
The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

3rd May 2024

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents,

As we bid farewell to another eventful week at The Elms Academy, I extend warm greetings to each of you. This weekend marks not only a Bank Holiday but also the midway point of the term. Upon students' return on Tuesday, May 7th, we embark on the pivotal journey of GCSE and A-Level exams. It's crucial to reiterate that the success of our students is a collective effort, requiring unwavering support from every member of our community. The results they achieve will chart the course for their future endeavors.

This week, our school has been abuzz with the spirit of giving as we observed Charities Week. Our Year 8 students showcased their creativity and compassion by brainstorming fundraising ideas and executing them to support local charities.

Witnessing their collaborative efforts, akin to an episode of "The Apprentice," has

been truly inspiring. More than just academic prowess, the emphasis on interpersonal skills like teamwork and communication underscores our belief that life extends beyond grades. One of the highlights of Charities Week was the "I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here" event midweek, a sold-out affair where staff courageously took on bush tucker trials to the delight of our students.

In parallel, our Year 9 and Year 10 students have been actively engaged in the Kings Scholars project, a partnership with Kings University in London aimed at nurturing aspirations and skillsets. The Year 9 Careers Day at Kings on Friday was a pivotal opportunity for students to gain insights into various career pathways. Understanding the importance of career education, we're dedicated to equipping our students with the knowledge and tools to navigate their future choices effectively. Ms. Kotocova spearheads our careers programme, offering one-to-one meetings with careers advisors for Year 10 and Year 11 students. Moreover, Year 10 and Year 12 students will have the chance to undertake work experience placements later this term, enriching their understanding of real-world professional environments.

As we anticipate a well-deserved break over the Bank Holiday weekend, may the sun shine upon you, and may you find moments of relaxation and rejuvenation.

Warm regards,

Jon Lynes

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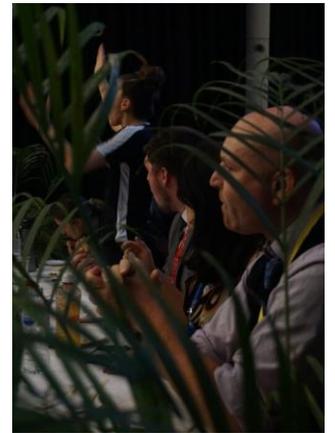
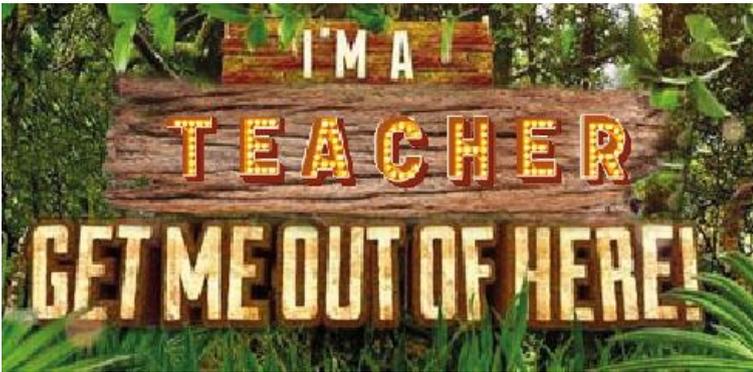
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Charity Week

We began our charity week by looking at the Act of Giving and positive effects of this. The Act of Giving can be in the form of a gift, showing respect, offering your time to someone or giving support. All these acts enable us to feel good about who we are as well as showing respect and care for someone.

During the week tickets were sold for events with students paying £1 towards the charity collection. The events included I'm a Teacher Get Me Out of Here! and Teacher Sponge throw as well as a cake and sweet sale.



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Drop Down Day

Students were off timetable on Tuesday to participate in a variety of workshops and activities with some students having the opportunity to attend a presentation and workshop on Careers and Marketing. There were sessions run by St Giles group talking about knife crime and also speakers from Capital Group and workshops run by Gett.

Students also participated in House Activities during the afternoon. The workshops and house sessions enabled students to explore a variety of topics, to practice and form new skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, creative thinking and taking risks as well as demonstrating our key values of integrity, determination and ambition.



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Year 10 Parents Evening

On Thursday last week we welcomed families from Year 10 to our Parents Evening. This provided a chance for parents and carers to see teachers and find out how students are doing in their chosen GCSE subjects. This time next year they will be on the verge of starting their real GCSE public examinations, so many of the conversations focused on what can be done in the time left to ensure success.



