



News Update (21st July 2023)

Dear families,

Welcome to our final newsletter for this academic year, packed with examples of the enrichment activities that have been taking place in school in the final weeks of this half term. Every year group, and therefore every student in the school, has taken part in at least one enrichment activity and for many it will have been several, spanning creative and performing arts, careers, sports and outdoor education and celebration events. I'd like to thank you for supporting the students in their preparation for these events, the students for their positive attitude to these new experiences and the staff and volunteers in the school who have made them possible. We take every opportunity to plan and facilitate these for students, with over 30 trips being organised this year sometimes at short notice as opportunities become available. This is in addition to the main learning activities in school and requires substantial planning and organisation.

There will be another set of trips and visits next year, starting with our new Year 7 cohort who will be on camp at The Mill from $18^{th} - 22^{nd}$ September. Full details have been shared with those families. We are keen to get feedback from families on our enrichment offer – if you would like to share your views, please complete this short form.

Premises work over the summer

Once we close the school today there will be a busy schedule of premises development and maintenance work over the summer, at the cost of almost £200,000. This includes:

- Full refurbishment of student toilets partly prompted by requests from the Student Council
- Full refurbishment of Room 38, a Chemistry laboratory, funded by the generous donation of a former student, Syd Aldridge, and the Birkbeck and William Ellis Trust
- Improvements in playground facilities including for sport and the resurfacing of some areas
- A new Computing suite for teaching full classes in all year groups
- Upgrades to our wifi network, to ensure improved access in all classrooms

I hope that students are able to see and feel the benefits of this work in their learning and school experiences when we return in September.

Results days

We hope to see all our Year 11 and 13 students to collect their exam results and celebrate in the summer.

Thursday 17th August: Year 13 results will be available in the 6th form centre from 9am to midday. Support will be available on that day with university applications and clearing.

Thursday 24th August: Year 11 results will be available in the 6th form centre from 9am to midday, followed by LaSWAP enrolment – students will be sent individual appointment times.

Key dates for next academic year

- Students return to school on Wednesday, 6th September.
 - Students in next year's Year 7 will be in school 8.30-1.45pm.
 - Year 12 will be in for a full day, from 8:30am.



- Students in Years 8-11 and 13 should come into school at 1:30pm for an after-lunch tutorial session. This is an important part of the school year, before lessons start as normal on Thursday 7th. Dates for the rest of the year can be found at https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/term-dates
- New Year 7 Information Evening: Monday 11th September
- Open evening for prospective families, Year 6 and below: Thursday 28th September
- Open mornings for prospective families, Year 6 and below: 3rd, 4th and 10th October

Term dates for the 2023/24 academic year <u>can be found here</u> I would like to remind families of the importance of students being in school every day of the year, and only taking holidays during school holiday time.

Increase in price of school meals

From September, the price of a full cooked meal in the canteen will increase to £2.65 from £2.50. This will still be fully covered for students who are eligible for free school meals – they will not have to pay anything additional. We try to keep the cost of meals in the canteen as low as possible, but the increased price of food ingredients and energy in the canteen means that the price needs to go up to cover our costs.

If any families think that they may be eligible for free school meals, more information and an application can be found through the website of the borough where you live. For example:

<u>Free school meals - Camden Council</u> <u>Free school meals and uniform grant | Islington Council</u>

Uniform orders

It is important that students have the correct blazers and uniform when they return in September. The summer break is the busiest time of year for the <u>school uniform company</u> and so families are advised to place orders by 1st August to ensure delivery before the first day of Autumn Term. School ties must be purchased via ParentPay and can be collected from the school office.

We plan for our parents' association, WESPA to hold a sale of pre-owned uniform items on the morning of 6th September for families who may want to purchase spare uniform items. Further details will be communicated to families in mid-August if this event is going ahead.

Camden events over the summer

Come along to this free, online event for parents and carers in Camden and Islington. Date and time: Wednesday, 2 August, from 6pm to 8pm. Sinead Wall will present an awareness workshop on the signs and symptoms about young people using nitrogen balloons, the signs and symptoms of the use of prescription medication and more. This webinar is designed for parents and carers who have children aged 10 to 18. **Register here**.

