

William Ellis School News Update

Autumn Term - 13th September 2024



Welcome to this week's newsletter, which contains information about our upcoming Year 7 camp, open events for prospective parents and useful information about canteen payments. There is also a special birthday surprise!

Attendance Update

This year has started with our overall school attendance up on last year. We know that coming into school and being in lessons every day is critical for students' academic success and emotional and social wellbeing. Please follow the guidance on our website if you do need to report absence. Congratulations to 11W, 10K, 9W, 7F and 7L - the tutor groups with the highest attendance so far this year. Students will receive praise and recognition throughout the term to celebrate excellent attendance.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Children eligible for Free School Meals are allocated £2.65 each day; this can only be used during the lunchtime service and enables the student to purchase a hot meal or sandwich with a drink or pudding. If your child spends more than the allocated amount, the difference will need to be covered by adding money to his account.

Any additional spending, like purchases of snacks or drinks during breaktime, will also need to be covered separately by topping up the account.

Please also note that FSM monies not spent from the daily allocation cannot be carried over to the next day.

If you have any further queries please contact finance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Arrangements for Open Evening, Thursday 26th September

Our Open Evening, for families with a son due to move to secondary school in 2025, will be held on Thursday 26th September. School will close early on this day so that the site can be prepared for this event. Students will have an early lunchtime on this day and will be dismissed when lessons finish at 2.00pm.

The following day, Friday 27th September, there will be a late start for students. Registration will be at 9.35am.

Families who have a child currently in Year 6 and whose child will be on roll at William Ellis, La Sainte Union or Parliament Hill in September 2025 will be prioritised for admission under our new admission criteria for 2025. If you, or any of your friends or family have a son in Year 6 and would like to attend Open Evening, or one of our Open Mornings in the following week, please register your attendance via our website.

School Photographs

At the start of this week all students in Years 7, 10 and 11 had school photographs taken. Year 7 and 11 students had both individual 'profile' shots taken and a photograph of their form group together. These pictures can make a lovely keepsake for the future, marking the beginning and end of a student's time at secondary school. These photos will be available for families to purchase later in the term - families of these year groups will be sent a sample image and further details of how to place an order with the school photographer, Tempest, in due course.

A Special Birthday Celebration

Last year we were contacted by the son of a former student, whose father, Alfred, was due to turn 100 during the Summer holiday. Alfred had fond memories of his time at WES in the 1930s and his family were keen to commemorate his time here during their celebrations.

Students and staff worked hard to create a book of celebration for Alfred, including photos of the school from our archive as well as the present day, and birthday messages. This was presented to Alfred on his birthday, stirring up a wealth of memories from his schooldays.

Alfred even remembers starting at WES before it moved to the current building in 1937.

After leaving WES, Alfred went on to join the RAF during the Second World War before working at the Head Office of Lloyd's Bank. He was made a Freeman of the City of London before his retirement in 1984.



Alfred is in good health, still an avid history reader, and a lifelong Arsenal supporter. We were very pleased to be able to help with marking his centenary.

Camden Information for parents and carers

Free adult community learning courses for parents / carers:

Do you want to:

- Gain a qualification and improve your digital skills to find work?
- Improve your reading, writing and English speaking?
- Support your child with their schoolwork?
- Gain a childcare qualification?
- Learn more about your wellbeing and local area?

Camden adult community learning has a free course to suit you - enrol now.

Cost of living help and support

Information on help and support for cost of living can be found here.

British Library Family Day: Marvellous Me

Join the British Library for their free, drop-in Family Day this September - delivered in British Sign Language and spoken English. Take part in this creative day celebrating being you! Discover what inspires us and makes us unique, as well as champion other people and explore their untold stories. Create, make, sign and touch through fun and play, with activities taking place all over the Library. This event on Saturday 21 September, from 12noon to 4pm, is fully accessible for families with D/deaf children, parents and carers. Check out the full programme - there's no need to book in advance.

