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Dear WES Parents and Carers

Welcome to the July 2024 bumper edition of our 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'd like to contribute, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing williamellispa@gmail.com

Team WESPA

For all previous issues, please visit sites.google.com/view/williamellispa/news

Spotlight

WESPA Chair Al Mobbs caught up with head of Y10 and Humanities teacher **Jason Dennis**: "I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Dennis properly at this year's Year 8 parents' evenings. Although I have to say he is a man hard to miss, towering over students (and me) in the corridors!"

Who are you and what do you do at WES?

My name is Mr Dennis and I am the Head of Year 10 at William Ellis. I am also a Humanities Teacher.

What does a regular day for you at WES involve?

It involves dealing with the pastoral needs of the year group, teaching history and geography, having regular meetings with the Year 10 team and meeting with the year team.

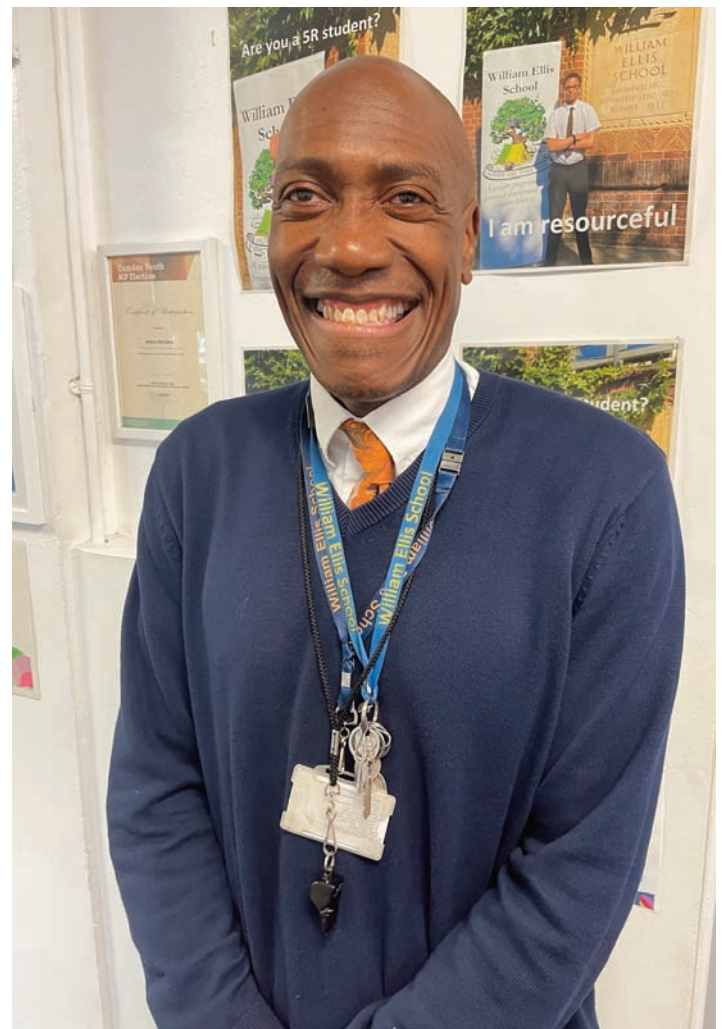
What fun things have happened recently or are coming up for the humanities department or for Year 10?

Some really great things are happening in Year 10 work experience where pupils learn about the value of work and gain life experiences. We also have

rewards assemblies coming up for student of the year and subject awards. Let's not forget sports day for Year 10 on July 15th.

What is the best way for boys to get involved in all the various goings on in humanities at school and beyond?

The best way is to speak to subject teachers in Humanities about getting involved in the clubs we provide. Humanities is everywhere. You can get involved in debating outside and inside WES or become a member of the British Library and the British Museum. We have something very special in London. Most museums are free so go out there and enjoy the delights of learning about RE, Politics,



History, Sociology and Geography.

Tell us something fun we might not know about you...

I used to have an afro!

Thank you Mr Dennis, it's great to hear about your

passion for humanities at WES and in London.

There is indeed much to get involved in. And on the pastoral front, Mr Dennis will become the new Head of Year for Year 11 – an exciting time for students and families, so watch this space next academic year.



Y11 leavers 2024

Good luck to all our Year 11 Leavers and we look forward to seeing many of you in LaSWAP!



Curious sights

Gabriel Azoitei in Y10 reports

After school, I went with my mum to the Cabinet of Curiosities Exhibition at Lauderdale House. It was cool to see what we had done some months before, such as the giant canvases and the flyers that we designed on Photoshop at the entrance.

