The Elms Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter 06/11/2026

Message from our Principal

What a brilliant first week back it has been.

Attendance has started strongly across the academy, particularly in Years 7, 8 and 11. As always, I want to begin by thanking parents and carers for your support. Attendance remains the single biggest predictor of a child's success at school, so thank you for ensuring students are here every day and on time.

There has been a real sense of purpose across the academy this week. Year 11 and 13 students begin their AP1 examinations on Monday, and I have been incredibly impressed by the ambition, determination and maturity they are showing in their preparation. We have also held additional assertive mentoring sessions to provide support and guidance as they approach this important period.

Alongside this, Year 11 students have completed their Spanish, French and Mandarin speaking examinations and represented themselves exceptionally well. In my welcome back assemblies, I spoke about the importance of the decisions our students make now and the opportunities those decisions create for their future. We want every young person to live a life of choice, and achieving strong academic outcomes opens doors. Equally important is the development of character, and we want our students to embody our values of integrity, ambition and determination in everything they do.

One of the things that makes our academy so special is that success is not defined solely by what happens in the classroom. This week has been packed with opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and create lasting memories.

A group of students have spent the week at Jamie's Farm, where they have embraced every opportunity on offer. From caring for animals and working together as a team to building relationships, enjoying the countryside and experiencing something completely different, it has been a truly transformative experience. Hearing students talk about seeing the stars away from the bright lights of London has been particularly special.

Elsewhere, Year 9 students visited Gatwick Airport as part of an aviation careers trip, while Years 9 and 10 benefited from a creative careers talk. Our Bright Sparks Council also had the opportunity to showcase their work at the House of Lords. Alongside this, students have enjoyed a range of house activities, including velcro darts and Guess the Footballer, helping to build community, connection and school spirit.



None of these opportunities happen by accident. They are only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our staff, many of whom willingly give their time to enrich students' experiences beyond the classroom. I am incredibly grateful for everything they do to ensure our young people receive not only an excellent education, but also the wider experiences that help them grow into confident, well-rounded individuals.

I hope all of our students, families and staff have a wonderful weekend. To our Year 11 and 12 students, good luck in you AP1 examinations next week. Your hard work and preparation over recent weeks have been outstanding, and we look forward to supporting you every step of the way.

