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## Dear WES Parents and Carers

Welcome to the December edition of the WESPA Newsletter. Read on for the latest news, how to get the most out of life at WES, dates for

the diary and more. If you would like to contribute, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing us at [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com).

Team WESPA

## Spotlight

On the back of the huge success of the 3K charity run, we caught up with WES sporting linchpin **Mr Levitt**

*Who are you and what do you do at WES?*

I am Mr Levitt and I'm the Head of PE at WES.

*What does a regular day for you at WES involve?*

I always like to start my day by checking on the basketball club. The boys that come in early in the morning to train are progressing so fast. It's always a lovely start to see how they're getting on. I teach all year groups including two GCSE classes, so during the day you'll find me planning, prepping and teaching lessons from either Hampstead



Heath, the playground, sports hall, fitness gym or the classroom. After school you will find me running a sports club, revision session or taking a school team to a fixture.

*What fun things have hap-*

*pened recently or are coming up for the department?*

Before the Christmas break we had the Year 7 Inter House Football Competition to finish. The Year 8 Basketball Team had two fixtures to extend their lead at the top of the league and the Year 11 Football Team had a cup game to squeeze in after their mock exams.

After the Christmas break we start the Handball Inter House Competitions. We are very excited to be starting a rugby club in January. The boys have done excellently in their rugby lessons this term and are ready to take their skills to the next level. A game has been arranged with a local school so we can test our-

selves against the best in Camden.

And of course we have WES Sports Day in the summer term. Hopefully the weather doesn't stop us this year!

*What is the best way for our boys to get involved in sports at school?*

Aside from PE lessons, the best way to get involved in sport is through our sports clubs. All the sports clubs are free and there is no sign up process. All you need to do is bring your PE kit, change in the changing room after school and join the designated teacher for the club. All abilities are welcome. It's great to

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PE Extra Curricular Timetable Jan - Feb					
Before School 7:30 – 8:25	Basketball Team Training Mr Bossinga	Basketball Team Training Mr Bossinga	Basketball Team Training Mr Bossinga	Basketball Team Training Mr Bossinga	Basketball Team Training Mr Bossinga
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School 3:20pm – 4:20pm	Fitness Mr Szymanski	KS3 & KS4 Basketball Mr Bossinga	Table Tennis Coach Rachel	GCSE PE Practical Mr Szymanski	Trampolining Mr Court
	PE Club Mr Keeshan	KS3 Football Mr Levitt	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Mr Levitt & Mr Szymanski	GCSE PE Homework/catch up session Mr Levitt	

If you want to attend a club, come to the PE changing rooms after school and register with the lead teacher  
You must wear your full William Ellis PE kit to take part in a club  
Make sure you tell your parent/carers that you will be staying in school until 4:20

## Spotlight

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see so many boys in the clubs after school, whether they want to extend what they have learnt in lessons, try something new or just play with their friends.

*Tell us something fun we might not know about you!*

I love a quiz! (My form 8K are the reigning quiz champions which makes me so proud.) I take part in my local pub quiz every week. We don't win very often but I enjoy the competition (shock) and I love learning something new every week. My speciality subjects are sport, science and geography. I have recently got a new pet kitten called John-Clawed and I am getting a bit of a reputation for showing pictures of him to staff at the photocopyer.

*Thank you Mr Levitt. It is great to hear about all the sports going on at WES and opportunities for the boys. Huge congratulations to our Year 8s for topping the league!*

*For any parents and carers reading, check out the timetable Mr Levitt has shared on page 1. As he says, all the clubs are free and all our boys need to do is turn up in their PE kit. If nothing else, go along to inspect the impressive Movember moustaches sported by our most illustrious PE department (see photo above).*

■ *A massive thank you also to all the boys, staff and helpers who made this year's run possible. It raised a huge £4,140 for the school.*

## What is WESPA?

WESPA is a charity (no. 1158812), run by parents, carers and friends of William Ellis School.

WESPA is open to all in our school community, and is a fun way to get involved in school life.

- We help raise extra funding for the school, to provide resources for the boys.
- We run social events for parents and children, to help facilitate the growth of our school community.

• We encourage as many people as we can to get involved, to create stronger bonds and ties between home and school.

■ If you haven't been to a WESPA meeting yet, if you think it's not for you, or you're just not sure how you can help, you can always email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) to find out more about us and how you can get involved.

## WESPA News



The last year has been a busy one for WESPA. The team has worked tirelessly to raise money, apply for grants and create events to enable us all to get together.

Thank you so much to everybody who has come to WES gatherings, donated and volunteered. Every single pound and minute all adds up and makes such a difference.

In the last year, donations from our community, grants from Camden Giving, Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust and our very own Old Elysians enabled us to reach our Home Learning Laptop Campaign target of £30,000 to bring digital equality, via good laptops, IT and connectivity, to all students at William Ellis School.

The Art Department has a new laser cutter and we have fitted out the Food Tech and Sports Departments with new equipment. A very big thank you to the Birkbeck and William Ellis Schools Trust for the ongoing support with matched funding. This would not be possible without you.

