

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Message from the Principal



As we come to the end of the term and the end of 2022, it is a good time to reflect on all that we have achieved. We have successfully become The Elms Academy, complete with new values that our community strives to live every day. Students and staff have been working incredibly hard in lessons and as I do my weekly learning walks, I am always impressed by the energy and professionalism of our teachers, and the positive attitude to learning shown by our students. We are firmly on a path of academic excellence, and this is evidenced by the seven students in Year 13 who have Oxbridge interviews. Year 11 students had a special assembly on Tuesday where they were given the results from their first mock exams and viewed the new rank order. While many students are on track, there is more work to be done and Mr Aung has outlined the plan we have from January to prepare them for their next round of mocks. There was much to celebrate during end of term assemblies, and I want to commend all the students who were awarded gold, silver and bronze certificates. While I have encouraged

our young people to relax and switch off over the break, I have also advised them to set aside time to read and revise in preparation for January assessments.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday and thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023!



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### English Trip to the Globe

Teacher of English, Ms Sharp, organised a fantastic trip to the world-renowned Globe Theatre for Year 8 students who are brushing up their Shakespeare. Working with a Globe practitioner, students read through the script of Romeo and Juliet and focussed on the rhythm and cadence of the language used during Shakespeare's time.



### Foodbank Donations

Thanks to the generosity shown by our families and staff and the good work of the volunteers at our local foodbank, those in need in our community will have food on the table and presents to open this holiday season. A member of the team from Norwood and Brixton Foodbank came to collect all donations and expressed his thanks to students.



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### Christmas Lunch

Our dedicated catering team pulled out all the stops to ensure students and staff enjoyed a traditional Christmas feast of turkey, stuffing, roast potatoes, pigs in blanket, peas and parsnips and chocolate pudding. There were Christmas crackers, holiday carols in the background and Santa shared sweets with those on the 'nice' list.



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### Winter Decorating Competition

House Captains leaned into the festive season and organised a house winter decorating competition. Boxes filled with colourful decorations were laid out in the atrium for students to use in creating holiday cards.



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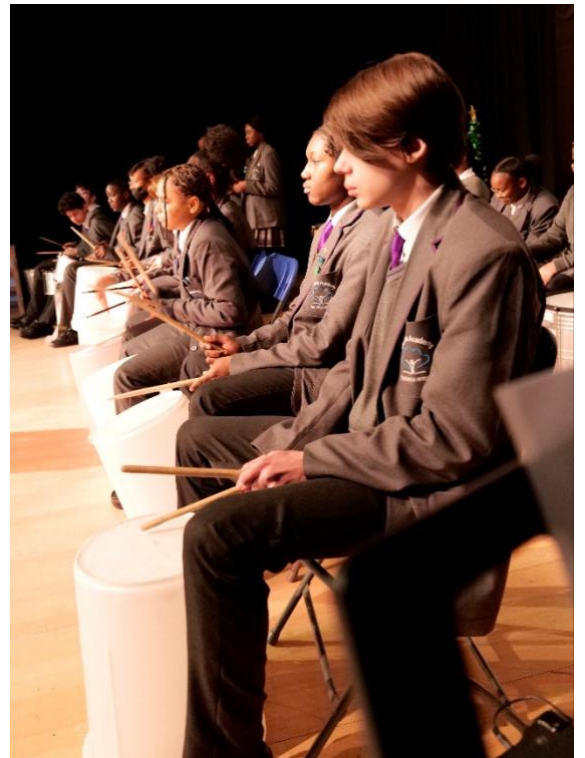
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### Winter Showcase

On a frosty, wintery evening, our students warmed a standing-only audience with their uplifting performances. Huge credit to Head of Music, Mrs Haworth, teacher of Music Ms Speranska and Head of Drama Mr O'Brien for their commitment to producing such an entertaining show. It was a triumph and the perfect way to kick off the holidays.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Mr Colm Gallagher

**Job:** Head of RE

**House:** Archer

**Currently reading:** I am reading Children of Dune by Frank Herbert. It is a science fiction novel and many of you will be familiar with the series from the film, Dune.

**A favourite film:** Classic thriller Rear Window and Home Alone 2: Lost in New York. Both are great viewing for the holidays.

**Interesting fact about me:** I have travelled across the length of America. It was an amazing trip and I discovered so much.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** I really like how supportive everyone is and how high the expectations are so we all can all try and be the best versions of ourselves



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Staff Inset Day – No school	Tuesdays 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	All day
Start of Term 3	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	8.20am
Enrichment for Year 7 & 8	Mondays after school	3.30 – 4.30pm
Enrichment for Year 9 & 10	Thursdays after school	3.30 – 4.30pm
Assessments for Years 7 – 9 and Year 12	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	During the school day
February Half Term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	---