



News Update (10th September 2021)

Dear families

Welcome to this edition of our fortnightly newsletter, which comes to you on Fridays of Week B. In the newsletter is a report from two Year 7 students about their experience at Summer School – a really special moment and rite of passage for them as they join the William Ellis community. It has been brilliant to see our new students make such a positive start to the year.

We have also welcomed over 150 students to our Year 12 group, including those at the Talacre site. We are really pleased to have such a strong year group, whether they are Year 11s re-joining or new students coming to the William Ellis 6th form and LaSWAP for the first time. There is a report from Ms Wilson below.

Upcoming events

The return of Outdoor Adventure

On Monday-Wednesday, 40 Year 8 students will be going to The Mill, the first camp we have been able to run since 2019. We are so excited to be able to re-introduce that part of our curriculum after the difficult period we have had. Since the last time William Ellis students visited, The Mill has seen several upgrades including painted dormitories, improvements to the kitchen and an improved outdoor area. This trip will be led by our new Head of Adventure and Outdoor Education, Mr Court, who has joined the school having been based in the Lake District.

40 further Year 8 students will go to The Mill Wednesday – Friday. Those who are not going on the residential will have lessons in school with some classes combined together. Tutors will update their groups on Monday morning.

As we have said in letters to Year 8 families, students will not be using their phones on the trip. If there are any issues or concerns at all while students are away we will contact families immediately. The returning coaches on Wednesday and Friday are expected back at the end of the school day, subject to traffic around London.

Transition events

Thursday 23rd October is our Open Evening for prospective families looking at the school for September 2022 and beyond. They will be able to meet students and staff and also see our newly refurbished hall. Families interested in attending Open Evenings and Open Mornings should look [on our website](#) for more details and to register.

Following Open Evening, there will be a late start for students on Friday 24th September. Key Stage 4 students should arrive ready to start period 2 at 9.50am, Key stage 3 students will start at 10.15am. Breakfast Club will be open from 9.30am on this day for any students who have breakfast at school.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Karl Altmann, Head of Transition and Year 7

Summer School 2021

Some of our new Year 7 students have written about the fun they had at Summer School during the last week of the school holiday:



Our journalists – Joseph and Tyler

What we did at summer school

Hello, our names are Joseph and Tyler and we'd like to tell you about our fun experiences at William Ellis Summer School, where we had: Marvellous MFL, Perky PE, Dynamic Drama, Splendid Science and many more fun, exhilarating lessons too...

Science

On the third day of WESS (William Ellis Summer School), the Year 7 got the privilege to make ice cream in science and putting their personal toppings on. We had the choice to make vanilla or mint ice cream. On other days we set our hands alight and exploded cans over the Bunsen burner!

Drama

During the first day of WESS the Year 7s got to play a variety of games to get to know each other while having fun. One of the favourite activities was when someone had to go in the middle and say a name and the person had to say it quick enough or they would go in the middle and repeat the process, it was one of the funniest things ever.

Music

During music we were taught how to play and sing the popular song 'Faded' – by Alan Walker – on the keyboard and we had a blast. Everyone loved it and was laughing.



Maths

In maths, we got to make spaghetti and Marshmallow towers in groups and whichever was the tallest won. Of course, some of the marshmallows got eaten!!

Food tech

We made pizza swirls, they were delicious, it was great to be able to make it from scratch. We had to make the dough from flour and butter, very messy but fun! When they were done they came out like little tasty balls of pizza! Yummy!

Art

We made coasters out of clay. Initially, we had created a design on paper with the William Badge (the Oak) and we had to write our own motto! We then transferred the design onto the clay and then once it had dried a bit we painted it and then they were put into the kiln. We really enjoyed the tracing it into clay and we really like the feel of the finished product. On top of that, they are useful!



Some of the clay coasters

MFL

We did Salsa dancing! We absolutely loved it, the whole class were trying really hard and you got to try on the Salsa Hat! (that's if you were trying *really* hard!). We also did a treasure hunt around the school in Spanish and French, not only was this fun but it was a great way to get to know the building.

PE

Boing, Boing, Boing! TRAMPOLINING! At first it really did look scary as the trampoline is full size and you jump really high but we really enjoyed it despite the initial fear.

We also went to the Heath to play soft ball. Tyler got a Home Run and Joseph caught a lot of boys out. The glove was really useful! But the ball isn't soft!!!



Robotics

Great team-work involved here. We all had to build a robot with electronics, wires and different pieces made of hard plastic. We were able to drive the robots afterwards with a remote control. We absolutely loved building but it was a real challenge to find the correct parts.

We would absolutely recommend the Summer School for all Year 6s because it's a chance to meet new friends, work as a team, meet new teachers and experience a new studying environment. But let's not forget it's really, FUN and exhilarating!

Joseph and Tyler 7B

Flora Wilson, Director of Sixth Form:

Year 12 Induction

We have been delighted with how well our new Year 12 students have settled into life in the Sixth Form. It was fantastic to see, on Induction Day, how well they settled into their form groups, rising to the challenge of constructing incredibly tall paper towers - and also beating the other LaSWAP schools at rounders!

What was really special was seeing boys who have been at WES for five years, welcome new students into their school so warmly - giving them expert guided tours, and the inside information about how to get the very best of their time at WES. It was also heart-warming to see how all of our students supported each other, not only in the paper tower challenge and rounders match, but also in their Blue Plaque Challenge – researching where interesting people have lived, worked and studied in the area. We are hoping to have all the posters up for a fabulous display in the Sixth Form Centre next week!



Even more impressive than the creativity, resilience and resourcefulness on show in our Induction Day, has been the way that our Year 12 students that have settled into lessons so absolutely brilliantly; it has been so completely inspiring. Teachers are inundated with great enrolment assignments, and extremely enthusiastic students, who are showing great responsibility and readiness to learn!