



## News Update (19<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

Dear families

I am excited and pleased to be starting this newsletter for the first time as the permanent Headteacher of the school, and to be the first woman in that post. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead the school at such an exciting time. Recovery and regeneration offer an opportunity to strengthen the best parts of the school even further, supporting high achievement of all students and their character development in line with the vision of the school's founder, our "rather use than fame" motto. As school has now re-opened to all students and we hope that we will be able to welcome more visitors into school as we move into the summer, I look forward to meeting as many of you in person as possible if I haven't done so already. For those families I already know, it will be great to see you back again.

As we confirmed already this week, we have confirmed a slight change to our term dates to allow our year 11, 12 and 13 students more time in class before the end of their assessment period. This means that the last day of this term will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, and we will finish in the summer on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We will be amending those dates on our website.

This week we have had three important events in the school: year 9 options evening, year 10 online parents' evening, and a welcome evening for new families of students in next year's year 7. The [recording of the event](#) for new students is available to all families who weren't able attend live. We look forward to welcoming families of new year 7s for transition interviews very soon – if that's you, watch your inboxes for an invite!

In our PSHE lessons and tutorial time next week we will be having two important moments. Firstly, reflecting on what all students can do to make everyone feel safe in their community, in the wake of the Sarah Everard murder. The work that we do on this as a boys' school was featured in the Camden New Journal this week – the article is at the bottom of this newsletter. Secondly, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March we will be marking a moment of reflection for all those who have sadly been victims of coronavirus in the past year.

As you can see from the rest of this newsletter, the students have made a brilliant return to school, settling into good routines and re-establishing relationships with each other and the staff that work with them. We know that they have really valued the learning that is taking place face to face and we are very happy to have them back.

Best wishes

Izzy Jones,  
Headteacher



## Ms Lawson, Pastoral Leader – Year 7

Wow, what a week back! We have had a successful few days of testing and I have been incredibly impressed with the Year 7s who have sat patiently and calmly every time in our testing hall, really showing off our school to all the testing staff who have given so much positive feedback about our students. A big thank you to City Year and the form tutors who helped so much with this too.

Attendance has been incredibly high; it looks like Year 7s missed school as much as we missed having them here. To celebrate we have entered all the year 7s into the weekly prize draw and will see who wins a prize out of all those students with 100% punctuality and attendance this week.

The pupils are being inducted into our brand new library already this week and Games Club is back to full capacity. I am very much looking forward to return of the sports clubs too and seeing things getting a little bit more back to normal.

## Ms Conran, Pastoral Leader, Year 8

Firstly, a massive well-done from us all.

So many of your teachers have commented on how well you have switched back into school life. I speak for us all when I say, it has been fantastic to welcome you back! The LFT co-ordinators have also commented on the efficient manner in which you have approached the tests. Home testing kits have been distributed so it's over to you now to put your practical scientist skills to the test. Please contact reception if you have not received your home testing kit.

The newly refurbished Library: A phone free, peaceful environment to dive into an adventure of your choosing. It has been wonderful to see you enjoying this space. Remember to keep a look out around school and on the study hub for notices from Ms Strike and Mr Pratt about signing up to be a Library Assistant (yes, your suggestion of creating this student role has been heard and actioned).

Year 8 Library days are Tuesdays and Fridays.

Exciting projects - Greening WES: WESPA and me have completed a site evaluation, our first step in developing the 'Greening WES' project. Next week information about signing up and getting involved will be shared during registration and on the Study Hub.

Drum roll please.....dudududududududu.....The winners of the 2021 Valentine bake off have been announced....and it's a clean sweep for Year 8! Congratulations to Monty (8F) and Orlando (8L). Your prizes await



To echo my first sentence, well done Year 8. You have readjusted very well to the quick switch between being at home and being at school. Be proud of your successes, be proud of your struggles, be proud of yourselves. Onwards and upwards. Until next time, warm and well wishes.



### Ms Mercier-Peart, Pastoral Leader – Year 11

It was so lovely to see all the boys back and we are really proud to see a very high attendance from Year 11. The lateral flow tests have taken place without any issue and we were very pleased to see how all the boys without exception have co-operated.

Boys should be reminded to come in PE kit on the day they have PE and full uniform when they don't have PE.

The majority of the boys are on time in the morning, but I would like to underline the importance of attending the morning registration to enable them to get all the information they need about the days ahead from their tutor.