Whilst parents continue to help on an ongoing basis, the official Trustee roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are filled on a rotating basis. This year we will be filling all three. If you are interested in any of these roles please email

[williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com).

They are vitally important to the running of WESPA and a huge opportunity to help all our boys. Mentoring for each role is on hand from previous Trustees.

If you have ever considered getting more involved, now is the time. Our boys need you!

*Retiring Secretary Juliet had this to say:*

**WESPA is all of us! A strong parents association is good for the whole school – parents, students and staff. It helps build community, and it's positive for our children and teens to see their families engaging with our school. If you want something to improve, get involved. Socialise at an event, volunteer, donate and spread the word – it all helps!**

Thank you Fiona, Juliet and Azeb, your time, energy and dedication in helping all our boys is truly inspiring. We hope to see you at a quiz or WESPA social very soon.

## Dates for the Diary

### 2023

Tuesday 24 January:  
WESPA Digital Online Meeting, 7pm (TBC).

Thursday 2 February:  
WESPA Social, 7-9pm (TBC).

February/March:  
WESPA Table Top Sale (TBC).

March: Working Weekend at The Mill (TBC).

March: Spring Shindig (TBC).

## The Inside Track

In every edition of the newsletter we ask a student to lift the lid on life at WES. In this edition we hear from **Alfred in Year 7**

### *What has it been like starting at WES?*

It has been a steep learning curve. The first week was crazy! But now I've got to the end of term, even though lots of my friends from primary school went to different schools, I'm really glad I came to William Ellis.

### *How have you found making friends?*

I made lots of friends at the summer camp in August who I've got to know better this term. We hang out in the quad where there are ping pong tables and we also do clubs together. I've joined Comic/Animation Club, Choir, Samba and Robotics. Although lots of boys are football obsessed!

### *What has been the biggest change from your last school?*

When I was at primary school, I was the tallest – taller than some of my teachers – and now it feels like some people are twice as high as me. The distance between classrooms

is bigger than I expected. I've had to learn how to get around the school quickly so I'm not late. There have been some close calls!

### *What do you enjoy the most at WES?*

My favourite lessons are Science, Art, DT and Music. I really like drawing and designing things. At primary we only did science every two weeks but now we have a whole new curriculum. Last week I dissected a chicken's leg. I enjoyed that even though the smell was horrific! Music is much more of a challenge and I really like this. It's great that we all get a keyboard. In the first half of term I tried Mandarin. The teacher was really good and it was interesting using the characters. I've never done anything like that before.

### *What are you looking forward to?*

The holidays! There has been a lot going on and new things to learn so I'm looking for-



ward to a break, having no homework and not having to get up to be in school on time. I'm also looking forward to the renovation of the toilets and making my next music track with Mr Holland. Our

computer technician has just agreed to our request to download Blender, the 3D design and animation program for the library computers, and I can't wait to have a go at lunchtime.



## School News

Congratulations to Moleteng Chiloane who was a regional finalist in the Speakers Trust Speak Out Challenge with his powerful speech 'Adventure is out there'. You can watch Moleteng at <https://youtu.be/i9if-DUFKLg>



## Camden Foodbank



Thank you for all the donations for the Camden Foodbank. Your generosity is hugely appreciated. If you missed the drop off and would still like to donate over the winter break, cash or items can be given directly to Camden Foodbank.

Locations and opening times can be found at <https://camden.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

## 6 ways to support WESPA

### ■ COME AND JOIN IN! –

It is always great to meet up with fellow parents and carers and meet new ones too.

### ■ SHARE YOUR IDEAS –

WESPA is run by parents for our boys and each other. All thoughts and ideas are very welcome.

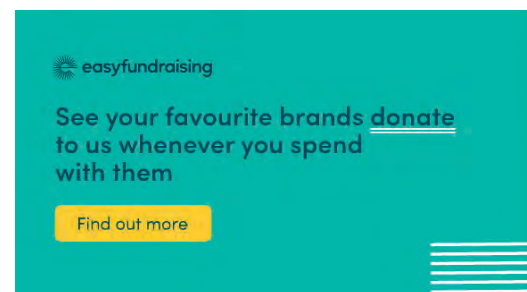
Just email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com)

### ■ VOLUNTEER –

The WES community is huge and diverse. Whether lending a hand at an event, joining a working weekend at The Mill, offering your professional skills to a school project, or covering one of the central WESPA roles, every contribution benefits our community and is hugely appreciated.

### ■ RUN A FUNDRAISER –

If you have any previous experience or want to



team up with a fellow parent and create something new, this is a great way to raise funds for the school.

■ **DONATE** – Donations to WESPA are very welcome. You can donate using the fundraising platform GIVEY at

<https://www.givey.com/williamellispa-school-parents-association>.

If your son has outgrown his uniform please consider donating these items to our regular uniform sales. Good condition uniform can be dropped at the

school office.

### ■ SHOP THROUGH

**EasyFundraising** – If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE! 7,400 brands will donate to us when you use EasyFundraising to do your everyday online shopping – at no extra cost to you! Sign up [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/williamellispa/?invite=1KH7PM%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/williamellispa/?invite=1KH7PM%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

WESPA

William Ellis  
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Association