



News Update (10th February 2023)

Dear families,

This end of term newsletter contains information about World Book Day, trips and visits and in-school enrichment activities, and lessons in Food Technology. I also have some information points to share with you.

Firstly, I need to notify parents that there was a small electrical fire in the school building in the early hours of this morning – students may tell you that there was a fire engine at school when they arrived. Before the start of the school day an investigation and risk assessment was carried out by London Fire Brigade and we made the decision to operate the school as normal. Please rest assured that there were no elevated risks to students as a result of what happened nor damage that affected their learning.

One of the fire officers who attended was an ex-student, Steven Cronin, who attended William Ellis until 2005. He told us how proud he was to return to his old school and is pictured here. You may also see the story in the local press.



Dress to Express day and Mental Health Week

Today's non-uniform day raised almost £500 for ThePlace2Be, a mental health charity based in Islington. The importance of considering and talking about our mental health was the focus of assemblies this week. Families who want to find out more about mental health for young people, including ways to talk about it at home, can find resources at [Families - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

Year 9 Deep Learning Day: "counter don't cancel"



This week, film-makers from Middlesex University were in school all day with their Professor and also one of our ex-students, Joe Hayman, leading sessions on Fundamental British Values, gender equality and positive masculinity. Many of these sessions were planned and delivered by a group of Year 11 Diversity and Equalities Champions – I would like to thank them for their hard work and leadership.

Upcoming dates for next half term

- Year 9 Enterprise Day – 27th February
- Offers Day for school places in September 2023 – 1st March
- World Book Day – 2nd March
- Year 8 trip to the Globe Theatre – 7th March
- Year 10 Parents' Evening (online) – 9th March
- Year 9 Options Evening – 13th March

Job opportunities at William Ellis



There are several [job opportunities](#) listed on our school website. These include Invigilators, Teaching Assistants, Administration and Science Technicians. Please spread the word to family and friends who may be interested in applying.

Half term sports, youth and play activities in Camden

- [Sports and physical activities](#). Free and low-cost activities for children and young people of all ages
- [Youth programmes](#). Check out the half-term programmes at your local youth centre [here](#)
- [Play schemes](#). Find half-term play schemes for children aged 4 to 12 [here](#).

Best wishes for the half term. We look forward to seeing students' return to school for 8:30 on Monday 20th February.

Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones, Headteacher



Year 7 Messages

Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 7

Hello everyone,

After a very cold month, here we are, preparing for assessments in most subjects. Assessments will take place after the half term break and before the Easter holiday. Taking time off over the holidays is very important and it is equally important to prepare for the work coming ahead, so we are asking families to support the boys in their learning and revising.

March will be soon upon us and I would like to remind all of our Year 7 families that the trip to France, postponed from October, is taking place on 10th March 2023. We will be hosting an information session for families of boys attending this trip on 23rd February at 6pm.

I wish you all a good half term.

Year 12 MFL Trip – ‘The Big International Issue’

Niki Yianni, MFL Teacher

On 30th January our Year 12 German and Spanish students attended a conference in which they were inspired and challenged to use their language skills to write and present a UN resolution on an issue of their choosing. We saw passionate and convincing speeches about issues surrounding climate change, domestic violence, injustice in the prison system, and water poverty - to name just a few!

Students engaged with interviews in their language of study, practiced their interpreting skills and got out of their comfort zones as they researched and presented new ideas. We are so proud of them for their hard work - particularly well done to Stefano and Philippe for winning for Germany, and Urgell and Yamin for bringing Argentina a win!



Fresh Fish!

Gloria Sinnott, Food Technology Teacher

Our fresh Alaskan salmon has arrived!

Students are currently working on the ‘Fish in School Hero’ programme, which aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school.



William Ellis Library Book Returns
Sam Nunnery, Assistant Headteacher

A reminder that our library wants its missing books back!

We are still missing several library books. It is important that we get these books back on the shelves so everyone can enjoy reading them. **Please could students have a good look at home over half term and return any books you may have borrowed from the library to the book return box.**

If you need a reminder of which books you have borrowed over the last year, please see Ms King in the library when she is in school on Fridays.

After half term families may be asked to pay for replacements for unreturned items so get looking for those missing books!

To boost our stocks in the library we would also be happy and very grateful to accept any other suitable books that you would like to donate.

Thank you!

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day is approaching on 2nd March and all schoolchildren in the UK are eligible to receive a token, to exchange for selected WBD books or to put towards the cost of another book of their choice.

You can download your child's token, by scanning the QR code in the poster with your phone or tablet's QR reader or camera.



New Breakfast Club! **Ross Kenworthy, Student Support**

William Ellis is proud to be in a new partnership with 'Magic Breakfast', providing healthy breakfasts to our pupils so that they are settled and ready to learn.

Magic Breakfast provides William Ellis with nutritious breakfast food to ensure children start their school day in the best possible way. Breakfast gives children the energy needed for the busy school morning, enabling them to focus on their lessons.

We will be serving toast, beans, oats, cereal and juice daily!

WHERE? The Canteen WHEN? 8:00-8:25am daily.

Lauderdale House Project Update **Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design**

Year 10 Art and Graphics students have been working in lessons with an artist and staff from Lauderdale House to create art works using different materials inspired by the grounds at the museum. Their work will be displayed as part of Highgate Arts Festival later this year. During the sessions students were able to try carving into wax, and their work will be cast in bronze, porcelain clay, and gelli printing. Lauderdale House has a history of tropical plants being imported and grown in the garden, so students used these as inspiration for their work.



Drama Workshops **Anna Hughes, Head of Drama**

Students in Year 9 and Year 10 were involved in a workshop with Deadweight Theatre Company earlier this term. They worked on devising skills using an array of weird and wonderful objects, audio clips and images as a stimulus for a piece of drama. Students were also invited to play around with the role of the audience, getting them involved and even using them as props! Students created some brilliant work which they can use to develop the work they are doing in class.

A showcase event for all the great work going on in Drama is planned for next month.



LaSWAP Enrichment Day
Caroline Smith, Head of Year 13

Sixth form students had the opportunity to improve their cultural capital by taking part in Enrichment Day yesterday. Students went to a variety of venues (British Museum, National Gallery, Tate Modern, Queer Britain Museum, and King's Cross development) and took part in activities at each.



Holiday Activity for Film Enthusiasts

Arts organization Lux have asked us to let families know about a Film Club workshop they are running for 11-16 year olds at Waterlow Park during half term. Please see their flyer below.

**DIRECT FILM,
DIRECT ACTION
WORKSHOP**

**Tue 14 February
1:30-4:30pm at LUX**

- For 11-16 year olds
- Drop in at any time between 1:30-4:30
- Free, refreshments provided

**LUX, Waterlow Park Centre,
Dartmouth Park Hill, London
N19 5JF, UK
tel: (0)20 3141 2960
email: filmclub@lux.org.uk**

Draw and scratch directly onto 16mm film, record sounds of the park to create a short animation about human relationships with nature.

This workshop is part of Film Club, a project by artist Amy Feneck in collaboration with LUX and its local communities.