headteacher

