

William Ellis School News Update

Spring Term - March 2024



Welcome to our end of term newsletter, showcasing in particular some of the enrichment and career-focused events that have been taking place in recent weeks. Careers education, including signposting to students opportunities in a variety of workplaces and industries locally and globally, is central to our mission, "nurturing successful students and good citizens". It echoes the vision of our motto, "Rather Use Than Fame": it is better to be useful, making an active and positive contribution to society, than to just be famous.

We hope that all students and families have a smooth end to the term. **This is a reminder that school finishes at 3:10pm on Thursday 28th March.** We are not finishing early this term, as there is an additional day in the holiday for Good Friday.

Attendance Update

This is the second week of our Attendance 100 club, supporting students whose attendance to increase their attendance to 100% or as close as possible. Congratulations to the 365 students with 100% attendance this week, and to students in 11K, 11F, 10B, 9F, 8F and 7B who each had the highest or join highest attendance in their year groups.

As we get into the final week of term, it is critically important that students are in school **all day, every day** up to the end of the day on Thursday 28th March. Students should not be absent from school for holidays or family events during term time and these requests will not usually be authorised.

We recognise that students who are fasting have had to make some adjustments to their day in order to manage their energy in school. However, they should be attending school as normal and participating in all lessons.

Free and low cost Easter holiday activities in Camden

The Easter holiday is almost here and there's lots for children and young people to do. The Camden Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Easter programme, which runs from **2 to 12 April 2024**, is open for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who live in Camden and are eligible for free school meals. Book your places. Easter holiday sport and physical activities take place between Monday 1 and Friday 12 April 2024. Visit the website to find out more and book places. You can find a holiday play schemes for children aged 4 to 12 by visiting camden.gov.uk/play. For older children and young people's holiday activities, visit camdenrise.co.uk/youth-clubs-and-projects.

WES 500 Words Winners – The Results

Ms Nunnery, Assistant Headteacher writes:



From Years 7-9 (KS3) we received an amazing number of entries. Thank you to all who entered, it was great reading your creative work. It was really tough to choose the following winners.

As we did not receive any entries from Years 10 or 11, we decided on 6 winners at KS3 to give more acknowledgement to the entries received.

- Gold £50 Amazon voucher: Anes 8L *The Crystal Chronicles*
- Gold £50 Amazon voucher: Elias 8L *The Demon Within*
- Silver £30 Amazon voucher: Luca 7K *Creatures of the Night*
- Silver £30 Amazon voucher: William 8K *Camping Night*
- Bronze: £15 Amazon voucher: Aaron 7K (*no title*)
- Bronze £15 Amazon voucher: Max 9F *Paintings of Life*

Year 12 and 13 (KS5):

- Gold £50 Amazon voucher: Savindi 12 LSU
- Silver £30 Amazon voucher: Kaecii 12LNE



Year 8 Messages:

Ms Mercier Peart, Head of Year 8, writes:

We are pleased to see our annual skiing trip going ahead next week. It looks like there is a lot of snow this year and we wish the students a safe journey and plenty of fun!

Congratulations to Elias and Anes in 8L and William in 8K for producing great stories in the WES 500 Words competition and winning £50 and £30 Amazon vouchers for their winning pieces.

Our boys are rewarded for their attendance, praise points, making progress and effort every week through mentions in assembly, Please keep on encouraging them too at home!

There is under a week to go before the Easter holidays, we're coming out of the Winter season and the Spring will help us all to look forward.

Please congratulate the boys for their effort and good work! Keep going!

Careers in Hospitality Trip

Mr Parry, Head of Year 11, writes:

On Thursday March 7th a group of Year 10 and 11 students who have taken part in the *Arsenal in the Community* programme recently were invited to the Emirates for morning of careers education and a tour of our nearest football stadium.

The students engaged well in the programme which culminated in a mock preparation for hosting a fashion show or book launch. This included thinking about an itinerary for food, guests, security and publicity.

The morning concluded with a comprehensive tour of the stadium, including Home and Away changing rooms, the Director's Suite and going pitch-side.

It is our intention at William Ellis to forge ever-growing links with Arsenal in order to improve our careers education provision.

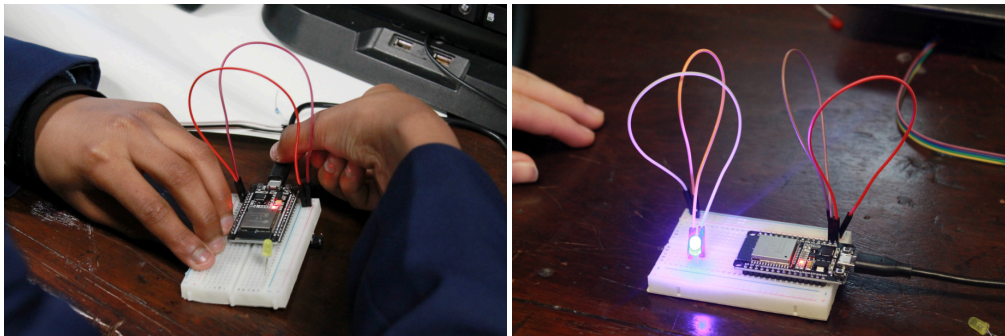


Year 8 DT Coding Workshop

Mr Gunter, Head of DT, writes:

A group of Year 8 students have been involved in a coding workshop to help introduce a new project to Design Technology. The workshop has been planned and delivered by Saul Danan who has written and prepared a two-week, four lesson workshop.

