

# William Ellis School

Headteacher's letter to families

Summer Term - 7th June 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, with information about upcoming assessments for Year 7 & 8, and a preview of some of what is on offer locally for students during the summer holidays, now just over six weeks away.



## Attendance Update

Year 9 students have returned newly enthusiastic and focused for their new GCSE courses. Good attendance and punctuality - being in school at least 97% of the time, is a critical factor in making sure that their GCSE studies are successful. Congratulations to 9F, as well as 10W, 8L and 8K, and 7L on having the highest attendance in each year group this week.

With just over 6 weeks left of this academic year, it is so important that all students are in school up to and including 24th July to fully complete their studies and take part in important end of year events such as Sports Day and Work Experience. Please ensure that students are supported to attend on time every day, and that if there is an unavoidable reason for absence this is reported promptly.

## Public exams continue

We would like to commend the Year 11 and post-16 students who are now well past the half way mark in their GCSEs and some of them close to their final exam. They have shown real resilience and responsibility in their preparation and during the exams themselves - just a final push to go!

## Year 7 and 8 Summer Assessments

Further to information sent earlier this week, Year 7 and 8 students have started their summer assessments.

Assessments take place in lesson time, in normal classrooms with their class teacher. The dates of the individual assessments are in students' Satchel calendars.

Assessments take different forms including, tests, extended writing and practical work. The assessments are important for both students and teachers to reflect on student learning over the year and to plan for learning going into next year. They are not an end point, therefore students should not be worried by the assessments but see them as an opportunity to show their best work.

## Camden's 'Moving on' Event for September 2025 Admissions

Mr Altmann, Head of Transition, and I will be joined by students at this event on Thursday to talk to families who will soon begin the process of applying to secondary schools about the reasons William Ellis is the best local choice for boys' education.

This event takes place at the Francis Crick Institute in Kings Cross on 13th June from 4.15pm. If you, or any friends or extended family, have child in Year 3, 4 or 5 currently there are still some [tickets available](#).

## Meet the Parents - informal forums for parents

Meet the Parents are running some June 2024 events for parents of primary pupils. These events allow parents and carers to ask frank questions to families who have recently been through the secondary transition process.

The MTP events being held at local primary schools in June, are:

- 11 June - Fitzjohn's Primary School from 6.30pm
- 18 June - Yerbury Primary School (Islington borough) from 6.30pm
- 19 June - Brookfield Primary School from 6.30pm.

MTP will be putting on more events in September, starting the week of 9 September so [watch this space](#).

Families interested in representing William Ellis at future events should email us at [admin@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) to be put in touch with MTP, or contact them directly via [info@meettheparents.info](mailto:info@meettheparents.info). We would particularly appreciate the support from families who are able to go to their own primary schools, to speak to families and students that they may know.

## Register your child for free school meals and save £500 a year

In Camden, every child who is eligible and signed up to the free school meals scheme receives extra support with food worth £500 a year, including:

- Free breakfast clubs
- Food vouchers in the holidays.

Eligible children in secondary schools can receive free school meals too – but they must be signed up to the scheme.

If you receive certain benefits – including Universal Credit – your child is eligible for this support, so please sign them up today. You can register your child for free school meals at any time – **but if you register by 23 June 2024, we'll send you backdated food vouchers for the May half term, and food vouchers for the summer holidays.** Register at [camden.gov.uk/free-school-meals](https://camden.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

Families with children under 4 or currently expecting a baby can get financial support with buying fruit, vegetables, milk, and more for you and your family. If eligible, you can get a prepaid NHS Healthy Start card with weekly top-ups to spend. To find out more and apply, visit [findfood.camden.gov.uk/healthy-start](https://findfood.camden.gov.uk/healthy-start).

Yours faithfully,

**Izzy Jones**

**Headteacher**



## This week's WESPA Round-Up

### WESPA Round Up | Big visions, International update and Iron Maiden

Dear families,

This week is National Volunteer's Week and I wanted to take a moment to express a huge thank you to all the parents who have helped this year. Whether in person at events, donations from afar, sharing your professional skills at school, kind notes of encouragement, a box of biscuits, or a smile or a hug at a well chosen moment - it all makes such a difference. Thank you.

