



News Update (3rd December 2021)

Dear families

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, with updates from the Art and Technology Department, our librarian and City Year Team. Before this, though, I am including some important practical information about the arrangements in school for the rest of term and looking ahead to January 2022.

Masks in communal areas

As you know, all secondary schools in England were asked to reintroduce masks in communal areas as of last Monday, and this will continue for the rest of the Autumn Term. We have not yet been given any information about next term, although it is very possible that current arrangements will continue.

Thank you to families and students who have made sure that they have their own reusable and washable masks with them in school each day. Please could I ask all families to ensure that students have masks with them when they come to school. Many students will also need to use them on public transport.

Lateral flow testing

Last Friday, all students were issued with their latest lateral flow test packs to use at home. All students need to test twice weekly, and we would encourage families to do the same including through the Christmas and New Year holidays. Additional test kits can be ordered here: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

When we return on 5th January, we have been instructed to test all students before they return to class. These tests will take place during 5th and 6th January, with online learning to support students. Further details will follow as soon as they are available.

Items coming up this term

While coronavirus rates have risen nationally across England, our rates at William Ellis have remained constant and we are optimistic that events through to the end of term can continue to take place, albeit with some modified arrangements:

Year 7 Parents' Evening, on SchoolCloud – 9th Dec
WESPA Arts & Crafts Fair – 11th Dec
Year 8 HPV vaccinations – 14th Dec
Winter Entertainment Evening – 14th Dec

The William Ellis Winter Entertainment will be a festive evening of music and drama. Come and enjoy refreshments while listening to the William Ellis Big Band, Brass Band and many more ensembles and groups. Along with the music we will also be treated to excerpts from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, courtesy of some of our talented Year-7 actors. Round off the evening by joining in with the Vocal Group in the singing of some Christmas Carols.



Considering the recent government restrictions the number of tickets available will be limited to 120. This will allow for some social distancing in the hall. If possible, we would also request that you complete a lateral flow test on the day of the performance. The hall will be well-ventilated so it is advised to dress warmly as this will affect the temperature of the performance space. We ask that you wear a face mask for the duration of the performances.

Priority booking will be given to families with a child performing on the evening. Booking for any remaining tickets will be open to the rest of the school community later in the week.

Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Year 10 Art and Careers trip

Year 10 Art students recently took part in a fantastically inspirational trip to Cockpit Arts to meet designer makers and find out about careers in craft and design.

The students met several craftspeople, amongst them a weaver, a glass engraver and an embroidery specialist fashion designer. The students heard how these designers trained to obtain their qualifications and the stories of how they set up their own businesses, including some really valuable information about how many grants and how much support is on offer for students from ethnic minorities to start creative businesses.

The students also worked with a leather specialist designer maker to create their own card wallet keepsakes!





David Dreeben, City Year Impact Officer

Our City Year Volunteer Mentors at William Ellis continue to provide after school clubs for William Ellis students. Please urge your students to join -- your encouragement can go a long way to build our after school programs.

The clubs currently on offer are as follows:

Catch Up Club (Homework Club)

Monday-Thursday 3:15-4pm in the library

A place for Year 7-9s to catch up on homework and study for exams after school

StudyHub (Year 10s):

Monday - Thursday 3:15-4pm also in the library

A place for Year 10s to catch up on homework and study for GCSEs

StudyHub (Year 11s):

Monday - Thursday 3:15-4pm in L02

A place for Year 11s to catch up on homework and study for GCSEs

Rocket Club (a partnership w/City Year and Cadent Gas)

Tuesdays 3:15-4pm in Room 32 + final Rocket Launch Day--> Thursday, December 16th 3:15

A space for Y7s and Y8s to engage in a 5-week journey to build and launch rockets on the final day

Creator's Workshop:

Thursdays in Room 42 (Art Room) 3:15-4pm

A space for students to express themselves through arts and textiles and other forms of creativity

We look forward to seeing students there!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email

(dreeben@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) or phone (07903 797078).



Nariece Sanderson, Librarian

Jack Petchey Award Donation

William Ellis School library has been lucky enough to receive some Jack Petchey funding! We are incredibly grateful. To find out what we could spend the generous funding on, the library sent out a survey and asked the library monitors their thoughts. There was talk of magazines; new non-fiction titles and even a special request for more information on espionage! However, if there's one thing that the students are keen to read at WES, it is manga and graphic novels. These were the most popular choices on the survey, and the books seem to fly off the shelves.

Here is a taster of the new selection available for borrowing right now! More comics and manga to follow...



Ms Sanderson Recommends: Miles Morales Shockwaves

This original comic is written by popular author Jason Reynolds (Look Both Ways, Ghost) and wonderfully captures the humour and complexities behind Miles Morales. A nice slice of teen drama and culture that makes you feel like you're back in the world of Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse.



Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 11

It was a pleasure to see so many WES students and their families coming to the LaSWAP Open Evening last month – despite the sudden cold! It is the start of Winter and with it, Year 11 Mock Exams are underway.

I would like to remind all Year 11 families that students must be back on normal timetable on Monday the 13th December. Boys doing Food Preparation and Nutrition will, however, still have assessments on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th. MFL speaking exams are also taking place between 13th and 16th December. Students have been given their day and time for this exam, which will only take 20 minutes. Students will be provided with a slip to leave their class to go to their MFL mock Speaking exam.

The last day of term is 17th December and we expect every one to be in class on this day.

Good Luck to everybody with their mock exams.