Farewells and thank yous

As always, we are saying goodbye to a number of valued staff at the end of this year who are moving on to pastures new – promotions to new roles, travelling and relocation around the UK and beyond. They have all made an important contribution to William Ellis that will last beyond the time that they have been here. In September, we will introduce the new staff who will be replacing them in their roles.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones, Headteacher



Anna Hughes, Head of Drama:

Henry V Performance

On Friday 30th June our Year 7 and 8 students were involved in a performance of Shakespeare's *Henry V* with the Donmar Warehouse. This was an interactive and extremely engaging interpretation of the play.





As you can see from the photos, students took part in challenges on stage and were encouraged to talk to the characters as the performance went on. This was a lovely opportunity for students to learn about Shakespeare away from the classroom, and they really rose to the occasion!

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New lighting in the Drama department

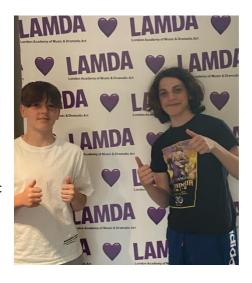
Thanks to WESPA, the Drama department finally has three theatre lights for use in our studio. These lights will be invaluable when teaching GCSE students about how to effectively light a performance for effect, and of course for making our work in lessons more impactful. We will be using them for upcoming performances too. 8T4 had a great time trying them out in our lesson last week when creating suspenseful freezeframes!



LAMDA Extra-curricular Drama lessons

This year the Drama department have offered extra-curricular acting lessons with a tutor from LAMDA (a prestigious drama school). Sixteen students from Year 7s to 10 have been busy learning acting techniques, building characters and understanding how to perform monologues for examination. Exams have been taking place over the last two weeks - we have our fingers crossed for you, boys! Photo shows Jack and Tamir from Year 8, who performed as a pair last weekend.

If your son would like to take part in LAMDA lessons for the next academic year, please contact Ms Hughes (hughes@williamellis.camden.sch.uk). LAMDA exams are equivalent to GCSEs (LAMDA grade 4-5) and A Levels (LAMDA grade 6+).





Reading Roadmap Trip Sam Nunnery, Assistant Headteacher



On Tuesday 4th July a number of boys from Years 7 & 8 attended the Reading Roadmap celebration event at the Emirates Stadium. The Reading Roadmap is a reading initiative offering a selection of the newest publications and some classic literature, across a range of genres, for students to develop their passion for reading. The event saw schools gather from across Islington and Camden to celebrate their achievements in reading this year and meet some of the authors from this year's challenge.

First, we heard from Jennifer Killick, author of *The Dread Wood*, the first in a horror/mystery series following four students as they uncover monsters lurking under their school. Killick revealed that she draws on pop culture, films and shows like *Home Alone, The Breakfast Club* and *Stranger Things* and a fascination with creepy creatures to influence her work. Next we met A.M. Dassu, author of *Fight Back!*, a story that follows 13 year old Aaliyah as she navigates wearing a hijab for the first time and speaking out against racial tensions and Islamophobia following a terrorist attack at a concert. Dassu revealed that the idea of being a writer came to her later in life, only once she had started writing stories to entertain her own children. She highlighted the importance of writing stories





based on real issues in

society so everyone can feel represented in literature. Finally, we heard from Lily Bailey, author of *When I see Blue*, which follows Ben, a boy living with OCD and coping with family drama, moving school and his own mental health. Bailey revealed that the book was partially based on her own experiences, as someone who has experienced OCD and dyspraxia and hopes it will help young people deal with their own problems and feel represented in literature.

After the talks some of the boys met the authors and had books autographed before we headed out to explore the stadium a little.

If you are interested in reading any of the titles listed above you can borrow them from William Ellis library, we also have Dassu's last book *Boy, Everywhere*, which documents the experience of a refugee family from Syria.



Year 13 Leavers' Prom Caroline Smith, Head of Year 13

The LaSWAP prom was held at Dingwalls on the 27th of June to celebrate the end of sixth form for all our Year 13 students. There were lots of happy students relieved to have completed all their exams and assignments and some amazing outfits!



We wish them all lots of luck in their next adventures and will say a final farewell on results day in August.

Champions of Camden Josh Levitt, Head of PE

Congratulation's to our Year 11 Football Team who won the U16 Camden Cup last week in a superb 3 - 0 win over Regent High. The boys played excellent football this year, winning the trophy without conceding a single goal. Goals in the final were scored by; Harley, Jaime and Joe.





