

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 9th December 2022

Message from the Principal



This week I spent a day in the north of England with Mr Wilson visiting another academy in the United Learning Trust, Stockport Academy. It was an enlightening and constructive visit where we met with the senior leadership team, toured the school and observed lessons. One of the huge benefits of being part of United Learning is the opportunity to collaborate with other schools within the group. We spend time sharing information, best practice and working together to continue bringing out 'the best in everyone' and developing a culture of excellence where every child flourishes.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the student, staff and parent surveys. Our response rates were in keeping with the top ten schools in the trust so I am pleased with this and grateful to all who took the time to share their feedback. In the new year I will assemble a small working party to analyse the results and share them with you at my next Parent Forum on Tuesday

21st February from 6.00 – 7.00pm, online. Please do put this date in your diary.

Monday I am taking a group of students on a special Golden Postcard Trip to the movies and very much looking forward to celebrating with them the integrity, ambition and determination they have shown consistently in order to receive a golden postcard. We will continue to celebrate our young people's achievements next week in end of term assemblies. There will be learning taking place daily until the final day of term, Friday the 16th December. An email will be sent to you shortly with the schedule for the last day



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Year 10 Trip to Chinatown

Head of MFL, Mrs Wang, organised several trips to Chinatown so students learning Mandarin could practice their language skills with restaurant staff, their tutors and each other. This week it was a group of Year 10 students who enjoyed this opportunity, complete with a stop after lunch for Bubble Tea.



IntoUniversity Workshop

Our Year 7 students had their very first workshop with our partners from IntoUniversity. Group leaders tasked students with activities aimed at teaching valuable team-building, communication and leadership skills. There will be additional workshops throughout the academic year to help students start thinking about further education.



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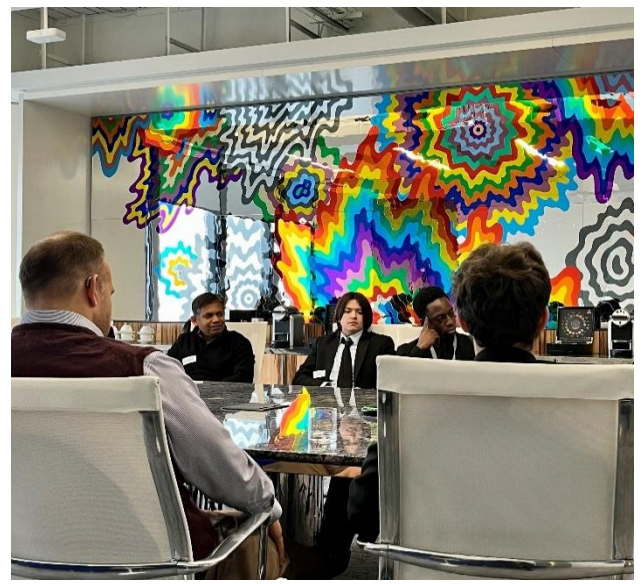
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Envision Project with Year 12

Envision UK is a charity which helps empower young people to take control of their futures. They do this by helping students learn strategies for success. This week a group of Year 12 students visited the law firm of McDermott Will and Emery in the City. Seated in a conference room on the 46th floor with incredible views, students met with mentors from the firm on presentations they will be making for their final project. It was a terrific experience.



Carols in Our Local Market

Venn Street market is an award-winning local market near the Clapham Picturehouse. Students were invited to sing carols on Saturday morning and share that festive feeling. Head of Music Mrs Haworth, and music teacher Ms Speranska, braved the cold with members of the school choir. The group warmed hearts with their merry songs.