### William Ellis boys rock Iron Maiden's Karma Sanctum

Congratulations to the William Ellis boys who teamed up with friends from Parliament Hill, Regent High and Camden School for Girls to play an unforgettable gig at Iron Maiden's Soho venue last Sunday. As Bruce Dickinson's Tour Manager said to me '*These kids are AMAZING!!*'. He's not wrong. They absolutely smashed it!

### Year 10 Mock Interviews

Thank you so much to the parents and local business owners who came in to help with the Y10 mock interviews on Monday. And in particular to WESPA Trustee Alex Booij for her amazing work with Diana in the WES Careers Team to make this happen. As parent and volunteer Karen put it:

*... these kids are 'alright'. In fact they are more than alright. These boys had plans. And good ones too. They'd clearly thought about what ignites their future work interests (not a mention of gaming – think learning second languages, playing team sports, wannabe artists, creative future copywriters, pharmacists, engineers and volunteering in their community), where to focus their attention and were ultra clear about their future career vision. They were curious about the workplace, had tons of excellent questions and a superb focus on what they needed to accomplish to get there. Big vision for mid aged teens...*

You can read more about Karen's experience [here](#)

### International Evening 20th June 2024

The highlight of the WESPA calendar is fast approaching and we need you!

- If possible, please bring in a dish or two to share on the night. Nothing is too big or small and everyone's dishes will be greatly welcomed and shared (on a communal table) for everyone to try.
- If you're feeling brave and would like to take to a bigger stage, do a dance routine, a music piece, or something that teaches others about your cultural heritage, we would love to hear from you too.
- And to make this happen, we need volunteers so if you can spare a moment on the day, before, during or after, please let us know.

But most of all, we'd love you to be there. There will be music, food and stalls for all the cultures we share and love at school and we want everybody to be represented. Tickets are free! You can sign up for your ticket [here](#) and you'll be automatically entered into the amazing prize draw.

And in the meantime, have a great weekend. As usual there is lots on. On Saturday it's [Fair in the Square](#) up in Highgate and on Sunday WESPA friends, Growing Green are hosting an Open Wildlife & Kitchen Garden. All

money raised goes to local projects. Tickets are [here](#) and there may be some free ones left. And if you'd rather stay in, why not check out our latest [WESPA Newsletter](#). It's a belter.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

**Coming Up:**

<p><b>Year 11 GCSE Exams</b></p> <p>ALL DAY From 07 May until 21 Jun</p>	07 May
<p><b>Year 13 Exams</b></p> <p>ALL DAY From 13 May until 21 Jun</p>	13 May
<p><b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Exam Week 2</b></p> <p>ALL DAY From 10 Jun until 14 Jun</p>	10 June
<p><b>Year 10 Art &amp; Graphics Mock Exam</b></p> <p>ALL DAY From 10 Jun until 11 Jun</p>	10 June
<p><b>Year 12 Music Trip - 'Beyond the Bassline' at the British Library</b></p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	10 June
<p><b>Early close for staff training - students dismissed at end of Period 4</b></p> <p>1:15PM – 1:30PM</p>	12 June
<p><b>Year 10 Online Information Evening</b></p> <p>6:00PM – 6:45PM</p>	12 June
<p><b>Year 9 Drama Trip - 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at the Duchess Theatre</b></p> <p>12:00PM – 5:00PM</p>	13 June
<p><b>Camden's 'Moving on' Event for 2025 Admissions - at the Francis Crick Institute</b></p> <p>4:00PM – 7:00PM</p>	13 June
<p><b>Year 10 Exam Week 1</b></p> <p>ALL DAY From 17 Jun until 21 Jun</p>	17 June
<p><b>Year 10 Food Technology Trip</b></p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	18 June
<p><b>Year 8 Donmar Warehouse 'Macbeth' performance event</b></p>	18 June

8:50AM – 1:00PM