



## News Update (24th November 2022)

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, the first we have sent you in a while. It has been a busy few weeks in school, and now is the time to collect highlights of that and share them with you! The pages below also include several notices about wellbeing and mental health support for students and families now and into 2023, that we hope some of you will find useful.

As part of our school improvement work, we have recently undertaken a behaviour and culture review with Camden Learning and reviewed our whole school quality of education provision through Challenge Partners, a national peer review organisation. Both are formative – they do not give grades or judgements – but they support us in continuing to focus on school improvement priorities. We will be sharing more details with families before the end of term.

### The William Ellis attributes: resourcefulness and resilience

This week past and next week, school assemblies and tutorial time have been focusing on two of our attributes: resourcefulness and resilience. Our "5 Rs" are qualities that we all aspire to in school, students, and staff – we have looked at how they can be demonstrated in lessons, during break and lunchtime and outside school, including completing homework and working independently. The other attributes that we have focused on this term are responsibility, reflection and respectfulness and they are all woven into our language of learning and praise system. They are consistent with our long-standing motto, "Rather Use Than Fame" and our ambition to create successful students and good citizens through strong relationships.

### Upcoming events and important dates

- Parents' evenings
  - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Year 7 parents' evening, face to face at school, 4:30-7:00pm. Students have been given appointment sheets to arrange 5-minute timeslots with their teachers.
  - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Year 9 parents' evening, online, 4:30-7:00pm. Appointments will be available for booking via an online system
- WESPA annual general meeting: Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December in the evening at school. More details will be sent to families directly.
- Year 10 Languages trip to Spain: week of 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Internal examinations
  - Year 11 Art and Graphics students start exams on Monday, with other mock examinations in all subjects from 5<sup>th</sup> December to the end of term
  - Year 12 students will sit in-class examination assessments during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> December
- Winter Entertainment Event: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Final day of term for all students: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Finally, we will be working with the [Camden Food Bank](#) in the last two weeks of term, and asking the school community to donate food items, toiletries and Christmas gifts if they are able. Our collection will run from Monday 5th December. Further information about how you can help will follow in next week's letter.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones, Headteacher

## Anna Hughes, Head of Drama

Students in Years 8 and 10 experienced a Shakespeare workshop with a professional theatre director ahead of their involvement in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, which took place this week. They presented a section of their performance and workshopped different approaches to the text. The workshop was incredibly useful in helping students understand the play, their character and how to perform on a large stage.

The Shakespeare Schools performances took place at the Shaw Theatre in Euston: *Macbeth* on Tuesday and *Henry V* yesterday. We'll be sharing more about these events in the next newsletter.

## Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

Year 11 worked hard to plan for their art and graphics mock exams when they came into school last week for their first Saturday session. They produced ideas for their project theme 'Apart and Together'. We are looking forward to seeing what they make in their exam next week!



Year 7 and 8 students have embraced their Food lessons and they made their first dishes a couple of weeks ago. Year 7 learned about protein and designed and presented a protein-packed sandwich, while Year 8 learned about making sauces and weighing ingredients, and they made mac and cheese (pictured).





## Josh Levitt, Head of PE

It was a busy day for the Year 7 and 8 football teams last week, with both teams making it through to the Camden and Islington 7-a-side finals day.

It was the Year 7 team's first taste of a final together and they battled and encouraged each other through 3 really tough games. They finished second overall, but the experience will be invaluable moving forwards as a team. This is a very exciting team to watch, during the tournament they played some excellent football that drew compliments from students and teachers from onlooking schools.

The Year 8 team have been here before and showed real grit and determination in the competition, not conceding a goal in any of the 6 games they played. Unfortunately, that rear guard action was not enough to bring home the trophy this year as they also finished second overall.

Well done to all the boys who were involved and thank you to all the teachers and parents that came to watch over the 2-day tournament.

There is plenty more football to be played this year, hopefully the boys can use this as a springboard to success later in the year.



## Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 7

Despite the constant rain, we have had a good start to this second half term. As you will have seen above, our football team finished second in the Islington & Camden school Tournament last week, led by Mr Levitt.

Congratulations to 7F for winning the Odd Socks Day Competition, actively supporting our fight against bullying in the anti-Bullying week 2022. We also congratulate Patrick in 7F for winning the photo competition!

To remind Year 7 families of an important date coming up: we will meet for Parents Evening next Thursday, 1st December, with appointments available from 4.30pm up to 6.50pm. The boys have been given a form to make their appointments for you to meet with their teachers. If you will not be able to attend we ask that you please contact your son's form tutor and let him/her know.

Thank you.



## Vu Gawe, SENDCO

### The Brandon Centre, Love & Limits Parent Group

The next virtual Love and Limits cohort, run by The Brandon Centre, will be run in **January (w/c 9<sup>th</sup>)**. The exact starting dates will be confirmed by The Brandon Centre in due course.

The group, for parents and carers only, will be held virtually (via Microsoft Teams) over 6 weekly sessions and there will be morning and evening groups. More can be found out about the group [here](#).

Please note that it is requested that parents have their cameras on and audio working on their devices during the sessions as there will be lots of discussions. Parents are also required to be in a private/uninterrupted space when attending the group sessions.

If you feel that you could benefit from this virtual support group, please do complete and return the (editable) [referral form](#) to the Brandon Centre, 26 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3LG / [familyservice@brandoncentre.org.uk](mailto:familyservice@brandoncentre.org.uk)

If you have any questions or having troubles completing the form, please feel free to call 07939 833 069 or email [familyservice@brandoncentre.org.uk](mailto:familyservice@brandoncentre.org.uk)

### Survey from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) is working with Camden and Islington NHS Healthcare Trust, Camden council and local families on a project called "Getting it Right".

