

William Ellis School
News Update
(20th October 2023)



Dear families,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, detailing many of the extracurricular opportunities, including trips and visits, that have taken place in recent weeks. There are also reminders below of many of the after school and lunchtime clubs that are taking place on a weekly basis.

This is a reminder that **school will re-start for students on Tuesday 31st October at 8:30am**, as Monday is a Professional Development Day for staff.

Attendance to school

I would like to congratulate the following tutor groups for their excellent attendance this half term – all 95% or higher:

- 11K, 11W
- 8F, 8W, 8L, 8K
- 7B, 7L, 7F

We know that attendance to school is one of the strongest predictors of success and student wellbeing, and that students who have attendance less than 95% are at significant risk of underachievement. They also enjoy school less.

As we go into half term, I realise the pressures around visiting family and travelling outside of holiday time. However, according to law students must be in school for the 190 days per year that it is open to them. Please do your utmost to ensure that students are in school up to and including Friday 22nd December.

I hope that you have a calm and settled half term break, and thank you for all your efforts to support students and work in partnership with us so far this year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Izzy Jones'.

Izzy Jones, Headteacher

Year 8 Notices

Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 8

Good day all,

I would like to thank all the boys who participated so well to the 3K run at the end of last month, and congratulate the ones who have made it into the Cross Country Team.

Below you will find a more complete extra-curricular activities timetable for the term. We have had some posters put up around the school and a presentation has been shown in registration for the boys to discuss what clubs they could join. Please encourage your son to take part in these enriching extra-curricular activities.

I hope you have all enjoyed the few extra days of sunshine we have had this week before getting our umbrellas out and looking forward to the next weekend.

Before saying goodbye and wishing you a good break, may I kindly ask you to remind boys to wear their blazers.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time clubs				
Maths Sparx club For homework – Room 8 Lunch time 12.15 Languages: spelling B	Bengali club room 12 MFL – riddle club room 20	MFL Mandarin club Ms Xi Room L02	Computer Science Coding Room 30 Week B	Music Choir room 48 Mr Singleton
Chess club Room 4 & library Textile club week B Room 42	Drawing relaxing club In Lo2 with Ms Mercier Peart	Food tech club Food tech room	Anime/comic club Debates, Drawing Games, Origami, Comics Mr Denning-Sen Room32	Maths Sparx club Room 31 Latin club Room 26
Lunch time Library / reading & chess	Lunch time Library / reading & chess	Lunch time Library / reading & chess	Lunch time Library / reading & chess	Lunch time Library / reading & chess
After school clubs – 3.15pm to 4.00pm / 4.30pm				
Drama Drama club Drama studio		Bengali club Room 12		Art Catch up in Art room Ceramics club week A room 40
Homework Club Ms Mercier Peart & TA Room L02	Homework club Ms Mercier Peart & TA Room L02	Homework club Ms Mercier Peart & TA Room L02		

Gerard Canning, Head of Drama:

Year Eleven Drama students at *Guys and Dolls* at Bridge Theatre

Immersive theatre is a joy and a challenge, and the 16 Year 11 GCSE Drama students made the plunge at the Bridge Theatre into a glorious production of *Guys and Dolls*, where floors moved and perspectives altered and everyone got very up close and personal with the sewers of New York, the HotBox Bar and the nightclubs of Havana.

The production was very enthusiastically received by the boys who will now go on to tease out all of its glories for their GCSE Mock Examination. The actors mingled with the audience both on stage and in the foyer afterwards and Malik had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of one of its stars! He reported back thus:

‘Mr Nicely Nicely (in the orange), was played by Cedric Neal, who did an incredible job in portraying the character. I met him shortly after the play had finished and took this picture. He was very respectful, and loved talking to other people that had watched the production’.



Year 9 Drama ‘Skill Up’ with Go Live Theatre Projects



*The serious business of making blood
(workshop 4: SFX Stage Make-up)*

Prospective GCSE Drama students in Year 9 have been flexing some of their performance muscles in a series of workshops in skills that they might not ordinarily find in the curriculum. First off (and highly popular) was ‘Stage Combat’ where pushes, slaps and punches were delivered with minimum contact and maximum illusory effect. The boys were disciplined and powerful.

This was followed by ‘Comedy Improv’ where the focus was creating comedy together by adding and building high-energy and very expressive physical skills which helped make this a great success.

The third in the series was a mock-up of life for an actor and director in front of the camera on a Film/TV set. By now the boys were experts at collaborative creativity and the work was swift, smart and used some of the previous workshop skills beautifully.

As I write they will head into their final workshop on ‘SFX Stage Make-Up’ where I’m sure the results will be bloody and terrifying! A great set of practitioners from Go Live Theatre Projects combined with a fantastically talented group of Year 9 boys to make this a special experience.

Year 13 Spanish trip to Andalucía
Joely Pritchett, MFL Teacher

Sami Miah, a Year 13 student who has been a WES student since Year 7, writes:

“Two weeks ago, our Spanish class visited La Cala del Moral, a coastal town in the south of Spain. Living with Spanish families, and teaching at the local school, we absorbed language and traditions firsthand whilst the beach, and its crystal clear waters, provided a spot to relax and a place where our group could really bond - and almost kill each other with volleyballs!

We also watched a flamenco show and then we learned some moves. Finally, we visited the Alcazaba, an Islamic fortress overlooking Málaga, which left us breathless, both in awe and from the long trek up the stairs, and was the perfect, picturesque way to end our story in Spain. And the food! From paella to churros, Spanish cuisine just hits the spot!

This trip really immersed us in Spanish culture and language and has taught us new things that we otherwise would not have known. This experience was amazing and to create these memories with this group of people was a great joy.”



MFL Events

Una Rodgers, Head of MFL

European Day of Languages:

During the week of 25th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages with special assemblies (students were very surprised that only 25% of the world's population speaks English!). There were quizzes during form time as well as TedEd talks about the benefits of bilingualism. Congratulations to William in 8K, winning the prize for the quiz, and for Philip in 9B for most correct answers on the bilingualism questions.

Spelling Bee:

The MFL department is excited to announce that we are running the French Spelling Bee competition this year; Students in Year 7 have been practicing already and have come up with great ways to remember their accents. Great start, and keep it up Donnie, Neron, Otis & Joachim in 7B.

Year 9 Othello Workshop

Lorna Damms, Head of English

On October 2nd, 40 Year 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to work with a team from UCL Institute of Education in a morning workshop on the Shakespeare play 'Othello'. This play is on the curriculum in the spring of Year 9 and the two-hour workshop served as an introduction to its themes as well as to collaborative approaches to reading and exploring the text. The workshop was led by Dr John Yandell who brought a dozen PGCE student teachers with him to work with some of our lovely Year 9s. We were all so impressed by the Year 9s' inventiveness, their insight and by how far their performance work progressed in the space of the morning.

We were lucky, too, to have some of the students' work filmed by two talented Year 13 film studies students, Taner and Ophelia from Ms Kreizman's class. This means we will be able to show all the Year 9s what was done in the workshop and it will be an introduction to the text that can then be built upon in the spring.

We know the students enjoyed the morning and found themselves doing impressive interpretations of fragments of the play. John Yandell commented that "They entered into the activities with energy, enthusiasm and imagination – and they can be proud of what they produced." Below are pictures from some of the warm-up activities.



Year 12 EPQ Trip to The British Library

Flora Wilson, Director of Sixth Form

Adam in Year 12 writes:

"We visited the British Library on Monday and got the chance to meet Sally Kindberg, an author, illustrator, and comic strip maker. She taught us how to effectively plan, write, and edit essays, which was particularly useful for those studying essay-based subjects or doing an EPQ. Later, we were given a tour of the library and got to see an Enigma machine at The Alan Turing Institute."

WESPA Round Up
Al Mobbs, WESPA Chair

WESPA October newsletter and happy half term

Dear families,

It always surprises me how quickly half term comes around in the Autumn term. Congratulations to all the boys for getting stuck in this term and especially so to those who represented the school on the open days - word on the street has been really positive. And well done to all our new parents. There is a lot to learn in a short space of time and everybody has done really well. As ever, if you need help or support, there is a WESPA group not far away!

It was great to see so many of you at the last WESPA meeting and lovely to catch up at the WESPA social this week. There are so many great ideas floating around and it is a pleasure to be amongst such luminary parents. As ever, if you have an idea, want to get involved or just fancy meeting other parents, please get in touch.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the October edition of the WESPA Newsletter. It can be found here along with all the previous issues.

<https://sites.google.com/view/williamellispa/news>

Have a great half term.