



## ***News Update (16th December 2022)***

Dear families,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the Autumn Term, packed full of activities that have been taking place in recent weeks. I'd like to thank you for your support of these events and trips, as well as the staff who have organized and led them particularly in the midst of difficult weather conditions and transport disruption this week. I hope that you find in there a real sense of the school's ethos and values.

### **School Improvement Work in the Autumn Term**

Before those updates, I wanted to update you on school improvement work that has been happening this term. In late November, we had a team of Challenge Partners school reviewers – all leaders in other schools across the country – visit William Ellis for three days. They spoke to students, observed lessons and met with teachers from a range of subjects. This was a formative review that is helping us to keep on track with our improvement objectives and included open, transparent conversations about school improvement. You can see the report from the visit [here](#).

Camden Learning have also carried out a behaviour and culture review around our post-Ofsted action points. They recognized that, based on student feedback and their observations, the systems to manage behaviour have been tightened since the Ofsted inspection and that behaviour is improving as a result, as is attendance – now higher than the national average. We have agreed that further action points include developing our system for praise and rewards and further promoting the “5Rs” – responsibility, respect, resourcefulness, reflection and resilience – as part of our character curriculum.

Following these reviews I met with our School Improvement Partner and the CEO of Camden Learning to review the school's progress and it was agreed that these steps are productive and are showing fruit, and that the school is making consistent improvements so far this academic year. I will report back on further progress to families as we go into 2023.

### **WESPA Winter Entertainment Event**

Last night we hosted our first Winter Entertainment Event since 2018 – it was marvellous to be back in the hall with all the performers and families there to support. A more detailed post with photos will be in January's newsletter – the Music and Drama departments are still catching their breath!

I would like to say a warm welcome to WESPA who helped to host the evening by running the bar for the audience, raising funds for the school in the process. Please do see this week's WESPA newsletter for opportunities about how to get involved.

### **Support for families over the Christmas period and into 2023**

Last week's newsletter contained details of practical support that families can access over the Christmas period – you can find it [here](#).



The Brandon Centre's next virtual 'Love and Limits' cohort will be run in the first week of **January 2023**. The exact starting dates will be confirmed in due course.

- The group will be held virtually (via Teams)
- They are offering 6 sessions (once per week)
- They will be offering morning and evening groups
- Only Parents/Carers to attend these group meetings

Please note that, during the sessions, the organisers ask that parents have their cameras on and audio working on their devices 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 their virtual support group, please do complete the **editable** referral form attached to the newsletter email and return to the address indicated.

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

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones, Headteacher



## Year 7 settling in Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 7

It's hard to believe that Christmas is knocking on the door and already the Year 7's first term at Secondary School is coming to an end.

After a first term really full of events I would like to thank Year 7 students and parents alike for their first term at William Ellis and celebrate a whole term of success.

This includes our collaboration with the Bertha Earth Association. Two weeks ago, boys working with Bertha Earth attended a Nature Connections workshop (pictured) because we envisage a world where every child inherits a healthy, thriving planet! Mr Court writes more about this project below.

A lovely assembly today closed the term. Boys and their form tutors joined in singing along the song that all forms have worked towards in Friday tutor-time this term.

I wish you all a good festive season and a Happy New Year 2023. See you in January.

Best wishes to all families for a happy and healthy break.

## Bertha Earth Sustainability Project George Court, Head of Outdoor Learning

Last month the year 7 Bertha Earth ambassadors took a trip to GROW farm, located at The Totteridge Academy. The ambassador program focuses on sustainability and environmental education. GROW is a sustainable farm, growing their own fruit and veg - fed straight into the school canteen - their own eggs, a beehive to pollinate the flowers and plants, all to ensure a sustainable farm. The boys were invited to learn about this, seeing how the processes work first-hand.



## Year 11 mocks Horace Parry, Head of Year 11

Well done to Year 11 students for completing their GCSE mock exams this week. Behaviour and maturity was good and hopefully all students were able to focus enough to achieve the targets set. We have one set of exams to complete after the winter break – the MFL speaking exams – please revise thoroughly for these too.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Scott, Ms DeSouza and the rest of the exam co-ordination team for the smooth-running of this year's mock exams. The next set will be the real thing so let us all prepare even better from now until May-June of 2023.



## Shakespeare Schools Festival Anna Hughes, Head of Drama

On the 22nd and 23rd November, two groups of students performed at the Shaw Theatre in Euston as part of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. Year 10, performing *Henry V*, were outstanding in their portrayal of the fast-paced, brutal nature of war. Year 8's *Macbeth* was a spooky, chilling performance highlighting the characters' descent into violence and murder.

Thank you to all parents and teachers who came along to support the boys. It was lovely to see them working together and supporting each other before, during and after the performances. Well done!



On 30th November Year 10 and 11 Drama students visited the Phoenix Theatre to watch *Come From Away*. Students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were able to see a professional theatre company using many of the acting techniques and styles we learn in class. Some other theatregoers commended the students on their wonderful behaviour during the performance - well done, boys!



## The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Jeremy Pratt

We are very proud of the two Year 10 boys who performed in the regional final of the annual Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge earlier this month. Ahmed and Moleteng were the only boys competing at the event, and Moleteng came second overall with his speech 'Adventure is Out There'.

Members of staff who were lucky enough to hear his final rehearsals before the performance were very impressed and clearly the judges felt the same!



## Extended Maths Project Lela Neli, Maths Teacher



Several students in Year 7 came together to participate in their first session of the Extended Maths Project. They worked in teams to try a selection of activities designed to apply their knowledge and skills in a different context. I was proud of the level of curiosity, resilience and collaboration displayed by all the students. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the next session which will take place in January. This is when we will review the Extended Assignments as well as explore other problem-solving strategies.



## Spanish Trip to Andalucia Evie Bown, Head of MFL

Year 10 Spanish students enjoyed an exciting trip to Andalucia in early December. This was the first trip abroad since before Covid and provided students with opportunity to practice their Spanish and learn about Spanish culture. We were welcomed into a beach front language school where the students were able to brush up on their speaking skills and take part in activities such as beach sports, language exchanges and a world class flamenco show followed by a workshop.



We visited Malaga city for some shopping and to see their Christmas lights show, and we were also lucky enough to visit a local secondary school to meet and practice speaking with pupils of the same age. This was a highlight for many! The hotel staff commented that the WES students were the most respectful and lovely group from England that they've ever had, and the Spanish language school commented on our students having the highest level of language from any visiting English school. Their teachers are incredibly proud!

## Year 10 baking Gloria Sinnott, Teacher of Food & Nutrition, & Hayley Ward, Safeguarding Officer

Year 10 have been making seasonal cakes in their Food lessons. A truly amazing effort start to finish.

The Year 10 Achieve group have also been busy in the kitchen, working on a cooking unit this half term. They have all done really well gaining new skills and cooked a 2-course meal.

This week we made mince pies for Christmas.

Well done to all our Year 10 chefs!



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

A large group of students and staff posing on the steps of a classical building with columns. The group is arranged in several rows, with some individuals standing on the ground in front. They are dressed in winter clothing, including coats, scarves, and hats. The building behind them features large, fluted columns and a prominent entrance.



A collage of ten colorful, abstract artworks featuring bold text and dynamic shapes. The pieces include words like 'SPLASH', 'BOOM', 'POP', 'FLIN', 'ZOOA', 'CRACK!', 'RA TAT', 'SCREECH', and 'SPLASH' in various styles and colors, often accompanied by splatters, flames, and geometric patterns.



## Year 12 'Phone Heist' Film Shoot Day

Ollie Bailey, Sixth Form Student, writes:

Last Saturday 15 bleary eyed Year 12 students turned up at 8.00am to the WES driveway to take part in the shooting of 'Phone Heist' – a short film written by LaSWAP student Oscar Davis as part of the Film & TV workshop project currently running at William Ellis in partnership with 'The Screen Community' – a community based organisation promoting filmmaking skills in young people. Many of those attending the 8-week course – which maps out the basic process of making a short film – worked as extras on the set as well as making up part of the film crew and production team.

The early start was to ensure there was enough time to set up the camera's lighting and sound before starting the hard work filming and to ensure all the scenes were shot by 3.00pm when the school building closed. Working to a real deadline like this was nail-biting especially when the filming of the first library scene took over an hour altogether as we had to shoot the scene from different angles and get close ups of each character with reactions.

