

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 31st March 2023

## Message from the Principal



It has been a very busy but incredibly rewarding term here at The Elms Academy. The end of term always offers us a moment to reflect on the progress we have made as a school as well as a chance to look ahead and set ourselves new goals. For Year 11 and 13 students, the goal is to carry on showing up daily and continue putting in maximum effort. All academy staff are doing everything possible to prepare students for GCSE and A level exams. Interventions for Year 11 and 13 students will carry on through the Easter break with some time off for students to relax and revise at home. The first GCSE and A level public exams are on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May so every day counts at this stage.

This week along with a rewards trip to Thorpe Park, the golden postcard trip to Go Ape in Battersea and a Chinese residential in Birmingham for Year 10 students, we held an own clothes day on the last day of term where students and staff paid £2 to wear their own clothes. Proceeds for the day will go to Brixton

Soup kitchen which is a charity with close ties to the academy. It is important to help people not just when we get something in return. Showing empathy allows us to have compassion for others and relate better to friends, family and even strangers.

Please remember that all students must come back to school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April in full school uniform, with all their equipment, ready to work hard and strive to continue to live by our values of determination, ambition and integrity. I wish everyone a wonderful Easter break.



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### Thorpe Park Trip

We are an unapologetically strict school but we also believe in a culture of rewarding excellence. This week those students who gave 100% effort every single day of the term were taken to Thorpe Park to enjoy everything this well-known resort has to offer. In spite of the grey weather, there were lots of smiles and everyone had a wonderful time.



### Year 10 Chinese Residential

The MFL Department organised a residential trip to Birmingham for the Year 10 Chinese MEP class from Tuesday 28th March to Wednesday 29th of March this week. The class attended the MEP conference: Journey to the East – A Voyage of Discovery at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Birmingham. Apart from attending many interesting seminars, the students also participated in different workshops on Chinese culture at the conference.



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### Golden Postcard Trip

Every term Mrs Welch hosts a trip for students who have received 10 postcards for living our values. Once they receive their 10<sup>th</sup> postcard they receive a golden postcard. This term students went to Go Ape, Battersea, described as the most central forest experience in London. It was a fun day of climbing, zip-lining and team-building activities.



### House Easter Egg Hunt

The last house event of the term saw students roaming around the ground floor looking for slips of paper with quiz questions (eg how many elements are in the periodic table?) Get the answer to the question correct and win a chocolate Easter egg. House captains were on hand to check answers. As it stands, House Thornton leads with 2052, points followed by Archer with 1864, Szabo with 1631 and Jones with 1417 points.



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### Tutor Group 8A First Give Event

First Give is a scheme where students choose a charity that they feel passionate about and raise awareness and money for them. Students in tutor group 8A chose 'Art Against Knives', a brilliant charity that provides young people with the opportunity to get involved in creative projects. This allows them to focus on art instead of being negatively influenced by their peers. On the last day of term 8A held a bake sale, poster competition, henna hand painting, nail art competition, penalty shoot-out, and a live lounge session, all to raise money for 'Art Against Knives.'



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### Year 12 Visit to Cowen

Two lucky Year 12 students of Economics visited the company Cowen, a global financial services firm. Students took part in a series of sessions with representatives from various teams – stock traders, operation managers, HR and risk managers. The event provided students with an excellent insight into the various careers available in the City as they heard stories about the employees' educational and career journeys.



### Own Clothes Day for Charity

The MUGA pitch looked especially colourful during line up on the last day of term as students and staff wore their own clothes. Heads of Year collected £2 from everyone and the buckets quickly filled up. All proceeds from the day will be donated to Brixton Soup Kitchen which does a wonderful job feeding those in need in our community.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Mr Henry Goodwin

**Job:** Teacher of History

**House:** Archer

**Currently reading:** Nothing Special by Nicole Flattery. This is the debut novel from a new Irish author (the latest in a long line of ‘the next Sally Rooney’), about a teenage girl who quits school and gets a job at Andy Warhol’s Factory in 1967. I’ve only just started – so ask me after Easter if it’s any good.

**A favourite film / series:** The Sopranos. And in second place: the Sopranos.

**Interesting fact about me:** Before becoming a teacher, I used to be a journalist.

Highlights include writing a story for \*REDACTED\* about the decrease in the volume of seeds in a Waitrose own-brand seeded loaf. This was not my idea.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** The searing honesty of the kids, and being in a workplace where it’s so palpable that every single staff member is working towards a common purpose.



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Staff Inset Day	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	No school for students
Start of Term 5	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	All students back
Year 7 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	5.00 – 7.00pm
May Bank Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	No school
GCSE and A level Public Exams begin	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	During the school day
Half Term	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	---
Start of Term 6	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	All students back



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