



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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17th September 2021

Dear families,

Today's letter has a feel of excitement and celebration as the term is now fully underway – I hope that our students have felt this too. We have had two significant 2021 “firsts” this week, and there are notices below about events coming up.

The return to The Mill: Year 8 camp

It was brilliant to be back at The Mill this week – on Monday I accompanied over 40 Year 8's who were visiting The Mill for the first time. Students were able to make the most of the open and green spaces, contribute to the William Ellis Wish Tree, re-establish friendships at the start of the year – or build new ones – and learn new skills based around the outdoors and independence. Those that I were with were brilliant, despite getting very wet on Monday night and Tuesday, and I have heard similar reports of the group who departed on Wednesday. Next week's newsletter will have a fuller write-up from students as well as some photos.

The new hall and assemblies

For the first time in a generation, the school hall has been fully renovated during the summer, with repairs to previous water damage, new decoration, a completely new lighting and projection system and a staging area for up-scaled performances. The theme of our first assemblies this week was “The School Community”, reflecting on our shared values, sense of responsibility to each other and common goals for the future – and in each of those, what makes William Ellis distinctive and special. I hope that you will all be able to visit the school for events soon and see the hall for yourselves, but in the meantime this picture gives a preview



Events coming up this week and the week after:

Music lessons

Extra-curricular music lessons begin this week. Students who have signed up for music lessons should know their individual times. Students can see the music display boards if they are unsure of the lesson time and timetables are also posted online: www.tinyurl.com/williamellismusicimetables

We hope that, regulations permitting, students who take part in extra-curricular music will soon be able to perform to larger audiences including their families.

School photos

On Wednesday we have school photos for the following students:

- Individual photos for students in Years 7 and 10
- Class photos for Year 7 form groups
- Individual photos for students in other year groups (especially the current Years 8 and 11) who were absent last year (this was an unusually high number as some students were isolating or absent due to COVID)

Students should be in full school uniform for their photos, including the correct blazer and tie. They will be called from their class when the photographer has them in their schedule – they do not need to know the time in advance.

WESPA meeting

Our William Ellis School Parents' Association is having its first meeting of the year, in the library at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend. For further details about WESPA please see [their page on our website](#).

Year 11 Art trips

Next Monday 20th September, and also on 27th, Year 11 Art students will be visiting the 'Chronicles' exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, another example of an enrichment event that has been so sorely missed in the past year. More details have been sent to those students and their families.

Open Evening and late start

Our open evening for prospective families in year 6 and below is taking place on Thursday between 6pm and 8pm. All families who are considering sending applying for a place are encouraged to attend, even those who already have older siblings in the school – it is really important that young people as well as families visit. More information can be found [here](#).

Some current students have been asked to assist that evening by guiding or helping out in department areas – they should have brought home a separate letter with a permission slip if that is the case. Student ambassadors are a vital part of making the evening successful and I'd like to thank them in advance for all their support.

Because the Open Evening runs late on Thursday night for some students and all staff, we will be beginning school later 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.

Sending you warm wishes for the weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones,
Headteacher