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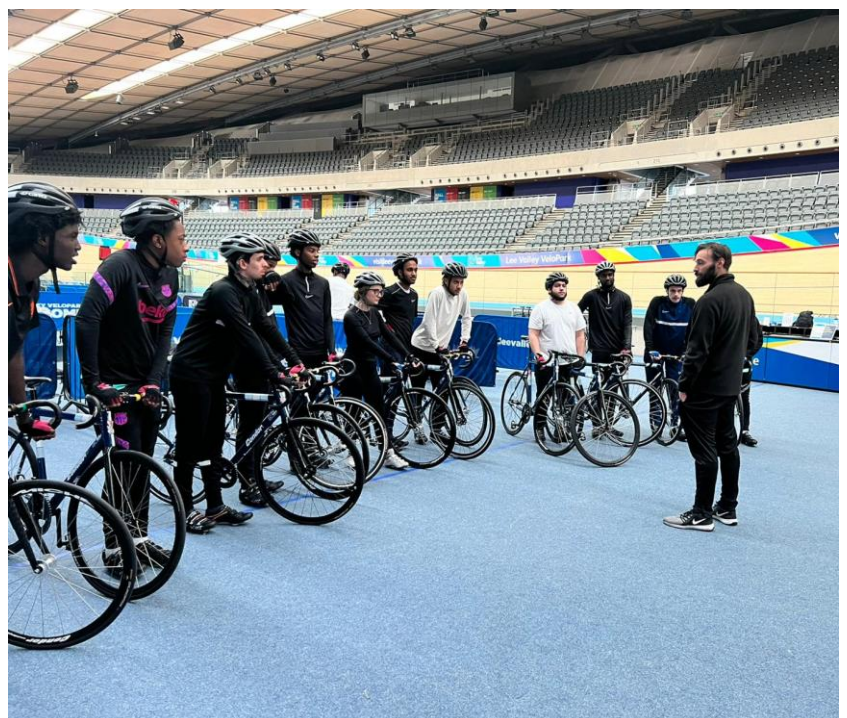
Sixth Form Super-Curricular Presentations

Year 12 students delivered bite-size presentations about topics related to their A level and BTEC subjects as part of the Super-Curricular Showcase. It was wonderful to see them demonstrate their oracy skills which they have been practising during tutor time.



BTEC Sport Trip to the Velodrome

Sixth Form A level PE and BTEC Sport students travelled to the Olympic Velodrome with Head of Sport, Ms Howe. They were given the opportunity to understand the regeneration of the Stratford area in line with London 2012 Olympics and look at the legacy of the Olympics. This was inline with their up and coming exams. Whilst there, students were taught how to ride in the velodrome by a GB coach. This was a tough training session which pushed them all through their paces and saw them tackling the 42 degree curve of a track. It was an incredible opportunity to be training on the Olympic track.



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House Competitions - Update

The last couple of week's saw a range of house competitions from football challenges to chess. In between there was flag-making and the chance to win house points playing the word game, Articulate. House Captains were present to cheer on their respective houses and encourage students to take part. As it stands, House Archer have 555 points, followed by Thornton with 492, Szabo with 406 and finally Jones with 381. Look out for more fun events next term.



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Getting to Know You

Name: Mr Kun Zhou

Job: Teacher of Mandarin

House: Szabo

Currently reading: I am reading *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. It is considered one of the best mystery novels ever written by readers.

A favourite film: I like the TV series *Downton Abbey*. Set on the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey between 1912 and 1926, it depicts the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their domestic servants in the post-Edwardian era — the great events of the time having an effect on their lives and on the British social hierarchy.

Interesting fact about me: I am a keen fan of Beijing Opera, which is a classic art form as well as a cultural symbol of China starting in late 18th century. It's a synthesis of stylized action to represent a story or depict different characters and their feelings through singing, rhythmical dialogue, mime, acrobatic fighting and dancing.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: The school is a great place to work. Everyone is kind, ready to help and hard-working, which makes it really pleasant to be here.



Key Dates for Your Diary

| Event | Date | Time |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Enrichment for Year 7 & Year 8 | Mondays | 3.30 – 4.30pm |
| Enrichment for Year 9 & Year 10 | Thursdays | 3.30 – 4.30pm |
| Golden Postcard Trip | Monday 12 th December | During the school day |
| Christmas Lunch | Tuesday 13 th December | From 1.05pm |
| Winter Showcase (all welcome) | Wednesday 14 th December | 5.00 – 7.00pm |
| Last day of Term 2 | Friday 16 th December | Dismissal time to be confirmed |