
The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

8th March 2024

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents

We always talk about attendance being the most important factor in a child's education. All the research will state that high attendance leads to high attainment and even a healthier life once you leave school. I am delighted to report that our attendance has improved considerably this week. Year 11 attendance was over 97% and Year 7 attendance was at 99.3%.

Year 7 had their first parents evening on Thursday. Thanks to families for attending, we hope the conversations help build relationships between staff, students and families but also lead to improved progress and more success in subject areas. I want to express my appreciation for the feedback received from parents who took the time to share their thoughts. Your insights are invaluable, and as a school, we remain dedicated to listening and continuously improving.

Year 11 had an exciting week as they completed exams from Monday to Wednesday and then had a transition experience on Thursday and Friday. They spent these days as sixth form students. This meant they attended taster sessions and enrichment, had access to sixth form social spaces and wore business attire. They also celebrated their achievements with a BBQ on Friday afternoon. I think its important that we reward hard work and these students have been exceptional this year. We need to ensure all that hard work pays off in the summer and the final months of preparation will be the most important.

Year 10 are quietly going about their business and making strides forwards. This week they entered the top 10 performing year groups in the United Learning Trust. This calculation was measured using Sparx online completion data. For all students using Sparx is a vital part of their week and having 100% completion is a weekly expectation. Completing Sparx independently has been shown to significantly improve comprehension and fluency in the classroom.

On Wednesday 13th we will announce the 100 student who will be invited to the Thorpe Park trip on the 27th. The selection process is data driven with attendance, merits and detentions being used to compile a list. There has been lots of excitement amongst students. Please keep attending and working hard is my message to all students.

Best regards,

Jon Lynes

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Why Reading Matters

This week we have been looking at the importance of reading and story-telling. Publications of early books were in the form of pictures as very few people could read. Education was for the privileged and a majority of the population could not read. We explored the power of a good book which allows you to escape into another world, to see things from a different perspective and to explore things you may never have never thought of. Tips on getting into good reading habits were shared. We also took time to discuss the importance of reading which helps to improve grades, enhances oracy and broadens your knowledge. We are looking forward to celebrating World book day next week.



- 600 AD- some of the first 'picture books' emerged.
- They were very expensive
- Very few people could read them
- Reading was a privilege available only to the most powerful

- ✓ you can escape into a different world
- ✓ You can see things from different perspectives
- ✓ You can even improve your grades



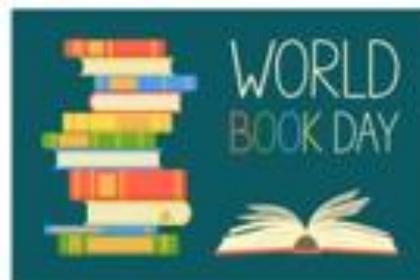
Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.



Get into good habits!

- Try reading for just 10 mins before you go to bed every night
- Come and see us in the library!
- Ask your English teachers or Mr Matier to recommend books you might enjoy
- Read the metro on the way into school
- Complete your Bedrock and your sparx

- Tutor time Activities
- Character Treasure Hunt
- Author Visit
- Staff Dress Up
- Competitions



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Part of United Learning

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Year 11 Transition days

"The Elms Academy is a 7-Year Journey"

Year 11 took part in Sixth Form Taster days last week and were able to experience first hand why the Sixth Form has achieved the **highest grades in Lambeth for the past two years a row**. Students got a flavour of the 23 subjects on offer in the Sixth Form by choosing and participating in a timetable of lessons delivered by our incredible team of Sixth Form teachers ranging from the sciences to the arts. Students found these sessions really useful in helping them to decide which subjects they wish to study when they begin year 12 in September. There was also opportunity to hear from current year 12 students about their own Sixth Form experience and to begin thinking ahead about university applications and career choices thanks to workshops delivered by the Sixth form Team and our partners [Oxbridge Applications](#).

We also wanted to give Year 11 a chance to unwind after a busy two weeks of mock exams and so everyone had chance to take part in some sport and wellbeing activities. We all came together at the end of the two days to share personal highlights at our traditional 'welcome to Sixth Form BBQ'. Thank you to all year 11 and 12 students who took part in the event last week - it was incredible!

Enrolment into the Sixth Form happens automatically for our year 11 students and final subjects are selected with guidance from Sixth Form staff on GCSE results day which takes place here at the academy on Thursday 22nd August 2024.



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Year 7 Parents' Evening

We were delighted to see so many of you during our Year 7 Parent evening on Thursday. All parents had the opportunity to meet with each of the subject teachers for their child and to discuss their progress. Parents were also given the results of the mid-year examinations which students sat in February. Lots of positive conversations took place throughout the course of the evening and staff really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with you all.



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Boxing Club

Every Friday at 7.15am Mr Seidu's Boxing club meet in room 012 to practice their skills and to develop their agility within the sport. Working in pairs, the boys have been practicing sparring with each other and learning defense moves. The students are committed to their progress in the sport and are aware of the health benefits of engaging in sporting activities. In being part of this club, the boys are demonstrating ambition and determination in the area of sport.



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Year 12 Cambridge University Visit

Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit Cambridge University where they've experienced a day in the 'life of a student'. Throughout the course of the day they had the opportunity to sit in lectures and seminars as well as attend sessions on how to write a personal statement. All the students enjoyed such a great experience!



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MMR vaccination clinics within the community

If you or your child have not received the MMR vaccination, the local health service are providing an opportunity for this to be carried out. Lambeth Public Health are organising two sessions of MMR vaccination clinics at the **Civic Centre, 6 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1EG**. Children and adults are welcome to attend.

The clinics will be held on:

1. **Wednesday, 13th March, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**
2. **Saturday, 23rd March, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Please make every effort to contact your GP or attend one of these sessions if you're currently unprotected against measles or unsure about your vaccination status.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact publichealth@lambeth.gov.uk.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 9 Pathways Evening	Wednesday 20 th March	5.00pm
Year 8 Parent Evening	Thursday 21 st March	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Easter Holiday	Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	Two weeks
INSET Day	Monday 15 th April	All Day
Year 11 Exam Essentials Evening	Tuesday 23 rd April	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 25 th April	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Bank Holiday – school closed	Monday 6 th May	All day