Mariana Balabhadra, EAL and Humanities teacher:

Year 8 Trip to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich

What better way to take the learning outside of the classroom than bring students to places full of history and immerse them in the many incredible artefacts collected by museums? Students in 8C6 were very excited to take a long journey to Greenwich, marvel at the sight of the Cutty Sark and embark on an exploration of the *Atlantic Worlds* and the *Traders* galleries at the National Maritime museum. They gathered interesting information about the race for Atlantic empires and learned



how in a span of two centuries, Britain emerged as a leading maritime power whose prosperity was ultimately connected to the sea. Raw materials like sugar, coffee, cotton, spices and tobacco turned into very desirable commodities. The drawers containing spices and the many interactive devices added to the kinesthetic learning and made the trip a memorable experience.



Students researching the raw materials which East India Company traded in the 19th century





Having a closer look at the navigation tools of a ship



Seeing the prime meridian and having a final look at the city before heading off for a treat of ice-cream and a cold drink.

Jake in 8L wrote: "The school trip to the Maritime museum was really great fun, we got to learn more about the British Empire and all the trade that was taking place during this time, and how the first opium war between Britain and China started. The museum is so big, a day would not be enough to see all the exhibits."



GCSE Awards Ceremony at Surma Centre

On 25th May, proud families and guests gathered at Surma Community Centre in Camden to celebrate the achievements of Bangladeshi students in their GCSE exams in summer 2022. Surma Centre, which is the hub of the Bengali Workers Association, has a well-established tradition of recognising the hard work and brilliant academic achievements of GCSE students from the Bangladeshi community. Among the guest speakers were the Mayor of Camden, Nazma Rahman, Councillors Nadia Shah and Shomuta Begum, as well as other dignitaries in the borough. Mayor Nazma Rahman referred to personal stories of growth, overcoming difficulties, persevering and always believing in oneself to achieve success. Anecdotes shared by other councillors were gratefully received by all Bangladeshi students who are pursuing courses in their chosen fields at different sixth form colleges. Sabbier in 12RYU, Yamin in 12RYU, Muhainnul in 12OBL and Ijaj Ahmed, formerly of 11B, were among the recipients of awards, with Sabbier taking first prize and Yamin third prize. Besides certificates and trophies, the top three highest achievers were presented with monetary awards too. Students took to the stage to express gratitude to their teachers and their families for the support and encouragement they received throughout this journey. The event concluded with music and the sharing around of traditional Bangladeshi food.



Sabbier receiving first prize award from the mayor Nazma Rahman



Proud William Ellis students: Yamin, Sabbier, Ijaj and Muhainnul with their trophies



Ijaj with Camden councillors and the chair of Surma centre, Mr Salik Miah



Muhainnul receiving awards from councillor Shomuta Begum



Outstanding achievement by Year 7 Maths Students Lela Neli, Maths Teacher



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We are excited to share the news of our Rewards Picnic organised recent exclusively for our outstanding Year 7 students. This special event was a celebration of their hard work and dedication to completing booster homework, despite it not being compulsory. Our chosen reward for these remarkable students was an afternoon of games and delicious take -away pizza. The reward picnic was not only a way to acknowledge the achievement of our Year 7 students but also to motivate and inspire all. It emphasizes the importance of responsibility, dedication, commitment and resilience. Congratulations to the 20 students who earned the highest number of rewards points for completing booster homework!



Year 9 Trip to the Cracking Crick Show Jasmine Cockcroft, Science Teacher

On Tuesday 4th July, Year 9 travelled to the Crick Institute for their annual 'Cracking Crick Science Spectacular Show'. This was our first trip to the show since before the pandemic and it was lovely to be back.



Stefan Gates of Gastronaut (https://gastronauttv.com/) did a range of fun demonstrations around the theme of digestion, getting staff and students to come up for demonstrations. Highlights included Mr Sakyi eating 'explosive' powder, Rufus setting light to an explosive mixture, Zak and Ehsanul sitting on enormous whoopee cushions, Hasan for expertly sitting in a chair, and Yasir and Ehsanul showing off some top-notch science knowledge. We were really proud of the year group, who represented us well both in the show and on the way; many politely gave up seats to those who needed them on the bus.

