



News Update (24th September 2021)

Dear families

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, with a full report and photos from Year 8 camp. Also, you will find below:

- Examples of student art work from Year 10, with Ms Madsen's report on the beginning of GCSE portfolio work
- A message from Ms Mercier Peart about the Year 11 study hub, where all Year 11 students are encouraged to complete their homework and revision activities each day.

We now have a new email address for our Attendance Officer, Mrs Ellis. To submit documents giving detail of a student absence, please email attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk Please note **that student absence must still be reported by phoning the attendance line by 8am each day of absence.**

Open Events 2021

Last night we had a buzzing, positive energy throughout the school as we had over 200 families visit to see the school in the flesh, and understand what we had to offer for their sons who might join us in 2022 and beyond. This is an important moment – last year, 133 families placed us as their first-choice school. It was a pleasure to welcome them, especially after the disruption we faced at this time last year.

I would like to extend a huge thanks to the students who, with your support, were able to make the evening such a success as tour guides, subject experts, or 6th form ambassadors. As I said to the families who visited us, our students are our best assets and they should be very proud of the contribution they made.

Coming up next week and the one after, we have Open Mornings for prospective parents.

- Tuesday 28th September
- Wednesday 29th September
- Tuesday 5th October

This is an opportunity for families to see the school in action, and to speak to staff and students during the working day. Any families who would like to visit are encouraged to register on our website so that we can accurately plan for numbers – [details can be found here](#).



Other events coming up next week

- A 'Stitch It Don't Ditch It' Drama workshop for Year 8 students
- WESPA's 3K Challenge for Years 7-9, which raises funds for new PE equipment
- Trips to the Saatchi Gallery for Year 11 Graphics students and Sixth Form Art and Graphics students

Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Year 8 Camp

Elizabeth Lawson, Head of Year 8

I had the absolute privilege to accompany Year 8 on a rather spontaneous, but very exciting trip to The Mill last week. Thank you so much to all the families of boys that attended for helping us run a trip in such a short turnaround. We even had the sun join us for nearly all of the trip!

It was an action packed few days with all kinds of scavenger hunts, outdoor games and challenges. A particular highlight for me was getting to do the walk up to Leith Hill with both groups, unfortunately one group got a much better view of London (we even spotted Wembley!), however all students got the chance to climb to the top of the tower that sits at the top of the hill and know they were standing 1000 **feet** above sea level.

The attitudes, kindness and senses of humour of our Year 8's constantly impressed all the staff, and this week in assembly students were awarded prizes linked to the learner attributes that they demonstrated – in abundance – whilst there. All the boys should be proud of their teamwork and resilience towards an experience that for most was really quite new and also fairly daunting. Already I can't wait to go again with the year group in the future and I hope the new skills and friendships made continue to thrive now we are back in school.





Claire Ozkaya, Student Engagement Officer

It was fantastic to be able to return at last to The Mill last week and amazing to see all the hard work that Sam and Alice, the wardens, have put in over the last 18 months on the site new additions, which include amazing raised beds to grow veg and loads of 'bug' hotels on the grounds (to name but two things!).



It was wonderful again to be able to complete the traditional 'Learning Wish Tree' with the students, and to hear their reflections on the time they have spent in Year 7 and which positive skills and learning experiences they want to master to an even higher level in Year 8.

It was great to see how seriously the boys took the principles of team work and kindness in learning to be responsible outdoor learners, and how they supported one another throughout as for many students this was their first trip away from home!

It was truly fantastic to see so much creativity in the beautiful 'wishes' the students made and to hear such mature and honest reflections upon how they can improve in the school year to come.

Laura Madsen, Head of Art & Design

Year 10 have made a start on their first GCSE project, which is on the theme of Identity. They produced a gridded drawing of a skull to get them back into the habit of drawing in different materials.

These drawings are by Prince, Afonso, Alex and Giovanni:





Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 11

Year 11 boys are now in the full swing of things and it was lovely to have our first assembly with Ms Jones last Friday morning in our brand new Hall. You have probably seen a picture in last week's letter. It looks absolutely stunning!

I'd like to ask parents and carers to please start talking to their sons about the importance of homework this year in order to support the work done in class.

Almost all boys have now logged in to Satchel One, and as a parent so can you. Please check on our website if you are not sure how to do so, or ask your son. If your son still needs help with accessing or using Satchel One he can go to the Study Hub where he will be welcomed by Orr and Shivoni, members of our City Year team who are working with Year 11 this year.

The Year 11 Study Hub is open from 3.15pm daily. We are delighted to see already a growing number of boys attending and working with Orr and Shivoni after school. Please do encourage your son to attend. Many boys find it a much nicer experience to complete their homework and revision as part of a group while being supported by our young team from City Year.