We also saw our bronze sculptures, which were the result of the clay sculptures which we had made, and which will last for hundreds of years, which is a cool thing to think about.

We then went to the garden to look at our clay imprints. We also met some of our teachers who we spoke to about the project.



Y10 mock interviews sessions

Julian Orchard and Gabriel Azoitei in Year 10 give us the lowdown...

Julian Orchard:

Last month, William Ellis set mock interviews for all Year 10 students. Each student was interviewed by two adults who asked a variety of questions to which they had to respond.

Questions ranged from: "What are you planning to do for A levels?" to "What three items would you save in a fire?"

We were given little to no preparation beforehand, but I did not feel worried when I entered the interview room. It was useful to

have to think quickly and answer questions like you would have to in a real interview situation.

One of my interviewers was in Computer Science and one was in Engineering. I found it interesting because one of the interviewers went to university for one subject, then transferred to a different career. It was helpful to get a glimpse of what that career is like for people in the field.

I am doing work experience at a law firm, so questions like "What are some careers that interest you?" were very relevant.

It is nice doing work experience because you get a feel for all the different careers that are possible and whether or not you really enjoy working in that career.

Hopefully by the end of the week, I will know if I find a career in Law interesting and fulfilling.

Gabriel Azoitei:

As preparation for a real job interview, I had a mock interview which, to be honest, went better than I was expecting. I thought I would have been left without responses to their questions, but they were

friendly enough and made me feel comfortable enough to easily go along with them.

They made a number of insightful recommendations to me such as enrolment in Imperial College for STEM fields.

Afterwards, they gave me feedback on my performance as the interviewee regarding such things as eye contact, hesitation with questions and overall engagement. I think that it was very helpful and gave me a strong impression of what a real interview may be like.



Mock Interviews – parents and local business owners gather for Y10 careers event

Trekking and setting up camp under the stars



WESPA would like to thank WES Head of Adventure Mr Court and Pastoral Support Leader Mr Allen for coordinating the Year 11 DofE expedition this July.

Originally postponed due to lockdown disruption, Mr Court managed to slot it in at the end of the GCSE exam period. **Zac Williams** from 11B has written up his thoughts

about the trip. Please read on to hear more about the experience:

"Participating in the Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh hike was an unforgettable adventure. Our journey started with a challenging trek through diverse terrains from the muddy Surrey countryside to the picturesque Box Hill.

"As a team we navigated using a

map and compass, honing our skills and fostering a strong sense of camaraderie. The experience of setting up camp under the stars, cooking our meals, tip-toeing past Mr Courts' snoring tent to use the toilets and sharing stories around the campfire bought us closer together and taught us valuable lessons in resilience.

"Throughout the walk I have gained valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership and perseverance. Despite the occasional chafed shoulders and tired feet, the sense of accomplishment we felt at the end of each day was immensely rewarding.

"This trip not only tested our physical endurance but also our problem-solving abilities making it an enriching experience that we will cherish for years to come."

Y11 leavers' celebration



WESPA organiser Vicky making candy floss



DJing!



Food is served...

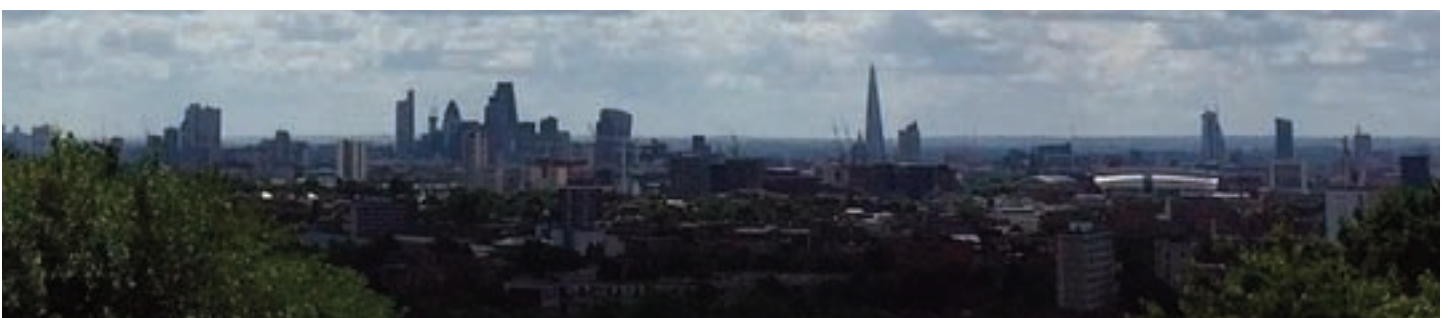
Following the success of last year's BBQ, WESPA again unleashed the mighty WESPA BBQs to bring together an evening of celebration for Year 11 Leavers and their teachers.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers and all those who donated to fund this year's event.

And a huge thank you to WES DJ tutor Youssef Boutayeb, Zakaria Abdul-Nebi (10K) and Archie Johnson (previous student at Ellis) who did an amazing job spinning tunes on the decks at the event.



The BBQ Team



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 caught up with **Toby** in Year 8

What is your favourite subject at WES and why?

I really like PE. We get to be outside of the classroom and get to go on the Heath for rugby and orienteering. We do a different sport every half term.

What do you expect as you move into Year 9?

I think it'll be similar to Year 8. We start thinking about GCSEs soon so I am anticipating a lot more school work and homework!

There are lots of clubs at William Ellis School. Do you have any favourites?

I really like gym club which takes place after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. We warm up on the rowing machines



Toby with Year 8 friends (L-R): Guillem, Alfred, Toby and Patrick

and mostly do weights. We do lots of upper body exercises which, for me, is really important for sports that I do. Rugby club was really fun and I hope it comes back in the autumn term.

What do you want to get out of school?

I am interested in science and conservation. I might like to be a vet so science, maths and the humanities

are really important. And a nice group of friends.

At this time of year, there are lots of students finishing their last term at primary school. What tips would you give to the new Year 7s as they think about joining WES in September?

I was the only person coming from my primary school but it's been quite easy to make friends – in

clubs, lessons, in my form/tutor group or even going to and from school. Go to as many things as you can. I didn't at first but as soon as I did, I really enjoyed it. Try not to get a detention because you have stay behind after school. I bike to school, so make sure you are happy to be on the road and practise before so you are safe. There are lots of bike racks at school.

WESPA 5k and 10k run

This year marked the first WESPA run. The event saw an intrepid bunch of parents zipping round the Heath on 5k and 10k runs.

Thank you to everybody who overcame the hills, the sun and social anxiety to run for the school – we raised £340 for the Staff Room fund and WESPA Awards. And it was a lot of fun too – if you want to join the next one, please get in touch.



Trattoria treats in Kentish Town

WESPA Trustee and Y11 parent Alex Booij caught up with **John Corrigan**, restaurant manager at Rossella

What's the story behind Rossella?

Rossella is a family trattoria nestled back on Highgate Road in Kentish Town. It was opened by Luca Meola in 2012. He set out to continue his family's love of food by offering authentic Italian dishes made delicious by fresh ingredients.

The family opened the first Rossella in 1960 where they combined the products from their family vineyard with their love for food. Luca's father Luigi came to London in 1978 and opened a trattoria where Luca learned his trade from a very young age. In fact he was still only 19 when he opened Rossella in Kentish Town.

Rossella is a continuation of the family's tradition, from our delectable dishes to the friendly and warm service both in the restaurant and also the outdoor dining alfresco area. We extended the restaurant to over double its size and added an Italian deli just after the second lockdown post-Covid.

You aren't just a customer at Rossella – you are part of the extended



Rossella restaurant & delicatessen, 103 Highgate Road, Kentish Town



Luca Meola and John Corrigan from Rossella with their £100 prize hamper kindly donated to WES for the International Evening

family. Even dogs – well behaved ones! – are welcome. It's just that sort of place.

How are your menus inspired?

The Deli has become part of the Rossella story. Our wide range of pastas, biscuits, sweet treats, sauces and herbs are special enough on their own but the stars are the

products from the family vineyard in Benevento, Aglianica and Falenghina wines, as well as prosecco from the vines, Rossella olive oil, and who could resist our homemade (made in store) chilli oil? We're especially proud of the Rossella Limoncello and Meloncello with its sweet Mediterranean flavour.

But of course, above all

it's the people that make Rossella special. Leading front of house is Mary, who has been with Rossella since week 2 or 3 and she's as much the face of the restaurant as Luca. The kitchen team of Vela, Miri, Cesar and Alex, who have been with the team for a long time too.

How has Rossella built up its local community?

Rossella is as much a part of Kentish Town as Kentish Town is a part of Rossella. Their feel and their vibe are intertwined and it feels like a local restaurant. Luca has been involved with the locality from the word go.

