

William Ellis School

Attendance Newsletter

May 2024

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

**ATTEND TODAY**  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Dear Parent/Carer,

### Welcome to this month's Attendance & Punctuality newsletter!

#### Attendance Surgery

Meetings continued this half term for some Year 7 and Year 9 families, with a number of positive conversations taking place.

Our next sessions will be for KS3 and Year 10, and we will be inviting families over the coming week.

A reminder that if a students' attendance falls below 90%, we aim to meet with the student and their parents/carers to look at ways this might be improved via a closely monitored plan of action. These meetings are intended to be a positive conversation where we will offer any support, we can to help improve your child's attendance.

Attendance %	Descriptor	Approx. days lost	Approx. weeks lost
98 – 100	Excellent	0 - 4	Less than 1
96 – 98	Good	4 - 8	1 to 1.5
93 - 95	Concern	8 – 13	1.5 - 2
90 – 92	Unsatisfactory	13 – 19	2 – 3
Below 90%	Persistent absence	More than 19	More than 3

#### 100 Club – Resilience and Success!

We are now in week 7 of 10 for our 100 Club members. A selection of students in Years 7 to 11 with attendance at 90% - 94% were challenged to improve their attendance to 100% over a 10-week period. Students taking part have shown excellent resilience and a real effort to improve with the vast majority of students maintaining at least 96-100% attendance during the programme so far. Well done to those students who are part of the 100 Club, and we look forward to giving out rewards for this after week 10 at the end of June.

#### Attendance Rewards 15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April Round 4:

Every fortnight, following our Week A and Week B cycle, we share attendance data with all year groups. The tutor group with the best attendance in that cycle will win a prize each fortnight.

Congratulations to the following tutor groups who achieved the best attendance in their year group for this cycle and will receive a Fast Pass to skip the lunch queue last week. All winners are remaining champions of the top spot. It would be fantastic to see other tutor groups improving to take a place at the top in the coming weeks!

#### Tutor Groups

#### Attendance

15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

7B	95%	Our remaining champions! Well done.
8L	93%	Continuing to hold the top spot! Well done.
9F	91%	Who will knock them from the top? Well done.
10B	97%	Continuing to smash the 1 <sup>st</sup> position! Well done.
11W	95%	Remaining champions for the top position! Well done.

**Punctuality**

Good punctuality to both school and lessons is proven to lead to higher levels of attainment. It also helps students to start their day in correct mindset for academic success. When students arrive late to school, they miss out on essential learning at the beginning of the school day and can feel anxious. This can reduce achievement regardless of the students’ academic abilities.

<b>Minutes late each day</b>	<b>Days lost</b>
	<i>(Over a school year)</i>
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
25	19

**School Inclusion Support Officers**

A reminder that our School Inclusion Support officer is Ms. Shuma Khanom and she will be visiting us in the coming weeks. Some parents may be invited to meet with the School Inclusion Support Officer to discuss the reason for poor attendance and what we can do to help your child to return to school.

We know that children who attend school regularly and on time are more able to access their learning, get support in subjects they may struggle with and have a better chance of passing their exams.

We know as a parent you also worry about your child's future, and we want to work with you to ensure every pupil at William Ellis has a full-time education to maximise opportunities for everyone to realise their potential.

Being a parent is not easy if you need talk to someone about your child's attendance, please contact me via [nunnery@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:nunnery@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)

**It is never too late to benefit from good attendance.**

***What to do if your child is unable to come to school:***

There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted. However, we understand that there may be times where this is unavoidable such as illness or medical appointments that cannot be made out of school hours.

**If your child is going to be absent for unavoidable circumstances, please telephone the school's absence line on 0207 267 9346 by 8.30am.**

You will need to give your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence. Any documentation relating to absence (e.g.: a doctor's certificate or medical appointment letter) may be emailed to the attendance officer via:

**[attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)**

If your child is absent from school for more than one day, please keep us informed each day. If your child is absent and we have not been informed, we will record the absence as unauthorised. Continued unauthorised absence may need to be reported to the local authority. If the school has safeguarding concerns about continued unauthorised absence, we may involve the Safer Schools Police Officer.

Yours faithfully,

**Ms. Nunnery**

**Assistant Headteacher - Attendance**



## This week's WESPA Round-Up

Dear families,

I'm really looking forward to our next WESPA meeting - there is much to celebrate and many new things to work towards together. It will be in the library at 6.30pm on Monday. I know there are some fantastic ideas and lots of love out there so please come and join in. Thank you very much to all the parent volunteers who helped on Saturday at the Transition event for new parents. This time is so important for new parents and their sons and it was lovely to spend the day with the next cohort of our extended family. I think, following a few introductions, we have even formed our first band of the year!

### Meet the Parents 2024

On Sunday I attended the 10 year anniversary of Meet the Parents. MTP is a scheme unique to Camden which encourages families to send their children to our excellent secondary schools rather than to private schools, grammars and other schools outside the borough. The aim is to strengthen communities through staying local. This organisation was invaluable in helping my family and many other friends choose a secondary school for our eldest son.

MTP brings parents and their children into selected primaries to talk honestly and broadly positively about their experience at their Camden secondary. WES has provided some fantastic panellists to take part over the years, and as these families move on MTP encourages younger ones to step forward to replace them. They are particularly keen to involve families from years 7, 8 and 9. Students who take part get an Odeon cinema voucher and a certificate to use in personal statements. You can find out more at [www.meettheparents.info](http://www.meettheparents.info). If you would like to take part along with your child, please contact [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) Please do help out if you can - it's very easy and good fun.

### WESPA Wednesdays

Thank you to all the parents who helped out with the last one of these. The ginger cake recipe is still being talked about... The next WW will be next week on the 22nd May. Please look out for messages on the WESPA WhatsApp groups for more information. And if you're not on them and want to be, just let me know.

### Exam weeks - Year 7 Parent Advice

Seasoned parents will already know about these but for new year 7s, this will come round very fast after half term! This can be quite new for many boys (and parents) and whilst they are not stressful, being ready is really helpful. Here are some thoughts from my son's experience last year.

- Teachers will be posting revision help on Satchel One so ask your sons to look out for this. I spoke to Miss Cockcroft (Science) earlier in the week and she has made some really excellent science resources for the boys for example.
- Vocab lists can be the most time consuming to revise and these are glued into the back of exercise books.
- There will almost certainly be an exam timetable but be prepared for some inevitable small changes due to staff movements. Revision done before the next half of term starts definitely makes things more easy going and if an exam changes day, it won't matter.
- And if your son is missing any resources, WES teachers are incredibly helpful if you have questions. Although I would double check his books and Satchel One before emailing as this almost certainly will have been covered!

- There is a lot else academically going on in school at this time including GCSE and Alevel exams so please do keep this in mind if emailing in.
- All staff emails, including pastoral heads of form and head of year, can be found here:  
<https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/staff>

Have a great weekend everybody and see you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA