The Elms Academy
NEWSLETTER

Integrity ■ Ambition ■ Determination

Friday 25th September 2026

Message from the Principal



As we reach the midpoint of this half term, I have been delighted by the positive start our school community has made to the new academic year. Our students have embraced the term with enthusiasm, maturity and determination, setting strong foundations for the months ahead. Attendance has been particularly strong, and I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring students are in school every day and on time. As the saying goes, you can't teach an empty chair, and this commitment to excellent attendance will make a significant difference to students' long-term success. It has been a real pleasure to see our students each day demonstrating our values of ambition, determination and integrity, and to visit lessons where high-quality teaching and learning are taking place across the school.

There has already been plenty happening this term. We launched the Assertive Mentoring Programme for Year 11 this week, students meeting one-to-one with mentors to set goals and plan for success in their GCSE exams. Meanwhile, our Year 7 students took part in an inspiring university aspirations workshop, encouraging them to think about future opportunities and the positive choices they can make now to keep doors open later in life.

We are also excited to launch our Key Stage 3 Enrichment Clubs next week. These opportunities will allow students to broaden their horizons, develop new skills and discover interests and passions beyond the classroom. We hope many students will take advantage of these exciting opportunities and perhaps even uncover a lifelong hobby along the way. There is also great excitement building around this year's school production, Shrek the Musical, following this week's information meeting. With auditions beginning next week, we look forward to seeing students embrace the many opportunities the production will offer.

Thank you to all Key Stage 3 parents and carers who attended our online Welcome to Key Stage 3 Evening on Thursday. We hope the session provided useful information about how we can work together to support students through this important stage of their education and lay the foundations for future success.

Finally, a reminder to help spread the word about our Open Evening next Thursday from 5.00pm to 7.30pm. Our students are incredibly excited to serve as tour guides and subject ambassadors, showcasing a school of which they are rightly very proud.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I look forward to another successful and exciting week ahead.

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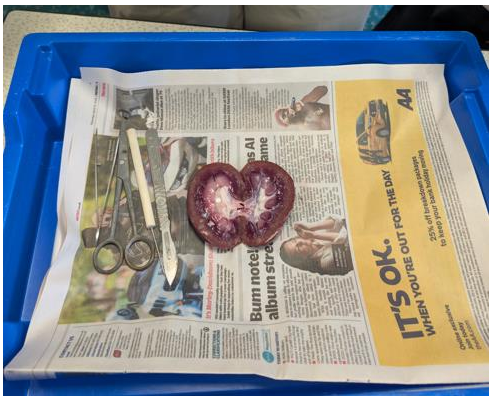
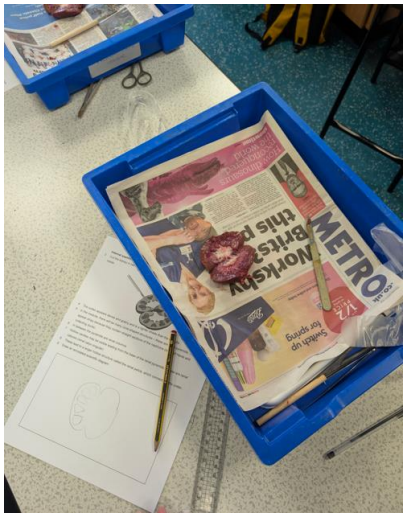
Year 13 Biology Class

This week, our Year 13 Biologists got hands-on with their learning by carrying out a kidney dissection.
Students explored the structure of the kidney and investigated how its different parts are adapted to carry out their roles in filtration, selective reabsorption and the production of urine.

A great opportunity for students to connect the theory they have learned in the classroom with the real structures and processes of the human body.







Key Stage Enrichment

A reminder that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will start their Enrichemnt club after school on Monday 28th September form 3.35pm to 4.30pm.



Year 11 Assertive Mentoring Programme

This week we launched our Year 11 Assertive Mentoring programme, bringing mentors and mentees together to set clear goals and targets in preparation for AP1. The sessions provided a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on their progress, identify areas for development, and outline practical steps to achieve success.

