

# William Ellis School

## Headteacher's letter to families

Summer Term - 19th April 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to the summer term at William Ellis! We hope that you all had a restful and restoring few weeks, possibly including Easter or Eid celebrations.

This letter gives an overview of the two big themes of the summer term - assessments and exams, and residential trips to The Mill. There is also a link to the 2023/24 parent survey - your views are important so please do take a few moments to complete it.



## Attendance and Punctuality Update

There are 568 students in the school this week who have 100% attendance so far this term, and 477 of those have also been at school on time every day. Thank you for the support that you give students to get to school on time and fully prepared for their lessons.

Congratulations to 7L, 8L, 9F/9W, 10W and 11B who each have the highest overall attendance in their year group.

As a reminder, the school will not approve any requests for holidays or travel in term time for any students, although I realise that it is tempting to travel before the start of the summer holidays. It is important that students are in school up to and including the last day. Full details of term dates up to summer 2025 are available here on our website <https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/term-dates>

## **Year 11 and 13 exams**

Year 11 students taking public exams this summer will have received their individual timetables, showing the dates and times of their exams and the papers they have been entered for. Year 13 students are receiving their timetables in tutorial on Monday. We know that these students were working hard over Easter, including those who came into school for revision sessions or attended online. With 2 and a half weeks to go until the exams start, consistent and focused revision will still make a big difference to their final performance and ability to go into the exams prepared and confident to do their best and achieve results that they, you and all their teachers will be proud of.

Students have also been reminded of these guidelines that they were given in January, and **MUST** follow in their exams. If they do not, they risk disqualification by the exam board: [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/IFC-Written\\_Examinations\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/IFC-Written_Examinations_2023_FINAL.pdf)

These are the most important rules for all students to follow to avoid being disqualified. They apply to all students nationally.

1. Be on time for all your exams – if you are late or absent you will not be able to sit the exam at a different time.
2. Do not cheat in any way.
3. You must not take into the exam any notes or any electronic devices, or a watch of any kind. (There is a clock at the front of the room.)
4. Any pencil cases must be completely see-through.
5. Do not use any correcting fluid or highlighter pens.
6. Do not try to communicate with or disturb anyone else in the exam room.
7. Do not draw or write anything offensive or obscene.
8. If you leave the exam room without an invigilator, you will not be allowed to return.

## **Camps**

Residential camps at The Mill take place this term at our residential centre in Surrey and form an important part of the Personal Development curriculum. All students are expected to attend – we can make accommodations for a variety of students' needs and are happy to speak to parents if they have any concerns. Camps provide a unique opportunity for students to strengthen their current friendships and build new ones, to develop their resilience, resourcefulness and sense of responsibility, and to reflect on how they have grown up over the previous 12 months. They also have a sense of independence and adventure as they progress from the activities in Year 7 through to Year 8 and Year 9. Year 9 students complete the expedition part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as part of their camp.

Year 9 camp takes place the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May. Letters have already been sent home and consent forms should be returned to school as soon as possible.

Year 8 camp takes place in the weeks beginning 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July. The year group will be split in half, with each group attending camp for 3.5 days between Tuesday and Friday. Letters will be sent home to families next week with full details of arrangements.

## **Assessments for students in Year 7-10 and 12**

Students in other year groups will be sitting in-school assessments this term – this allows them to showcase what they have learned over the last year and gives you and their teachers important information about their progress.

Year 10 Art and graphics students will have their exam on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June. The year group will be completing their written exams in the hall between 19<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June in all their GCSE subjects. The rules for GCSE and A Level students will apply and the exam will cover content from across their GCSE course so far. A timetable for the exams and revision materials will be sent to them after the half term holidays.

Year 9 students will be completing their assessments in the sports hall in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May. The rules for GCSE and A Level students will apply and the exam will cover content from across Year 9, and earlier in Key Stage 3. A timetable for the exams will be given to them in registration next Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Year 7 and 8 students will complete their assessments, mostly in normal lessons, between Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June. These assessments will cover content across this year. Please note that, due to school timetable changes at the end of May, the final schedule for Year 7 and 8 assessments may not be ready until 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Students will receive individual timetables posted in their satchel account.

Year 12 students who are following A Level courses have their first formal assessments during the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> April. The full timetable can be found here: [LaSWAP Sixth Form Consortium - High Stakes Exams](#). These exams are important as they are what are used as the basis for students' UCAS predictions, and to ensure that students are on the right pathways and courses for them to achieve success at the end of their KS5 study. Year 12 A Level students will be on study leave for this week, only coming in for their exams (which are held at the school at which they are taught that subject). However, lessons continue for students who have public exams this summer (Applied Science BTEC, Business BTEC, Maths Studies AS, L2 Art, GCSE Maths and English).

### **Parent survey**

As we move into the summer term and start to plan ahead for 2024/25, we would like to gather your views on students' experiences so far. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to answer the questions on [this form](#).

*Please note that this form should not be used to raise any individual concerns or questions. If you need to do this, please see this guidance document <https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2907&type=pdf>.*

### **Tie Amnesty**

If you have any WES school ties at home, in good condition and no longer used, please consider bringing them to the school office to be reused and recycled.

We can sell second hand ties on to other families at a reduced rate at pre-owned uniform sales throughout the year.

Tie donations can be dropped off at the school office any time between 8am-4pm on weekdays during term time.

Yours faithfully,

**Izzy Jones**

**Headteacher**

## **This week's WESPA Round-Up**

Dear families,

Welcome back, and for our new families, to your first summer term at WES. It's a busy one with lots of fun things going on. Look out for the wonderful International Evening - an after school event following WES Culture Day where we all get together and celebrate the amazing diversity and talents of our school, the WESPA 10K, WESPA Awards, Y11 Leavers' BBQ, WESPA Socials and of course our regular meetings.

### **WES Bands Live**

More on all of that soon and if you are looking for something to do on Saturday morning, why not come and support William Ellis bands as they join students from CSG and Regent High on the music stage at Earthfest 2024. The music kicks off at 11.15am and free tickets (which give you access to the whole of the weekend) can be found here: <https://www.earthfest.world/general-public-tickets/>

### **In-house running legend**

And for fans of ridiculously long runs, please give a cheer on Sunday to our very own deputy headteacher, Bernie Lane who will be running the 2024 London Marathon. He's running in aid of Children With Cancer and if you'd like to sponsor him, his page is here: <https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/bernie-lane>

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

### **Coming Up:**

<b>Year 12 High Stakes Exams</b> ALL DAY From 29 Apr until 03 May	29 April
<b>Dance Project Workshop</b> ALL DAY	29 April
<b>Dance Project Workshop</b> ALL DAY	01 May
<b>Year 12 DofE Silver Expedition</b> ALL DAY	02 May
<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b> 4:30PM – 7:00PM	02 May
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b> ALL DAY	06 May
<b>Year 11 GCSE Exams</b> ALL DAY From 07 May until 21 Jun	07 May