



News Update (30th September 2022)

Dear families,

This week's newsletter includes tales from Year 7 camp a few weeks ago, the latest projects from the Art and Technology Department, events in the Modern Foreign Languages department and information about accessing parent and carer support services outside school. Before that, there are some important reminders about school activities and events coming up.

Student Council elections

These take place next week for all tutor groups in years 7-11. Each form group will elect two Student Council representatives and a Sports Captain and all students in each form are able to stand for election. Last year, our Student Council committed to 5 key pledges for all students:

- To take better care of the environment
- To take part in one event or activity outside lessons
- To support fundraising for our wider communities
- To take on a leadership role or responsibility
- To challenge prejudice and hate

The new Council will have the chance to reflect on and change these pledges. Groups from the Council also meet regularly with me and other senior members of staff. This year's Council will form committees to look at outdoor spaces in the school, the toilets and canteen, and the use of digital technology in the school. Please do encourage students to stand for election or to support their classmates if they decide to stand.

Updates on the MCAS App

Parent logins for My Child at School (MCAS), the Bromcom parent app which will give you access to attendance, behaviour and your child's timetable have not been sent out yet and we anticipate it will be a few more weeks before this will happen. The migration from the old system to the new Bromcom system has taken longer than initially anticipated. Until then, essential information about student absence and detentions will be communicated to families by text and email.

- *Open events*
- Behaviour outside school

Assessment fortnight for Key Stages 3 and 4

From 10th to 21st October students will be completing in-class assessments in all subjects.

Year 10 and 11 students will be completing practice exam tasks in lessons and will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding based on the Assessment Objectives for the GCSE courses they are studying.

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will complete one large piece of work in each subject and this will assess what they have learned in the previous half term, as well as some knowledge they are building on from previous years (for years 8



and 9). In some subjects, this piece of work will have been completed over several lessons. In others it will be completed in one lesson and the students will be told this in advance. Students may be set homework to prepare for this depending on the task. For an overview of the topics covered this half term, please see the pages for each subject [here on our website](#).

Data from these assessments will be shared with families in November.

Open events

Thank you to all the students, and by extension their families, who supported our open evening yesterday. The students who guided our visitors and those who demonstrated activities in departments were a credit to the school and should be very proud of themselves, as we are of them. We received an email from one family to say, "All of your students were very respectful but those two were particularly nice William Ellis boys and I think that all the boys we met from your school were very well behaved."

Some of you will have attended with younger sons still in primary school and I hope that it was an enjoyable and informative evening. We have two Open Mornings coming up on 4th and 11th October – details are [here on our website](#). Please note that the Open Morning on Wednesday 5th has been postponed because of train strikes, and we are informing families who signed up of a new date.

Representation outside school

I'm writing this having been on duty at the bus stop and have been impressed by the calm and mature conduct of many of our students around the school gate and the immediate streets. However, we have unfortunately had recent reports of a small number of boys in black blazers – Year 10 and 11 – behaving in an unpleasant manner to members of the public at the end of the school day. Older students were spoken to about this last week, and the damage it does to all our reputation in the wider community. Any students who are discovered to have behaved in this way will be sanctioned by school, and we would encourage any students who see, or who are affected by, this kind of behaviour to let the school know as soon as possible. We have a Police Safer Schools officer who can support us in the investigation of incidents outside school when necessary. Please speak to students about the importance of representing the school well, and what they can do if they see others

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 7

I would like to start by congratulating all the Year 7 boys for their approach to the camp earlier this half term. We all had such a great time! The activities were fun, we all made new friends and grew in confidence. Well done to all. If you have any items missing since returning from The Mill we do have a big box of items left behind; don't hesitate to ask if your son has lost something during camp.

On Tuesday this week we had a whole day of workshops, working on sustainability, with a charity called Bertha Earth. Another fun and successful day of learning and enrichment for the Year 7 students. Mr Court writes more about this event below.

I would like to remind Key Stage 3 families that you are all invited to the 3K run (or *walk* if you prefer, like me!) taking place next Friday, 7th of October, on the Heath.

It has been a great start to the year and we are looking forward to sharing the journey with all our Year 7 families for the 5 years to come.

Have a good weekend.

