The Elms Academy
NEWSLETTER

Integrity ■ Ambition ■ Determination

Friday 9th October 2026

Message from the Principal



It's been another brilliant week at The Elms Academy, filled with opportunities, enrichment and memorable experiences for our students.

This week, we were delighted to open our doors to prospective Year 5 and Year 6 students and their families for our Open Morning. There is no better way to showcase what makes The Elms Academy special than seeing the school in action. Visitors were expertly guided by our exceptional student tour guides, who shared their experiences and highlighted all that makes our community unique. From the excellent teaching and learning in classrooms to the calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school and the outstanding behaviour of our students, there was much to be proud of. Thank you to everyone who helped make the mornings such a success. With Open Mornings continuing next week, we would be delighted to welcome more families, so please do spread the word to anyone who may be interested in visiting.

It has also been a busy and rewarding week of enrichment. On Tuesday, we held our Careers Drop Down Morning, featuring guest speakers, inspirational talks and careers workshops. Students gained valuable insights into different career pathways, while our Year 10 and Year 12 students prepared for upcoming work experience opportunities. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are grateful to all our visitors for sharing their time and expertise.

Our students have also enjoyed a range of wider opportunities this week. We welcomed IntoUniversity for a Year 8 Buddy Workshop, enjoyed a trip to Roehmpton University, and saw Year 11 students undertake Geography fieldwork in Walton-on-the-Naze. Alongside these events, our Key Stage 3 enrichment clubs once again proved popular, giving students the chance to develop new skills, pursue interests and build friendships.

House activities have also been in full swing. Wednesday saw students drawing portraits of their Heads of House, while today's Shooting Hoops competition brought energy and enthusiasm to the end of the week. Thursday's House Drop Down Afternoon remains a highlight of the year, providing opportunities for students across year groups to work together, build relationships and step outside their comfort zones. From poetry and engineering challenges to cheerleading and cooking, students embraced every activity with characteristic enthusiasm. A huge thank you to both staff and students for making the afternoon such a success.

Finally, thank you to all Year 10 parents and carers who attended our Welcome to GCSE Evening on Thursday. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss how students can make the most of Year 10 and lay strong foundations for success in Year 11 and beyond. We reinforced a key message shared across all our Welcome Evenings this year: the decisions we make today as students, families and schools can have a significant impact on our young people's futures. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and know that when families and schools work in partnership, great things can be achieved.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, and I wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

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Sporting Fixture

Many thanks to Mason in Year 9 for the following article on a recent football match.

Our team played against Bishop Thomas Grant and we unfortunately lost 3-2 in a cup game. The team performed very well in teamwork and coordination, with everyone putting in a lot of effort. A key highlight was a tackle one of the team made to prevent the other team from scoring again.

The player of the match was Caeden. He simply didn't give up and continued to apply pressure and truly deserved recognition.

Although our loss means we are out of the tournament so early on, we can still fight for the league with more matches to pop up in the future. The entire team tried their best and it was extremely unlucky we didn't make the cut. We have high standards and I'm sure we will reach them in the future.



International Evening – Thursday 22nd October



Join us for an evening of cultural celebration through food, music, dance and art. This year our event will feature a performing arts showcase and fashion show followed by the food and dining experience.

- Families are warmly encouraged to bring a dish to share, giving us all the chance to enjoy the wonderful flavours and traditions that make our community so special.
- Guests are also welcome to wear traditional dress to mark the occasion.
- If you would like to contribute food, please complete this form: International Evening: Thursday 22nd October 5-7pm – Fill out form
- Dishes can be dropped off during the day or brought along in the evening. Families bringing food may access the venue from 4.30pm to set up before attending the start of the event at 5pm.

We look forward to celebrating with you.

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Careers Drop Down

Our Careers Morning on Tuesday 6th October brought Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 together to explore ambitions, discover Unifrog and prepare for work experience. Inspiring guest speakers shared insights into hospitality, sport, dance and university life, alongside confidence and resilience.













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House Drop Down Day

On Thursday, our students took part in their second Drop Down event of the week, competing in various events organised by their Houses. The diverse lineup of activities included cooking, poetry performance, cheerleading, MTV music video creation, a fashion show, Elms MUN, and The Elms Engineers to name a few. It was a wonderful afternoon that fostered a strong sense of belonging and community spirit, giving students a fantastic opportunity to have fun while showcasing incredible resilience and determination.













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Parent Forum – Tuesday 13th October



We are delighted to invite you to our Parent Forum which will take place Tuesday 13th October 2026 from **6.15pm to 7.00pm**. This meeting will be online.

We're looking forward to sharing important updates about the school, discussing how we're supporting your child's education, and answering any questions you may have. A link to join the online meeting will be sent via email and text closer to the date.

To help us tailor the session to what matters most to you, please take a moment to complete the short questionnaire below. You can use it to suggest topics or submit questions in advance:
Parent Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13th October 2026 - Online – Fill out form

There will also be time during the forum to ask questions directly. The link to join the meeting will be sent on the day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you there.

Getting to Know you



Name: Rebecca Wood

Job title: Head of Geography

House: Jones

Currently Reading: Deal Breaker by Harlan Coben

A favourite film: Anything Harry Potter

Interesting fact about me: I took a career break between August 2025 – July 2026 and travelled to 16 countries across 3 continents

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: The students at the Elms have incredible manners, as well as a great energy and enthusiasm in all they do. The welcome into this community has been wonderful.

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Sixth Form Open Evening

Students in Year 11 are invited to sign up to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening taking place on Thursday 3rd December from 5.00pm till 7.00pm. The evening will give students the opportunity to explore the wide variety of subjects on offer in the Sixth Form.

The Elms Academy Sixth Form Open Evening Booking Form – Fill out form

Key Dates for Your Diary

Parent Forum – Online	Tuesday 13th October 2026	6.15pm – 7.00pm
International Evening	Thursday 22nd October 2026	5.00pm – 7.00pm
October Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026	All Week
INSET Day	Monday 2nd November 2026	All Day
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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