Camden SEND Notice



SENDIASS
Camden



Somali marketplace event



Tuesday 24 September, 10am to 2pm



Crowndale Centre
218 Eversholt St
Mornington Crescent
NW1 1BD



Nearby buses 253, 168, 24, 29, 134, 88, 27, 214



A Somali community event to share information about the support and services we have in Camden for children and adults who have disabilities or additional needs, and their parents



Somali lunch provided

To find out more, call René Relph on 020 7974 6236
or email René at rene.relph@camden.gov.uk



This weeks' WESPA Round-Up

Dear families,

Well done everybody and especially our new parents for completing the first full week of school. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who donated lovely goodies for the new staff welcome today in the staff room. We have some incredible bakers in our midst!

WESPA General Meeting - 24th September 2024

Starting secondary school is a big moment for both pupils and parents. A large part of the WESPA purpose is to help families, both new and established, to come together, share ideas and help each other. Our first general meeting will be on 24th September at 6.30pm in the library at WES and this is a great opportunity to do all these things. Due to popular demand, there will also be a **uniform giveaway** at the same time.

Fun Run - 27th September 2024

On Friday 27th September William Ellis boys from year 7, 8 and 9 will be running the 3K Fun Run on Parliament Hill. This is a really fun event. It's a chance to support our sons, meet other parents and very importantly, it is a huge fundraiser for the school. So please come and cheer them on from 2pm!

In the last two runs our boys have raised money to buy a trampoline and refit the gym and this year we are raising money to hire the athletics track for PE lessons in the summer term. We have a Givey page for online donations and can also accept cash on the day or handed in to the school office. Every pound adds up and it will enable Mr Levitt and the rest of the PE Department to keep on delivering the top notch sports opportunities that WES offers.

<https://www.givey.com/williamellisschoolfunrun2024>

We will also need helpers on the day. It is all very straightforward and Mr Levitt and WESPA Team members will be on hand to let everybody know what needs doing. If you are able to help on the afternoon of 27th, please let us know. We need 15 volunteers from 1.15pm

Please email: williamellispa@gmail.com to be added to the WhatsApp group.

The Mill - some tips from current parents

One of the unique things about William Ellis School is the frequent trips for all years to the Mill. For new parents, this can be a bit of an unknown so we thought it would be useful to put together some tips before the first Y7 trip next week.

- It is definitely a camping trip in tents so do follow the guidance from school on what to bring
- Lots of teachers go down to the Mill to help out on the trip and your son will be safe and in very good hands
- Traffic is unpredictable and they may arrive at the Mill later than anticipated and also get back to London not exactly at the stated times. School send updates about the return time and the Y7 WhatsApp group is a great place to share information
- There is very little reception at the Mill. You will most likely get a message from school soon after the boys arrive but don't fret if it doesn't come straight away. And definitely no phones for the boys!
- Send your son with a torch so he can find his way to the loo in the night
- Be prepared to stick everything in the wash when they get back. There are basic showers but it is unlikely they will choose to use them
- There may be a trip to the arcades so take some money for the machines. Some small change is fine and no more than £5

- And finally, it's a fun trip and a great introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh Award your son may choose to do later in school

That's it from me, have a great weekend and see you soon at an event very soon.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

Coming Up...

<p>New Year 7 Autumn Camp at The Mill</p> <p>ALL DAY From 16 Sep until 20 Sep</p>	<p>16 September</p>
<p>Year 11 & 13 German Exchange Trip</p> <p>ALL DAY From 23 Sep until 27 Sep</p>	<p>23 September</p>
<p>Early close - Students dismissed at 2pm</p> <p>2:00PM – 2:15PM</p>	<p>26 September</p>
<p>Open Evening for Year 7 Admissions 2025</p> <p>6:00PM – 8:00PM</p>	<p>26 September</p>
<p>Late start for students - registration at 9.35am</p> <p>9:30AM – 9:35AM</p>	<p>27 September</p>
<p>KS3 Fun Run</p> <p>2:00PM – 3:10PM</p>	<p>27 September</p>
<p>GCSE Geography Field Trips - River Tillingbourne</p> <p>ALL DAY From 30 Sep until 03 Oct</p>	<p>30 September</p>
<p>Open Morning for Year 7 Admissions 2025</p> <p>9:00AM – 10:30AM</p>	<p>30 September</p>
<p>Open Morning for Year 7 Admissions 2025</p> <p>9:00AM – 10:30AM</p>	<p>04 October</p>
<p>Geography Field Trips - River Tillingbourne</p> <p>ALL DAY From 07 Oct until 10 Oct</p>	<p>07 October</p>