We plan to deliver this project to larger groups in the future. The boys have made a positive start and are enjoying what they have done so far.



Camden Dance Festival

Colin in 8L writes:

I was very excited when Mr Pratt gave me the invitation to take part in the Camden Youth Dance Festival because I did a dance project with him in Year 7. It was hard work and fun. We worked on a new dance piece with Aaron, who is one of the teachers at *London Contemporary Dance School*, for four days and then we performed at *The Place*. It was so good going out on stage under the lights in front of a big audience. It was a great way to get a taste of contemporary dance and a pleasure to represent the school in such an important event, I loved it and I can't wait to do it again.

Year 7 French Spelling Bee

Ms Rodgers, Head of MFL, writes:

On Tuesday 5th March, Otis, Donnie & Joachim from 7B attended the Regional Final of The French Spelling Bee at Rockby School in East London, where they competed against other Year 7 students from a range of other schools. They had to learn 200 words in French and were asked to translate and spell some of these words under timed conditions.

Despite not making it through to the final in the Summer Term, we are extremely proud of them for working so hard to learn the meaning and spelling of so many words. 3000 students started the competition and they were in the last 60; thank you to all their peers who helped them revise during their lunchtime practice as well as their parents/carers who supported and encouraged them at home.



Think & Do Eco Game

Mr Pomeyie, Head of Geography, writes:

Think & Do are a non-profit organisation based in Kentish Town, which aims to promote sustainable living in Camden.

The organisation designed an eco-game with the intention of engaging secondary school students with the idea of key questions: *Where Does It Come From, Where Does It Go To?* The themes in the game spark interesting conversations about resources and conservation of the natural world.

Representatives of *Think & Do* came in to play the game with a Year 9 Geography class. The students enjoyed playing the game and some said they would think more carefully in the future about how they used resources and the purchases they make.

Think & Do were kind enough to leave the Geography department with two board games so that we have some fun future learning experiences around these topics.



Kings Cross Field Study Investigation

Mr Pomeyie, Head of Geography, writes:

Year 11 completed their urban fieldwork in February. The field study focuses on the regeneration that has happened in the Kings Cross area and looks at the impact it has had on those who live and work in the area.

In previous years, we have wanted to include air quality readings as part of the data students are gathering, however, the devices are too costly to make them viable to use. This year, students were able to include air quality readings of

2.5pm and 10pm since they had made their own air quality monitoring devices with the Clean Air Project earlier in the year.



The students were responsible and resourceful during the field study visit.

Year 13 Economics Trip

Ms Mallick, Business & Economics Teacher, writes:

After a last-minute cancellation of the economics conference that Year 13 students were meant to attend, a WES parent and LSE lecturer managed to step in and save the day.

After a morning visit to the Bank of England Museum to develop real world application examples to support their exam preparation, students were treated to a lecture at LSE, looking at risk and how that influences decision making. The whole day was a wonderful example of what makes the William Ellis Community so special and we wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of the WES community.



Year 13 student Sabbier said of the day:

"Thank you for the privileged experience of having a private lecture at LSE. The lecturer showed great enthusiasm and taught us about risk and the factors determining what is classed as 'risky'. I also greatly appreciate the time

taken to take us on a tour of LSE where she told us a bit about the university's history and the life of the students. The trip to the Bank of England museum was rich in historical application for our economics course. There were many interesting exhibits, one of which being the history of money and the notion of it being a promise of value”.

Year 13 English Trip to the Sam Wanamaker Theatre

Ms Damms, Head of English writes:

John Webster's Jacobean revenge tragedy, *The Duchess of Malfi*, is on stage at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre - a beautiful, candle-lit replica indoor 17th century playhouse next to the Globe.

On Saturday March 9th, we took our lovely Year 13 English literature group (pictured below, minus Juliet who we missed) to a matinee production.

Arthur described it as a 'wonderful trip' and commented on the effect of the inclusive casting choices and how the actor playing the part of a malcontent named Bosola was made 'likeable against all the odds', bringing about an interesting stage dynamic between him and the Duchess.

We liked the creative captioning, the musical capers that opened the tragedy and the playing with light and darkness.

Students have been studying the play alongside Books IX and X of John Milton's 'Paradise Lost' so we were really lucky to have access to a live performance this year and made the most of the experience, though our £5 standing tickets made it tricky to see everything we would have liked to.



Our students were engaged, thoughtful and generous in their appreciation of the performance, and Ms Guzy-Sprague and I wish them all the very best in their upcoming exams.

