



News Update (30th June 2023)

Dear families,

I'm writing this newsletter shortly after a superb Year 11 celebration event on Tuesday evening, recognizing the efforts and achievements of our GCSE students. Over 100 students and families attended to recognize individual and collective success, with particular prizes awarded for English and literacy, Arts and Creative subjects, Sport, Active Citizenship and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths). Many award winners received Trustees prizes and we hope that they will put them to good use over the summer. I'd particularly like to thank the staff and families who have given these students so much support preparing for and during their exams, and also to the team of WESPA parents who provided a barbecue for everyone after the event. I hope that the same students have enjoyed the LaSWAP taster event today!

Camden Learning School Improvement work

Yesterday we had a termly school review from Camden as part of our ongoing improvement work, focusing on behaviour and attitudes and teaching and learning. Reviewers reported positively on expectations in class and systems and processes around behaviour, within an inclusive ethos. We will share a fuller summary of this work with families at the end of the academic year.

Camden Youth Safety Prize and positive masculinity

I'm pleased to report that following our work with Middlesex University, our joint Student Council work with Parliament Hill was awarded the Camden Youth Safety prize. The film shines a spotlight on the experiences of sexual behaviour by all students, and what all young people can do to be a constructive voice in society. The film can be seen at [What it means to be a teen in 2023](#) and you can see the Camden New Journal coverage of the events below.

Operation Encompass

We have been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and the Metropolitan Police.

Operation Encompass is the medium of notifying schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved with, any domestic incident. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when this is the case and the information received will be used to make sure the right support is available for children and their families.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a trained member of the school staff, known as a Designated Safeguarding Lead, can use any information that has been shared, in confidence. At the same time the school will be able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

If you have any concerns or questions, then please contact one of our school's Designated Safeguarding Leads and we will be happy to discuss this further.



Summer collection for the Camden Foodbank

Following successful collections for the Camden Foodbank in both Autumn and Spring Terms, we are again working with this local charitable organisation as we approach the Summer Holiday. Please see the list of items the foodbank particularly needs in the newsletter item further on. Donations can be dropped off at the school office until Tuesday 18th July.

NEU strikes - 5th and 7th July

The National Education Union have called two teacher strike days next week and these will affect many schools around the country including William Ellis. The school will be closed to all students except for the following:

- Wednesday 5th July will be Year 6 transition day, with our 2023 starters coming to a day of introductory activities from 9.30-3.05pm. Some current students will be invited individually as mentors – they would have been involved in the same way had the strike not been taking place.
- Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July – Year 8 camp will run as intended, including groups leaving and returning to school on the Wednesday.
- Year 10 work experience will continue as planned.

Dates coming up:

w/b 3rd July – Year 8 camp

w/b 10th July – Year 7 camp

Monday 17th July – Sports Day events for Years 7 & 8

Tuesday 18th July – Lauderdale House music concert

Wednesday 19th July – WESPA Awards Evening

Friday 21st July – end of the summer term, students dismissed at lunchtime

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones, Headteacher

School sets out to beat online misogyny fired out at teenagers

by ANNA LAMCHE

THE "rabbit holes" of social media can push young men towards violent or misogynistic material – but students can be taught "tools" to prise back control.

This is one of the messages students at William Ellis School took away from a recent "Counter Don't Cancel" project interrogating masculinity, misogyny, and the pressures that surround life as a teenage boy.

Working in partnership with Middlesex University, older pupils at the Dartmouth Park boys' school ran a series of workshops with Year 8 students to explore the malign influence of social media influencers Andrew Tate.

Tate is a former kickboxer who rose to prominence on social

media with misogynistic messages that charities have suggested could radicalise young men. He has denied wrong-doing after recently being charged with rape and human trafficking in Romania.

Students learned how social media algorithms

can work to push more and more of the same kind of content to viewers who show even the slightest interest. Watching one Andrew Tate video can lead to a quick stream of more.

According to headteacher Izzy Jones, students explored "how [social media] might take you down certain rabbit holes without you even realising, how it exposes you to ideas that you may not have sought out."

Students were taught to be "conscious" users of social media, and Ms Jones said they discussed "the language to counter those ideas".

She added: "How do they respond to that in a way that's forceful, articulate and challenging? One of the important things about that day was not to say to students: 'all of these ideas are wrong, and these are the things you mustn't do', but actually, in order to become an empowered young citizen and a teenage boy who wants to make the world a better place, here are the tools that you can use."

She added that online influencers who trade in misogyny are not "speaking in isolation"



Izzy Jones

and restricted to the case of Andrew Tate.

"We're talking about a wave of public figures including politicians on both sides of the Atlantic who have taken liberties to speak in a way that promotes shock and intolerance," Ms Jones said. "We've got Donald Trump making reference to his treatment of women in a certain way, then winning an election to one of the most powerful offices in the world. Andrew Tate comes along and isn't as shocking as he would have been if Donald Trump hadn't been elected," she said.

Building on this work, students at William Ellis and Parliament Hill School have recently produced a short

NOT JUST ONE DAY

In March we published an edition of the *CNJ* exclusively written by female writers. But we pledged then that the issues discussed in that week's paper could not be simply limited to International Women's Day and we are committed to starting debate and conversations all through the year.

documentary exploring "what it means to be a teen in 2023." In the film, students discuss the impact of social media on mental health, the safety of young women and girls, and the pressures of "toxic masculinity" for young men. The film won a competition at the Town Hall last week as part of the council's "Youth Safety Week". Awards were presented by Keir Starmer who said he found watching the film "humbling."

According to Ms Jones, both projects were student-led. "There's a desire to talk about those things in a way that they can be part of the solution rather than the assumption that they're part of the problem," she said.



Andrew Tate

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Members of the National Education Union in England's schools will be striking on 5 and 7 July.



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL



International Evening

Claire Ozkaya, School Development Officer

It was wonderful to see so many families and members of staff at International Evening earlier this month.

Alex in 8F has written a few lines about the event:

“On Thursday 15th June we had an International Evening here at WES from 5-7pm. The event was highly attended and very successful as there were many diverse communities who were represented by students and their parents and carers. The event took place in the Sports Hall where there were lots of stalls representing the different countries. There were lots of activities including calligraphy and having a go at translation!

The food at the event was absolutely amazing with all the different dishes that people brought. It was really great to try all the different foods from different countries! The performances on the night were really good I even sang a song in Icelandic, and I especially enjoyed D'Angelo and his Filipino dance group. In total I would say the whole event was amazing!”



Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design:

Year 7 Cubism Project

Year 7 have been working on a project about Cubism. Ms Little set a challenging homework to make a Cubist sculpture. We were all amazed with the fantastic work that students created.



Gabriel (7K)



Ayaan (7W)



Colin (7L)



Rowan (7K)



Patrick (7F)



Josh (7B)

Art trip to Aga Khan Centre

On Monday, Year 8 students went to visit the amazing Aga Khan centre for Ismaili studies in Kings Cross. It is part of the redevelopment for the area and is housed in a sustainable building that uses lots of beautiful Islamic features in its architecture. This was part of the Art and RE project, looking at Islam and Islamic arts.



The students saw calligraphy artwork, and the gardens that were on the ninth floor of the building with a fantastic view. The building also has a library with some very old gold coins from Egypt in the year 296 and some very old books, including first editions which we were lucky enough to see!



ePlatform Online Library Sam Nunnery, Assistant Headteacher

Form tutors have provided students with details on how to log in to [our school's e-library](#). Once students are logged in, they can start borrowing books immediately. Simply click 'borrow' under the chosen eBook or Audiobook, and it will then be available under the 'Loans' tab for you to listen to, or read, for 2 weeks.

Students can add notes to the eBooks while reading and then download them later to help them study and revise. Students can even change the font size, page colour etc. to suit individual reading needs!

Please encourage your son to engage with this easy-to-use resource that will support and develop reading skills.

For any further information, please ask your son to see our librarian, Ms King, who is in school on Fridays.

Camden Foodbank Summer Collection

We will be collecting donated items for the [Camden Food Bank](#) until July 18th.

The items below are needed for the food bank's Summer appeal. Items can be dropped off at the school office.

Please do consider whether you can make a contribution over the coming weeks to help local families in need.

