



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

TEL: 020 7267 9346
www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk
info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Dear families,

I hope you have now settled into positive routines for 2023, for school and life more generally. This week's letter mainly contains practical information about arrangements for school on Wednesday, as well as information about upcoming assessments for years 7-10 and some information for families from our SEND department.

Last week we were notified that the school had received a certificate for high attendance levels from Fisher Family Trust, a national organisation that supports over 10,500 schools to improve. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that students attend school every day

We were very pleased to see 92% of families attend for Year 11 parents' evening last night – students received critical feedback on the revision and preparation that they need to be doing in the period between now and the start of their GCSE exams – now 10 weeks away.

Arrangements for Wednesday 1st February 2023

The first National Education Union (NEU) strike is due to take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023. As the vast majority of the teachers at William Ellis are NEU members, I have taken the decision to close the school to students for any teaching on that day. Teachers in the NEU have voted to withdraw their labour for the day of the strike, including losing pay, and therefore arrangements are different to those on snow days or extended closure in 2020 or 2021 when staff were expected to work from home.

The following activities will take place for students on that day:

- Year 10 and 11 students are expected to log into and participate in online study skills sessions delivered by an online presenter – this session is being specifically provided for students at William Ellis. Each session is 90 minutes long and the sessions start at the following times:
 - o Year 11: 9:30am
 - o Year 10: 11:30am

Individual login details will be sent to students at their @wes.camden.school email – they should check that they have these details on Tuesday.

If any students who do not have a device or internet access at home, please inform Mr Scott scott@williamellis.camden.sch.uk by the end of Monday at the latest so that we can find other ways to support them.

- A small number of EHCP or vulnerable students will be invited in for a one to one meeting – for example counselling or mentoring. We will be in touch with you directly on an individual basis.
- 6th form students will be able to come and complete private study in the 6th form centre during normal school hours. Students will only be allowed in if they have their ID badge and there will not be any food served.

All other students must remain at home on that day. There will be a range of activities, practice and revision exercises available through SatchelOne or other services such as Sparkx Maths or Seneca. Please check these regularly and encourage your child to engage with some schoolwork while they are at home.

Further strike action is planned for several days in March. I will write to you again after half term with the plans for these days when I have more information. Thank you for your support and understanding. All pupils must return to school as normal on Thursday 2 February 2023 at 08:30am.

Year 7-10 assessments

A reminder that student assessments take place between Monday 30th January and Friday 10th February. This is the second of three assessments cycles for year 7-10. These assessments contribute to teacher judgement on your child's progress, which will be reported to you in March.

Whilst, the assessments are important, it is also important to note that these are not exams. The tasks take different forms, vary between the subjects, and will assess aspects of learning since the last assessment period in October. Students should not be panicked or worried by the assessments but encouraged to approach this with a positive mind set.

There is no timetable of assessments as the timing depends on individual staff timetables. However, your child should know which assessments they have each day. Please talk to them about their learning. You don't have to know the content yourself- just ask them to explain the work to you. As with all other school days, it is important students get a good night's sleep, are equipped and ready for learning each day.

Camden Warm Spaces and Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Lauderdale House, who we are partnering with this term for projects in English and Art, are teaming up with Camden Council as part of their [warm welcome](#) initiative, offering a warm room in the house for two sessions each week (Tuesday 3:30pm to 7:30pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm) until Tuesday 28 March. There is no need to book in advance, just turn up on the day!

Everyone is welcome, but please note all children under 15 must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling aged over 18.

Please check the website for other venues' open dates and times.

Families who are experiencing difficulties in affording essentials such as food, energy bills or housing can apply for money from Camden's Cost of Living Crisis Fund if you are in urgent need of financial help.

The amount available to families will depend on individual circumstances and the size of your household. You can receive up to 2 payments over a 12-month period. Please [follow this link](#) for further detail.

Camden Special Parents' Forum

Camden Special Parents' Forum is a growing network of over 250 parents and carers of 0-25 year olds with special education needs and disabilities.

The forum runs meetings and training workshops for parents and carers to help them to access the information and skills they need to support their families. Anyone who is looking after a child or young person with special needs (who lives or goes to school in Camden) is welcome to join and you can be involved in their activities, such as workshops an relaxed and informal meetings, as much as you want.

The Forum is facilitated by parents with children with special and complex needs and works closely with local education, health, social care and leisure services to improve the quality and accessibility of services for all disabled children and their families in Camden.

The FREE service is for any Camden resident caring for 0 to 25 year olds with special education needs. Parents or carers of children who go to school in Camden but live in another borough are also welcome.

If you are interested in any of joining the forum or would like to find out more please visit [Camden special parents' forum | KIDS](#) or contact the Parent Participation Team (0207 431 8476 / Rachel.Dixon@kids.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher