



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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Dear Families,

We hope you are well and you have enjoyed the summer. We are excited to welcome all students to school tomorrow – Year 7 and 12 for their induction days, and all other students at 1:30pm for the launch of the new school year. You will have seen in the news nationwide disruption to schools re-opening because of the concerns about building safety, but the school year for us will be able to start as planned.

We thought it would be handy to share some reminders and top tips for making sure that this September starts off on the right foot. Whether you are joining William Ellis or returning to us after the summer, these should be helpful.

Healthy sleep and routines – if it hasn't already started, now is the time to make sure that school bedtimes and get up times are reimposed. We all know how much of a shock an early start can be after even a few days of holiday, so it is vital that students get back into this routine for next week.

Journeys to school – students should be comfortable and confident in their journeys to school and take time getting to know their ideal and alternative travel routes while the daylight hours are longer. We know that some students are affected by the closure of Kentish Town underground station and so will be needing to plan new routes. It is also likely to make local bus routes busier and slower than usual. All students must leave enough time for their journeys to school, including for normal busy traffic on bus routes.

Screen/mobile use – easier said than done, we know, but the rules around access to screens/consoles etc. at home need to be restarted if these have slipped over the holiday. As with the above, getting these back in place is key to a good start to the school year. A reminder also that throughout the school year it is expected that students are supported to manage their access and use of phones/consoles etc. at home so that they are able to focus on their studies.

Equipment – nothing worse than not having the right tools for the job. Students are expected to come to school with all the books and equipment they will need for the lessons they have timetabled each day:

- A fully stocked pencil case including blue and black ballpoint pens; pencil; pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; protractor and colouring pencils. Gluestick and highlighter pens optional.
- Reusable water bottle
- Exercise books - the school will provide exercise books for each subject which students are then responsible for keeping safe and bringing to school each day
- PE kit (this may include studs for football and/or gum shield for rugby)

Uniform – essential that school uniform items are checked in advance of next week in case bigger sizes are needed – time to dust off last year's school shoes and make sure they fit! Our uniform code is published [on our website here](#). We know that affordability and sustainability of our uniform is important to many students and families:

- Most uniform items can be purchased from any high street or online shop, new or second hand.
- WESPA are organising a tabletop uniform sale of pre-owned uniform tomorrow, 6th September, 12.30-1.30pm.

Attendance – this year’s GCSE results were testament to the students’ hard work, but one thing which came through loud and clear when looking at those who did not quite get what they wanted: poor attendance. A reminder that we expect student attendance to be at or above 97%. This is something we will be talking to students about at the start of the year, and throughout. We will not get them what they deserve if they are not here regularly. Parents are particularly reminded that holidays and visits must not be booked in term time for any reason.

We have also listened to feedback from students, families and our Camden partners and have made some changes for this school year:

1. **Presentation and organisation of work** supports all students in their reading – particularly their retention of important information and being able to connect ideas. All students will be issued with clear guidelines on how to lay out and present their works in their early lessons with their teachers. Year 10 students who had this as part of their GCSE introduction told us that they found it useful, and we also saw an improvement in their work as a result.
2. We have listened to feedback from families and will move back this year to **face to face parents’ evenings for all year groups**, but retain the online SchoolCloud booking system. Detailed information and dates will be communicated to individual year groups. Some other events, such as information evenings, may still take place online.
3. A reminder that **the school day will operate this year with a single break at 10:50 and lunch for all students at 1:10pm**. We listened carefully to students and staff about the advantages and disadvantages of this move and have made this decision to support focused learning in lessons, the provision of clubs and activities that students have asked for and for staff to be able to plan effective teaching and learning. Year 7 students will have a slightly earlier lunch. Full details will be communicated to students when they arrive for their new year launch session and induction. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the effect of this change.

When students return, they should see some extensive refurbishment work including the toilets, our Computing Suite and a new Science laboratory. There have also been improvements to facilities in the playground so that they can use this important time to build strong relationships.

Lastly, sometimes families relocate over the summer, which is very exciting, but can leave us worried about where people are when we do not see them on the first day. If you have moved or your child/children have changed schools over the summer, please do contact us at info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

All the teachers, admin and support staff are looking forward to a successful year and to welcoming students to school tomorrow.

As always, thank you for all your support – it is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher