



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

TEL: 020 7267 9346

FAX: 020 7284 1274

info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

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Dear families

Thank you for all your work in supporting students to come back to school so smoothly this week. Years 7-10 and 12 have been calm and focused in all their lessons and making the most of the good weather in between! Year 11 and 13 students are also in touch with their teachers about their assessment folders as we finalise their grades for their GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications.

On the subject of good weather, we are making preparations for some important celebratory events in the coming weeks:

Year 11 celebration evening, Wednesday 23rd June

We look forward to welcoming all students and their families in Year 11 back to school to celebrate their achievements and mark the end of this phase of their education. This is always a lovely event where they are able to thank and celebrate with their teachers and other staff who have supported them. We are waiting for government next steps on restrictions to decide whether the event will be indoors or outside, but it will definitely go ahead on this date.

Year 13 leavers barbeque, Friday 25th June

This similar but more informal event will allow William Ellis students to celebrate the end of their 6th form studies and for many of them a memorable seven years at the school. This was always planned to be outside.

Sports Day, Friday 16th July

Students in years 7-10 will have the chance to compete in a range of individual and team events to represent their forms and houses at the athletics track and on the Heath. With some lower school cross country victories earlier in the year we look forward to lots of healthy competition!

Assembly theme: the value of high expectations

I spoke in assembly to all students about the power of high expectations, thinking about the parallels with the England football team as they go into the European Championships in the coming weeks. To quote Gareth Southgate, "expectations create excitement about future success". I reminded the students about the following expectations that we have of all of them:

- ✓ You will have worked, with focus, as hard as you can in all your lessons
- ✓ You will have attended school every day, on time
- ✓ You will have strengthened the good relationships that you have with teachers, friends and classmates by being honest, fair and supportive to each other
 - ✓ You will have consistently demonstrated the William Ellis attributes
 - ✓ You will show tolerance of difference, respecting equality and diversity
- ✓ You will be active, responsible citizens by participating in Student Council activities, fundraising, sports day, DLD
- ✓ You will treat our school environment with respect
- ✓ You will have pride in your school – dressing correctly and behaving outside in a way that would make all of us proud to be members of the William Ellis family

More detail about uniform expectations for this half term can be found in this [letter from before half term](#).

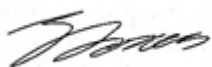
Pride Month: celebrating the LGBT+ community

Covid has meant that Pride month this year and last has been quite different, with fewer opportunities for big events, but we can still find smaller ways to observe it and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.

In school, the Year 7s will be spending their DLD on the 24th of June learning about and celebrating the community. In all lessons, teachers are including this theme in structured or informal ways. For example, in Maths we have changed some of our previously gender binary questions to include non-binary people or have created some worded questions that use gender neutral names and pronouns. In these small, everyday ways, we can help our LGBTQIA+ students (and staff) feel seen, and we can contribute to their acceptance by others.

Please see the attached flyer for ideas to discuss with young people.

Yours faithfully



Izzy Jones
Headteacher