



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
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13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear families

Thank you for your support this week as students in years 7-10 have completed in-class assessments, or are preparing for them next week. There are some items to share with you below, and notices from WESPA.

### **Events in Israel and Gaza**

The terror attack in Israel and the aftermath has shocked our community. We are very conscious that news of the unfolding events will have caused anxiety and distress. Our thoughts are with individuals and families in our school community who are directly affected.

We know that students will need safe spaces to talk about their feelings and some will need support. I want to assure you that staff always take a position of political neutrality whilst also responding to young people's worries and questions. We will facilitate safe discussion but do not permit unorganised political campaigning in school. This includes unauthorised displays of posters and flags. The pledges of the Student Council, our 5Rs and our school policies all advocate and expect toleration, respect, and personal responsibility. Any conversation about these challenging and complex events should be approached by all accordingly. We have reminded students of this and will do so again as the need arises.

Responsible use of social media is essential. We have been made aware of unhelpful content on *TikTok* which includes highly distressing images. We encourage parents and families to discuss the importance of using social media safely and responsibly.

If you feel that an individual student needs additional support or you wish to discuss specific concerns, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or Head of Year.

### **Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Day - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

This day next week aims to raise awareness of DLD. Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a type of speech, language and communication need (SLCN) that affects the way that children understand and use language. DLD increases the risk of a range of negative impacts on education, employment, and social and emotional problems, but appropriate support can make a difference. DLD affects 7.58% of children.

Our Speech and Language Therapist, Ms Johnson, is hosting an information session for families of students identified as having DLD on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 3:30 – 4:45pm. Families of other students are welcome to attend if they have a particular interest – please email [johnson@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:johnson@williamellis.camden.sch.uk) to let her know that you would like to attend.

### **School Uniform purchases**

WESPA regularly organises sales of used but clean and wearable school uniform around school events, as well as distributing some uniform items free of charge. However, for those families who need to purchase uniform new, our school uniform supplier, SWI Schoolwear, is offering 20% off all orders placed between 16<sup>th</sup> October

2023 - 22nd October 2023. If you need to top up on any uniform or P.E kit items or need a refresh of your everyday essentials and stationery for after half term use code **DEAL20** at the checkout.

[www.swischoolwear.co.uk](http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher

## **WESPA Round up**

Well done again to everybody who ran in the Fun Run and thank you to everybody who sponsored the boys. Together we have raised over £2500! Combined with money left over from the run last year, we have reached our target of £4K and this will enable Josh Levitt and the PE Department to refit the gym.

And on the subject of running, a big well done to our Deputy Headteacher Bernard Lane for steaming around the Royal Parks Half Marathon last weekend in a very impressive 1hr 42mins. Wow!

## **WESPA AGM | 21st November 2023**

Following the calibre of biscuits at the last meeting, I expect the next WESPA meeting to be packed to the gills. So cast aside any FoMO and etch the 21st November into your calendars.

*WESPA AGM and General Meeting*

*William Ellis School Library*

*6.30-8pm, 21st November*

## **WESPA Trustees Election**

At our AGM, all Trustees will stand down and, if they wish, put themselves forward for re-election. This year, Galit, Alex and I will stand again and we welcome new parents who would like to join the Committee. It is a very rewarding and important role that helps our school and our boys. WESPA is in great shape and growing fast so if you have ideas and energy to share, it is a great time to consider it. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com)

Whether you are in London or helping out at the Mill, I wish you all a very happy weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you at the WESPA Social next Wednesday 18th October at the Lion & Unicorn.