George Court, Head of Outdoor Learning

During the week commencing 12th September, the Year 7's undertook their first trip to The Mill. Full of activities such as low ropes, rocket building, den building (pictured), arts and crafts, campfires and scavenger hunts, all the boys had a wonderful time. This was one of the first times all the boys in the year group were mixed together, not only with each other, but also their tutors and teachers encouraging them to interact with new faces, that they wouldn't have known, in a setting outside of the classroom.



Bertha Earth Project

On Tuesday 27th September we hosted the launch day for Bertha Earth with our Year 7's. Off their usual timetable for the day, they attended a programme of sessions delivered by Bertha Earth ambassadors. After an initial introduction to the BE foundation, what it is about and what it stands for, the boys were then taken to the sessions '*What is activism?*', '*Self*' and '*Nature detectives*'.

Bertha Earth's mission is to grow a diverse network of young environmental leaders, storytellers and changemakers. Following this launch day, BE will be coming into school once a week to deliver further sessions for those boys who



showed a particular interest in making change and learning about the environment. During this program, there will be the opportunity for the boys to visit foundations BE are working with. The first being a nature connect day trip, the second being a residential trip to Jamie's farm incorporating nature connection, team building, leadership skills, self-care and personal growth.



Jeremy Pratt, Head of Year 8

Almost half of our wonderful Year 8 students were the public face of our school at Thursday's Open Evening. They took a very large number of visiting families on tours of the school, where they were able to see a wide range of activities presented by all our departments as well as listen to talks about the school by members of staff and students. The Year 8 students were super ambassadors and we are very proud of them indeed! We must also mention Ben of 11K who organised the tour groups so efficiently and calmly.

Year 10's 'Speak Out Challenge'

Last week, a group of 25 Year 10 students took part in the annual Jack Petchey Foundation 'Speak Out Challenge' workshop, led by an excellent trainer from the Speakers' Trust. We have been taking part in Speak Out for many years now and this year's contributions by the students were very good indeed. In a few weeks some of them will have the chance to present their speeches to a bigger audience, leading up to the Camden Final in November. In past years we have had several students achieve great success and it would be great if this year's cohort could build on the achievements of previous students!

Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

In the summer, Year 7 students attended Summer School and created some fantastic face tiles inspired by American face pots, which enslaved African Americans made as grave markers to scare off evil spirits. The students tried to make scary faces on their work...and we think that they succeeded and would easily frighten off any evil spirits around them!





Year 12 Graphics A level students made a great start to their project on journeys by going on a walk on the heath and recording it in different ways. Students did drawings but also considered how they could use words or sound to inspire their project work.



Evie Bown, Head of MFL

Our wonderful KS3 linguists helped to host 'le Café Français' for Open Evening. They were delightful waiters and encouraged all visitors to order food and drinks in French. Visitors and MFL teachers were blown away by their enthusiasm and excellent representation of William Ellis. Merci, les garçons!





Earlier this week we celebrated European Day of Languages on Monday 26th September. Each year, this event celebrates linguistic diversity, something that William Ellis has in abundance. To celebrate the event this year, boys in all year groups took part in a challenge! They had to read clues about where their teachers have used languages and learn a new word. The winners for each year group will be announced next week!



Vu Gawe, SENDCO

Parent and carer counselling service

Are you stressed or worried and need someone to talk to?

Are you a parent or carer with a child in a Camden school or children's centre?

Life is complicated and sometimes feels like an uphill struggle. Talking with a counsellor can help untangle thoughts and feelings.

- The parent and carer counselling service is FREE
- Counselling sessions are confidential
- Counselling takes place in schools and children's centres

Counselling is arranged by completing an application form or by phoning or emailing the co-ordinator.

PCCS co-ordinator, SEN and psychology services

Children, schools and families, Camden Council, Crowndale Centre
218 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD

Telephone: 0207 974 6500

Email: pccs@camden.gov.uk

CAMDEN MHST

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Camden's Mental Health Support Team works across Secondary schools providing therapy for young people experiencing anxiety or low mood.

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTIONS

Individual therapy over 8 sessions

Group therapy and workshops

Whole class interventions

Parent/carer webinars: including topic on sleep, screen time and anxiety



emotional health & wellbeing in Camden,
for children, young people and their families

WILLIAM ELLIS's SCHOOL PRACTITIONER

THOMAS BURNAND

School Hours: Mondays

If you are interested in getting help, please contact:

Vu Gawe—SENDCo.