The Crick Institute is a biochemical research institute in Kings Cross. They have a phenomenal schools outreach programme and many students will have met them in Year 5. They provide work experience placements for older students and a brilliant practical investigation for Years 7 and 8 each year. They have a free exhibition space which keen scientists may like to visit. We are very lucky to benefit from their work.

Year 10 Work Experience Horace Parry, Careers Lead

William Ellis School considers careers education an essential and vital part of the school curriculum, one which often takes students out of the classroom and into new realms of education. Year 10 work experience is one such event.

Taking place in the penultimate two weeks of the summer term each year, students are requested early on in the year to source their own placements. However, working with an Educational Business Partnership (EBP), namely Inspire, we also source placements for those students who are not able to find anything appropriate.

This year's cohort took part in a variety of placements in workplaces such as law offices, supermarkets, primary school classrooms, retail outlets and street markets. Students were placed as close as the WES reception and as far as Brussels in Belgium. For the vast majority of students, their two-week placements proved invaluable and enjoyable and the reports we received back for them from employers was overwhelmingly positive and heartwarming. Of course, as in real life, a few students found the rigour of the work environment too much to handle, and the return to school was a relief for them. In any case, the preparation for the world of work is always worthwhile. I would like to thank the students of Year 10 for the mature manner in which they approached their work experience, the emails sent and phone calls made. I would also like to thank the staff at William Ellis for taking the time to visit students and reporting back — a luxury many schools do not offer their work experience students.

I look forward to next year's cohort doing just as well.



A family story... Mr Altmann, Assistant Headteacher

This little gem came to my attention via Mr Levitt, after Jack's mother had sent in the pictures.

Being a great enthusiast for all things regarding the history of William Ellis School, I was fascinated by this story. A living connection with our illustrious past.

I'll let Jack do the writing....

Jack in 8F writes:

"A few weeks ago, my mum rang me up whilst I was playing football with a few of my mates. She told me that when I got home she "had a small surprise for me, nothing major" and that when I arrived home she would show me. After a few hours of playing football, I arrived home and she told me to come to the kitchen where to my surprise there was a picture. At first, I thought nothing of it until she told me the back story that in that picture (the black and white one below) was my great grandfather playing football for the William Ellis School team. It was a nice surprise and interesting because I had never known of him, and I realised that throughout this and last year, I had been doing the same as my great-grandpa once did 97 years ago at William Ellis School."



My Great-Grandfather on Wes School Football Team 1926, second from left, front row.



Me on WES School Football Team 2023, end on left, back row.



Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design:

End-of-Year Art and DT Show

On 27th June the annual Art and DT show was held. Work from Key Stages 3 ,4 and 5 was displayed and many teachers and parents visited the exhibition. This year the Art department teamed up with the A level Film group and also screened films that students had produced. In particular year 11 students were able to show their GCSE work to their families before they attended the awards evening- many parents had not seen the work before and expressed how impressed they were with the work that their children had done. Congratulations to the students and thank you to the art department for all their work putting on the exhibition and of course in supporting students throughout the year!











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Year 9 Art & Graphics Trip to the 'Colours' Exhibition

On Friday 14th July the Art department took 40 Art and Graphics students to the newly revamped Hawley Lock in Camden to see a pioneering exhibition of street art. The exhibition featured over 35 different international street artists who had been commissioned to make work on the theme of 'colour' and transform the space. Many had painted onto black backgrounds and used neon colours and there were lights that made some paint (and some peoples' shoes and teeth!) glow in the dark.















Students were amazed by the artworks and produced sketches which they will use in the GCSE coursework. Although it was raining we still had a lovey day next to Camden Lock and ate lunch in the new Food Hall. Year 9 were very well behaved demonstrated good citizenship by clearing up after themselves, as well producing excellent drawings. We even got everyone in one photograph – after some time spent arranging them!



We are excited to see how students can develop their own colourful drawings inspired by the artist work next term.



Islamic Tile Project

You may remember from the school newsletter a few weeks ago that a number of Year 8 students visited the Aga Khan centre in Granary Square as part of their project linking RE and Art. This project was planned with the help of two student teachers from Iran and Kyrgyzstan that are studying in the UK on the STEP programme and have been based at William Ellis to support the development of Art and RE curriculums. Students in Year 8 have now completed their final Islamic tiles and I am sure you will agree they are brilliant! These will be going on display in school. Well done Year 8 and thanks to the STEP teachers.



