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Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear families

Welcome to this slightly delayed letter, that would have normally come to you on a Friday. We had delayed communication in the hope that there would be talks between the government and the NEU to avoid strike action this week, but sadly that has not happened. Therefore, please find below information about arrangements for strike days this week as well as some other updates.

### Arrangements for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March** and **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March** the NEU are intending to take strike action as part of a national campaign. As the vast majority of William Ellis teachers are NEU members, the **school will be closed to students in years 7-10** unless they are invited in for a specific intervention e.g. a counselling or mentoring session. Students on free school meals will receive credit on ParentPay that students can use on other days.

Year 11 students will be completing English and Maths mock exams over the two strike days to minimise disruption to teaching on other days. Further information has been sent to students directly around the arrangements. All normal exam regulations, for example about mobile phones and uniform, will apply. This is important preparation for their GCSEs. If Year 11s would like to remain on site after the examinations for private study, we need parents to email Mr Scott [scott@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:scott@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) so that we know who is attending. Normal behaviour expectations will need to be met if students are studying and there will be minimal lunch service on that day.

Year 13 A Level students will be sitting mock exams during these two days, and should attend these as follows:

- Wednesday morning: Economics, Product design
- Wednesday afternoon: Chemistry, Media
- Thursday morning: Business, Business Applied, Film Studies, Further Maths, Religious Studies
- Thursday afternoon: Maths, Maths Studies

Students should attend the school that they are taught at for that subject – so, for example if they study Economics at WES and Maths at PHS, they should go to WES on Wednesday morning and PHS on Thursday afternoon. Exams that would have been held at LSU on these days will happen in WES for morning exams and PHS for afternoon exams. **For morning exams, students should arrive at the school at 8.30am and for afternoon exams, students should arrive at 1pm.**

Year 12 and 13 students will be able to use the 6<sup>th</sup> form centre for private study between 9am and 3pm on that day.

If we are able to open up the school further as the picture around strike action changes, we will let you know.

## **Literacy: Year 7 and 8 Reading Road Map**

The Year 7 & 8 Reading Road Map features 35 titles and authors, hand-picked by our librarians. Like our other Maps its main focus is raising literacy levels through reading for pleasure. The jump from Primary to Secondary often sees a dip in reading interest. As mentioned above we believe that reading for pleasure is the best way to increase literacy levels. the more students read, the better their literacy skills. By having access to the titles on the Map, students will be able to expand on what they would normally read, and open up to new authors and different writing styles. You can find out more information about the Map and how to use it to support reading at home here: <https://www.ukreadingroadmap.org/>

## **Praise and Rewards**

We know from feedback that students and families want us to give a higher profile to praise and rewards in the school. Going forwards, we are introducing the following elements of visible praise for students:

- Regular phonecalls home for students who are recognised for their efforts and progress in subject areas
- Passes for priority lunch queue access on Fridays
- Notifications home to families when students reach praise thresholds

Do watch this space for further developments and feedback from students on how the system is supporting them with their learning and behaviour.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones,  
Headteacher