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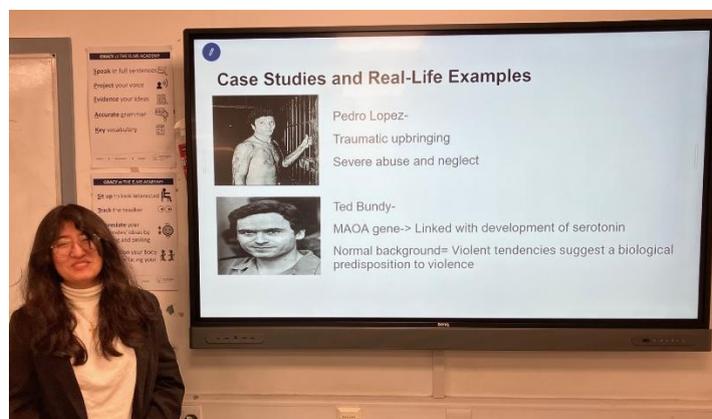
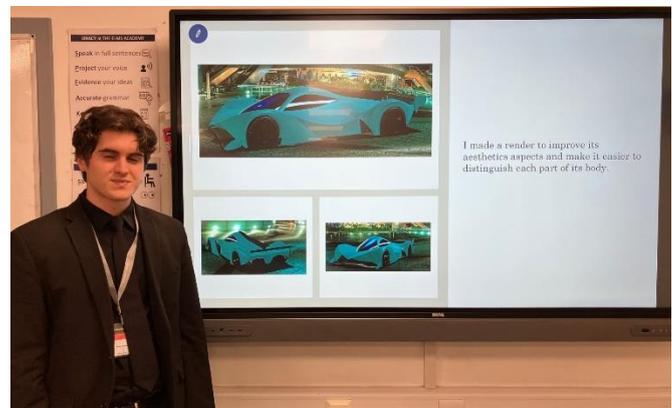
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The Extended Project Qualification

Students in year 13 completed their final presentation for the extended project qualification last week. The extended project is a qualification where students research a topic of their choice and write a dissertation or design an artefact. In the presentation, each student talked through their own research journey and summarised the findings of their project. Topics that were explored this year included the causes of homicide, the impact of government and markets on the electric vehicle market and how aerodynamic surfaces of a car affect performance. Well done year 13 for your incredible hard work.



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Year 12 Psychology practical

Students in year 12 studying A Level Psychology recreated several experiments last week to investigate human memory. They invited other students to become participants, guided them through a number of different tasks and then analysed the data they had collected. At the end of the practical students were able to explain the capacity, duration and encoding of short and long term memory.



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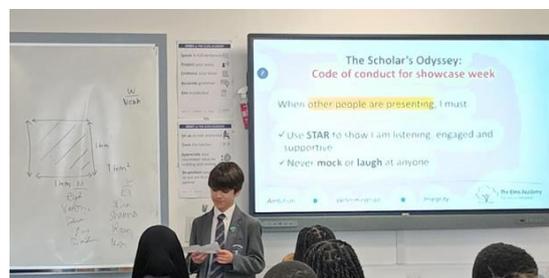
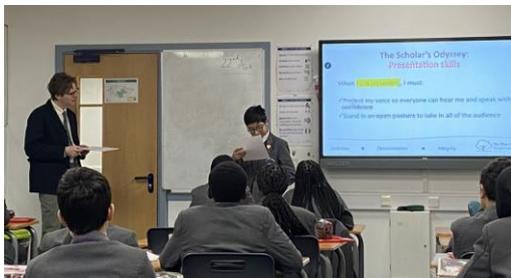
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Scholar's Odyssey

The Scholar's Odyssey is a programme designed to develop students' reading and public speaking skills. Students are supported to read challenging, canonical literature, supplemented by regular journal entries and discussion, culminating in a showcase at the end of the term in which they present a creative response based on the novel they have been reading. Students in 8A have covered titles such as 'Persuasion' by Jane Austen, 'Lord of the Rings' by Tolkien and 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott, as well as texts from Malorie Blackman, Michael Morpurgo and Philip Pullman. Curated by their tutor, Mr Goodwin, students presented their work to their classmates and staff members this week, examples including artwork, short stories and dub poetry. Audience members were blown away. 7A and 9A will be following in their footsteps later this term...watch this space!



As I see him
A wave of undisable memories
Flash over my mind
And I reminisce about all the things
That I have left behind

A time when all my worries
Seemed to fade away
When he was around
How there was a glimmer of light
~~Am~~ In a world that was consistently grey

I wonder if he still thinks of me
Like how I think of him
If his heart takes a leap out his chest
Everytime he sees me
Or if everything is a blur
When I'm not around

Time begins to stop as he comes my way
And I remind myself of how long
I've yearned for the slightest bit of communication
Anything that would give me the an idea
Of how he thinks of me

He walks back
My heart sinks
The image of his expressionless face
Along with his disfaceful tone of voice
Lingers in my mind
Serving as a reminder that
What we had, is ~~fore~~ forever gone

THE END.

Summary - Persuasion

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Guest Speaker – Year 9 History

On Thursday, we were very fortunate to welcome Paula Zeff, a Holocaust survivor, to speak to Year 9 students about her experiences. This supports Year 9's study of the Holocaust in History in the summer term.

Paula told Year 9 about her experiences growing up in Germany and Holland in the 1930s, before being put into hiding with a Christian family. She reflected on finding out about her parents' deaths, who were tragically murdered in Auschwitz. Paula was impressed by Year 9's insightful and respectful questions at the end. Year 9 were very grateful to hear from someone with first-hand experience of the Holocaust to enhance their History studies.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Bank Holiday – school closed	Monday 6 th May	All day
May half term holiday	Monday 27 th (Bank holiday) to Friday 31 st May	All week
Parent Forum	Tuesday 2 nd July	5.00pm