Cabinet of Curiosities Project

In previous newsletters we reported that this year our Year 10 Art and Graphics GCSE students took part in a project with Lauderdale House and their work was displayed at the gallery there as part of Highgate Arts Festival. We were excited to receive the work back from Lauderdale house this week and students could see how their bronze sculptures, inspired by natural forms they found in the gardens, had turned out after being sent to the foundry. We think they look stunning!







They will go towards students' coursework grades and we are delighted that Lauderdale House has secured funding so we can continue to take part in this project for the next two years, giving students some fantastic opportunities to work in different media.



Year 7 & 8 Camps George Court, Head of Outdoor Learning

Over the past two weeks, we have taken our Year 7a and 8 students to The Mill on their yearly trip. The boys took part in many activities developing their teamwork, communication and outdoor skills, as well as building resilience in the outdoor setting. Activities included leading themselves and staff up Holmbury Hill and Leith Hill (the highest point in the south of England), visiting Arundel Castle, taking to the beach, and enjoying the arcades at Littlehampton, among many other activities. As always, Sam and Alice, the Mill's wardens, kept us all well fed and well looked after and ensured our time at The Mill was as enjoyable as it could have been.







Sixth Form Medical Conference Rasheed Mende, KS5 Student

Since Year 10 I have wanted to study medicine. Recently, I went to Channing School – a private girls' school in Highgate – for a conference for people who, like me, have a passion to study medicine.

A surgeon came to speak to us about his personal journey in becoming a gastro-intestinal surgeon. It inspired me to think about how we, as young people, shouldn't let temporary boundaries prevent us from reaching our long term goals. What interested me a lot was when he told us about how our "long term goals" will almost certainly change. This is because the journey we take is unpredictable. For example, he only ever wanted to work in a hospital and would never have expected to be talking to young people about medicine. Essentially, he was preparing us to not feel unmotivated when a passion we had at the age of 17 is different from a passion we have when we're older. Additionally, it was made very clear that applying to study medicine is extremely competitive so he told us what characteristics medicine schools look out for. An example is staying committed to a club throughout school which shows you can allocate your time effectively. We were told to get ourselves in a position where we have all the qualities a medical school would want so we have our best chance. As a result of this talk, I have decided to volunteer in charity shops and hospitals from this summer.

Overall, it was a great talk which left me feeling motivated and excited about my journey in studying medicine. I'm glad I didn't miss out on this opportunity.

LaSWAP Summer Concert Flora Wilson, Director of Sixth Form

Students, staff and parents from William Ellis, La Sainte Union and Parliament Hill Schools all participated in a series of joyful musical performances at Lauderdale House this week. There was a really varied programme, with choirs, string groups, jazz bands, rock bands and soloists on various instruments all performing music from many different genres. This marks the resumption of a tradition that was unfortunately interrupted by the pandemic, but we are overjoyed that it is starting again. As Ms Banks (Head of



Music at PHS) said at the concert, it is really wonderful to work together to produce such a concert in collaboration, as well as having the opportunity to be inspired by other ideas – and be spurred on to ever greater things by a small sense of competition between the schools! Well done to all the performers, who all showed great resilience in overcoming any stage fright, as well as great resourcefulness in their hours of practice beforehand!







Diana Lane, Careers Advisor

Camden Summer University is open for students to sign up to an interesting range of courses and activities throughout the Summer Break: https://www.cmdn.co.uk/

They offer FREE summer activities for all young people living in Camden and/or attending a Camden School – they have a massive range of activities, from Sport, cooking, acting, arts and many more!

All opportunities are available to students aged 13 -19. Please visit the CSU website to find out more and sign up.

