



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

TEL: 020 7267 9346

FAX: 020 7284 1274

info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

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Dear families,

As the half term draws to a close I am writing with some information about activities during half term, and information that you may find helpful.

School Performance Tables for Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

This week, the government has published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges. This is the first time that data has been published since the start of the pandemic. The Department for Education has been clear about the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students, schools and colleges. William Ellis had a higher number of student absences due to coronavirus than the national average. Because of this varied impact, the government are not publishing league tables as they did in 2019 and before.

Given the significant impact of the pandemic, I am very pleased to report that in 2022 boys at William Ellis made more progress than the average for boys nationally, as well as attaining more highly than all students nationally and studying a challenging curriculum. This is a very important change in the progress made by students since 2019.

	William Ellis School	National
Progress 8 (comparison between Year 6 scores and GCSEs)	-0.18 (-0.44 in 2019)	-0.21 for boys (-0.24 in 2019)
Attainment	52.6	48.7
Proportion of students studying the EBacc	91%	39%

I would like to congratulate the students once again, as well as thanking the staff and families that supported them throughout.

Social media advice for young people and families

We have spoken to families at information evenings and students in school about the importance of healthy use of digital technology and social media. This is particularly important for students during the holiday if they have more free time. Nearly other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly and Skype. The minimum age for Whatsapp is 16.

The NSPCC have useful information and guidance on their website that we would encourage families to look at together as the holidays start:

[Social media | NSPCC](#)

[Chat apps | NSPCC](#)

Half-term holiday activities and support – information from Camden Council

- Find half-term sports, youth and play activities for children of all ages and abilities on [Camden Rise website](#)
- Find services and support for children with SEND on the [Camden Council website](#), the [Local Offer website](#) and the [SENDIASS Camden website](#)
- £15 supermarket vouchers for families with children under 18 who are eligible for free school meals, or where the family with children under 18 receives Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, are due to go out again direct from the Council – but most likely the week after half-term.

Bromcom Parent app – My Child At School

We have spoken to families about the new app to replace SIMS to help you keep in touch with daily activities and routines at school. There have been national problems with the Bromcom app so we will be in contact as soon as we can after half term with login details. Until then, you will continue to receive urgent information by text and email. We realise the inconvenience that this causes compared to having a dedicated app and have fed back our frustrations to Bromcom.

Support with managing the cost of living

We know that families can have a change in circumstances at any time, and would like to encourage you to check whether you may be eligible to apply for free school meals. This application gives not only access to lunches at school, but also extra money for the school to support a range of activities for students who are eligible. If you are a Camden resident, please go to [Free school meals - Camden Council](#) to see the criteria and apply. If you live in a different borough, please apply through their website. Please contact the school if you require any assistance with this. Students who have moved school, including joining us in Year 7 in September, need to complete a new application.

Also, if you would like affordable options for eating and meals during half term, this is a useful list of business providing ways to eat cheaply as a family: <https://t.co/3UL1JLilgk>

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher