



News Update (17th June 2022)

Dear families,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter which includes important information about key dates and calendar changes this term, as well as a look at some of the trips that have been taking place over the last few weeks and our students' recent achievements.

William Ellis School Council "more in common" pledges"

A few years ago our Student Council decided to adopt the words of Jo Cox MP, "we have more in common than that which divides us", to give a core purpose to their work. This week marked the sixth anniversary of Jo Cox's death, and so it seems fitting to revisit the pledges of the Council under this theme:

- Pledge 1: to take better care of the environment
- Pledge 2: to take part in at least one house event and one activity outside lesson time
- Pledge 3: to take part in fund-raising activities
- Pledge 4: to contribute to the school community by taking on some responsibilities
- Pledge 5: to challenge prejudice and hate

Throughout this term in their assemblies, tutor time and extra-curricular activities students are thinking about or acting on these, as you can see from the posts below.

Information about changes to the calendar

Next week, **Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd June**, we are anticipating strikes that will affect rail transport across London and major disruption for staff and students. Because of this schools across Camden have made the decision to alter times of the school day with as much notice as possible, rather than having to inform families on the morning. Across the four LaSWAP schools:

- Public examinations (GCSEs and A Levels) will run as normal and students should follow their exam timetable
- For other students, school will start on Tuesday and Wednesday with period 2 lessons at the following times:
 - o Year 7 & 8: 10:10am
 - o Years 9, 10 and 12: 9:45am

School will finish at the normal time. We will make a decision on any alterations to Thursday during the day on Wednesday, depending on whether this strike action goes ahead as expected. I am sorry for the disruption this will cause.

Also as a reminder the following events are coming up later this term:

- Year 7 camp weeks: week 1 - 27th June – 1st July (7F, 7K, half of 7L); week 2 - (7B, 7W, remaining half of 7L)
- Year 13 leavers' event – Tuesday 28th June
- Year 11 presentation evening – Thursday 30th June
- Lower School Awards Evening – Tuesday 19th July



On **Tuesday 12th July** we have our final Professional Development Day for staff, and so William Ellis School is closed to students on that day. Year 12 lessons at other LaSWAP schools will go ahead. This day has replaced the one originally scheduled for 6th June.

Uniform and ties

For the rest of this term we will continue to expect students to wear ties to and around school – their tie identifies the year group that they are in. However, their ties and collars can be loosened within our uniform code to help them be comfortable in hot weather.

If it is an exceptionally hot day such as today, we will message families to let them know that students do not need to bring their blazer to school. Otherwise, they should have it with them but will be given permission to remove it in class and of course are able to take it off and put it in their bag in the playground.

Uniform donations

If you have any old ties – or other uniform items – at home and in good condition, please consider donating them to WESPA for their pre-owned uniform sales. donations can be handed in at the school office. We would be especially grateful for donations of Year 7 ties.

Later this term Year 9 students will have a chance to try on sample blazers to help inform parents and carers about sizing when placing orders for the KS4 black blazer. Year 9 families will receive a letter indicating the recommended size to purchase after a fitting during the school day.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Izzy Jones', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Izzy Jones,
Headteacher



Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 11

The GCSE exams have started very well; the boys are focused and on time. A lot of them are staying in school to work and we encourage anyone who wants to stay to do so.

It was noticed on that Friday boys started to look a bit tired. We ask that families please ensure the students all have enough sleep and a balanced diet. This is the final push and students need all the support possible to do their best in the exams.

I would like to remind all Year 11 parents/carers that Year 11 will have a Presentation Evening on Thursday 30th June. You will also be able to pay a visit to our Art Exhibition to see Year 11 Art and Graphics students' work, along with artwork by Sixth Form students before this event begins. Please do come to celebrate the boys and their achievements over the last 5 years.

Sel Pomeyie, Head of Geography

Year 10 Geography Rivers Fieldwork

A crucial part of being a geographer is using your skills in the field, which is why a physical and human fieldwork study are compulsory parts of the Geography GCSE.



In late May some Year 10s got to enjoy a fresh-looking Mill, whilst studying the river Tillingbourne as part of their Geography coursework. They impressively showed teamwork and initiative to gather the relevant data. The group also were able to show their personal development by responsibly sharing various cleaning and food serving duties.



A big thanks to Sam at the Mill for making a special cheesecake in honour of Mikey in 10L, who had the unfortunate occurrence of having his birthday on the day we travelled.





Alison Ellis, Attendance Officer

This week our first Improved Attendance Award, with a prize of an Amazon gift voucher, has been given to a student in Year 9!

Excellent attendance is key to every student fulfilling his or her potential and building strong relationships at school, and students who are working to make significant improvements will be recognised to encourage this self-development.



Josh Levitt, Head of PE

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 & 8 athletics teams who both won the Camden Shield Athletics Competition last month. All the boys involved performed brilliantly on the day as they ran, threw and jumped themselves to victory!

Based on their performance on the day; Phoenix, Gaspard, Rufus, Theo and Abdullahi were selected to represent Camden in the London Youth Games and compete against the best boys from all the boroughs in London.

All the boys performed amazingly well on the day: Rufus got a Personal Best on the high jump, Phoenix came 3rd in the 200m and Theo also came 3rd in the Discus, setting a new school record of 21.91m.

As always all the boys involved over the competitions this summer have represented the school with great pride.

Well done to everyone involved, I wonder if anyone will be able to beat them at Sports Day on 18th July?



Year 9 Camp

Year 9 students had a great time at The Mill last week despite new experiences and challenges. Year 9 Camp marks an important moment of transition into KS4 and developing independence .

Highlights included making a campfire, cooking for themselves and working closely with their friends and peers to navigate using the skills they learned in PE lessons. All students will have completed an approximate 10 mile walk independently, supported by staff on the journey – quite an achievement!



Special mentions go to:

- Charlie for his great problem-solving skills
- Ashton and Sonny for supporting other students
- Munyaradzi for being resilient and determined