



News Update (18th March 2022)

Dear families,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, which gives some information updates and news about events in the school in recent weeks.

Parent survey

We wrote to you on Monday about a survey that we are carrying out to help us understand families' views of the school and why they choose William Ellis. This survey will be very helpful for us to develop our priorities and also how we build a vision for the school going forwards.

If you haven't completed it yet, please do so following this link: [William Ellis School Parent Survey](#)

The survey will be open until Monday 21st March, so please do complete it before then if you can. It should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Guide to attendance document

Sent with this newsletter is a helpful guide to attendance at William Ellis School, laying out the school's expectations around attendance and punctuality, and the way our attendance systems work. Our school expectation is that all students will have attendance as close to 100% as possible, and will be on time for school every day.

We realise that some families have made requests to take students out of school during term time, partly linked to the difficulties in travelling during 2020 and 2021 or the wider impact of the coronavirus pandemic. We are sympathetic to these issues; however, the disruption of the last two years also makes it so important that students are attending face to face education at all times during the term.

Welcoming the class of 2022-29!

We are pleased to have offered 130 places to current year 6 students who have applied to William Ellis to start in September's Year 7, and we have other students on our waiting list. Our forthcoming Year 7 will include siblings of current students and we are excited to be deepening your connections to the school, as well as welcoming new members of the William Ellis family.

For next year's Year 7 and their families, here are some important key dates:

Wednesday 23rd March: Welcome and Information event (5pm)

Wednesday 6th July – Year 7 taster day

22nd-26th August – Summer School

3rd September – first day in school

World Book Day events

A number of KS3 students took part in a virtual talk with author Rob Williams, current writer of the *Roy of the Rovers* comics, on World Book Day earlier this month. More about our World Book Day celebrations can be found later on in this newsletter.



We are grateful to former WES parents David Baddiel and Morwenna Banks for funding a subscription to ePlatform, allowing every WES student to access a huge range of eBooks and audiobooks for free. Please visit <https://williamellis.eplatform.co/> to browse the catalogue.

Monday 21st March marks World Poetry Day. A group of Year 9 students have been taking part in poetry workshops over the past three weeks with published poet Antony Anaxagorou. This project will culminate in a performance at Lauderdale House next week.

Charity fundraising

February's Non-Uniform Day raised £340 for LGBT youth charities. The upcoming Non-Uniform Day, which will take place on the last day of term, will support the WaterAid charity, as selected by the Student Council.

As part of City Year's social action project, a charity bake sale held recently raised £155 for underfunded schools in Ghana and Jamaica. A number of text books and resources our school no longer uses will also be donated to the schools in need.

Additionally, last week the PE department organised some lunchtime activities and a staff vs students basketball game to raise money for the Comic Relief Red Nose Day campaign. You can read more about this match further on.

Coming up:

21st-22nd March	Year 11 Art and Graphics GCSE practical work
22nd March	Year 7 volcano eruptions (after school)
23rd March	Year 11 Drama GCSE exam
	Year 8 nurture group camp (to Friday)
	Welcome event for the families of the students joining our new Year 7 in September
25th March	WESPA quiz night

Arrangements for last day of term

Friday 1st April is the last day of Spring Term. **Students will be dismissed at 3.10pm** on this day.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 11

We now have only 6 weeks to go before the start of the GCSE exams. Boys are attending interventions in the evenings; lunch time homework club on Mondays; and the Study Hub after school. The Year 11 students are focused, but still need more support to pass the line.

Well done to the 52 students who joined in with the Saturday morning Maths intervention last week. A quick reminder that this weekly Maths intervention is open to all Year 11 students. Boys studying Food Technology can also benefit from catch-up sessions for the next 2 Saturdays.

All boys should have now received their GCSE timetable on their personal school email. They will be given a paper copy too. Each teacher has provided their class with a breakdown of what to revise for each subject. You can also find the work on TEAMS – Y11 study Hub > file and choose a subject. All resources can be found there too. Sometimes work will be duplicated on Satchel One.

You can also look at the [Year 11 page](#) of our website. The Revision Support section on the right hand side will give families lots of tips on how to help and support the boys.

There will be some mock examinations in English, Maths and Science over the next couple of weeks. The exam timetables were sent out by email earlier this week.

Easter will be also a time for revision and all boys have written a revision time table for the holiday.

Please do encourage your son to keep revising, joining interventions (see timetable below) and going to the Study Hub, where a calendar will be put up to remind the boys of the important dates. There is a calendar available on the YEAR 11 Study hub with exam dates and interventions which students may find useful when planning revision.

The calendar shows

1. Known intervention sessions being run
2. Saturday sessions
3. March mock exams
4. Summer examinations
5. Holidays/Weeks/Weekly countdown to the start of the written examinations
6. Easter revision sessions – to be added

Should you have any query please do not hesitate to contact your son's teachers, his tutor, Mr Scott, or myself.

Have a good week and thank you for your continual support in helping us to get the best out of our young men.



Year 11 Interventions March 2022

Interventions take place after school unless otherwise stated.

DAY	SUBJECT
Monday	Geography (Mr Pomeyie's class) Maths
Tuesday	Geography (Mr Upton's class) Music English French and Spanish
Wednesday	Drama History (Mr Sanije and Ms Conway classes)
Thursday	PE (GCSE)
Friday	Graphics and Art Computer Science
Saturday morning	Maths and Food Tech

Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

Year 11 students had a very successful Saturday in school last month, working on designs for their final artworks for their *Apart and Together* project. We are looking forward to seeing the final results, which they will make over two days later this month. Despite missing time from their course due to the pandemic they are working hard to achieve their best! Well done Year 11.





Lucy Strike, Assistant Headteacher – Literacy Lead

To celebrate World Book Day some students in Years 7, 8 and 9 attended a virtual author talk with writer Rob Williams. He talked about the history of his series 'Roy of the Rovers' and how he develops exciting story lines around the trials and tribulations of football. His work with Marvel and DC is also fascinating and students learnt about how these graphic novels are created through close collaboration between writer, artist and editor. We look forward to working with Rob Williams again in the future.

We all also enjoyed watching a video made by staff and students about the reasons we read. The film can be viewed on our [website](#).

Nariece Sanderson, Librarian

There is a very exciting Harry Potter competition being run by the World Book Day organisation this month, with prizes including a tour of the Warner Brothers Studios to see original props and sets from the Harry Potter films. Students under 18 only need to register via the website <https://www.worldbookday.com/harrypotter/> by 27th March 2022 to enter (younger students will need parental permission).

Niki Yianni, MFL Teacher

Earlier this month, Year 10 students visited five local primary schools as part of the Modern Language Department's Language Leader Award programme, which has been relaunched this year.

The Language Leader Award not only views school children as learners, but also as potential teachers of modern languages. This empowering project involves Year 10 students designing their own interactive German, French or Spanish lessons, which they then go on to deliver in small groups to entire classes of KS2 pupils.

Our WES students were received very positively by the five participating primary schools: Rhyl, Gospel Oak, Holy Trinity, Brecknock and Torriano.



After so much hard work in planning and creating their lessons, it was inspiring to see our Year 10s standing at the front of the class, imparting their knowledge of French and German to their willing students. They took a huge step outside of their comfort zone by participating in this programme, and the MFL department is so proud of what they have accomplished. We look forward to their next visit later in the year!



Staff vs Students basketball match for Comic Relief

In a charity match to raise money for Red Nose Day, school staff and the Year 11 basketball team went head-to-head in a basketball match last Friday, with students and staff making donations to come and watch the fiercely-fought spectacle.

The Year 11's came out on top with an emphatic 33 – 15 win.

Mr Vettiankal may have been playing basketball longer than some of the students have been alive, but it was no match for the excellent learning in PE lessons the Year 11's have experienced in their time at William Ellis. Even the 13 points from Head of PE, Mr Levitt, was not enough to stop the onslaught from the students.



Well done to all the staff and students involved and thank you to everyone who came to watch to raise money for Red Nose Day.

The Year 10's had better get practicing for next year; the teachers will be out for revenge!