Alongside the focused discussions, mentors and mentees also enjoyed some well-earned pizza, making for a positive and motivating start to the programme. We look forward to seeing the impact this structured support will have on student outcomes over the coming weeks.







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Open Evening Arrangements and Last Start for Students



Due to our annual Open Evening taking place, all students will leave school at 2.30pm on Thursday 1st October.

The Open Evening gives us an opportunity to show our school to prospective parents of students joining us next year.



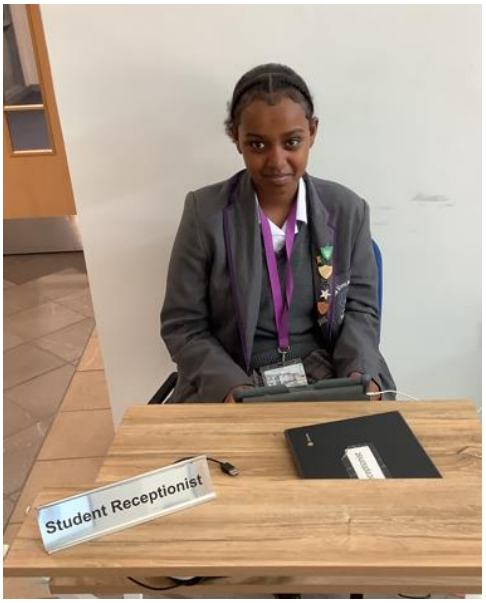
As many staff and student ambassadors will be involved until 7.30pm for the Open Evening, we will have a later start on Friday 2nd October.

On this day:

- Year 11 students should arrive at 9:00am for Independent Study
- Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13 should arrive at 9:30am

Student Receptionist

Each day our main reception is supported by a Student Receptionist from Year 8. Each student in this year group will have an opportunity to work at reception. Students are given a variety of tasks to complete, take messages to classrooms and any admin tasks that may be needed. This unique opportunity gives students a chance to experience something different, to build on their confidence and to develop their communication skills. The Admin and Reception team look forward to working with Year 8 throughout the coming academic year.



Student Photographs – Years 7, 11 and 12

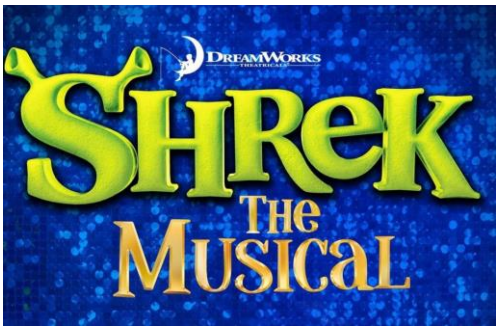
Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on the proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered, you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. For individual photographs you will need the pupil's admission number from the school database.

School Musical – Shrek



A reminder that auditions will be held after school on **Wednesday 30th September 15:30-16:30 for years 7 and 8, and 15:30-17:30 for years 9, 10 and 12**.

Rehearsals will take place weekly on Wednesdays beginning on 7th October

Why get involved?
Taking part in a school production helps students develop confidence, creativity, teamwork and communication skills. We have multiple roles available both on and off stage.

We can't wait to watch our talented students transform our stage into Shrek's swamp and tell this heartwarming story about friendship, acceptance, and discovering what makes us unique. We will be looking for parent volunteers to support with costumes and set design. If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch at admin@theelmsacademy.org.uk

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Getting to Know You

Name: Karim Al-souss

Job title: Teacher of PE

House: Archer

Currently Reading: *Hidden Figures*

A favourite film: *Harry Potter*



Interesting fact about me:
I love travelling and exploring different countries across Europe. I also used to captain the Men's Football Team at Roehampton University.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy:
Coaching the Year 8 & Year 9 football squad, taking the team to fixtures and becoming their new manager. I enjoy developing the students both as players and as a team.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Evening	Thursday 8th October 2026	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Parent Forum – Online	Tuesday 13th October 2026	6.15pm – 7.00pm
International Evening	Thursday 22nd October 2026	5.00pm – 6.30pm
October Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026	All Week
INSET DAY	Monday 2nd November 2026	All Day

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