



News Update (11th February 2022)

Dear families

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, as this half term draws to a close.

Information for students sitting public exams or assessments in 2022 and their families

This week the Department for Education have published further information about any adjustments to the content of exams for this summer. Subject teachers will be digesting this and explaining it to students in class when they return from the half term break, but please do look at this guide for students and families in the meantime:

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022?utm_source=letter_to_schools_colleges_7_feb_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advance information](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022?utm_source=letter_to_schools_colleges_7_feb_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advance_information)

We fully expect these exams to go ahead in the summer and it is vital that students are organised and focused with their preparation and revision as we go into March.

Children's Mental Health Week

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week for 2022 is "Growing Together" - in particular, growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

At William Ellis, strategies that students can use to support their own mental health and also how they can help their peers are covered across the PSHE and tutorial curriculum, and students who are in most need can access one to one or small group support. However, the national organisation behind Children's Mental Health Week also provide resources to families that [can be found here](#) - please do take a look at them over the half term break if you think that this would be helpful.

Deep Learning Day 10th February 2022

Led and devised by our Year 10 and 11 Student Council members with support from Mr Pratt, the theme of this week's DLD was "Is William Ellis a safe space?", encompassing discussions about mental health and emotional safety and LGBT+ inclusion. Several learning sessions for Year 7, 8 and 9 students were led by older students, providing opportunities for open and constructive discussions about how we work together as a school community. These days are a core part of our PHSE curriculum and are central to strengthening William Ellis as a community. Issues raised yesterday will be referenced and developed across the curriculum throughout the rest of the year and so it was particularly pleasing to see students taking this so seriously with their peers.

Key Stage Five students were also off timetable, learning about the various issues around sexual harassment. Year 12 students had a choice of activities, with some learning British Sign Language, and others learning about the social



and natural history of our area with a walk on Hampstead Heath. Yet others joined with the Year 13 students who watched a very thought-provoking play about modern relationships, called "Penetration".

Charity fundraising

December's Non-Uniform Day raised close to £330 for the Depaul charity which works with homeless and vulnerable young people www.depauluk.org. This organisation has seen a rise in young people accessing their services following family breakdown during the lockdowns of the last two years and so the donations from all students who contributed have been very gratefully received.

Half Term Activities for young people in Camden

There's plenty for children and young people of all ages to get involved in and enjoy across Camden during half-term week. Please follow the links to [Camden Rise](#) and the [Camden Council website](#) for detail of youth activities, projects and sporting activities on offer, many of them free.

Coming up

After half term a number of Year 9 students will be taking part in poetry workshops with published poet Antony Anaxagorou, which will culminate in a performance at Lauderdale House in March.

In March Drama students will have an opportunity to see a theatrical production at a West End theatre and take part in a Q&A with cast and crew members. GCSE Drama students are invited to see the critically acclaimed musical *Hamilton*, while a number of Key Stage 3 students will see the stage version of *Life of Pi*, based on the Booker Prize winning novel.

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on 10th March. The following week, on 17th March, Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place. Further details of both these events will be sent to families after half term.

Key Stage 3 Camp dates

In Summer Term students in Years 7 and 9 will be taking part in our annual Camps, at The Mill in Forest Green.

Year 9: 6th June – 10th June.

Year 7: 27th June – 1st July (Week 1) 4th July – 8th July (Week 2)

Further detail about these residential trips will follow in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher

Deep Learning Day:

The Art Department's contribution to our Deep Learning Day this week was to work with Year 7 students to look at how Valentine's cards are generally stereotypical, and to try to create cards that are inclusive and celebrate all types of relationships, including LGBT couples. A selection of the cards made can be seen here:



Simon Fuller, Head of Physics:

All Year 8 pupils designed and made a roller coaster during a 2 hour STEM event run by intrepid engineering undergraduate volunteers from UCL last month. The boys (and volunteers) seemed to enjoy the workshop and the pupils made impressive structures that demonstrated the scientific principles that had been explained to them at the start of the session. Well done Year 8!

Lorna Damms, Head of English:

Year 7 students have been studying poems that specifically address works of art in their Ekphrastic Poetry unit. One class taught by Ms Damms and Ms Farrell painted pictures inspired by W.H. Auden's '*Musée des Beaux Arts*' where the poem's speaker reflects on a painting of the story of Daedalus and Icarus in a Belgian museum. Each of our students painted, in turn, a picture inspired by that poem and we have displayed them, along with their captions. We might be willing to auction the original student artwork if any fine art collectors happen to be reading this.



For the students' final task, each was asked to select an artwork or exhibition piece and write a poem about it, and then a short analysis.

Here are two lovely poems from the class, firstly Niyaz's poem inspired by one of the Lewis chessmen pieces in the British Museum (and evidently by his history lessons with Ms Strike) whose voice he imagines to be that of the king in the game, a piece only allowed one move, and then Malik's poem which addresses a 1927 Chanel coat kept in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

We hope you enjoy them:



The Chess Piece by Niyaz:

One step
any direction.
Why?

Protect me all you want.
I am the hierarchy.
I should be able to do anything
And everything.
I am absolute power.
Not really -
King John probably had more.

I am just a pawn with royalty
nothing.

My crown is too tight
And what's in my hand?



Malik's poem:

Created in 1927 but let's skip ahead to WW2
Soldiers run, gunshots array, tanks mow down
Anything in their way. Mud splashes on it.
It sees everything, this coat created for the French one in a million.
Now all it sees is death.



They yell 'This is no place for a nurse'
'I've got to help the others'
'You can't. They're cut off'
'I don't care'
'Fine, do it if you can'
Explosions ring out Boom!
'We'll cover you while you attend to the injured'

This coat was worn through WW2
Now it sits in a glass case
In a museum.

Thank you for reading.



Nariece Sanderson, Librarian:

Sixth Form Book Club have been delving into some excellent reads (and some delicious snacks) this half term. Our book for January was *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline. The book went down a treat after a request for a sci-fi selection. Full of 80s Pop Culture, video games and dystopic action, this adventure had us gripped. Our next book is *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. If any Sixth Formers would like to join our monthly meeting, please speak to Ms Wilson or myself.



Caroline Smith, Head of Year 12

Sixth form tutor groups have been completing various activities as part of a Kindness Campaign. So far there has been a (very delicious) Bake Sale, which raised over £80 for homeless charities, and thank you cards and homemade biscuits are being produced for local NHS staff and other people such as postal workers. Food is also being collected for our local food bank.

During enrichment day this week students took part in sessions aimed at developing their life skills, as well as either seeing a play, learning BSL (British Sign Language) or visiting Kenwood.

Year 13 Information Evening

On Tuesday 8th February, the LaSWAP Directors held an information evening for Year 13 families. A recording of the webinar and the PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here: [Year 13 Parents' Information Evening 2022](#)



Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 11

Thank you to all the Year 11 students and their families who attended LASWAP guidance appointments at the end of January. It was lovely to see how committed the boys are and we were able to make some plans for next year, allowing students to be more focused about their subjects and the results they need for their GCSE.

We are now entering the most difficult time for Year 11 boys as they are going to start to really feel the pressure of the forthcoming exams. The three coming months are crucial, therefore we are asking you to support them as much as possible by ensuring they eat and sleep well and take some daily fresh air, as well as working very hard. We would expect Year 11 students to spend 3 to 5 hours a day on revision. They have made new revision timetables and their teachers have prepared work packs for all boys to complete. Some revision plans are starting this half term for some subjects. The resources can be found on Satchel One or TEAMS.

Thank you for your support in this matter and we wish you a good half term.

David Dreeben, City Year

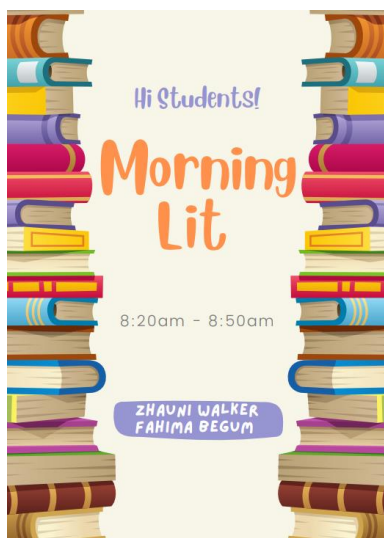
Earlier this month, the National Art Gallery Project (a partnership with William Ellis School and City Year UK) was launched with its first student trip, taking a group of 9 students from Key Stage 3 to the National Gallery for a workshop with a resident artist. Students explored several wings of the gallery, engaging in deep analysis of select works of art and experimenting with sketching, tracing, and 3D set construction; all activities connected back to this year's theme of Community.

The project will include weekly after-school art sessions from 3.20 to 4.20pm each Thursday (except field trip days) and another workshop trip to the gallery on March 3rd. The project's culmination will take place at final student trip on March 31st when students will have the opportunity display the community-themed art they create for the project in the National Gallery itself.