Our alfresco parties of the early days were legendary. And when times got tough during the lockdown Rossella stepped up helping to feed the essential services for free when people needed them most.

We always keep close

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relationships with local street parties and school fairs, giving to raffles and fundraising.

Over the years Rossella has had a presence at lots of the actual events too under different guises, and our latest attraction is our gelato bike which made its debut at the Alma Street and Highgate Village fairs.

You should also look out

“ Rossella is as much a part of Kentish Town as Kentish Town is a part of Rossella ”

for the Rossella van which is often up and down the streets from Kentish Town to Tufnell Park and Highgate to Hampstead.

A huge thank you to Rossella for donating the grand prize for the WES International Evening: a hamper filled with amazing Italian delicacies!

Congratulations to Ruth, who was totally delighted to receive a splendid hamper while she was chatting to Luca and John at the event.

And thank you too to John who very kindly joined the group of parents helping William Ellis students at the Year 10 Mock Interview event.

Highgate Soc hits right key



WES Head of Music Ollie Singleton and WESPA Chair Al Mobbs jamming on the new piano during the move!

Earlier this term local organisation Highgate Society very generously offered an upright piano to a local school or organisation in need of one.

We are delighted that the members chose to support William Ellis School and in June the piano was delivered. Since then it has rarely been without a pair (or two) of hands experimenting and practising in the music block. Rachmaninov, Dave Brubeck, the Stranglers, improvisations...

It's lovely to hear all styles billowing out of the doors into the playground. Thank you very much Highgate Society.

Thanking our teachers

Thank you to everybody who contributed to WESPA Wednesdays this term. It always brings forth amazing smiles around the school and is very much appreciated by the wonderful staff of WES.

There is a lot of happiness in the school and the ever more inventive reasons our sons use to attempt to be eligible for a staff biscuit or chocolate is hilarious!

Look out for messages on the groups next term – all the home baking, flowers and treats are a fantastic way to liven up the staff room and create a fun place for our teachers and staff to relax and hang out with colleagues.



Thank you to all WES Staff Team for the past five years from WESPA & Year 11 Parents



WESPA Wednesday gifts of freshly baked goods and goodies for the WES staffroom

International Evening

Global families, food and fun!

This has quickly become our favourite event in the school calendar! It was such a pleasure to share the International Evening with so many families, friends and staff. Delicious food, some brilliant performances and some very happy prize winners too. Thank you to all our local businesses who sponsored the prizes, your generosity is hugely appreciated. Thank you also to all the families who helped out, brought food and shared their talents, to everybody who came and joined in, and of course to Mariana Danova-Balabhadra and all the WES staff who made this possible. We love our big William Ellis family!



International Evening



WES bands at Somerstown Festival 2024

Y9 band The Dynamic Walrus (L-R): Phillip, Humphrey, William, Seba Sam, Max and Raymi

Y8 band M3 (L-R): Colin, Alfred, Sacha



Following on from their successes at Earthfest and Iron Maiden's Karma Sanctum gigs, WES students alongside friends from Regent High, Parliament Hill, CSG and Kentish Town Primary came together to

form a Camden schools collective to wow audiences at this year's Somerstown Festival.

Huge thanks to WES DJ Tutor Youssef Boutayeb for organising the opportunity and to Youssef and

WESPA Chair Al Mobbs for coaching the bands and running the stages. And congratulations to DANDELION, The Bandem, M3, Walrus and The Dynamic Trio, you were amazing!

WESPA social July 2024

The final WESPA Social this year was held at local pub and International Evening sponsor The Duke of St Albans. It followed the final WESPA choir rehearsal of the year and we were even treated to an impromptu a cappella performance from the choir! We can't wait for the next. Guitars anybody?

WESPA Trustee and Y11 parent Alex Booij adds:

A Whooping Thank You to Al Mobbs and to Ollie Singleton!

We'd like to acknowledge the Herculean energy, methodological leadership, endlessly inspiring enthusiasm and dad jokes that Al Mobbs brings as our WESPA chair.

The WESPA community choir would like to express our appreciation to WES Head of Music Ollie Singleton for being such a creative and inspirational choirmaster who always chooses the best and most



eclectic songs for us to tackle. Singing in different languages has been a joy and we look forward to further choir rehearsals next academic year.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the WESPA end of year social on July 9th at The Duke of St Albans where we presented these tokens of appreciation in recognition for the dedicated hours of volunteering Al and Ollie offer week in week out.

