



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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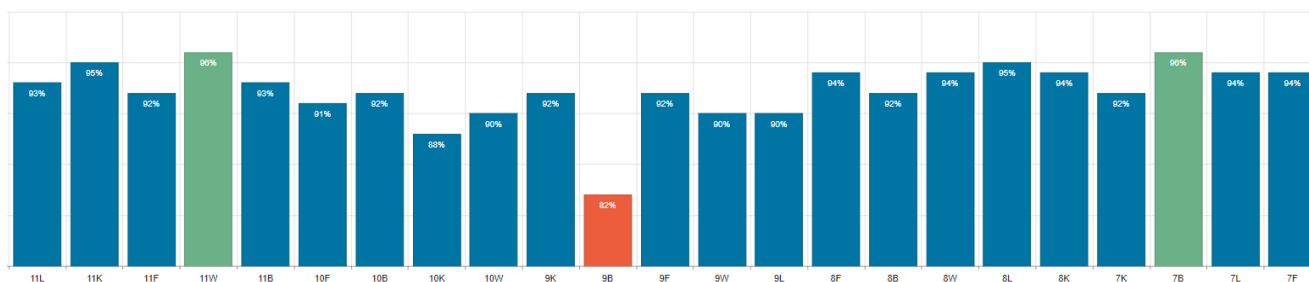
3rd November 2023

Dear families

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
- 8L
- 7B



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.

Supporting appropriate use of social media: an information evening for parents and carers, Wednesday 29th November at 5:30-6:30pm

In a few weeks we will be leading an evening for parents and carers to develop everyone's understanding of how to support our students with using social media appropriately, how to navigate the challenges it presents and different types of online content and interaction. We will be presenting jointly with colleagues from Middlesex University, who are also supporting us to run similar sessions for students in February, as they did earlier this year. This event is open to parents and carers of all students in years 7 to 13, and so to manage the number of attendees please complete [this short online form](#) if you wish to attend. There is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you would like us to address during the session.

Parents' Evenings and MCAS

Over the last three academic years, we used an online platform to conduct most of our Parents' Evenings but understand the important opportunity to develop relationships with students' families that face-to-face meetings provide. We will therefore be returning to in-person Parents' Evenings for all year groups this academic year.

Parents' Evening Dates

Thursday 30th November 2023 – Year 13 Parents' Evening

Thursday 7th December 2023 – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th January 2024 – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 31st January 2024 – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 7th March 2024 – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th March 2024 – Year 12 Parents' Evening

Thursday 2nd May 2024 – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Appointment booking for Parents' Evenings will be via your child's MCAS account. You will be notified when booking opens for your child's year group. If you do not already regularly use MCAS, please click on the following link to set up your account: <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSForgottenLogin> (you will need to use the email address to which this newsletter has been sent).

If you need support in setting up an account or if you have queries about an existing account, guidance can be found here: <https://docs.bromcom.com/article-categories/for-parents/>. You can also contact us via info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

MCAS is also used for issuing academic progress information and grade sheets and parents/carers can monitor behaviour and attendance information from this portal. Please do use the portal to engage with your child's education if you do not already do so.

Key dates for this half term

- 6th-13th November GCSE resit exams
- 15th November Creative Industries Careers Fair trip for Year 9 students
- 16th November Year 9 Drama 'Skill Up' Group Theatre trip
- 23rd November **LaSWAP Open Evening**
- School will close early on this day, with students dismissed at 1.10pm
- 24th November **Staff Professional Development Day**
- 28th November Parents' meeting for Year 9 Camp
- 29th November Social Media Information Event (*see above*)
- 30th November Year 13 Parents' Evening (at Acland Burghley)
- 6th December Winter Entertainment Evening
- 7th December Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 12th December Flu Vaccine (nasal spray) for all students in Years 7-11
- 11th-20th December Year 11 Mock Exams
- 21st December Last day of Autumn term

The PE department have published an updated timetable of extra-curricular activities for this half term on the school website. The timetable can be viewed [here](#).

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher



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WESPA Round Up | New guitar racks, parent skills and WESPA Trustees election

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope you have had restful and enjoyable half term breaks.

In Kind

In the last WESPA newsletter ([here](#) for anybody who missed it) I interviewed Oliver Singleton, our wonderful head of music. We have an amazing tradition of music at the school and at WESPA we are keen to help Ollie as much as possible in his mission to deliver an outstanding musical education to all WES students.

One can not deny that budgets are tight and an area that we can help is by lending our skills to the school. I wanted to express huge thanks to Year 8 dad, Michael for building some wonderful bespoke guitar racks. These, coupled with the instrument repair work just before half term, has saved the department over £1000 meaning the department budget can be spent elsewhere on even more musical opportunities for our boys.

Currently, parents are already helping with architectural advice, environmental and conservation guidance as well as the more practical skills mentioned above. If you would like to offer your skills to school, in any area whether it be your job or your hobby, please add your name to the [WESPA Parents Skills list](#) and join the parents already making a difference.

WESPA AGM and Trustees Election

If you haven't already, please note the date of the next WESPA meeting. It will also be our AGM and a chance for new Trustees to join the Committee. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please email williamellispa@gmail.com

*WESPA AGM and General Meeting
William Ellis School Library
6.30-8pm, 21st November*

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,
Al
Chair WESPA