Regarding GCSEs: teachers are revisiting what was done online and finishing the specification for most subjects. Assessments will take place the week before the holidays and these assessments will only be focused on content seen during online learning and to the end of the term. As you know, there are no exams, but grades need to be finalised and therefore teachers are preparing revision plan/packs for the boys to complete over Easter. A series of assessments will take place after Easter preceding revision lessons in class. All details will be communicated in time.

Lastly can I insist all boys check their school email everyday as well as assignments on TEAM as all homework must be digital. Have a very good week.



### Flora Wilson, Director of Sixth Form

It was such a delight to welcome back our KS5 students last week. They have all been so kind to each other, ensuring that they are all wearing masks properly, to protect our community. Of at least equal importance is the way in which they have all engaged with their learning – there is a veritable hum of concentration in the study area in the sixth form centre. We are hoping to really hold onto this atmosphere, and are building up a library of study resources for this space: if you have copies of journals that would be accessible, interesting and educational for our 16-18 year old students, that you are struggling to find a space for at home, please bring them into us! We held a welcome back breakfast last Friday, with food out for the students – we hope that this will become a weekly tradition, as we continue to be so glad to be together in school.

### LaSWAP students take first place!

Many of you will remember that a group of LaSWAP students have been working on a campaign to try and persuade the government to increase the age of criminal responsibility. I am delighted to inform you that they won first place in a national competition to demonstrate skills in political campaigning. The judges praised their organisational skills and creativity and tenacity in spreading the word about their campaign in such challenging times. So, a massive congratulations to Katy, Ellie and Sam. In normal times, their prize would have been a trip to the USA, to work on the presidential campaign – obviously this cannot go ahead now, but I am very much looking forward to celebrating their prize with them when it is confirmed, and working with other William Ellis students to win this prize in the future, as the competition is run every four years.



Lateral flow testing available to households

Households with anyone attending or working at a school can order free tests for their household from the NHS, in addition to the tests being sent home with students for their own use. The link is <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> and it's very easy to place an order. Each household can place one order per day – and the order contains 7 tests. This could further protect the William Ellis Community.

LOCAL NEWS:

# Solutions can start in the school classroom

by HARRY TAYLOR



ONE of the organisers of a vigil for Sarah Everard said consent and healthy relationships need to be taught in schools in a bid to stop women and girls being sexually harassed. Campaigners are looking at how education at an early age could change attitudes.

Nina de Ayala Parker said: "We could have a module that is across the whole curriculum that teaches young children from even the age of nine upwards about healthy relationships. Children think about what they learn as normal and they are affected by it."

She said: "They may come from a family that doesn't have healthy relationships at home, so they could learn what is acceptable and what isn't. I wasn't taught about consent at school, that needs to be taught now as well as healthy relationships. It's so important."

Ms de Ayala Parker and fellow organisers had to call off the vigil in Russell Square on Saturday amid the threat of Covid fines, although some people did light candles near the fountains in the park (see right). She said: "These conversations are massively overdue and a life didn't have to be taken for them to start either."

Amid the debate on what must change was the idea of making PSHE (personal, social and health education) classes more effective.

Lizzy Jones is the headteacher at William Ellis, the all-boys school in Highgate Road, said things had changed in recent years and pupils had lessons in gender equality and the MeToo movement.

"It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that other people feel safe, whether we know them or not," she said. "Next Monday's tutorials will look at what boys and young men, in particular, can do to be effective and responsible citizens in this respect."

She added that being an all-boys school "certainly puts us in the important position of being able to explicitly address those issues from a male perspective and provide students with the environment to raise their questions and consider any unconscious assumptions they may have".

Sophie Fegan, headteacher at all-girls school La Sainte Union also in Highgate Road, said she was proud of the PSHE curriculum and pupils were able to "confront stereotypes and discuss difficult topics in a safe environment, such as the objectification of women and domestic abuse."

She added: "We teach our girls from Year 7 to Year 13 how to be safe but also want to address the structural and societal issues that lead to danger for women, and want to work towards a society in which young women would not need to be so safety aware."

The mixed sixth form had been discussing "toxic masculinity" in their politics lesson, she said, adding that "both the girls and boys have positive ideas about changing the way men and boys perceive themselves and behave towards girls and women".