This project aims to listen to parents and carers and learn about services you value and those that could be improved from your experience of accessing support and services for your child with a learning disability who displays behaviours of concern. The information you share with us will be shared with the Camden & Islington NHS Healthcare Trust. In order to fulfil these aims, a survey has been created to give you the opportunity to provide information and express your views.

**If you are a parent or carer of a child with a learning disability who displays behaviours of concern, and you live in Camden**, we are very keen to hear your views: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CD9P993>

We would be very grateful if responses are completed by the **25<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. By completing the survey, there is also the opportunity to **enter our prize draw to win a £50 Amazon voucher!** (full details are listed at the end of the survey).

If you have any questions or you would prefer to complete the survey via a telephone or video call, please do not hesitate to contact the Challenging Behaviour Foundation by email on [lmarni.hill@theCBF.org.uk](mailto:lmarni.hill@theCBF.org.uk) or 01634 838739.





**Claire Ozkaya, Mental Health Lead**

I would like to introduce myself to you as the school's new Senior Mental Health Lead. I completed my training for this role with the Anna Freud Centre back in October, which was a fantastic experience. Part of my training was to complete an audit of WES's provision for students who are struggling with their mental health, and to also look at how we address and support the well-being of all the members of our school community, and how this can be improved.

We are very lucky to have access to an Educational Mental Health Support Service here in Camden who offer a lot of early intervention support for students who may be struggling with low mood or anxiety. Should you feel that your child could benefit from this support or if you have any questions at all please either contact myself – [ozkaya@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:ozkaya@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) – or talk to your son or daughter's Head of Year who can begin the referral process.

# Mental Health Support Team



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is a mental and emotional wellbeing service to support young people that is available in school.

**Areas we can offer support:**

- Low mood: sadness, irritability, low motivation
- Anxiety: worries, social anxiety/shyness, phobias,
- Exam stress
- Challenging behavior at home or in school
- Anxiety around transition

**What support we offer:**

- 1 to 1 therapy over 8 sessions
- Groups
- Whole Class workshops
- Workshops and webinars for parents
- Signposting /guidance for young people and parents

**You school's Mental Health Practitioner is**  
**Thomas Burnand**



To find out more about support options please speak to yourschool's Senior Mental Health Lead Ms Ozkaya  
[Ozkaya@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:Ozkaya@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)  
0207 692 3818

Or you can call us directly on...



020 8938 2232/020 8938 2700





Please also see the information below for an LGBT+ support group that boys in Years 9, 10 and 11 can be referred to through the same process i.e. through me or the Head of Year.

# LGBTQ+ GROUP

**AT 2.15PM - 3.30PM**

**STARTING TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER**  
**EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME AT ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL**

**Aims of the group:**

- A group for young people who identify as LGBTQ+ or have questions around LGBTQ+ identities.
- A group to explore thoughts, feelings and experiences, including your mental health.
- A safe and confidential space for young people in years 9, 10 and 11.

**To find out more information:**

Please ask your Head of Year, your Tutor or Ms Ozkaya.

Group facilitator:  
**Dr Dean Flanagan**  
Educational Psychologist

Over the page is a list of free webinars created by the EMHST with details of how you can access them as parents and carers.



## **Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Webinar Series for Parents/Carers of Secondary School aged Young People**

The MHST are pleased to offer parents/carers a series of workshops to support their children's well-being. There are 11 topics in total with workshops being offered.

The webinars started 29.09.22 however, there are 4 remaining sessions this term and if you have missed any, most of the topics are repeated again next term.

### **Webinars that are for both Parents/Carers of Primary and Secondary aged children and young people**

- All about sleep
- Therapeutic conversations with your child and young person
- Screen Time
- Parent Self Care
- Sibling rivalry

### **Webinars for Parents/Carers of Secondary aged Young People**

- Anxiety in Adolescence
- Gender Identity
- Understanding Adolescent Development

Each workshop will last up to 60 minutes and have an optional follow-up of 30 minutes for parents/carers to ask questions or discuss the topic further.

Parents and carers can opt in for all topics, or whichever most appeals to them.

Parents and carers can register for any of the above webinars through Eventbrite for free at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mhst-parent-and-carer-webinar-series-2022-2023-tickets-415252660887>

Or please scan the QR code using your mobile phone's camera:



The scheduled topics, dates and times are:

<b>Webinar topic</b>	<b>Intended Parent Audience</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Anxiety in Adolescence	Secondary	Thursday 1st December	12.00 to 13:00 Q and A 13:00 to 13.30
Gender identity	Secondary	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00 to 13:00 Q and A 13:00 to 13.30

(Continued overleaf)



Webinar topic	Intended Parent Audience	Date	Time
Parent Self Care	Primary & Secondary	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	12.00-13.00 Q and A: 13.00 to 13.30
Parent-child interactions	Primary & Secondary	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00 to 13.30
Sibling Rivalry	Primary	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00 to 13.30
Sleep	Primary & Secondary	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00 to 13.30
Screen-time	Primary & Secondary	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00 to 13.30
Understanding adolescent development	Secondary	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00-13.30
Having therapeutic conversations with your child	Primary & Secondary	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00-13.30
Supporting childhood worries	Primary & Secondary	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	12pm – 13.00 Q and A: 13.00-13.30
Anxiety in Adolescence	Secondary	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00 to 13:00 Q and A 13:00 to 13.30
Gender identity	Secondary	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00 to 13:00 Q and A 13:00 to 13.30