



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
HIGHGATE ROAD  
LONDON  
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

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7th September 2023

Dear families

I hope that you have all had a positive return to September routines and that our students have returned home having had positive experiences at school. I am writing home in this letter with some updates and items before our first newsletter edition, and with an accompanying communication guide that we hope will support further strengthened relationships across our school community.

### **Attendance at school**

Like other schools nationally, we recognise the importance of excellent attendance to support students' academic achievement and well-being. It is particularly important that students get into good routines of attendance and punctuality at the start of the year, and I wrote in our [letter on 5<sup>th</sup> September](#) about how we expect families to support this at home. Recent data analysis shows that one in five students nationwide are "persistently absent" and that 58% of Year 7-11 students who missed school at the start of the year went on to miss at least 10% of sessions across the whole academic year. This was true for 13% of Year 1-6 and 21% of Year 7-11 students who were ever-present at the start of the year. So students who missed school at the start of the year were 2.7 times more likely to be persistently absent than those who didn't.

We want to work to support students to attend school, and also work with families to fully address any reasons why students are reluctant to attend. For us to do this, we must insist that you follow [our absence procedures](#). Although it is tempting, I know, for families to plan holidays or other visits outside of school holidays because the prices are so different, these absences will not be authorised. Any other requests for planned absence must be made using the forms available online.

### **Welcome to new staff**

We welcome to the school several new staff who I would like to introduce you to:

- Mr G Canning, Acting Head of Drama
- Ms T Cunningham and Ms S Begum, English teachers
- Ms J Fejzulahi, RE teacher
- Ms R Rodgers, Head of Languages
- Ms J Holderer, Deputy Head of Languages
- Mr D Araujo, SENDCO
- Ms M Msiawete and Ms K Bando-Hines, Teaching and Learning Assistants

We also welcome back to school Ms E Lawson and Ms F Neve, returning from maternity leave.

I hope that students establish positive relationships with these staff in their early lessons, and that you will be able to meet them at one of the events listed below.

We have had a few staff leave us to move on to new opportunities or relocate outside London over the summer, and this has led to a few changes to form tutors. The following form groups have new tutors:

9B – Ms U Rodgers, Head of Languages  
10B – Mr G Vettiankal, Head of Maths and Computing  
10K – Mr S Fuller, Deputy Head of Science  
13JFE - Ms J Fejzulahi, RE teacher

## Key dates for the coming term

11th September	Information Evening for Year 7 parents/carers
12th September	School photographs (individual photos for Years 7 and 10, Form Group photos for Years 7 and 11)
w.b 18th September	Year 7 camp
18th September	Year 12 School photographs
20th September	Information Evening for Year 9 parents/carers
26th September	WESPA Meeting
28th September	Open Evening for Year 7 entry in September 2024 <i>There will be an early close on this day, with students dismissed at 1.10pm, and a late start on 29th September, with morning registration at 9.35am</i>
29th September	WESPA Fun Run for students in Years 7-9
3rd 4th, 10th October	Open Mornings for Year 7 entry in September 2024
21st November	WESPA Meeting
23rd November	LaSWAP Open Evening

## Parents' Evenings

*We plan to host Parents' Evenings on the following dates this academic year. Any changes to these dates will be communicated to families in due course.*

30th November 2023	Year 13 Parents' Evening
7th December 2023	Year 7 Parents' Evening
11th January 2024	Year 9 Parents' Evening
31st January 2024	Year 11 Parents' Evening
7th March 2024	Year 10 Parents' Evening
14th March 2024	Year 12 Parents' Evening
2nd May 2024	Year 8 Parents' Evening

This year's term dates can be found on our website: [www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/term-dates](http://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/term-dates)

Finally, I have had a small number of queries from parents this week about uniform given the unusually hot September weather. Uniform is an important part of our routines in welcoming students back to school for the new year, but if the weather is hotter again in coming weeks we would move to our hot weather contingency, with students able to come to school in their PE kit. Thank you to those of you who took responded to the WESPA uniform survey in the summer. I look forward to reviewing the findings this term.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher

Izzy Jones  
Headteacher



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### **Camden and Islington Parental Support Project**

Please find below links to some useful webinars around supporting young people that may be of interest. These are run by The Camden & Islington Parental Support Project.

#### **Understanding the impact of Trauma with young people and how we can support them**

Please Join us online on zoom  
Date: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Time: 6pm-8pm

*Guest Speakers: Dr Julia Jenkinson,  
Parent Empowerment Champion: Debbie Felix*

Parents/Carers can sign up direct on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-the-impact-of-trauma-with-young-people-and-how-we-can-support-tickets-699617132677?aff=oddtcreator>

#### **Why do some young people carry a bladed article?**

Please Join us online on zoom  
Date: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Time: 6pm-8pm

*Guest Speakers: Marcel Campbell & Eldridge Loftman*

Parents/Carers can sign up direct on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-do-some-young-people-carry-a-bladed-article-tickets-699628556847?aff=oddtcreator>