

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 12th May 2023

Message from the Principal



Another very busy week at The Elms Academy full of exciting and enriching activities. There were with more trips, charity drives, house competitions, a music workshop with our sister school, The Hurlingham Academy, and a special visit from the Department of Education with a cohort of dignitaries from the Education Ministries in Hong Kong, Liberia, United Arab Emirates and Iraq. Our visitors were greeted by a selection of students from each year group and invited into classrooms to witness the excellent teaching and learning that takes place here every day. They were then given a tour around the Academy and I must say, with the sun shining brightly and flowers blooming around the main entrance, the school has never looked better. I always feel a sense of pride when I show guests around and it was wonderful hearing all the positive feedback from these special guests who were blown away by what they saw.

The end of this week found our Year 11 and Year 13 students feeling a bit nervous but mainly expectant at the thought of sitting their first public exam on Monday. Revision and cram sessions will continue daily for these students and more importantly, they must be in school early in preparation for the start of their actual exams. Our whole school community is here supporting them and rooting for their success. As always, if you have any concerns during these next 5 weeks of exam season, please contact myself, Mr Aung or Mr Hemming.



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Chinese Speaking Competition at SOAS

In spite of the limited time they had to prepare, the Chinese speaking competition was a resounding success. Our students' ambition, resilience and determination shone through as they answered live questions, showcasing the school's core values. Moreover, their caring and supportive attitude towards each other during challenging moments impressed the audience and earned Jennifer and Zahrah a short interview with the media. This competition provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to apply their classroom learning to real-life situations and gain valuable experience from their peers.



Year 8s Fundraise for Charity

Year 8 students have been learning about what it takes to successfully fundraise for charities in our community with the support of First Give. They have hosted bake sales, a lunch time festival and competitions to raise money. They gave their final presentation to a panel of judges from First Give and received £1000 for Art Against Knives. Well done Year 8!



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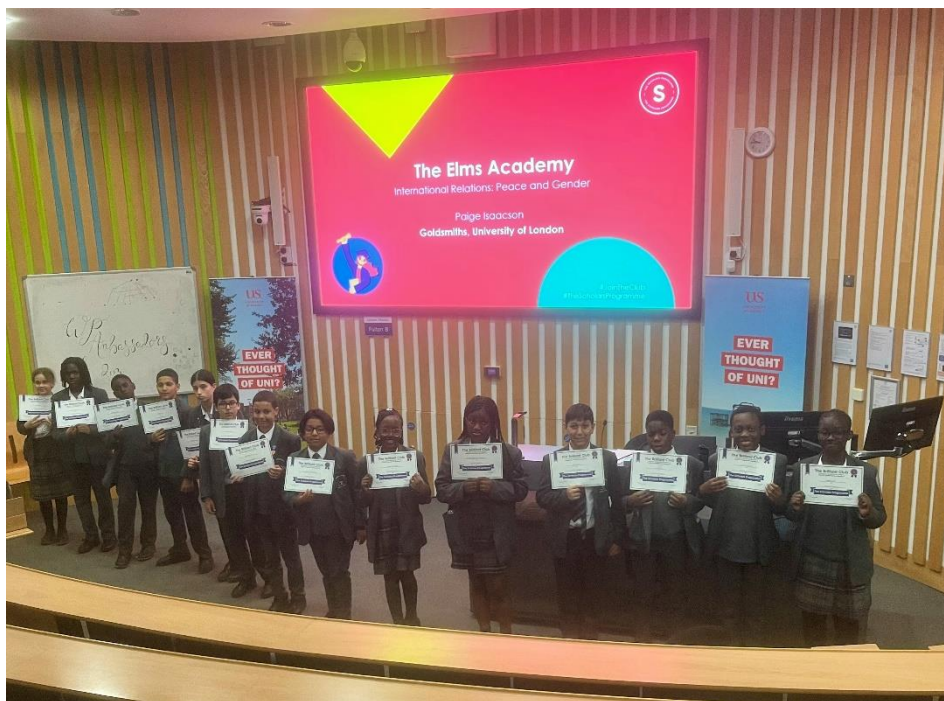
Making Music with The Hurlingham Academy

Thursday we ran an exciting drumming workshop for some of our leading musicians in Year 8 and Year 9. The group was joined by students from The Hurlingham Academy and, together, the group are working towards a performance at the United Learning MUSICFest in July at The Fairfield Hall in Croydon. It was yet another example of the benefits we enjoy being part of the cluster.



Year 7 Brilliant Club Graduation

Year 7 students in the Grammar Stream travelled to The University of Sussex for their graduation ceremony from the Brilliant Club. Once there, students attended talks by university alumni and then had a tour of the campus. The campus tour was filled with interesting facts about the different components of university life and it was a great opportunity for our Brilliant Club graduates to see a university out in the countryside, surrounded by green space. We are very proud of the graduates for the insightful essays they wrote for their final submission, "What does peace mean to you?" It was a significant challenge submitting a 1500 essay, but our Grammar Stream students rose to the challenge and it was a privilege to be invited to Sussex University for their graduation.



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Year 7 Trip to the Chinese Embassy

A group of Year 7 students learning Chinese went on a very special trip to the Chinese Embassy in Central London. The invitation came from the cultural office of the Embassy with the wider aim of building strong connections with Chinese language learners and raising cultural awareness. The students were greeted with a display of Chinese dancing and Kong Fu and a welcome speech from the Embassy and university guests. They also participated in Chinese language and culture workshops including calligraphy writing, fan decoration and Chinese opera face painting. The day finished with a group Chinese dance workshop led by renowned performers. Students had this to say about the day: *Jīntiān zhēn kāixīn* (Today is so fun!) and *Wǒ ài xué zhōngwén* (I love learning Chinese!)



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Inspire Programme

The team from the Southbank who are running the Inspire Programme for Year 7 students came into school Friday for Part 2 of the project. Students were each given an ipad and then trained on how to use the design features so they can start working on the layout of their ezine's, which will raise awareness climate change and global warming.



Lambeth Football League Competition

Our Year 8 and Year 9 girls took part in the Lambeth League Football Tournament this week. Coached by teacher of PE, Mr Assan, the girls played with a lot of ambition, determination and heart. While they didn't bring home any silverware, they showed real competitive spirit and were gracious in defeat. They also enjoyed the opportunity to play the beautiful game outside of school. Special mention goes to Mufitdat who scored a hat trick and Chennai who was rock solid in goal.



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Part of United Learning

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Getting to Know You

Name: Ms Latonia

Job: Learning Support Assistant

House: Szabo

Currently reading: The Street Lawyer by John Grisham

A favourite film / series: Power

Interesting fact about me: I always have to have nail polish on my toes, either white or pink.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: I like working at The Elms Academy as an LSA as it is rewarding, helping the children I support meet their needs in the classroom and also making sure they are happy whether it's inside or outside of their lessons, it makes me happy!



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
GCSE and A level Public Exams begin	Monday 15 th May	During the school day
Half Term	Mon 29 th May to Fri 2 nd June	---
Start of Term 6	Monday 5 th June	All students back
Mrs Welch's Parent Forum (online)	Tuesday 27 th June	6.00 – 7.00pm (via Teams)