

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 4th November 2022

## Message from the Principal



It was great to see all our students back in school after the half term and ready to carry on with the important work of learning. Word is getting out about our fantastic Progress 8 score and we have several visiting Principals coming in to see what we are doing. They have been impressed by the determination and focus in lessons that they've seen during learning walks. Along with our focus on learning in the classroom and preparing for exams, we value enrichment and seek to give our students other experiences outside the classroom as you will see in all the trips and workshops in the newsletter. Our first whole school house assembly for this academic year took place on Tuesday morning and I am pleased to announce our new head of houses, Mr Assan - Head of House Thornton, Ms Thomas - Head of House Szabo, Mr Lye - Head of House Jones and Mr O'Brien - Head of House Archer. I know they will bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the role. We had some great competitions this week including table tennis, naming flags, mental maths and more. Each house is feeling very confident so may the best house win!

Your feedback continues to be very important in our decision making so please check your email / text messages for information about the United Learning parent survey. If you have any trouble accessing the survey, do contact the school and we will support you. I am hosting our **first Parent Forum of this academic year on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 6.00 – 7.00pm**. The forum is for all parents / carers and is online so more of you can join in via a link that has been shared with you. You will be welcome at the end of my presentation to participate and ask questions. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Congratulations to Kaycee and Sammy. They are the first Year 7 students to achieve 50 merits and receive a bronze award.



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## Parent Survey

United Learning's annual Parent Survey is now LIVE. The survey only takes 15 minutes to do and once completed, respondents will automatically be entered into a prize draw for a £25 Amazon voucher. A link was emailed and texted to all families. The survey will close on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.



## Residential at Jamie's Farm

A group of students got to spend the week on a residential in the countryside on Jamie's Farm. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about farm life and actively taking part in the day to day running of the farm. Students work on resilience, flexibility and the ability to show initiative which will help them flourish in school and beyond.



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### Kings Scholars Workshop

Scholars+ is a tutoring programme run by King's College London in cooperation with the tutoring specialists from Team Up. The new group of Year 10 Scholars had their welcome session this week. In the programme, students will attend weekly tutoring sessions in Maths and English taught by King's undergraduate students. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to improve their skills in Maths and English while engaging with university students who are always happy to share their experience of progressing from GCSE all the way to university.



### Sixth Form Trip to the National Theatre

Teacher of English, Ms De Belder, organised for Sixth Form students to see a performance of 'Blues for an Alabama Sky' at the National Theatre. This is a terrific play set in 1930 during the Harlem Renaissance about four friends and how their lives and passions collide when a newcomer from Alabama arrives.



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### Music Trip to the Ritzy Picturehouse

The Ritzy Picturehouse showed a screening on Halloween of a classic film called Dreyer's *Vampyr* with live orchestral soundtrack composed and performed by Brixton Chamber Orchestra. Music students thoroughly enjoyed this special treat.



### Year 10 GCSE Evening

This week Year 10 students and parents came in for a special evening focussed on GCSE preparation. Workbook and revision guides were on sale so students can start those all important preparations for next year's public exams. In the meantime, students are working hard on revising for upcoming mocks which start week 14<sup>th</sup> November.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Mrs Maria Kotocova

**Job:** Careers and Higher Education Coordinator

**Currently reading:** I am reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This is a wonderful book about choices, regrets and embracing life.

**A favourite film:** *Dark Blue World*. This is a Czech film about Czech fighter pilots flying for the RAF in World War 2. My favourite part in this film is a scene where the pilots are learning to pronounce English words. I could really relate to this as I had the same challenges.

**Interesting fact about me:** I did A levels in four languages; English, Slovak, French and Latin.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** This was my first week back from maternity leave and it feels like I'd never left! I love hearing the warm "welcome back" from both students and my colleagues. And that's what I love about The Elms Academy – knowing that I belong to a community where I always feel welcome.



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 7 & Year 8 Enrichment	Mondays	3.30 – 4.30pm
Year 9 & Year 10 Enrichment	Thursdays	3.30 – 4.30pm
Mock exams for Year 10, 11, 13	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	During the school day
Parent Forum (join online via link)	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	6.00 – 7.00pm
Year 7 Meet the Tutor (for 7B, 7C, 7D and 7E)	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	5.00 – 7.00pm
Staff Inset Day	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	No school
Sixth Form Open Evening	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00 – 6.00pm