

News Update

(19th January 2024)



Dear families,

Welcome to this week's edition of the newsletter, with information about activities at The Mill, Art and Design work in school and local activities taking place after school and coming up over half term.

Attendance update

Congratulations so far this term to 7B, 8L, 10B, 10K, 11L and 11K for having the highest or joint highest attendance in their year groups. As I say each week, full attendance at school is critically important for students to succeed academically and to have strong wellbeing, and all students must attend school each day.

For any queries about attendance please contact attendance@williamellis.camden.sch.uk.

Term dates for the 2024-25 academic year have now been published and can be found [here](#).

Uniform code – response to consultations

Following consultation with students and families, the uniform code was discussed at a governing body meeting in December and some changes were made, particularly to accommodate student comfort in hot weather. The new uniform code is effective immediately and can be found at [William Ellis School - Uniform](#). Governors were clear in their discussions that the blazer is an important and distinctive part of school identity and should be kept as part of the uniform, and were in agreement with students that there should still be different blazers for Key Stage 3 and 4, and different ties for each year group.

There are no changes to the compulsory uniform items that need to be purchased or what supplier they can be bought from, so there is no additional cost to families and items will not be wasted. Almost all items can be bought from generic high street or online providers. They can also be purchased second hand, including from regular WESPA re-sales of school specific and generic items. Families who are struggling with the cost of uniform should let the school know, via the tutor or the Head of Year. We may be able to arrange financial support and we have a small supply of uniform that we can give to students who are most in need.

I realise that there were some parents and students who were concerned about the environmental impact of buying uniforms. We have worked to minimise this by giving families choice about where almost all the uniform can be purchased and continue to engage with our current suppliers about the environmental impact of the products that do come from their website. This policy is now settled and won't be reviewed again even if we changed to a different supplier.

Net zero 2030

As sustainability and environmental impact were a part of the uniform consultation response, it seems timely to update you on the wider work in the school to reduce our overall carbon footprint. There is a national ambition that all schools will be at net zero emissions by 2030.

Today I shared with the Year 10 and 11 Student Council data on our electricity use. We have invested in monitoring systems that show us where and when electricity is being used in the school. They have been set the challenge of finding out where and how we are using unnecessary energy, especially at the end of the school day, so that we can change our everyday habits as a school community. This term we will also start to analyse data on gas consumption and upgrade the systems that control our heating so that this can also be reduced.

We know that other Camden schools with new buildings have solar panels that support their energy supply. We are exploring how we might be able to work with organisations and companies who support schools with older buildings to install renewable energy supply infrastructure. Thank you to the small number of parents who work in this industry who have offered their professional expertise to support this work.

Extra-Curricular activities

Information about the extra-curricular clubs and activities available to Year 7-11 students can be found on our website: www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/extra-curricular

Year 9 Options Evening

Some families have recently been informed that the date of Year 9 Options Evening was moved to 29th February. Unfortunately, this announcement of a provisional date for the event was made in error and it will take place on 21st February. Apologies for the inconvenience this may have caused.

School office opening time

From Monday 22nd January, the main school reception's opening hours will be 8.00am – 4.00pm. Any emails to the school or phone messages left after 4pm will be dealt with as soon as possible after they are picked up the following day.

Yours faithfully,



Izzy Jones, Headteacher



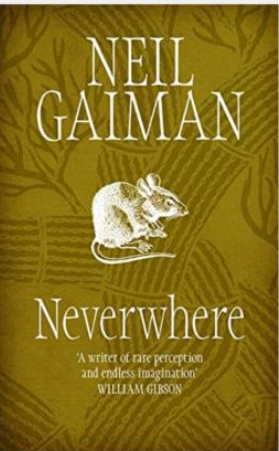

Must Read

Help your imaginations this week through a book set right here in London. The must read book this week is *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

Under the streets of London exists a world of monsters, murderers, angels and pale girls in black velvet. Richard Mayhew, a young business man, embarks on an adventure in this bizarre underworld. A great funny read that combines the reality of the city we live in with fantasy and magic.

Check out the library display for a diverse selection of books based in London and head over to ePlatform for audio and e-books based here too.

Other titles you may enjoy



The Mill Working Weekends 2024 Alice and Sam, Mill Wardens

The dates for this year's WESPA Working Weekends at The Mill are:

- Fri 8 – Sun 10th March 2024
- Fri 26 – Sun 28th July 2024
- Fri 11 – Sun 13th October 2024

The weekend is fully catered and children are more than welcome to join us for the weekends as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult. For those requiring transport, we hope that as happened last year, there will be a mini bus leaving from William Ellis for The Mill on the Friday evening and returning to London on the Sunday afternoon.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: themill452@gmail.com.

If you would like to join us, please email George Court gcourt@williamellis.camden.sch.uk to register your interest in a space on the bus.

Finally, please have a look at this [recent YouTube link](#).

A parent of a William Ellis pupil and Working Weekend volunteer, put this video together for us at the last Autumn Working Weekend to help explain, to those who haven't been before, what a Working Weekend is. B Team Films, as I am sure you will all agree, is extremely talented and has created an incredible memory of The Mill that I hope will be spread far and wide.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

GCSE Art Project with Lauderdale House Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design

On Wednesday 10th January, the Art and Graphics GCSE groups visited Lauderdale house for the first of several workshops working with artist Alison Hammond.

Students are producing work in a range of media which will be exhibited at Lauderdale House as part of the Highgate Arts Festival later this year. It will also contribute towards their GCSE coursework projects.

At this workshop they used back ink, Gelly printing and clay, responding to the garden. They also made drawing tools using leaves and sticks!

The next workshop will take place in school when students will get to create a bronze sculpture.