Year 13 Enterprise Day

Mr Parry, Careers Lead, writes:

on Monday 18th Monday, Inspire!, in collaboration with WES, organised a panel of speakers from Clifford Chance, Camden Apprenticeships, Mace, University of Staffordshire and the Shaftesbury Theatre to present to Year 13 students.

They gave an overview of opportunities available at their organisations and in their industries. They explored apprenticeships vs. university and there was plenty of time for questions. Presenters talked about post university pathways as well as making the most of time at university (with summer internships, societies/clubs, travel abroad, industry placements etc).



By all accounts, students found the session useful and insightful.

Year 12 UCAS Trip

Dr Smith, Head of Year 12, writes:

Year 12 went to the UCAS Discovery Day at the ExCel centre on Monday 18th of March to further their research into higher education and what next after LaSWAP!



Year 7 Debating club Trip to Parliament

Ms Kritz, Humanities teacher, writes:

A group of Y7 Debating Club students attended the Houses of Parliament for a tour around the building this week.

Donnie in 7B says:

I loved the trip to Parliament because I got to learn about the history of Westminster and look at some interesting places such as the House of Lords. We even got to see the Speaker of the Commons, Lindsay Hoyle! I also enjoyed learning about the interesting facts about the main hall. Did you know that it was originally built in 1097 but the roof was made in 1699! I really enjoyed it and can't wait to hopefully go again.

Art and Food Technology Round-up

Ms Sinnott, Art and Food Technology teacher, writes:

Surrealism at its best! Well done Year 9's.



The salmon has arrived from 'Fish Heroes'. Fish cakes next stop for Year 10's!



The Year 10's had a great opportunity last week to make use of the raised beds and then plant some vegetable seeds. This was an engaging lesson as the team from 'Know your onions', visited and talked about growing and harvesting

their crops. There's an opportunity to take them to market in a few weeks' time.

The boys have ideas about making money and are also impatient as in the lesson the next day they looked at the beds and were expecting some growth!

This weeks' WESPA Round-Up

Extracurricular trips and Y11 Celebration and Eco Club updates

Dear families,

It was an absolute pleasure to meet many new parents on Wednesday - there was a record turnout for the first new parents event of the year. We have started a new WhatsApp group for the year and if you know anybody joining in September, please do help link them up.

Year 11 Leavers Celebration

Thank you to all the parents who have donated and offered their time for the Year 11 leavers BBQ. We have already raised a fantastic £585. Thank you very much to WESPA Trustee and Year 11 (and 9 and 7) parent Vicky for organising the group. It is such a great event.

Here is the link to the fundraising page. Any funds raised over the target will go into other initiatives to support our boys.

<https://www.givey.com/williamellischooly11celebration2024>

We have set up a WhatsApp group for volunteers - please email me or Vicky if you can help. We will need helpers to set up, cook and tidy after.

Eco Club Update

I mentioned the new pond in previous updates and thanks to the efforts of Year 8 parent Jane, along with Head of Year 13 Andrew Mangham and Claudia from Growing Green, the club and associated projects go from strength to strength. Aside from getting stuck in outdoors, the boys have had an array of visiting speakers to teach them about our habitat. Thanks to the Veolia fund and kind donations, we are now starting the planting and landscaping process - it's all very exciting. Eco Club will be heading to Granary Square for Earth Fest on 20th April. Tickets are free and are here if you'd like to join the party. <https://www.earthfest.world/>

Extracurricular Trips

We are blessed in our community by parents who work in or have connections to many interesting things. Huge thanks to WESPA Trustee and Year 11 and 9 parent Alex for organising the trip to the Houses of Parliament for the Debating Society and to WESPA Trustee and Year 9 parent Galit for coming in to speak to students about Artificial Intelligence and also inviting them to LSE where she is a professor. Inspiring stuff! I would also like to thank Lee Harris (Head of Business and Economics) and Emma Kritz (Teacher of History and Politics) and the many other members of staff who support these trips and extracurricular opportunities - without your extra work, this would not be possible.

Well done to all our Year 11s who have got their coursework in (and I'm sure some credit to parents too for helping them over the line). Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

Coming Up...

<p>Year 11 Drama GCSE Performance</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>27 March</p>
<p>Last day of Spring Term</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>28 March</p>
<p>Non-Uniform Day - £1 donation to Camden Foodbank take part</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>28 March</p>
<p>Ski Trip</p> <p>ALL DAY From 28 Mar until 03 Apr</p>	<p>28 March</p>
<p>Easter Holiday</p> <p>ALL DAY From 29 Mar until 12 Apr</p>	<p>29 March</p>
<p>First day of Summer Term</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>15 April</p>
<p>Year 10 Geography 'Earthfest' Trip</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>18 April</p>
<p>Year 12 DofE Practice Expedition</p> <p>ALL DAY From 18 Apr until 21 Apr</p>	<p>18 April</p>
<p>Year 8 HPV Vaccinations</p> <p>4:30PM – 7:00PM</p>	<p>18 April</p>
<p>Year 12 High Stakes Exams</p> <p>ALL DAY From 29 Apr until 03 May</p>	<p>29 April</p>
<p>Dance Project Workshop</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	<p>29 April</p>