

William Ellis School

Headteacher's letter to families

Spring Term - 23rd February 2024

Dear families,

This letter comes to you in a new digital format, while we explore some new website features. This is the first step in an upgrading process for a new school website by the end of this year. Thank you to the families who have already provided us with some additional feedback on this.



Attendance Update

As we have returned from half term and to warmer weather, it has been great to see students coming back into school who were unwell over the holidays. We know that consistent attendance and punctuality to school is a crucial factor in students' academic success, and their sense of belonging and wellbeing. I write home about attendance so regularly for exactly this reason.

11W, 10B, 9K, 8F, 8L and 7B have had consistently good attendance this week and I would like to congratulate those tutor groups. Ms Groves, our new Attendance and Behaviour Officer, is in post full time from this week and she can be contacted at attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk She has been in touch with families this week about meetings and action plans to improve the attendance of students who are persistently absent from school.

Year 9 options evening and choices

It was great to see so many families - parents and students - at our options open evening on Wednesday to understand more about the curriculum and their choices for study in Year 10 and Year 11. Students have now been sent all documents and online access by email - **it has gone to the students' school email addresses, so that they can access internal resources and the form.** This can be completed between now and 8th March, when we will review students' provisional choices and discuss with them and their families. It is not a first come first served process, so Year 9 students should take this fortnight to think carefully about their choices, and discuss them with families and their teachers.

LaSWAP applications for Year 11 students

All Year 11 students are in the process of making applications to 6th forms, including specifying their intended course choices at LaSWAP. In particular, Camden's Sports Education and Training Programme is now recruiting students for their September 2024 enrolment. Students aged 16 to 19 and looking to pursue a career in sport and physical activity can find out more and sign up for [the programme](#) before 30 July 2024. [LaSWAP Sixth Form](#) and Camden Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team are recruiting students for next year's programme at Talacre Community Sports Centre, starting in September 2024. If you want to find out more, please [visit the website](#)

Measles health warning - information from Camden

We have been asked to pass on the following information:

"Measles cases are increasing in England. Further outbreaks in London and Camden are likely due to the low uptake of MMR vaccines. Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The only protection against the most severe forms of measles is two doses of the MMR vaccine and it's never too late to catch up. A national campaign is underway to contact parents of children and young adults aged 12 months to 26 years who are not recorded as being fully vaccinated against measles, and invite them to book a free vaccine. The NHS also has the following advice for parents and carers on [measles](#)."

A clear case of measles would be a reason for students to be absent from school - not only for them to recover but also to prevent the spread to others. When writing about attendance I realise that families are balancing this sometimes conflicting information about attendance and illness.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones

Headteacher

Coming up:

Year 9 Enterprise Day ALL DAY	26 February
Camden Dance Festival workshop 2:00PM – 4:30PM	26 February
Camden Dance Festival workshop 2:00PM – 4:30PM	27 February
Camden Dance Festival Performance Event at The Place, Euston 7:00PM – 8:00PM	28 February
Offers day for September 2024 Secondary School Places ALL DAY	01 March
Year 13 Mock Exams ALL DAY From 04 Mar until 08 Mar	04 March
Year 12 Graphics mock exam ALL DAY From 05 Mar until 07 Mar	05 March
World Book Day ALL DAY	07 March
Year 10 Parents' Evening 4:30PM – 7:00PM	07 March