

William Ellis School
News Update
(6th October 2023)



Dear families,

In response to feedback from some parents, this week's newsletter combines information and messages from school and from WESPA in one place. I'd like to thank the whole WESPA team for the work they do to support the school – please do read right to the end to find out more about their current activities.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month, and as always, we have a range of curriculum and enrichment activities to engage with across the school community. Here are some highlights:

- The **Student Council elections include representatives who are Equalities and Diversity Champions**, whose particular brief is to promote the celebration and recognition of all identities and cultures across the school and each year they present to the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body. They have helped us to identify gaps in the curriculum where equalities, inclusion and diversity could be better addressed.
- **Curriculum planning** to support diversity is important, particularly at Key Stage Three where there is more flexibility in what is taught. As you can see from the table below, this happens in many subjects particularly the Arts and Humanities and takes place across the year in a way that is fully embedded and properly sequenced, not as a one-off effort in October. Each department continues to consider the importance of representation and celebration as they review their curriculum each year, and so this model is ever-changing.
- Over the next two weeks assemblies will address themes within Black History Month for the whole school, including participation in the national Great Big Live Assembly looking at this year's BHM theme, "Celebrate Our Sisters"

Look out for more Black History Month notices here, and equalities and diversity work throughout the year.

Attendance to school

Our attendance so far this year is an improvement on the same period for 2022, for each year group and the whole school. However, there has been an increase in the number of students reporting as sick during the day or not attending school due to illness. Although this is always likely as we get closer to winter, the NHS have produced some useful advice for families here:

- [Is my child too ill for school?](#) NHS advice page
- [Get Winter Strong: revisiting respiratory infection guidance for a safer season](#) UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) blog
- [A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year](#) UKHSA Blog

Open events and Meet The Parents

I would like to thank all the students who have supported us recently to open the school to prospective students and their families, either by guiding or speaking at open mornings and evening, or by attending the Meet The Parents events hosted by local primary schools. Visitors were very positive about what they saw, and consistently impressed by the maturity and responsibility shown by our students. Please pass on my thanks.

Finally, the Non-Uniform Day on 20th October will support RBL's annual Poppy Appeal, as selected by the student council. The school office will also have a stock of poppies and other RBL branded items available from Monday for students and families wishing to make an additional donation to this cause.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher

Equalities Across the Curriculum at Key Stage 3

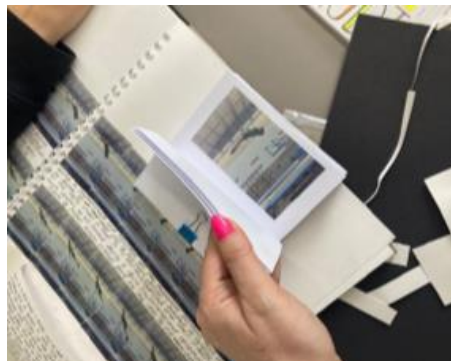
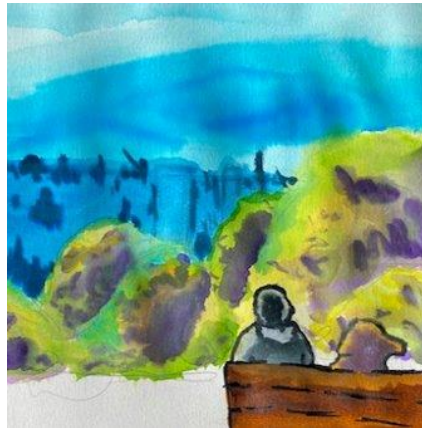
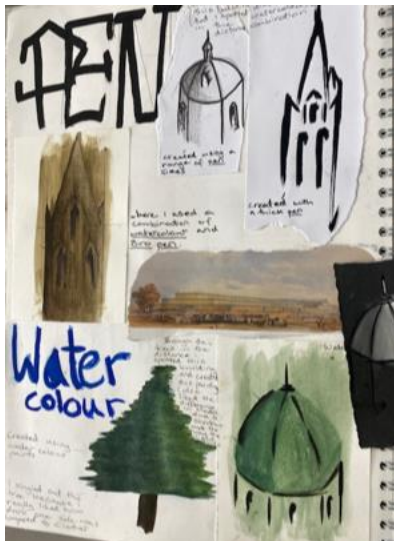
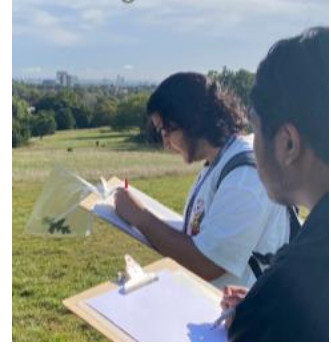
	English	Drama	Geography	RE	History	MFL	Music	Art
Year 7	<p>'Two Weeks with the Queen' (LGBT)</p> <p>Creative writing in all year groups in which celebrates students' own identities</p>	<p>Abu Kassim from 1001 Nights (Green Children linked to refugees/asylum seekers - Lam and Jamal)</p> <p>Shyboy & Yahoo (unequal relationships)</p>	<p>My Home Region</p>		<p>Medieval Islamic culture & society</p> <p>Muslim thinkers, doctors & inventors</p> <p>Peasant Revolts (Power in Medieval Period)</p>		<p>Indonesian Gamelan</p> <p>Pieces written and performed by people of colour including 'Next To Me' by Emilie Sande,' Jocelyn Flores' by Tentacion, 'Havana' by Camila Cabello.</p>	<p>Making face pots which were made by slaves in the US as grave markers</p> <p>Van Gogh (work about mental health). Portraiture - look at different artists and how and why they made portraits.</p>
Year 8	<p>'Dr Faustus' (Power)</p> <p>Identity poetry</p>	<p>Refugees (Jamal), Ayden's story and 'Love, Simon' (celebrating LGBT and exploring homophobia)</p>		<p>The role of oppression of religion, values/morals of Christianity and impact on world today.</p> <p>Islamophobia in the world today, conflict and resolution</p>	<p>Working class strikes & protests (Industrial Revolution)</p> <p>Anti-Slavery / Empire (British Empire)</p> <p>Experience of colonial subjects (Ghandi in India, Native Americans, India, Africa)</p> <p>Rise of Hitler</p>	<p>Spanish - Latin American countries and cultures</p>	<p>Samba music – from Brazil with roots in Africa</p> <p>Blues Music</p>	<p>Text in Art - artists including street art and how this is displayed</p>
Year 9	<p>'Animal Farm'</p> <p>'Othello'</p> <p>Poetry</p>	<p>Black Sheep (racism, Cornelius Walker)</p> <p>Youth crime and justice system (role of ethnicity in this)</p> <p>Black Sheep; Monologue to my Younger Self</p>	<p>Development: Ghana, Colonial rule by the British, impact of the slave trade</p>	<p>Toleration and diversity within Israel and Palestine</p>	<p>Contributions of British Empire during WW1</p> <p>Black American soldiers during WW2</p> <p>Socialist / Communist thinkers like Rosa Luxembourg, Karl Marx</p> <p>Jewish persecution</p>	<p>German - migration into Germany from other countries.</p>	<p>Japanese Taiko drumming</p>	<p>Students learn about Banksy and consider some issues in society and make a political artwork</p>