WES and the WESPA community are truly fortunate by your gift of time and commitment!

Blazer amnesty

We are very keen to encourage recycling of all blazers – a win for our environment. Last year, thanks to WESPA Eco Group, we started the Black Blazer amnesty, an initiative where we collect unwanted school uniforms and pass them on to younger years. If your son no longer needs his blazer or any other items of branded WES school uniform, it would be hugely appreciated if you could donate the items to school. Blazers and other



WESPA parents Coco and Iain helping out

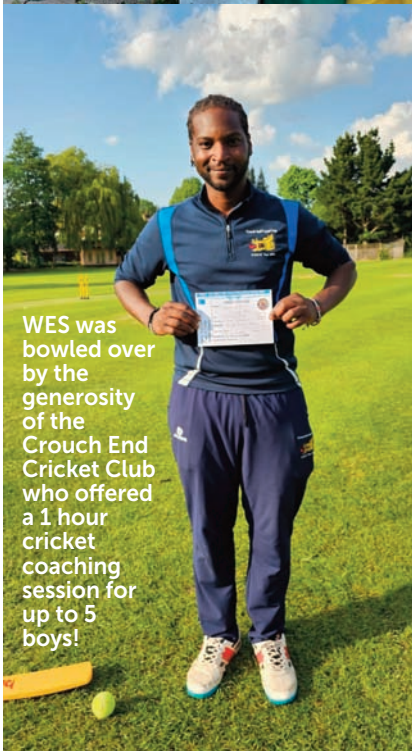
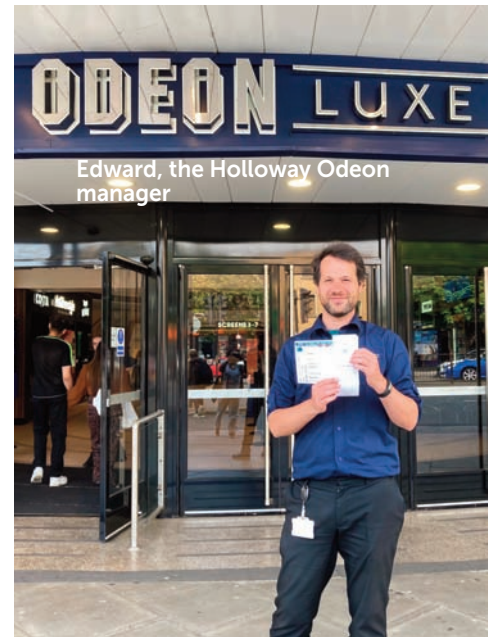
items of branded uniform can be dropped at the school office. A spin through the washing machine would be much appreciated! All uniform donations are very welcome. Huge thanks to parents Coco and Iain for their help this term with lost property and blazer swaps.

Shop local!

Thanks to all our local businesses – shop local!



Community is a word often used and this edition we wanted to offer an extra special thank you to all our local businesses and especially to those who have supported WESPA events this year with offers of food, prizes and services, coming in to talk to our boys and giving local careers advice. This is a reciprocal thing and the more we help each other the better. A big thank you to all our sponsors – please do support them if you don't already.



Shop local!



WESPA STEAM team

The newly formed WESPA STEAM Team have been busy behind the scenes this year supporting the science department at school.

We have received donations of equipment and have been able to secure some amazing grants for the school, not least £1000 for equipment to use across all STEM

areas from Year 7 to LaSWAP.

A big thank you to the Biological And Medicinal Chemistry Sector (BMCS) of the Royal Society of Chemistry for this award.

Pictured is Caroline, WESPA Trustee, WES parent and Lecturer at RVC, with a donated water bath.



■ 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

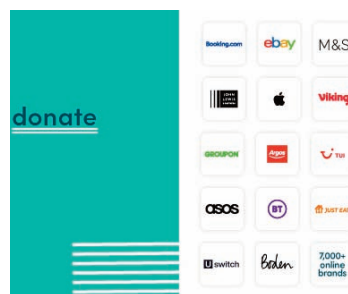
■ VOLUNTEER – The WES community is huge and diverse. Whether lending a hand at an event, joining a working weekend at The Mill, offering your professional skills to a school project, or covering one of the central WESPA roles, every contribution benefits our community and is hugely appreciated.

■ RUN A FUNDRAISER – If you have any previous experience or want to

6 ways to support WESPA

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>. 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 here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/williamellispa/?invite=1KH7PM%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

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 to find out more about us and how you can get involved.

WESPA
William Ellis
School
Parents
Association