Summer Art Courses for young people:



Camden Summer University are thrilled to announce an array of captivating courses that will ignite your creativity and elevate your artistic skills. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a budding enthusiast, our courses offer an unparalleled opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of art. Today, we would like to introduce you to four of our most exciting courses:

- **1.** Art and Self-Portraiture at the Courtauld Gallery: Step into the intriguing realm of self-expression through art. This course invites you to explore the captivating genre of self-portraiture, from its historical roots to its contemporary manifestations. Immerse yourself in the breath-taking collection of self-portraits at the Courtauld Gallery while receiving expert guidance and insights from renowned artists and art historians. Link: Details Camden SU (cmdn.co.uk)
- **2. Illustration:** Unleash your imagination and refine your illustrative skills in our Illustration course. Whether you dream of becoming a professional illustrator or simply wish to enhance your artistic repertoire, this course offers a comprehensive exploration of various techniques, styles, and mediums. From character design to storytelling, our experienced instructors will guide you through the fascinating world of illustration. Link: Details Camden SU (cmdn.co.uk)
- **3. Reworking Manet at The Courtauld Gallery:** Dive into the visionary works of Édouard Manet, one of the most influential figures in the history of art. This course will take you on an artistic journey, examining Manet's iconic paintings and exploring the evolution of his style. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, you'll have the unique opportunity to reinterpret Manet's masterpieces in your own artistic voice. Link: Details Camden SU (cmdn.co.uk)
- **4. Print Making:** Discover the captivating art of printmaking, a versatile medium that combines technical skill with creative expression. Join us for this course and delve into various printmaking techniques such as etching, lithography, and screen printing. Under the expert guidance of our skilled printmakers, you'll develop a deep understanding of this fascinating art form and create your own stunning prints.

 Link: Details Camden SU (cmdn.co.uk)

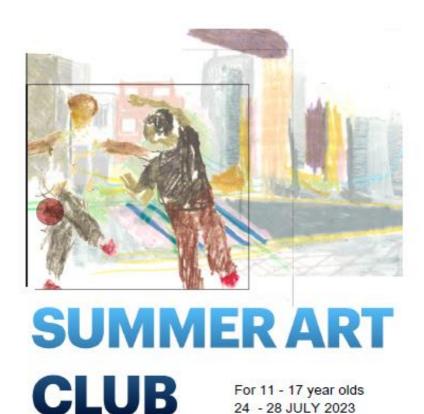
These courses are designed to provide a stimulating and immersive learning experience, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application. You'll have the opportunity to engage with fellow art enthusiasts, exchange ideas, and receive valuable feedback on your work.

Enrolment is now open for these courses, but spaces are limited. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to expand your artistic horizons and nurture your passion for art. To secure your spot, please <u>visit our website</u>.

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WES parent and local artist, Heini King, will be running an art course for 11-17 year olds in the first week of the Summer Holiday. Please contact Ms King to book or for further information:



To book: contact Heini King 07768 148649 heini.king@yahoo.com

£150/week, incl. materials, concessions available

Come and learn a new technique each day! We meet at the Koppel Project artist studios (56 Downshire Hill, NW3 1PA) and head out to nearby locations to draw and paint.

11am - 3pm



Camden SEND Notices

Camden SEND services and support - survey for parents and carers

Camden Council wants to hear from parents and carers of children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) on what they think about local services and support.

What parents and carers say will help to improve how Camden supports children and young people with SEND and their families. This survey, which asks a series of quick questions about what support and services families are using and benefiting from, as well as possible barriers they might have encountered, is part of Camden's SEND Strategy Implementation Plan (2022-27). Each year, they will ask families how they are doing in order to make improvements where possible.

To be entered into the **prize draw for a chance to win a £50 voucher**, please don't forget to provide your contact details at the end of the survey.

Please <u>click here</u> to complete the survey. **The deadline for responses is 30 July**, although they plan to reopen and recirculate the survey in September.

Family Day: Our World - D/deaf accessible event at the British Library on 23 September

The next D/deaf accessible free Family Day at the British Library will be on Saturday 23 September 2023, from 12noon to 4pm. Activities at the event will be delivered in British Sign Language and spoken English.

Please visit the British Library website <u>here</u> for further detail. The programme for the day is currently being finalised and more details will be shared next term.

This event is run at the British Library, in partnership with the British Museum, Camden Council's Family Learning Team and Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, among many others. There will be some new partners joining this year, including ZSL London Zoo, Sadler's Wells Theatre and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Other local activities for children and young people with SEND

<u>Count Me In</u> is accepting new referrals for disabled young people aged 13 to 25 who would benefit from additional support to access youth provision.

<u>Spaces are available</u> for children in Years 5 and 6 attending schools around the Queen's Crescent area to access exciting small-group activities delivered by PACE after school and during the school holidays.