

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Message from the Principal



As Principal of The Elms Academy I was delighted to welcome our Year 6 students in to school on Induction Day. There were some nerves and a few anxious parents at the gate but the warm welcome provided by staff and current students worked like magic and in no time our incoming Year 7s felt like part of our community. When showing visitors around I have lost count of how many times I've heard compliments on the feel of the school and how friendly and inquisitive our students are. This week we celebrated Diversity Week and during tutor time we talked about how every member of our community is valued and respected. These Year 6 students will take their lead from older students and it was wonderful to see many of them connecting with older siblings, cousins and recognising staff who have been going into primary school for transition lessons.

I thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with many Year 11 students at their Prom and it was good to hear so many are coming back for the Sixth Form where they will continue to contribute to school life as sixth formers. I want to say a special thank you to all of you who made time to join me during my final Parent Forum of the academic year. It was great to hear all the positive feedback and also, suggestions on how we can make things even better.



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## Year 11 Prom

It was the perfect evening to celebrate the end of Year 11. This year's venue was at the KIA Oval in a reception room that overlooked the cricket green. Students stepped out in their finest evening wear and some of the outfits wouldn't have looked out of place on the red carpet. There was dinner followed by awards, the crowning of a prom king and queen and plenty of selfies. Another memorable evening to add to the yearbook.



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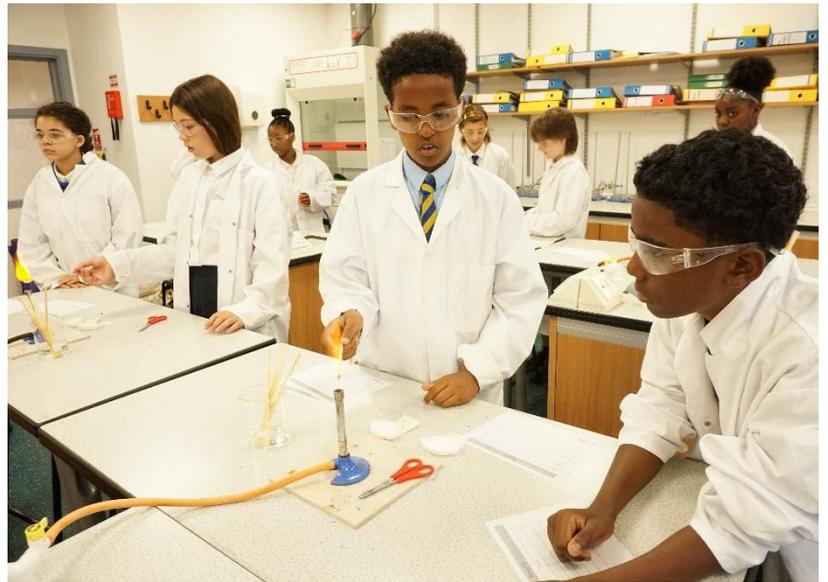
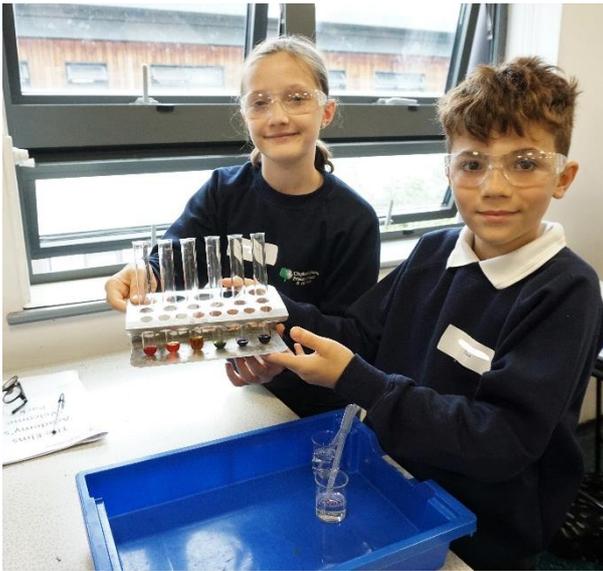
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## Year 6 Induction Day

We welcomed our Year 6 students in for a day spent with their Head of Year, Mrs Smyth, teachers and other support staff. Students enjoyed taster lessons in science, art, geography, languages and PE. They were given a sense of what their school day will be like in September. The day ended with an awards assembly where one lucky student won a Kindle in a lottery draw. Staff handed out ice lollies for the children to enjoy in the sunshine on their way home.



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### Best In Everyone Awards Ceremony

The Best In Everyone Awards Ceremony was held in Birmingham on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Year 13 students Lloyd and Adzor made the trip together along with Teacher of Geography, Ms Poppy Thomas. Sr Jon Coles, Chief Executive of United Learning gave the welcome address and handed out several awards, including the ECT (Early Career Teacher) award to Ms Thomas. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate all the fantastic winners.



### Music Trip to the Southbank

The Music department, led by Mrs Haworth and Ms Speranska, took many of our talented singers in Year 8, 9 and 10 to the Southbank Center for an exciting day called 'Secondary Schools Come and Sing!' The day consisted of musical workshops, singing and discussions. There were many other secondary school schools taking part in the day so at one point it was like a large, fabulous sing-a-long of youthful, energetic voices.



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### Year 10 Drama & Music Showcase

Year 10 students who have been performing for GCSE Music and Drama exams, showcased their talents in a special evening just for them. There were songs on the piano, guitar, drums and some wonderful scenes acted out for the appreciative audience. Well done to all the Year 10 students who have been rehearsing for hours in preparation for these important exams and also, for this showcase. It isn't easy being under those hot theatre lights!



### Year 12 Trip to PwC UK

Students in Year 12 visited Pricewaterhouse Coopers International (PwC) headquarters today and got to experience a day of workshops delivered by professionals about working as an actuary in Business and Finance. Students had to work through a number of data, problem solving and teamwork challenges and learnt about what it means to demonstrate professionalism. It was another terrific enrichment opportunity.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Ms Rebecca Fordham

**Job:** Learning Support Assistant

**Currently reading:** Trust by Hernan Diaz.

**A favourite series / film:** Recently I've watched The Diplomat with Keri Russell and Rufus Sewel which is excellent. The film Woolf Women about five female downhill skateboarders is also brilliant. They travel at 140 KPH!

**Interesting fact about me:** I am a trained yoga teacher and I have run three marathons in under 3 hours and 40 minutes. I now do no formally recognised exercise but I am trying to house-train a toddler and a puppy. Failing at both, I am trying to stay zen.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** The thing I like most about working here is the students. When they ask for help and the change in their demeanour when they experience a light-blub moment. It is truly joyous to witness and be a part of.



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 9 Graduation	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	During the school day
Year 6 Induction Evening	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	5.00 – 7.00pm
Year 13 Graduation	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	5.15 – 6.15pm
Year 13 Prom	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	8.00 – 11.30pm
Work Experience Week, Year 10	10 <sup>th</sup> July to 14 <sup>th</sup> July	During the school day
Sports Day	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	During the school day