

William Ellis School

News Update

Autumn Term - 6th September 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. We hope that you had a restful and restorative summer, and that this week's return to school has been a positive experience for all students. We would like to extend a particular welcome to Year 7 and 12 families, receiving this newsletter for the first time.



William Ellis is a school that nurtures successful students and good citizens through strong relationships

“Successful student” – working hard and preparing for next steps



“Good citizen” – understanding the world and others around you

LEARNING

“strong relationships” – learning with and from adults and peers

Attending every day on time

Attendance Update

In our welcome back assemblies we shared with students what learning means at William Ellis, and how we fulfil the school's ambition to nurture successful students and good citizens through strong relationships. **None of this is possible without students attending school every day and on time.**

Camden have launched their new School Attendance Campaign and Peer Educator Programme. Some of our students helped to design and voice this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGc8sR4TZnM>

They are being trained to peer mentor other students to support good attendance. We know that these peer relationships are so important in building our school community and providing positive, engaging role models for younger students.

As a reminder, these are our school procedures for any absence:

Authorised absences:

These are where the school gives permission for a child to be away in advance, or accepts the explanation offered afterwards. These include being absent due to illness, the day of a funeral, an urgent medical appointment or religious observance.

Please try and arrange medical appointments outside of school hours.

Where this is not possible, please inform the school **48 hours** in advance for us to decide whether it can be authorised.

Access to learning resources does not enable students to fully access education while they are absent.

If your child is ill:

Please call reception the morning they are absent to leave a message **and** provide a written note the day they return to school.

National attendance changes for September 2024

Schools now share live attendance data with the local authority.

Students will be recorded as absent for half a day if they are late after the start of lessons.

Attendance fines have increased and must be considered by schools more quickly.

More support and information about these changes is at [How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#).

Welcome to new staff

As always at the start of the year we extend a warm welcome not just to new students but also new staff. I would like to introduce you to some new names, and also some existing members of staff who have moved into new roles:

Mr Allen: Pastoral Support Assistant

Ms Dowell: 6th form centre manager

Ms De Souza: Officer Manager and Senior PA

Ms Hinton-Hallows: English teacher

Mr Harris: Acting Associate Assistant Headteacher

Ms Heartfield: Teaching and Learning Assistant

Mr Kenworthy: Counsellor and ELSA lead

Ms Laattoe: Head of Science with Chemistry

Mr Lee: PE teacher

Ms Rowland: Science teacher

Mr Scott: Biology and Key Stage 3 Science lead

Ms Smith: Assistant Headteacher

Rhevene Warde: Exams Officer

You may see these names on students' timetables, or hear from them about whole school events. If you have any reason to contact them, please do get in touch via info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk.

Year 12 Induction

We have welcomed 200 students into Year 12 this week. Among other things, they have learnt about the skills needed to be successful in their sixth form studies as well as their adult lives; they have also built paper towers and created and modelled beautiful outfits using newspaper, showing their resourcefulness, their respect for each other and their resilience. This culminated this morning with a whole LaSWAP rounders tournament, in which WES triumphed!

We are really looking forward to seeing how our new KS5 students continue to develop their enthusiasms, skills and expertise.

Remembering Raymi Soldana Rojas

In our assemblies this week we also shared memories of Raymi, a member of 9W, who very sadly died during the summer holidays. This was an important opportunity for students to acknowledge their grief if they knew Raymi well, and for everyone to respectfully remember him.

The friends and community around Raymi's parents have set up this fundraising page to support them at this time. There is no obligation, but you may want to make a donation.

[Fundraiser by Friends and community of Raymi's family : Remembering Raymi Willka Saldana Rojas \(gofundme.com\)](#)

We will be finding ways of marking Raymi's contribution to the school community in line with the wishes of his family, and will update you on those in due course.

Uniform

It's been great to see students returning looking smart and ready for learning - thank you for your support in making sure they had all the uniform they needed. Our students wear a uniform because it promotes a sense of community, identity and pride, supports the security and welfare of all students, discourages unnecessary and expensive competition in matters of dress and prepares students for the world of work. We have listened to student feedback on uniform and adapted the policy last year.

The full details of our uniform expectations are at [William Ellis School - Uniform](#) - this page will always have a full and up-to-date uniform list if you have questions. Please could I give some gentle reminders:

- all students must have a blazer and wear it throughout the day, including when they arrive at school.
- wear plain black shoes without any coloured decoration or logos.
- have full and correct PE kit for all their PE lessons.

If your son is missing any uniform items please make sure that you get these as soon as possible - from www.swischoolwear.co.uk/parentguide or a high street or online provider. Many items can also be swapped or found second hand at school so if your son does not have correct uniform he may be given a second hand item to wear.

If there is any reason why he does not have full and correct uniform on a given day he must have a note to say why that can be shown at school.



Camden **Active** for all

FUN, FREE DAY OUT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Talacre Community Sports Centre
2.00pm - 6.00pm

Special guest appearance from an Olympic Athlete!

Lots of fun activities for young people aged 8 to adult
All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult
Come and give it a go!



Camden In partnership with



SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Talacre Community Sports Centre
2.00pm - 6.00pm

Enjoy a range of **free** activities including:

Gymnastics	New Age Curling
Football	Dance
Athletics	Adapted bikes
Basketball	Trampoline
Boccia	Rebound therapy
Seated Volleyball	

Plus Information stalls to find out about disability sport opportunities and disability services in Camden.

For more information contact the Sports Development Team on **020 7974 8754** or email sportsdevelopment@camden.gov.uk

Talacre Community Sports Centre
Dalby Street
NW5 3AF

Bus
46, 393

Train
Kentish Town West

Tube
Chalk Farm




Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones

Headteacher

This week's WESPA Round-Up

Dear families,

A big hello at the beginning of the academic year - welcome back to many and a huge welcome to our new families. Welcome to William Ellis!

There will be much coming up this term in the WESPA camp with support for school events, meetings, clubs, WESPA choir, uniform exchanges, working weekends at the Mill, staff room fun, socials and more. Please look out for updates on this weekly letter and also on the WhatsApp groups. First up is the 3K Sponsored Fun Run for years 7,8 and 9 later this month on 27th September. More about that very soon.

In the meantime, I wish you all a brilliant start to the term. For new parents wanting to know a little more about how families can get involved at school, have a look at our micro site here: <https://sites.google.com/view/williamellispa/>

I will be in and out of school and at large in the neighbourhood so please do say hello and, for us old timers, if you see a new parent looking a little lost, scoop them up and help them out. There's a lot to remember!

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

Coming Up:

School Photographs (Year 7 and KS4 students) 8:50AM – 1:00PM	09 September
Year 10 Information Evening 6:00PM – 7:00PM	11 September
'50 Ways into Football' Author talk with David Geey 8:50AM – 11:00AM	13 September
New Year 7 Autumn Camp at The Mill ALL DAY From 16 Sep until 20 Sep	16 September
Year 10 & 12 German Exchange Trip ALL DAY From 23 Sep until 27 Sep	23 September
Open Evening for Year 7 Admissions 2025 6:00PM – 8:00PM	26 September
KS3 Fun Run 2:00PM – 3:10PM	27 September