

William Ellis School News Update

Summer Term - May 2024



Dear families of our soon-to-be Year 7,

It was great to meet so many of you at our admission meeting events earlier this month. We hope you found the opportunity to meet school staff, members of WESPA, and other families due to start with us, useful and reassuring for the secondary school transition ahead.

For the few families unable to attend one of the meetings we have held so far, our final date for admission meetings is 26th June. Those families will have received their meeting time earlier this week.

Mr Altmann has now visited more than half of our incoming Year 7 students at their primary schools and will be continuing these visits after the half term break. We're really starting to get a sense of what our Year 7 cohort for September will contribute to our school community and we can't wait to meet the boys – and you, their parents and carers – again in the next few weeks to build on the relationships we are beginning to build.

As a reminder:

Our **Induction Day is on Wednesday 3rd July**. On this day students will meet their Head of Year, Mr Parry, and their Form Tutor, and experience some taster lessons in a range of subjects. Further information about this day was included in the admission pack from your meeting.

There is also a **Welcome and Information event on Monday 8th July at 5.30pm**. This event is primarily for parents and carers but your son may attend if you wish. There will be some more important documents for you to collect at this meeting, including your ParentPay login details for canteen purchases and paying for trips etc. You will hear some more about the Year 7 camp in September and our Parents' Association will be selling good quality pre-owned uniform items.

Summer School runs between 27th-30th August. This is a fantastic opportunity for boys to meet school staff and familiarise themselves with the school site prior to starting school in September, while taking part in fun activities across a range of subjects. We really encourage all students to attend, even if only for one day. There is still time to register for Summer School via [Applicaa](#) (please note that your son's admission form must be completed before the Summer School form).

Year 7's first day in school for Autumn Term will be **Wednesday 4th September**. Year 7 camp follows soon after, in the week beginning 16th September. Further information will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

Camden have produced a booklet providing general information for families about the transition road ahead. This resource can be viewed [here](#).

School Uniform Reminder

Our uniform policy can be found on the **Uniform** page of our school website.

Please ensure that you have placed your orders for compulsory uniform items (blazer and PE kit) with our uniform supplier, SWI schoolwear, by **1st August** to allow time for delivery before September. SWI have a **New Starter Hub** resource on their website which you may find useful. It includes a digital sizing tool and FAQs about the ordering process.

Year 7 ties can be purchased at the Welcome and Information Event on 8th July.

Our School's International School Status



We are delighted that WES has been awarded International School Foundation Status by The British Council in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

It encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

William Ellis's international work includes hosting French, Spanish and German language assistants, running a Mandarin, Arabic and foreign film club, taking students on residential trips abroad and day trips to the BFI institute in London for immersive workshops in the target language. The school also hosts international students. In February 2024 a German Year 10 student spent two days at William Ellis as part of his school work experience and the MFL department will also be hosting a French student in June.

We will be striving to continue to develop the work in this enriching area and hope to progress to Intermediate level and eventually to International School Award Accreditation in years to come.

We hope that you will join us at our annual International Evening on 20th June, where our whole school community comes together to celebrate our diversity with food, performance and activities for all ages.



International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

William Ellis School

has achieved

Foundation level
Introducing internationalism

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McDonald".

Scott McDonald
Chief Executive, British Council



Ski Trip 2024

Mr Altmann writes:

Back to Ischgl (Austria) and Samnaun (Switzerland)!

Having visited this area of the Alps back in 2019, I decided that we should definitely return and explore some more. It was great to be back in a German speaking part of Europe, though coping with the local Austrian and Swiss dialects was a little tricky even for me!



WES students with their instructors

I have always found cross border skiing rather fascinating; the food, architecture and language (or in this case dialects) can change from one valley to the next. Though you no longer have to ski through a turnstile and show your passport to a serious looking border guard, as I did as a boy!

The Föhn wind was whipping through this part of the Alps at the time, which caused some disruption, but boys and staff thoroughly enjoyed the trip regardless.

I could go on...but I think I'll let the boys take over from here,

Donnie and Otis in 7B write:

Our ski trip to Austria and Switzerland at the start of the Easter break was incredible!

The main highlight was definitely going out of our comfort zones, seeing how it was my (Donnie's) first time skiing, and how Otis did a 'black run' for the first time. Our ski instructors helped us improve and refine our skills. The ski resort was huge, spanning two countries! There was a wide range of slopes for all skill levels, I even managed to do a red run! The accommodation was very nice, too.

Aside from the skiing, we did many activities. Such as swimming and bowling. Our hotel rooms were very nice, we had lots of space and a storage area. We also watched a movie and ate pizza (which was delicious) in a pizzeria right next door to our hotel!

Our favourite activity, apart from the skiing of course, was the bowling because it was the Austrian version, where you had to knock down all the pins first. Our ski equipment was good quality and had lots of different sizes. We were very organised when getting on the coach to Isgall.

Overall it was an amazing experience where we got to spend time with our friends and learn how to ski and how to improve!



Snowball fight!



Our lovely pool



Mr Altmann in Austria and Mr Levitt in Switzerland!



Austrian bowling

Year 10 Art and Graphics 'Cabinet of Curiosities' Project

In partnership with Lauderdale House our very talented Year 10 Art and Graphics students have been taking part in a project inspired by nature and by the eccentric collections of former Lauderdale resident, James Yates. This is the second year that our students, along with Year 10 students from Parliament Hill School, have collaborated with Lauderdale House on this project.

Students have sculpted clay designs based on the raw natural materials from the grounds of Lauderdale House and have worked with wax to create moulds for bronze pieces which will soon be cast. They have also created gelli printworks and work in Sumi ink.

The work will be displayed as part of the Highgate Festival between 8th-30th June. Please visit the exhibition at Lauderdale House if you can.



We wish you all the best for the half term break and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones,

Headteacher