Fortunately, everyone pulled together, and we managed to complete the key scenes and get a 'wrap'!

All in all – it was a very exhausting day but well worth doing. I think we all gained a better idea of what it really takes just to come away with 3-4 minutes of decent footage after a seven-hour shoot!



## A new Year 8 Student?

Year 8 students (and Mr Pratt) welcomed a new student to William Ellis on a very snowy day earlier this week!

We didn't issue our guest student with a non-uniform card as despite not having his blazer he had made a very good effort with his tie!



## Foodbank Collection Update

Thank you to everybody in the school community who has donated to the Camden Foodbank over the past two weeks. We managed to gather quite a collection of items and the foodbank staff who came to collect the donations this morning were really pleased with our efforts. Our Non-Uniform Day today also collected contributions for the foodbank – an early count indicates we raised £390 and we still have a few pounds to come in, which will be picked up in the New Year.

Members of the school council helped with the handover of all of our donated items this morning. They're now on their way to Camden Foodbank and we really hope they make a difference to a number of local families this Christmas.





## Morrisby Careers Programme

### Horace Parry, Head of Year 11 & Careers Lead

Morrisby Careers provides all the research tools needed to help students discover the world of work and pathways forward. These include subjects of further study, detailed career information (including LMI) and a comprehensive directory of higher courses, institutions and apprenticeships.

Established in 1967, Morrisby exists to help every student take on a rewarding career journey that suits their abilities, personality and ambition. We provide the leading careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) service to schools, colleges and careers institutions across the UK and Europe, celebrating international successes.

William Ellis has relaunched their Morrisby subscription with the aim of ensuring that every student has and uses their own profile regularly. Teachers are creating activities and adding students' names so that each student will leave in Year 11/13 with a portfolio of activities of which they have been a part over the years they have attended the school.

As a parent/carer, you too can access the website and check on your child's progress. Log in using [www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com). Please see overleaf for further information.

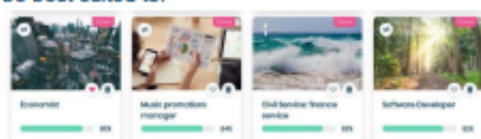
# Morrisby Profile Information for Parents



## INFO SHEET

### What is the Morrisby Profile?

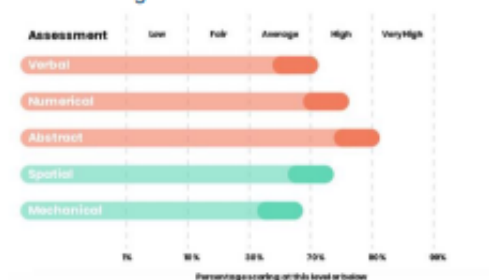
The Morrisby Profile is here to help your child find their true career direction using scientific profiling of abilities, personality, interests and motivation to help them discover their own unique characteristics. With this awareness, they can ensure they are able to make the right choices when it comes to options at ages 16 and 18, local college or higher education courses and apprenticeships, plus lots of information on the careers that we feel they would be best suited to.



We have been providing careers services for more than 50 years and are trusted by over 1,500 schools worldwide.

### What is involved?

Participants will be asked to complete approximately 100 minutes of timed assessments and questionnaires. These are usually taken under exam conditions – but this is not an intelligence test and there is no need to revise. The student is given practice questions at the start of each session and a timer shows how much time is left as sections are worked through.



Results can be immediate, or schools can choose to release them later and results can be shared with parents via the online accounts that will be generated upon sign up.

### Why should you sign up to do the Morrisby Profile?

- Gives a fascinating insight into inner strengths and abilities, preferences, motivations, and personality type
- Helps make important decisions such as which subjects to take or what the next steps could be based on their preferences
- Provides careers suggestions best suited to their inner strengths and abilities plus advice on the routes to those careers and makes appropriate recommendations
- Offers access to over 600 career descriptions including videos, case studies and useful links
- All accounts include a 'login for life' which gives users the ability to develop and refresh their profile and seek support over time

### Next steps

Please take note of how the school will be running the sessions and contact the school if you have any questions regarding that.

Morrisby is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as an organisation that processes personal data under number Z5657144. All personal data is stored securely in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Speak to us on 0330 500 5000 | Visit [morrisby.com](https://morrisby.com)