Amy Welch

Wellness Garden



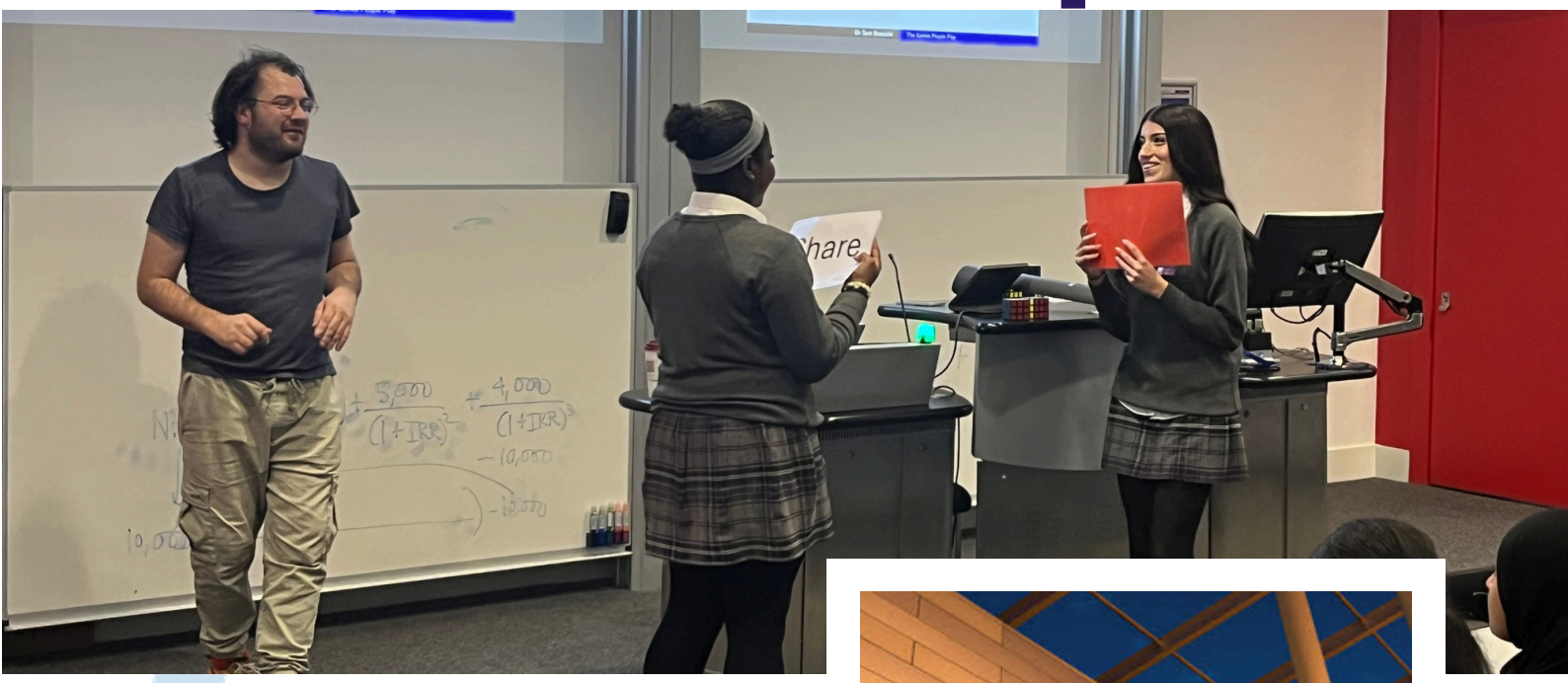


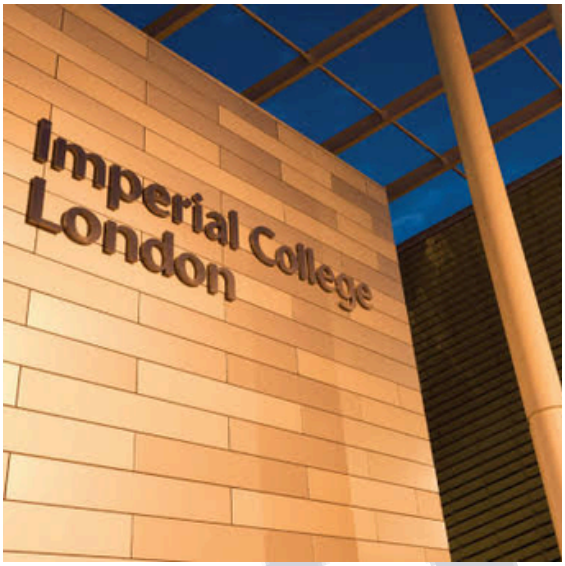




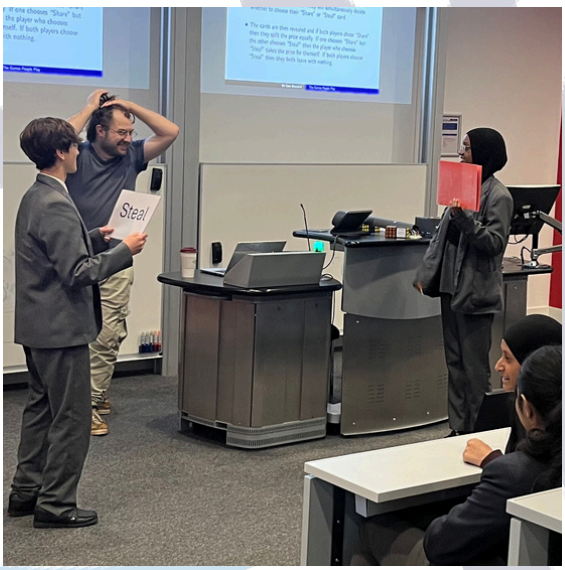
The first phase of the Wellness Garden project at Elms Academy has made great progress, with volunteers coming together to transform the courtyard into a more welcoming and relaxing space. The team worked hard to clear rubbish, build and line the new U-shaped planter, fill it with soil, tidy the courtyard and refresh the surrounding areas. Despite some challenging weather, the work was successfully completed thanks to the fantastic efforts of all the volunteers who gave up their time to help. The next stage will involve planting and finishing the painting, bringing us one step closer to creating a beautiful wellness space for everyone to enjoy.

Imperial College Trip





Our students had a fantastic and informative visit, with an engaging talk about routes into university, exploring the different subjects and grades required to pursue specific degree courses, including Medicine and Mechanical Engineering. They also thoroughly enjoyed a brilliant lecture on Game Theory, getting actively involved in the interactive activities, including the exciting game of 'Split or Steal', and enthusiastically sharing their ideas and answers with the lecturer. To round off the visit, our students took part in a campus tour led by the university's friendly and helpful student ambassadors. They made the most of this opportunity, asking lots of thoughtful questions and showing great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout. It was wonderful to see such positive engagement from everyone!



Civil Aviation Authority Trip











Our students had a fantastic trip to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at Gatwick, where they heard from industry professionals working in Cyber Security, Radio Engineering, Medical Services and AI Integration. They also took part in a virtual escape room and quiz, showcasing their teamwork and problem-solving skills. We are incredibly proud that both finalist teams were from The Elms Academy, beating the other two schools! A brilliant day of learning, engagement and achievement.

Football Fixtures

Year 8 & 9 Girls

We played Bacon's College, and the final score was 8–3.
The team was very strong but also nervous. I am pleased with how everyone tried their best.
I think the highlight of the match was when we fought back to make the score 4–2.
I think the Player of the Match should be Precious (the goalkeeper), as she played the whole match. Despite the goals she conceded, she made lots of fantastic saves and worked really hard throughout the game.
I think the result will help the team progress because the opposition were very polite and encouraging towards each other. I think our team learned the importance of staying positive and not shouting at someone when they make a mistake. Instead, we should encourage and support each other, as this will help us improve as a team.

Report written by Evie, Year 8



Key Dates For Your Diary

Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 26th November 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
INSET Day	Friday 27th November 2026	All Day
Sixth Form Open Evening	Thursday 3rd December 2026	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Winter Showcase	Wednesday 9th December 2026	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Year 13 Parents' Evening	Thursday 10th December 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Academic Awards Night	Monday 14th December 2026	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Last day of term	Friday 18th December 2026	Half day
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027	
INSET Day	Monday 4th January 2027	All day

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