

William Ellis School

Headteacher's letter to families

Spring Term - 15th March 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's letter, detailing information about recent activities in school as we get closer to the Easter holidays.

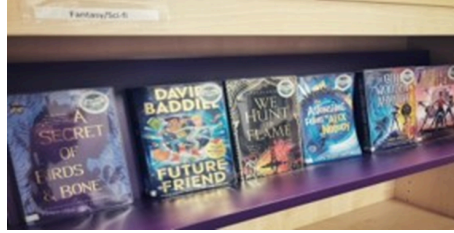


Attendance Update

This week has been the start of our Attendance 100 Club Challenge, working with a group of students to focus on 100% attendance for the next term. Congratulations to the 385 students who have 100% attendance this week, which must be the target for all students. I would like to congratulate 11W, 10B, 9F, 8L and 7B for having the strongest attendance in each year group this week.

A reminder that absence should be reported by calling the absence line (020 7267 9346 and follow the prompts for attendance), and that any other attendance matters should be directed to Ms Groves, Attendance Officer, at the attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk address. We also need to remind families that requests for absence during term time for any reason, including family holidays, will not be authorised by the school and may be referred to the Local Authority for further follow-up action.

World Book Day



We celebrated World Book Day on 7th March, with students completing a quiz trail to discover the most popular favourite books in the school community and activities in tutor time, including "Drop Everything and Read" and SNAP literacy. Reading is an important part of the curriculum, as in all lessons part of our work as teachers is to support reading fluency, comprehension and learning of new vocabulary. We know that being able to read well and confidently is critical to future success in exams and employment. At [William Ellis School - School Library](#) you can find more details of the books and reading activities on offer in the school, as well as the E Reader platform that can be accessed for free by students and families to read at home, on any device.

International Women's Day

8th March was International Women's Day, marked in assemblies throughout the week. The theme globally for 2024 was [#InspireInclusion](#), and we focused on women, some famous and others known to students, who have campaigned or worked in other ways not only for their own recognition, but also to include and support others. This is integral to our school ethos and highlighted women who have shown our William Ellis attributes: respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, reflection and resilience. Further work around gender equality and recognition will be followed up as part of our Deep Learning Day programme in future terms.

Year 9 Enterprise Day

As part of our students' comprehensive careers education programme, our annual Year 9 Enterprise day took place on 26th February. The objectives, as always, were:

- To recognise the qualities and responsibilities of an entrepreneur
- To understand the role of sustainability in developing communities
- To develop important employability skills such as communication, teamwork and creativity
- To interact with volunteer professionals to learn about their jobs

The day began with a whole year assembly to lay out the objectives and expectations for the day, after which Year 9 students spent the rest of the day in their form groups, working together with volunteers on a range of activities.

Organisers Inspire!, bridge the gap between education and work for students at secondary school or further education college. Their secondary programmes include work experience placements, workplace visits, and work-related learning workshops. These are all facilitated by employers and employee volunteers.

Their programmes help schools to provide effective careers education and guidance and meet the Gatsby Good Career Guidance Benchmarks. We are extremely lucky to have this link and look forward to a long and positive relationship.



Music Department's Performance Platform

After school on Thursday 21st March the WES Performance Platform will be making a long overdue comeback. Students involved will be performing pieces that are works in progress or need to be played in front of a live audience of their peers. This will include solo and ensemble pieces from our different bands and musicians in the lower and upper school and is meant as a low-stakes, informal, event.

There are plans for more of these events in future, so on this occasion the Music Department won't be inviting parents to attend, but will be doing so for future events. We will, of course, let families know about these when they are planned and look forward to seeing many of you there in the future.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

A reminder that the final Parent's Evening of their year, for Year 8 students, takes place on Thursday 2nd May.

Appointments to see teachers will be made online, via the child's MCAS portal. Booking will open before the Easter break, on 26th March. To find out more about booking appointments, please see the guidance on the school website:

www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/parents-evenings

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones

Headteacher



This week's WESPA Round-Up

Dear families,

Thank you to those who attended the online meeting this week. There was a lively discussion on all areas of our sons' lives at school including careers, DofE, communications, clubs, opportunities in and outside school as well as how we can work together to support our sons. We have already given £9000 to school this academic year. If you'd like a copy of the minutes please add your email here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxioBAJ6mo7X2XbQ1nU0FbUYdf5yAg8rGNt1mxmqRaPmbVXA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

The next meeting will be in the WES Library and we will continue to alternate between in school and online to make it as accessible as possible for all families.

500 Words Competition

Thanks to generous donations from parents, we have been able to continue to sponsor the WES literacy initiative. Congratulations to all the winners of this year's 500 Word Competition! Thank you to Assistant Head Sam Nunnery for organising the competition and to our Governors for adjudicating - I hear that there were some fantastic entries. Winners will be contacted directly.

Year 11 Celebration - calling Year 11 parents!

WESPA is raising money for the Year 11 Celebration on 27th June 2024. The event is for boys and their teachers and will be run by volunteers. We are raising money to buy food and provisions for the BBQ that will follow the ceremony. It's a really fun evening and a great chance for boys and teachers to share a moment together on a really special occasion. Please help us to reach our target and send them off in style. Any funds raised over the target will go into other initiatives to support our boys.

Here is the link to the fundraising page: <https://www.givey.com/williamellisschooly11celebration2024>

We have set up a WhatsApp group for volunteers - please email me or Vicky (Year 11 parent and Trustee) if you can help. We will need helpers to set up, cook and tidy after.

Have a great weekend and if anybody is able to help with the new parents' event from 4.45-6pm on Wednesday, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

Content

Coming Up:

<p>Year 12 UCAS Fair at ExCEL London</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>18 March</p>
<p>Year 13 Progression for Futures event</p> <p>11:15AM – 1:15PM</p>	<p>18 March</p>
<p>Year 7 Debating Club Trip to Houses of Parliament</p> <p>10:00AM – 3:00PM</p>	<p>19 March</p>
<p>Welcome Event for New Year 7 families</p> <p>5:00PM – 6:30PM</p>	<p>20 March</p>
<p>Performance Platform Concert</p> <p>4:00PM – 6:00PM</p>	<p>21 March</p>
<p>Year 11 Graphics trip to the National Portrait Gallery</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>22 March</p>
<p>Year 8 Poetry Project Performance at Lauderdale House</p> <p>9:00AM – 12:00PM</p>	<p>26 March</p>
<p>Year 11 Drama GCSE Performance</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>27 March</p>
<p>Last day of Spring Term</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>28 March</p>
<p>Non-Uniform Day - £1 Charity donation to take part</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>28 March</p>