



News Update (14th May 2021)

Dear families

This week's newsletter starts with notification about two important dates:

- Having been cancelled last year, our **Sports Day** will be held on 16th July at the Hampstead Heath track, weather permitting. We look forward to the mixture of friendly and serious competition between students and staff for all involved.
- **Year 8** parents have received information this week about our plans for **camp at The Mill**, in the week beginning 5th July. This year group missed out on camp last summer and so this will be their first visit – we hope that they are as excited about it as we are! We have plans for the current Year 7 to go to The Mill in September, with more details to follow when we have them.

Poetry Competition, 2021 This year our poetry competition received individual and collective entries, and we were able to celebrate several of them in assemblies rather than picking a single winner. I'd like to share one entry (right) with you, that reflects on the experiences of students in exam years at the moment. Thank you to all those students who submitted their poems.

City Year: elders to youngers

Our City Year volunteers have been working with a local elderly day centre to forge connections between generations in the younger community. Also in assembly they shared examples of advice from those at the day centre to our students about their education, their relationships with friends and family and their choices in life. The next stage is for students to write back. Do talk at home about how advice from older people (grandparents, neighbours) is useful to our students as they grow up.

Covid Risk Assessment: response to updated guidance for 17th May 2021

Following the government announcement of the easing of Covid restrictions we have reviewed our own Covid risk assessment. In writing our risk assessment, we have always tried to balance the public health risk of Covid against the risk to a child's social, emotional, academic and physical development caused by the restrictions. Over the past 15 months students and staff have had to adapt to significant change at short notice. We have planned the easing of restrictions in stages to avoid the disruptive effect of a sudden change.

We have agreed the following easing of restrictions:

2020 Vision - A Poem by 11B

I'm not see through that's just my vision,
In a division, I made a decision,
Television while I'm doing revision,
My rhythm of wisdom, a winning condition,
Call it ambition, the part of acquisition,
Proposition of my intuition,
Politicians, reinforcing the repetition,
Like heavy attrition,
Can't make ends meet like opposition,
Look through my eyes like an optician,

I still write this elegy, you were a friend of me,
And I still mess with you heavily,

I'm a senior not a sophomore,
Pressure on my mind, like form time,
I need more time to climb new heights,
AM to PM like Boris Johnson,
That's lockdown, can't go to Morrisons.

Hoping for good surprises,
Books, tests and exercises,
Corona virus changed our plans,
My evolution from child to man,
Hopefully the vaccine will bring us back,
Bang a goal in like Aubameyang,
It's a one-way system, can't go back,
When I'm doing revision, I can't go back.



Week beginning Monday 17th May

Seating plans - Staff may amend the specified *alphabetical snake* seating plans. It is important that all staff still have a seating plan for each group as per our usual expectation.

All staff will need to keep accurate records of each seating plan in case we need to track and trace.

The remainder of the risk assessment will continue including wearing masks.

Week beginning Monday 24th May

Where teaching spaces are well ventilated teachers may allow students to remove masks in lessons.

Masks should continue to be worn by students and staff in communal areas.

Week beginning Monday 7th June

Assemblies will be held for individual year groups in the hall.

Masks will be optional for students and staff

Week beginning Monday 14th June

Trips and Visits will recommence. Any trips will require the usual risk assessment as well as a Covid Risk assessment. The arrangements for split break and lunch, movement around the building and bell times will continue through until July. I would like to field staff views about these arrangements moving forward into next year.

We will keep the risk assessment under review, and we will respond to any further changes in government guidance.

Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Laura Madsen, Head of Art and Design



Art department extra-curricular projects this term are underway with Year 8 students working on creating an inspiring entrance to the art department using creative typography they design as part of their project 'text into art' and Year 7 students working on making a mosaic to go into the Year 7 quad. We are excited to see how these two projects turn out, and we are sure they will enrich all our lives by making our school an even better environment to be in! Well done Year 7 and Year 8!



Flora Wilson, Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Carnegie Shadowing Group

This week we had the first meeting of our keen readers, who are shadowing the process of the Carnegie award. You might not know what this is, so I shall explain! The Carnegie award is given, each year, to the book for young people that is considered the very best one published that year. Our wonderful Key Stage Three readers are doing the same as the grown-up judges, and are reading each of the 8 shortlisted books, reviewing them as they go. I am not sure that the grown-ups eat quite as many pringles, biscuits and cakes as we do at meetings, but I am sure that they are as excited by the wonderful stories as we are. Watch this space for reviews, and news – and ask Ms Wilson for more details if you are interested in joining the group!





Ms Christine Mercier-Peart, Senior Pastoral Leader, Year 11

It's great to see the boys taking these six weeks seriously. There is a real buzz around their classrooms and in the afternoon after registration when they go to their intervention and revision classes or revise in the Study Hub.

A quick reminder to all (please discuss over the weekend with your son) to look on TEAM (calendar) to find out when his assessments are taking place. Lessons stops on the 28th May, but each student must make themselves available until the 18th June in case we may need to recall students to ensure all assessments are in order and in line with requirement. As per government requirement to continue education there will be a bridging week for the boys with provision in school and/or online. More details to follow. Please do continue to support the boys ensuring they get a lot of sleep, good food and fresh air as well as a lot of revisions.



Flora Wilson, Director of Sixth Form

KS5 News

The Directors of LaSWAP met representatives from the Student Council on Tuesday and were very impressed with the way in which they articulated their views about the education they are receiving with us. I am delighted to report that they were very positive about their learning and their lessons, and also that they were very constructive about working with us to make things even better for next year's Year 12s. We will be co-constructing the PSHE curriculum with them, to ensure that it remains relevant to all of their concerns – we're also hoping that students may lead some sessions in the future, showing both their responsibility and their creativity as learners, and leaders of learning!



Year 13 student Alex Thorne has had a letter published in this week's Camden New Journal.

Alex, who has been a William Ellis student since Year 7 and is currently studying for A-levels at LaSWAP, has made a very eloquent summation of his views on the recent announcement about how Year 11 and Year 13 students will be graded this year.

Alex believes that *"The recent decision to force teachers to use the same pieces of evidence for all their students will do more harm than good. Having promised us A-levels and GCSEs would not take place this year, and that teachers would be trusted to grade students, the government are now, in all but name, giving us exams with extra steps"* and concludes: *"Teachers must be allowed to decide what is best for their students."*

We are very pleased to see our students so actively engaged in current affairs and giving voice to their views in the local press.

To read the letter in full please click the link below:

<http://camdennewjournal.com/article/teachers-must-be-allowed-to-decide-what-is-best-for-students>