Half Term Activity Claire Ozkaya, Engagement Officer

We have been sent details of this opportunity to share with families. To find out more, please use the QR code below or contact

outreach@wacarts.co.uk

Wac Arts Young Makers: Filmmaking and Podcasting Programme

14-16 February 2024, during the February half-term

This project is free and based at WAC Arts in Belsize Park. Enrolments are now open and close on Thursday 8 February at midday. Places are limited, and Wac Arts strongly recommend signing up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If you have any questions about the programme [contact the team](#).

INTERESTED IN A MEDIA CAREER?
Join Wac Arts for a **FREE 3-day programme** led by expert media industry professionals.

- Produce your own **Podcast**
- Shoot an original **Short Film**
- Develop your editing skills
- Operate filming equipment
- Learn from an **Industry Q&A**

14-16 FEBRUARY 2024

OPEN TO:

- Ages **14-21**
- Those who Live or Study in **Camden**

ENROL BY: THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 12PM

10AM - 4PM @ WAC ARTS
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED DAILY

ENROL HERE:
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WAC ARTS
213 Haverstock Hill
London
NW3 4QP
Tel: 020 7692 5800

WACARTS.CO.UK

Far Futures Programme At The Dome
Naomi Gélinas, Youth Services Manager at QCCA

The Dome, a youth centre operated by the Queen's Crescent Community Association, has been a staple of the lives of the young people of Queen's Crescent and neighbouring communities over 18 years, supporting over 600 young people every year. The Dome is a space for and co-produced with young people aged 9 to 18 and runs daily after school and holiday activities for young people:

The Dome has started a new '**Far Futures**' homework and careers support hub. Far Futures will provide a space for young people to receive 1-2-1 support for all their educational and career goals. This service is offered completely free and all young people **aged 8 to 15** are welcome.

THE DOME JANUARY - MARCH 2024 TIMETABLE 		
Monday	Senior's Youth Club	17:30 - 20:30
<i>Ages 13-19</i>	Senior's Gym Training	17:30 - 18:30
	Senior's Music Studio	17:30 - 20:30
	Senior's Multisport	18:30 - 19:30
	Senior's Football	19:30 - 20:30
Tuesday	Girl's Only Youth Club	17:30 - 20:00
<i>Girl's Only</i>	Girl's Only Sports	18:30 - 20:00
<i>Ages 10 - 15</i>		
Wednesday	Teckerz Session & Multi-Sport	17:00 - 18:30
<i>Ages 8 - 15</i>	Age: 11-15	
	Homework Club	17:00 - 18:30
Thursday	Junior's Youth Club	17:00 - 19:30
<i>Ages 8 - 13</i>	Junior's Multisport	17:00 - 18:30
	Junior's Football	18:30 - 19:30
Friday	Senior's Youth Club	17:30 - 20:30
<i>Age 13-19</i>	Senior's Gym Training	17:30 - 18:30
	Senior's Music Studio	17:30 - 20:30
	Senior's Multisport	18:30 - 19:30
	Senior's Football	19:30 - 20:30

To sign up, please scan the QR code.
 For questions, contact youth@qcca.org.uk . 



GO AL  **THE DOME**

CAREER ADVICE:

- INTERVIEW PRACTICE
- JOB APPLICATIONS
- CV WRITING
- CAREER GUIDANCE

**FAR FUTURES:
 HOMEWORK SUPPORT
 & CAREERS ADVICE**

AGES 8-15

Every Wednesday, 5-6:30PM

Youth workers present on site
 Completely FREE!
 1-2-1 support for all

ADDRESS:
 THE DOME YOUTH CENTRE
 170 WEDINGTON ROAD
 NWS 4NU

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:
 NAOMI, YOUTH
 SERVICES MANAGER
 AT
NAOMI@QCCA.ORG.UK
 0753-279-5610

SEND Surgery
Flora Wilson, Deputy Headteacher

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SURGERY

Have you a query you would like to talk to a
councillor about?



Marcus Boyland
Cabinet Member
for Best Start for
Children and
Families



Pat Callaghan
Deputy Leader of the
Council and Cabinet
Member for Safer
Communities

To book an appointment please call
02079742792 or **02079742864**

**TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY AT 11 AM-12 PM
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)**

Camden Town Hall, Judd Street
Kings Cross, WC1H 9JE

Priority will be given to those parents who have already
spoken to the school & the SENDIASS service

WESPA Round Up | Eco Club launch, Burns Night Social and WESPA Choir

Dear Families,

It was great to catch up at the meeting on Tuesday - much to celebrate and much to look forward to in our ongoing collaborations with school. For those who missed out, here's a snapshot for this week.

Eco Club

The new WESPA sponsored WES Eco Club met for the first time on Tuesday. Here's what Alfred in 8B had to say:

We had our first Eco Club meeting today. It was really fun. We learnt about how humans have impacted our environment and what we can do to change that. We made a fire and toasted marshmallows. Next, we're going to build bird boxes, plant hedges for the hedgehogs and dig a pond!

Our huge thanks goes to Y8 parent Jane and Andrew Mangham from WES for leading this wonderful initiative.

WESPA 'Burns Night' Social

Please join us at the next social. Hang out with some friends, meet new parents and chat to members of the WESPA team.

The Lion & Unicorn
42-44 Gaisford St, London NW5 2ED
Thursday 25th January 2024
7-10pm

WESPA Choir

WESPA Choir kicks off again next Tuesday. Rehearsals are in school from 6.30-8pm and we meet at the reception in advance. Choir is open to all and current members include WES parents, WES staff and friends from our neighbouring schools. So if you fancy joining, come and give it a try and bring a friend too. Please get in touch if you're interested.

Have a great weekend and see you at an event, social, meeting, group or club soon.

Best wishes

Al
Chair WESPA