Year 12 Art Project

Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

Year 12 Art and Graphics students made an excellent start to their project 'Recording in Art and Graphics' when they went on a walk to the Heath to think about how to record using different media.

They have produced drawings, photographs and poems and a flick book to try and record their journey.



SEND Notice:



**SEN Support workshop
For Camden parents & carers**



When Wednesday 11th October, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Where Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB

This is a great information session for any parents & carers with a child who receives SEN Support in mainstream school

What will you get out of it?

Understanding of the terms SEN Support
Establish how needs and support should be assessed and monitored
Signposting to further resources
Confidence in attending IEP/Support plan meetings

This very informative session will be delivered by Julie Bidgway who is the manager for Camden **SENDIASS** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service).

To book onto this workshop please email Maria.schultz@kids.org.uk or call to make your booking on 07826 671 523

Please do keep an eye on facebook for general information, add your name to our contact list and keep in touch. <https://www.facebook.com/CamdenSpecialParentsForum>



One-to-one Music Lessons

Oliver Singleton, Head of Music

At William Ellis we offer one-to-one music lessons in a range of instruments including the following:

Drum Kit, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Electric Guitar, Piano, Violin, Cello, Trumpet, Trombone, Cornet, French Horn, Euphonium, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Recorder, Voice, Music Technology, DJing, Music Theory and Composing.

If your child would like to become proficient in an instrument and take up an instrument lesson, please complete the Music Department's [extra-curricular lessons application form](#).

These lessons take place weekly at different times to avoid disruption to the same lessons. As well as being highly rewarding, taking regular instrument lessons can have significant benefits to other subjects and can help candidates when they come to apply for university.

If you have any questions about the instrumental music lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the William Ellis Music Administrator at williamellismusic@gmail.com

WESPA Round-Up

Al Mobbs, WESPA Chair

Dear families,

The WESPA inbox has been buzzing these last few weeks - initiatives with local charities for our outside spaces, chat on potential debating and eco groups for our boys, and a flood of emails from fellow parents wanting to get involved with the various WESPA and school goings on. If you're not already in the loop, let me know and you too can join the fun.

Fun Run 2023

What a great turn out and a huge well done to everyone for running to raise money for the school. Thank you very much to Mirzeta for running everything on the day, to all the parents who helped out, everybody who came to watch and to our esteemed head of PE Josh Levitt for organising the run. It's a great thing to do and a great way for the boys to take an active role in raising money for their school.

Thank you also to the parents who have donated. So far we have raised over £2K which will help buy new fitness equipment for our boys. The [Givey page](#) will stay open for another week so if you haven't had time to chip in yet, please follow the link. And if you just happen to be friends with any companies who'd like to support our school and can afford to donate, please do not hesitate to share - every pound counts.

Meet the Parents

A HUGE thank you to our families who have been heading off to all corners of the borough representing WES at the [Meet the Parents](#) events over the last month. Run by Camden parents Madeleine and Sue, they help bridge the gap between primary and secondary but more importantly help bring all our Camden community together and celebrate what all our secondary schools can do with unique insights from the students themselves.

WESPA Social

And last but not least... I bring news of the first WESPA Social of the school year on Wednesday 18th October.

The Lion & Unicorn
42-44 Gaisford St, London NW5 2ED
7-10pm

Hang out with some friends, meet new parents and chat to members of the WESPA team. Everybody is welcome, even our beloved drama doyen Jeremy Pratt has been known to sit in on occasion.

As always, if you have any WESPA related questions, please email williamellispa@gmail.com and if you are looking for ideas for next weekend, why not head down to our residential centre The Mill for a Working Weekend. The next one is 13th-15th October and George Court (WES Head of Adventure) has 16 spaces in the minibus.

See you on the 18th if not before.

Best wishes,

Al
Chair WESPA