

William Ellis School

Headteacher's letter to families

Spring Term - 28th March 2024

Dear families,

As we approach the end of this term, I'd like to extend my best wishes for the upcoming Easter break. Some of you may look forward to the spring weather in London, while others may anticipate quality time with family and loved ones. I understand that many families will be observing Ramadan during these two weeks and will be establishing a suitable routine for fasting. It's likely that Eid al-Fitr will coincide with the second week of the Easter holidays. To those celebrating, I hope you have enjoyable celebrations.



Attendance and Punctuality Update

Many congratulations to the 365 students who have had 97-100% attendance this half term, and to students in 11W, 10B, 9F/9K, 8F and 7B - the forms who have had the highest attendance overall this half term. As I say frequently, full attendance at school is the most important determinant of academic progress for students, and it is critical that they all attend school all day every day. Congratulations to the students also in that group - 261 - who have been on time for school every day this half term.

In the summer term, full attendance is compulsory for all students every day 8:35 to 3:10pm for all students from Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May, and Monday 3rd June to Wednesday 24th July.

Authorisation will not be given for family holidays and other absences during that period. Attendance at school includes activities such as camps, sports day, trips and Deep Learning Days - these are a full and compulsory part of the curriculum. While we work with families to support students back into school after genuine difficulties, we do follow government guidance up to and including fining those who are persistently absent where it is appropriate.

Year 11 revision and preparation for exams

Year 11 students have a full timetable of revision over the Easter break, with the majority of sessions in the first week. **Students have been given individual revision timetables**, so that they can attend the correct combination of revision sessions matched with their needs.

With only three weeks until the start of full exams when we return from the holiday, it is vital that students attend as many sessions as possible that have been offered. Thank you to the WESPA families who are offering to provide rewards for students on some of these days - details to be revealed when students arrive for their revision sessions!

Farewells to staff

Mr Davenport, teacher of Chemistry at William Ellis since 1999, is leaving us today after 24 years and two terms of service. During that time, he has demonstrated his skills and expertise as a subject specialist, teaching many GCSE and A Level classes with students achieving some of the highest grades. He was also a dedicated form tutor to students in Lauderdale House many times over. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the school in all of those respects.

Ms Graham in the Maths Department and Ms Nsiawete and Ms Tsiewete from the SEND Department are also leaving us today, moving on to posts in other schools. Their contributions have also been valued by the students they have worked with, particularly individuals who have had one-to-one support. I wish them well in their future employment.

New staff will be taking over Mr Davenport and Ms Graham's classes after Easter, and we are working to ensure that there is a stable timetable and input from subject specialists, especially for exam classes. New timetables with these details will be issued to students after the holidays.

Summer Term Uniform

A reminder that the school uniform code can be found on our website: [William Ellis School - Uniform](#)

The recent adjustments to the uniform code for warm weather include:

- Students may wear charcoal grey or black school shorts (no jeans, chinos, combat trousers, tracksuit style or material). They must wear white, black or charcoal grey socks.
- Throughout the final half term (June and July), students have the option to not bring or wear their blazer or jumper to school.
- If the weather is exceptionally or unseasonably warm, further adjustments to the uniform may be made at the discretion of the headteacher as part of a risk assessment for hot weather. This will not involve families buying additional items of clothing.
- If a student arrives at school without correct uniform the school will take one of the following approaches:
 - Provide correct uniform for the student to wear, from a stock of clean supplies.
 - Ask the child to return home to correct their uniform, either prior to the school day starting or with permission from the parent/carer
 - Provide a uniform card for the student to use during the course of the day.

Defiance of these instructions will be dealt with in accordance with our behaviour policy.

Thank you to the WESPA volunteers who have helped us to build up a stock of clean and sorted uniform to be issued to students who need it in emergencies, and for second-hand uniform sales. This is an important part of the school working towards our sustainability goals for 2030.

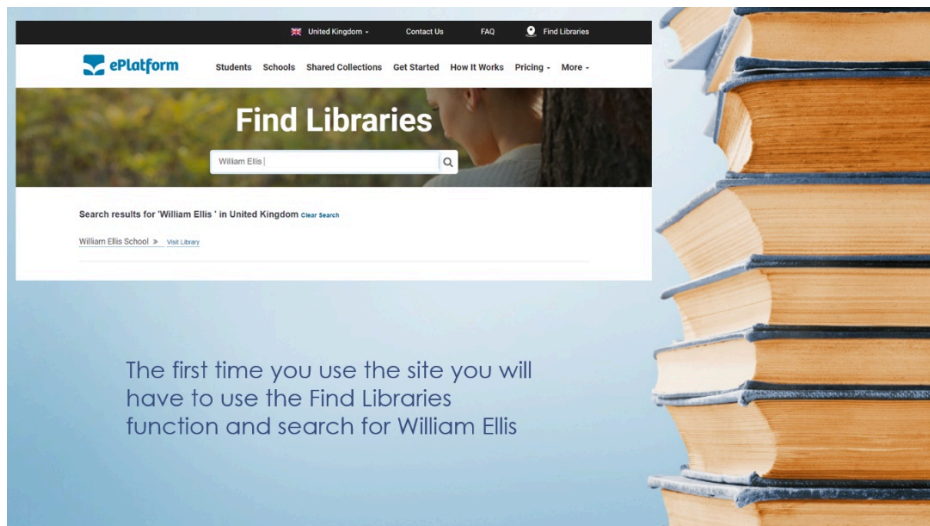
Eplatform – Access to a FREE online library.

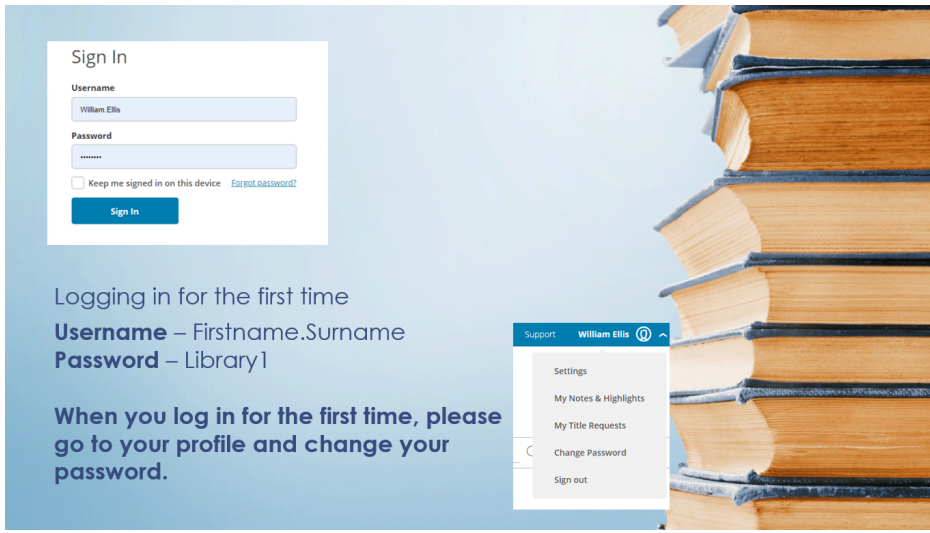
William Ellis School subscribes to an online library where students can borrow ebooks and audiobooks for free. Students can access the ePlatform through their website or download the app through the App Store or Google Play.

- Once you are logged in you can start borrowing books immediately. Click borrow under the eBook or Audiobook and it will then be available under the Loans tab for you to listen or read for 2 weeks.
- You can add notes to the eBooks while reading and then download them later to help you study and revise.
- You can change the font size, page colour etc to suit your reading needs.

If you encounter any problems with logging in or using the online library please contact Miss King – School Librarian. She can be contacted via email or is in the library on Fridays.

Happy Reading and Listening!





Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones

Headteacher



This week's WESPA Round-Up

WESPA Round Up | Happy end of term, WES Bands on the road and careers volunteers

Dear families,

Wow what a term! So much crammed in, I think it may be time for a sit down. Thank you to all those who have helped at events and behind the scenes. There are many unsung heroes at WES. The summer term has much to offer and we will be in touch with more news on International Evening, WESPA Awards, Y11 Leavers' Celebration, and our work with school around careers and supporting departments.

Y10 Mock Interviews

On 3rd June, as part of the WES Careers program, Year 10s will be having mock interviews. We are working with the careers department and are looking for volunteers to help interview the students. This event is not industry specific and is more about helping the boys speak to someone they don't know. There will be a full briefing of what to do and it will not require much of our time. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with WESPA Trustee Alex Booij or me and we can fill you in.

WES Bands

Thanks to the amazing work of Youssef Boutayeb, WES DJ Tutor (although that really doesn't get close to summing up how many amazing things he actually does), our boys have been invited to play at a number of events in Camden in the spring and summer. First up is EarthFest 2024 and we will be hosting a stage from 11.15-12.15pm on 20th April in Granary Square. So if you are already planning to come down as part of Eco Club, or fancy a fun morning out, come and say hello. Tickets are free and can be found here: <https://www.earthfest.world/general-public-tickets/>

Bands are open to all boys at WES and we are keen to support as many students as possible in getting started, not just in learning how to play together but also in preparing for gigs and if needed, releasing records and professional skills in the industry.

This is a time of many celebrations. My best wishes to those who celebrated Holi on Monday. Easter is also this month and Eid al-Fitr will fall during the break. Happy Holi, Ramadan Mubarak and Happy Easter - much peace, health and happiness to everybody. I am also very wary of April so beware April Fools' Day on the 1st just in case your wonderful children kindly bring you a cup of tea made with Marmite...

Best wishes,

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Al Mobbs

Chair WESPA

Coming Up:

<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>