



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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7th May 2021

Dear families

Eid Mubarak 2021

I want to start this letter by wishing our students, families and wider community a happy Eid, which will occur next week. Students in school who have been fasting throughout Ramadan have shown resilience, as part of their commitment to reflection and self-improvement – closely reflected in our William Ellis attributes. The Muslim Council of Britain has published updated advice for I'tikaf and Eid at mcb.org.uk/resources/coronavirus/, helping families and communities to celebrate safely. In particular:

1. If you plan to visit your local mosque, please follow the on-site signage and guidance to keep yourself and those around you safe
2. If you plan to celebrate at home instead of visiting the mosque, you could pray with loved ones virtually over Zoom or live-stream prayers from your local mosque
3. Please enjoy the Eid meal and catching up with loved ones safely to prevent yourself from catching or passing on coronavirus:
 - Only socialise indoors with your household or bubble – and keep the windows open to keep the space well ventilated
 - Only socialise outdoors in groups of 6 people or 2 households
 - Avoid sharing platters of food
 - Regularly wash your hands or use hand sanitiser
 - Stay 2 metres apart from those outside your bubble or household

As every year, students from our Muslim community must balance religious celebrations with GCSE and A Level assessments. **On Thursday, all Year 11 students have a two-hour English GCSE assessment from 11:15am – to 1:15pm in a double lesson. In order to give students the best chance to complete high quality assessment work, it is important that they attend this assessment lesson as they would a GCSE exam.** Year 12 and 13 students may also have assessments on that day. In other years GCSE, A Level and vocational exams would have occurred during Ramadan and Eid.

We would ask any families to let us know about Eid celebrations as they normally would, by contacting the school by phone in advance.

The importance of punctuality

It's essential that your son arrive promptly at William Ellis as the registration period (from 08:30 to 8:50) is an integral part of school life with a clear programme of activities for each year group including literacy sessions, assemblies and debates. It is also the opportunity for you son(s) to discuss any issues (academic or pastoral) with his tutor.

As you are aware boys are expected to be in their form room at 08:30 when the register is taken. **Any boys arriving after 08:35 will receive a late mark.** Parent and carers will be notified by email and text. Your son will also receive a 10-minute detention after school with his tutor, during which the importance of punctuality will be discussed.

William Ellis School supports good punctuality

We place a strong emphasis on excellent punctuality and support this by:

- Informing parents and carers, by email and text, if their son is late to school
- Calling parents and carers if their son(s) are late more than twice in a week
- Giving reflective sanctions to students who arrive late to school i.e. a detention at the end of the day with the tutor to discuss the importance of punctuality
- Awarding House points to tutor groups where the largest percentage of boys have arrived punctually over a particular period
- Senior staff at the gates every morning to acknowledge and praise those who are arriving on time and to record those who are arriving late
- Addressing issues of poor time keeping with individual boys and their families

How families can support good punctuality

We would ask parents and carers to support us in maintaining good punctuality by:

- Ensuring their child has organised their bag and equipment the night before so that this does not delay departure in the morning
- Ensuring that their son(s) get up in plenty of time to be ready and prepared for school
- If parents/carers are contacted regarding the punctuality of their son - discussing any issues of lateness to ensure this does not become a habit
- Monitoring their son's attendance and punctuality record when it is sent home and looking for patterns of lateness

From Monday 10th May:

If your son is late more than 3 or more times in a week, he will receive a level 3 detention (45 minutes).

If he is late four or more times in a week, he will receive a Level 4 detention. (80 minutes)

If the lateness is due to a legitimate reason e.g. a medical appointment, the absence can be authorised.

Of course, it is not just about introducing punitive measures, we have already introduced a praise system for excellent punctuality and attendance in years 7 – 11.

Student Council Presentations

This week our Student Council presented to all tutor groups in years 7-11 on their discussions and intended work for this term. Their **assembly started by saying that they “believe passionately in inclusion and in celebrating our amazing diverse, multi-cultural school community”**. These were their pledges:

More In Common Pledge 1: to take better care of the environment

We intend to set up a “Green Team” building on excellent work that has been going on in recent years. We have a strong focus on the environment, sustainability, climate emergency. We also want to improve the school environment, especially the outdoor areas.

We have £2,660 from the William Ellis School Parents Association (WESPA) to spend on improvements to the outdoor areas.

More In Common Pledge 2: to take part in at least one house event and one activity outside lesson time

Normally at William Ellis we have hundreds of trips, visits, activities and events throughout the school year, as well as many house competitions. We have all missed out on these because of the pandemic.

Now that the restrictions are being lifted, we want to organise more events and trips.

More In Common Pledge 3: to take part in fund-raising activities.

We have raised money for the foodbank, homeless people and the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Our last non-uniform day raised money for the school and it will be spent on new basketball hoops for the playground.

The Year Councils have agreed that the next non-uniform day on May 28th will raise money for Water Aid. We will explain about Water Aid over the next few weeks.

We will also be asking you to give suggestions about other good causes for us to raise money for in future.

More In Common Pledge 4: to reach out to the local community.

Many of us will be taking part in City Year's Social Action Project during Tutorial Period over the next few weeks. We will be writing letters to older people in our local area.

We want to find other ways of getting involved in our local community once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

More In Common Pledge 5: to challenge prejudice and hate.

Our Year 11 "Diversity and Equalities Champions" will be running some training with our Year 10 School Council reps on a special programme called "Have This Thought In Your Head."

We intend to do everything we can to create a community where everyone is treated equally and there is no room for prejudice and hate.

We will then roll this training out through the younger year groups.

Other Matters

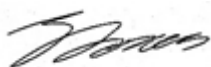
We have also discussed a large number of other matters, including: Prayer Club, student mentors, uniform, work experience, camps, the Mill, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, mental and physical health after lockdown, World Cup tournament, careers, anti-bullying strategies, student leadership responsibilities, and Black History Month.

Deputy Headteacher appointment

Members of the School Council and others have sat on several student panels interviewing new teachers, including the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. I am pleased to report that last week we appointed Bernie Lane, currently Acting Deputy Headteacher, to the permanent post. He has provided excellent leadership to many areas of this school and others in Camden for many years and I am excited to continue working with him into 2021-22 and beyond.

Finally, I wanted to share details with you of a local society online talk on Decolonising Education with Professor Kehinde Andrews, who I am sure will raise many interesting issues for all of us to consider. Details are at the bottom of this letter – please use [this link](#) to book your place.

Yours faithfully



Izzy Jones
Headteacher

DARTMOUTH PARK TALKS

Decolonising Education with Professor Kehinde Andrews, Birmingham City University



Dartmouth Park Talks presents

A discussion about how history and literature are taught to young people in our schools, and how this needs to be changed to convey a richer and more honest picture of global history and literature, turning away from a narrative shaped by the colonial era. We will explore the benefits of doing so for young people of all backgrounds and society as a whole.

Speaker: Professor Kehinde Andrews, Professor of Black Studies, Birmingham City University. His latest book *The New Age of Empire* is available from Penguin Books.
Moderated by Maya de Souza, Co-convenor, Dartmouth Park Talks

Wednesday 12 May 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm