

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Thursday 24th November 2022

### Message from the Principal



I have been delighted with the way that our Year 10, 11 and 13 students have approached the exams over the last couple of weeks. I am certain that they have done themselves proud and I would like to thank you all for your support in terms of encouraging your child to revise at home. I look forward to seeing the results in January!

Last week we made available to students an online study guide, Pearson Revise. This can be found in the Students Section of the web site. It is essentially a free GCSE revision guide and testing tool for every subject for students in Year 10 and Year 11. Please do have a look with your child as this will be hugely beneficial in preparing them for their GCSE exams.

Our annual holiday food drive to benefit Norwood and Brixton Foodbank has begun. Hampers have been placed in the atrium for staff and students to put donations in. Items should be non-perishable and there is an urgent need for tins of fish, fruit and vegetables. We know there is a cost of living crisis and many are experiencing hardship. However, if we all just donated a single tin of food, that would go towards brightening someone's holiday season. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

At the end of today I checked the response rate for our Parents' Survey and it was quite low compared to other United Learning schools. From this I can only conclude that generally we are doing everything right and there isn't much to feedback on, *or*, parents are going to do the survey this weekend or sometime next week. Do bear in mind that your feedback will go a long way towards helping us make continuous improvements at The Elms Academy. This is my final plea to take 15 minutes and share your views. The survey will close next Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Thank you to those who have already completed the survey.

Tomorrow, Friday, is a staff inset day so there is no school. However, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November is a regular school day so we expect to see all students in school at 8.20am as usual.



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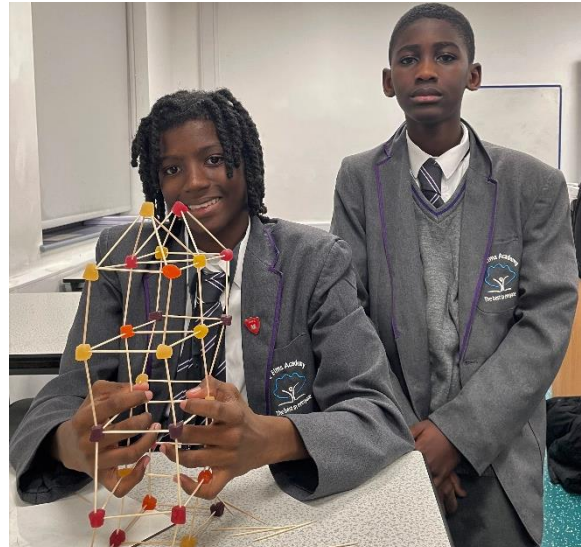
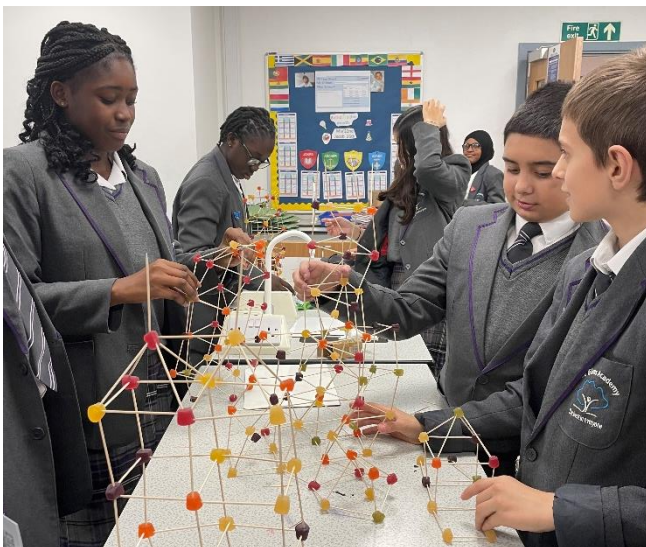
### House Table Football Competition

Head of Houses recruited students to play in a lunchtime table football competition for those all-important house points. Students were inspired by the play they have been seeing in World Cup matches and delighted in representing their houses. For spectators it was very entertaining to watch.



### Science Club

Year 7 and Year 8 students have been enjoying enrichment on Mondays after school and students in Science club have been busy constructing towers. With just a pile of cocktail sticks and some gumdrops, students were tasked to see who could build the tallest, most stable tower. Teamwork was essential to success as was the discipline to avoid eating the sweets before the towers were completed!





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## Shakespeare Schools Festival

Head of Drama, Mr O'Brien, arranged for students to take part in a Shakespeare theatre workshop in preparation for their January performance of Othello. Students will be enacting this famous play at the Rose Theatre in Kingston as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Our students will be performing with three other local schools.



## House Spelling Bee Contest

This year's annual spelling bee was run as a house contest and ended up being another great success. Students and teachers from all four houses gathered in the Russell Library and faced off against each other. Contestants were asked to spell challenging words from their reading. House Sazbo scored maximum points but every week will see more opportunities for students and staff to secure additional house points.





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### Sport Round Up

The football season is well under way for our boys in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. Last week Year 7s played Lilian Baylis and won in a very competitive game with a lot of goals. The final score was 5-4 to The Elms Academy. Year 9s had a game on Monday against Oasis Southbank and won 2-1. Our Year 10 team played against Southbank and lost 3-1. Finally, Year 8s played yesterday against Lilian Baylis and lost 4-1. New teacher of PE, Mr Brennan, has been working hard with both Year 9 and 10 teams, who played in their first fixtures. Head Coach and teacher of PE, Mr Assan is pleased overall with the good start to the season but knows there is more to do.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Mr Matthew Lye

**Job:** Teacher of MFL (French and Spanish) and Head of House Jones

**House:** Jones

**Currently reading:** I am reading Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson.

**A favourite film:** A great film which I recommend is Hidden Figures. It tells the amazing story of Katherine Jonson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, three brilliant African-American women who worked at NASA and were the brains behind the launch into orbit of Astronaut John Glenn. These visionary women crossed gender and racial lines and inspired generations.

**Interesting fact about me:** I used to do bouldering, which is like rock climbing without ropes! The sport is now so popular it featured in the Olympics last year for the first time ever.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** Aside from teaching my favourite subjects I am really excited about getting involved in running house events and leading House Jones this year to success in the house competition. Go House Jones!



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Staff Inset Day	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	No school
Normal School Day	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	8.20am – 3.30pm
Sixth Form Open Evening	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00 – 6.00pm
Rewards Trips	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	During the school day
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	1.05pm
Winter Showcase	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00 – 7.00pm
Last day of Term 2	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Dismissal time to be confirmed