



## ***News Update (14th October 2022)***

Dear families,

This week's newsletter includes information about a recent Drama trip, a Year 12 Induction event earlier this week, and the 3km WESPA fun run, below.

### **Black History Month**

We are now halfway through Black History Month, and this week's assemblies have been focused on the theme of "time for change: actions, not words". This is part of one of our overriding school objectives:

***To develop our curriculum (formal and informal) so that it reflects, recognises and celebrates the diversity of our community.***

This is complemented by the fifth pledge of our Student Council:

### ***To challenge prejudice and hate***

The assemblies looked at two prominent role models of colour from the William Ellis community. Firstly, Kingsley Ben-Adair, who attended the school from 1998 to 2004, went on to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is now a successful actor in the United States including in the recent Marvel films. Secondly, Awale Olad who attended from 1996 to 2001 and then Kings College London, and since 2010 has been a Camden Councillor, now the Chair of Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee. He is also a Senior manager and Consultant at Vialto Partners Business Consultancy working in 150 countries, supported by a team of over 6,000 dedicated immigration, tax, human resources and technology professionals.

### **Student Council elections**

Student Council elections have taken place this week for 2022/23, including House Captains for Year 11 and Deputy Captains in Year 9, and Sports Captains for each form group. Thank you to all the students who have participated in the elections – voting, or standing to represent their peers – and to Mr Pratt for his organisation of those elections.

We also concluded our Open Events this week, with another morning where we welcomed 89 families who came to see the school in action. I would like to thank Xander (Year 12), Ben, Maceo and Qasim (Year 11), Jack (Year 8), Novel and Alexander (Year 7) for their leadership of the open events, as well as the boys in years 8 and 9 who guided families.

### **Events coming up**

This weekend we are running our second Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition for Year 11 students.

On Monday we have an online Q&A event for prospective families of students in Year 6. If there are any families including those with siblings, who would like to attend please email [info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)



Next Friday will be Non-Uniform Day, raising money for RBL's annual Poppy Appeal, as selected by the Student Council. To participate students must bring a donation for the charity (the recommended donation is £1). Students who do not wish to take part may wear school uniform on the day.

## **Request for expert support**

We are looking to see if there is a member of the school community or parent body who would be able to lend us expertise around land drainage and maintenance who would be able to support upgrade work at The Mill, our Outdoor Education Centre in Surrey. We need to do this work in advance of The Mill being used in Summer 2023. If you can help in any way, please email [info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) and we will be in contact to arrange a further consultation. Many thanks in advance.

Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones,  
Headteacher



## Josh Levitt, Head of PE

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October all the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 completed the annual WES 3KM Fun Run to help raise money for sports equipment for their PE lessons and sports clubs. The boys showed great resilience to complete the run, which included running over different terrains and gradients. Well done to everyone that completed the course; there were some very quick times, lots of money raised and big smiles all round!

The fastest of the runners are now racing for William Ellis in the Camden Shield cross country competition today, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October.



This great spectacle could not have been possible without the support of WESPA and all their volunteers lining the route and re-energising the boys with oranges at the finish line. A big thank you from all of us at WES to those who helped and made the run possible.

We are now very close to raising the set target of £3500 in sponsorship for this event, and students can still hand in their sponsorship money for the fun run until the end of this half term, either to the PE office or the main office. Boys can still also be sponsored online via this link: <https://www.givey.com/williamellis3krun2022>

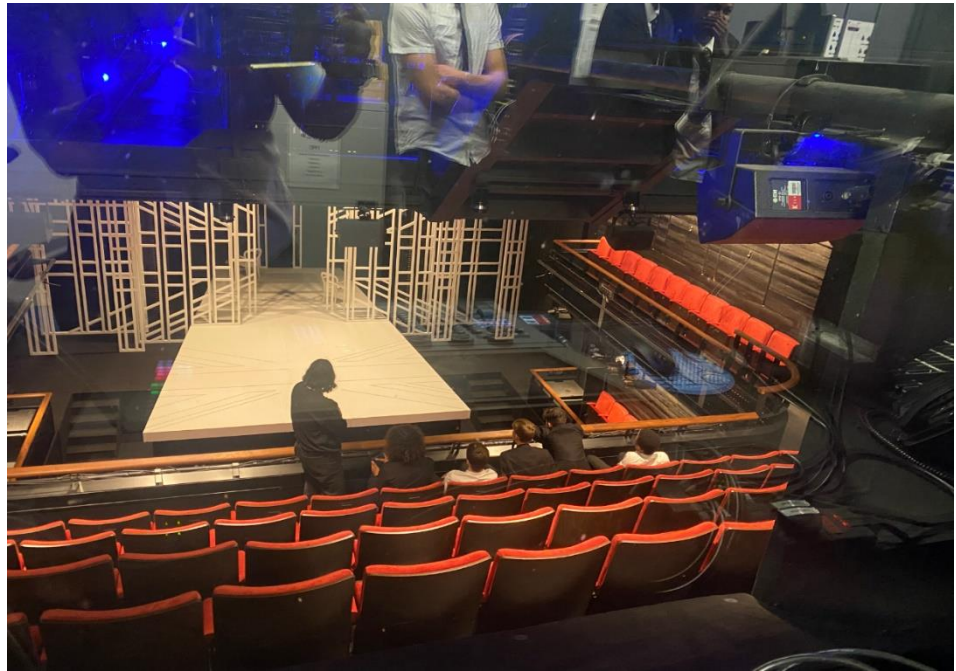






**Anna Hughes, Head of Drama**

On Friday the 7th October, Year 11 Drama students visited the Kiln Theatre in Kilburn for a hands-on workshop focusing on backstage roles in theatre: lighting, sound, set, stage management, props and wigs. The boys were able to try out controlling intelligent lighting, considering the effect of colour, direction and focus on stage. They also learnt about the process of designing the set for the theatre's current production, *Handbagged*, as well as trying their hand at recreating flower bouquet props and curling a wig used in the performance.



Learning about design is an essential part of the GCSE course. The students will be writing about their design ideas for Dennis Kelly's play *DNA* in their upcoming written exam. As well as helping with preparation for this, the workshop gave the boys some experience in a range of drama-related careers and ended in a useful Q&A session and some sage advice from theatre designers just starting their careers.

**Flora Wilson, Assistant Headteacher & Director of Sixth Form**



On Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, Year 12 students celebrated the successful end of their Induction period, with a walk across Hampstead Heath to Kenwood House. We were really lucky with the weather – as you can see, it was glorious sunshine, and there was something really special about walking through the woods in the dappled light.

I know that many of the students were at first reluctant, but I think that all ended up enjoying the fresh air, the exercise and the chance to participate in a community activity, learning about some new things!