



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
HIGHGATE ROAD  
LONDON  
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

TEL: 020 7267 9346  
www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk  
info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Dear families,

### Attendance

I'd like to congratulate the following forms on their attendance this week: **11W (with 98% attendance), 10K, 9F, 8B, 8W and 7K (also 98%)**. Year 7 have the best attendance overall this week, followed by Year 11. You can check an individual student's attendance using the MCAS app.

We know that some students are feeling a little unwell as we go into the winter, but it is important that students come into school every day that they are well enough to, right up to the end of term. We will be rewarding students who have excellent attendance in assemblies at the end of term.

### Travel and road safety

**As it gets closer to the shortest day of the year, we would advise you to help students plan to travel home from school with at least one friend or neighbour.** We know that there is a risk of crime towards younger students in particular when they are travelling, more likely if they are on their own. If something does happen or students are worried, they should go to an open shop or other business to ask for help or safely make a call from their mobile phone. They can also always return to school if they are close by and need help. Please reinforce this message at home. Any incidents that take place outside school should be reported to the police by calling 999, or 101 if they are reporting after it has happened.

As you may have seen there are **emergency gas repairs on Highgate Road** outside our gates, that have also meant the pedestrian crossing has been relocated. We expect these works to last into next week at least.

Please help us to remind students that:

- The temporary traffic lights mean that morning buses will be delayed, so they need to leave extra time to travel to school
- That roads should be crossed only at the pedestrian crossing
- That they need to be extra careful on the pavements when they are busy, as they have been narrowed

### Arrangements for the end of term and in January

The **last day of term is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. School will finish at lunchtime, with **students being dismissed between 12:30 and 12:45pm**. Gradual dismissal allows all year groups to have a celebratory end of term assembly, with prizes and recognition for those with excellent attendance and to recognise their achievements in school. There will be curriculum teaching on that day also – it is important that students are in school on this day as any other day. This day will be a non-uniform day, raising money for the homelessness charity Shelter. Students will be able to get lunch before they leave, and all students will need to be off the school site by 1:00pm.

On **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January school will start with registration at 9:35am** and lessons to begin period 2. All students must be on site by 9:30am. This is true for all students including 6<sup>th</sup> form, as there are equivalent arrangements in other LaSWAP schools.

### Important dates for the Spring:

w.b 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 in-class assessments
11th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
31st January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Deep Learning Day
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Professional Development Day
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Enterprise Day
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Options Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Secondary School Offers Day for Year 7 2024 starters
w.b 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 13 mock exams
7th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 trip to the Globe Theatre
14th March	Year 12 Parents' Evening

Year 8 families should please note that their Parents' Evening will be in the Summer Term (2<sup>nd</sup> May). All parents are face to face 4:30pm to 7:00pm at school.

### Year 9 Parents' Evening and MCAS

A reminder that Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place in the first week of Spring Term, on 11th January. Appointments to see teachers will be made online, via the child's MCAS portal. To find out more about booking appointments, please see the [guidance on the school website](#).

Booking will open on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Year 9 families will receive further detail about this event early next week.

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](#). You can also contact Mr Khan, Information Systems Manager, if you encounter difficulties with the portal: [akhan@williamellis.camden.sch.uk](mailto:akhan@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)

### Supporting appropriate use of social media: an information evening for parents and carers, Wednesday 13th December at 6pm

We will be hosting an online event 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. Please complete this [short online form](#) if you wish to attend. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions that you would like us to address during the session.

### Christmas Community Project

We are excited to be working with Queen's Crescent Community Association this festive period! As a school we are looking to support our local community and will be bringing donated items directly to the QCCA Sheltered Housing on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. We are asking for donations of food items and toiletries.

Please see the list of suggested items below:

- Tinned Fish & Meat
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Coffee
- Long life Milk



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- Biscuits & Chocolate
- Toothpaste
- Tea
- Jam & Honey
- Shampoo
- Shower Gel
- Toilet rolls
- Christmas Trinkets

These are all essential items but if you would like to donate anything to give a more gifty feel please feel free. Here are a few examples:

- Christmas sweets and biscuits
- Small Christmas cakes
- Mince pies
- Tea/ Coffee
- Hot Chocolate
- Sparkling fruit juice drinks
- Cheese biscuits/ crackers
- Small Waxed Cheese
- Nuts or Fruit Mixes

### **Who are Queen's Crescent Community Association (QCCA)**

Queen's Crescent Community Association is a charity, and, in their own words:

*"QCCA's mission is to help the people of Queen's Crescent in Gospel Oak live their best lives, whatever their ages. We support 3000 members a year with our services for older people, young people and families... Because we're in one of England's most deprived areas (not just London's), our services are free or heavily subsidized. We manage to do this thanks to our charitable funders and our trading activities."*

All donated items can be brought to the Main Office at William Ellis.

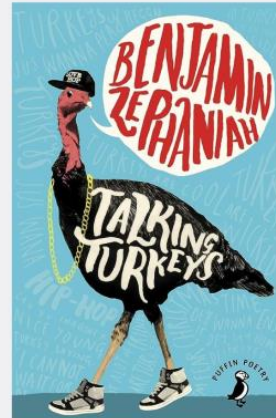
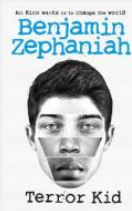
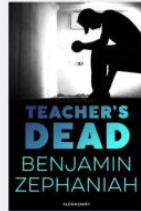
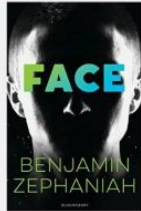
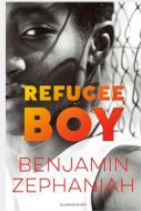
# Must Read

Honouring Benjamin Zephaniah who has sadly passed away this month, the must read book this week is *Talking Turkeys*.

Poet, writer, activist, actor and self proclaimed naughty boy, Zephaniah often addressed political injustice in his work. For him poetry was all about communication, he “wanted to bring it to life and talk about now and what was happening.” *Talking Turkeys* was his first poetry book aimed at young people and has a slightly festive theme. A perfect choice for a quick and inspirational read this week.

“He nudged people into seeing the world through the eyes of the oppressed” - Michael Rosen on Benjamin Zephaniah.

## Other titles you may enjoy



Yours faithfully,

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

Izzy Jones, Headteacher



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## **WESPA Round Up | Winter Entertainment triumph, Easyfundraising and comms**

Dear families,

I am still buzzing from Wednesday night! What a pleasure it was to see our boys performing at Winter Entertainment and what an amazing evening it was - brilliant performances and such a lovely atmosphere. A big thank you to all the staff who made it possible and especially to our head of music, Ollie Singleton for all his encouragement, behind the scenes magic and creating these wonderful opportunities for the students.

Well done to the WESPA Choir! I can't tell you how great it is that this wonderful group exists - it goes way beyond the singing. Thank you to Ewan for your time and energy in leading rehearsals and of course to the amazing Alex for steering the ship with inexhaustible good vibes. Our choir is open to all so please do get in touch if you'd like to join.

And thank you too to the many parents and family members who helped on the night. Behind the bar, stacking chairs, dressing tables...buying drinks and the many donations. It all added up to making the evening as special as it was and we raised just shy of £700 for the music department. Well done everybody!

### **Comms**

In the last WESPA meeting we had a really constructive conversation about communications. A huge thank you to those who have shared their thoughts with the WESPA Committee. We have compiled everything into themes and have fed back lots of really useful insights to school.

### **Easyfundraising**

Please do take a moment to sign up to this. It is completely free and with just one extra click when you shop online, we can raise hundreds of pounds for WES. Easyfundraising have kindly granted us one extra week for our introductory bonus so let's not miss out.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/williamellispa/>

Have a great weekend!

AI  
Chair WESPA