Fahima Begum and Sofia Cardoso, City Year:

City Year will be running a book club for Year 8 students next half term - Morning L.I.T (Literacy Inclusive Text). This will be run once a week, before school, from 8:20 - 8:50am. We will be focusing on diversity and inclusivity and the first theme will be gender! We will be reading *The Deep & Dark Blue* by Niki Smith.

We are also launching a new club next half-term for students in Years 7 and 8: Cinema Club will be running every Thursday afternoon. Every other week we will vote on the film that will be shown, so that everyone has a say. Come along and watch some great films with your friends and don't forget to bring snacks!



Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

Some excellent work has been produced by GCSE students this half term – Year 10 have been working on developing their theme of identity, using a grid to produce some amazing portraits. Currently they are developing these into paintings influenced by Frida Kahlo.



Year 10 self-portraits using a grid - these are being developed into painting influenced by Frida Kahlo.

Can you guess who they are?



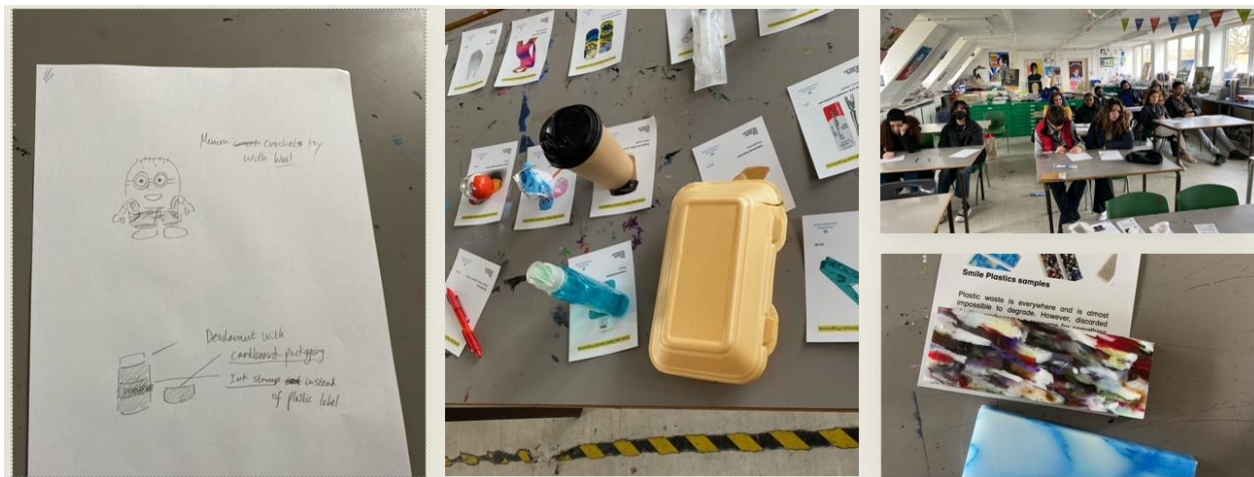
Year 11 students are working on their project *'Together and Apart'* and they did some excellent studies of natural forms. These are by Jamie, Mario and Ezra:



On Thursday this week Year 12 Cambridge Technical students took part in a workshop run remotely by the Design Museum. This is a fantastic institution in London that deals with all kind of objects and explores how and why they are designed in the way they are. The workshop was linked to the museum's current exhibition *'Waste Age'*.



Students looked at historical objects, such as stone spear heads and tools, and then looked at a handling collection of objects - some which are very wasteful and some which use new designs and materials which allow them to be reused instead of going to landfill. In the second part of the workshop the students tried to redesign some wasteful objects - they were very creative and designed a toy minion made from wool, and a chair made of sticks!



Josh Levitt, Head of PE

It has been a successful half term for our sports teams. The school has been involved in multiple fixtures across football, basketball and table tennis. All the boys involved have performed incredibly well and represented the school with dignity and pride. Special mentions must go to Noah (7W) for winning the first inter school table tennis competition of the year, along with the Year 11 football team and the Year 9 basketball team (pictured), who have managed to continue their 100% win record into the new year.

With all year groups still in the Camden and Islington Cup (football), there is plenty to play for next half term.





Karl Altmann, Assistant Headteacher:

Families of budding bakers and fans of *The Great British Bake Off* may be interested in this exciting opportunity that has been shared with us by Love Productions:



Interested bakers can apply online at www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk . Applications close on Sunday 13th March.