

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 24th February 2023

Message from the Principal



I hope everyone managed to switch off and have a relaxing half term. The start of half term 4 feels full of optimism as the weather turns milder and mornings and afternoons brighten. It was great to see all students and teachers back, re-energised and ready for all the exciting opportunities and challenges that the next six weeks will bring. For our Year 10, 11 and Year 13 students, their second round of mock exams begun on Thursday. These exams will run until Friday 10th March. There will be no masterclass after school for Year 11s to give them time to carry on revising independently at home.

I was delighted to see many of you in my online Parent Forum Tuesday and to hear from you on what you think we're doing well as we discussed the outcomes from the recent United Learning surveys. I say it to my staff all the time and I want to remind you as well that my door is open to you should you wish to discuss with me any concerns you have or indeed share some positive news about anything connected to school. The parent – school relationship is vital to the success of our students.

This week saw two confident Year 10 students Jasmin and Bohdan, give speeches at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Final. It was an impressive evening of speeches all around and I couldn't have been prouder of our young people and how they performed.

Finally, a letter has been sent outlining our plans for the upcoming teacher's strike which is planned for Thursday 2nd March. We will do everything possible to limit disruption to our students. We will be remaining open for Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 from 8.30am-3.15pm and Year 8 and 9 will be working remotely from home. We will send details of the work they will complete at home in due course. This will also be posted on the school website and on Show my Homework.



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Social Enterprise Academy

A group of Year 9s have joined the Social Enterprise Academy - a project in which students create business ideas that address social issues. In the first workshop, students worked in teams and discussed which social issues in their community they would like to solve.



Bugsy Malone Rehearsals

This year's school musical is the popular Bugsy Malone. Rehearsals have kicked into high gear with students in the Newton Hall Tuesdays and Wednesdays practicing the lyrics to the songs and reviewing their speaking parts. The performances will be Thursday 23rd March and Friday 24th March from 5.00 – 7.00pm in the Newton Hall. Tickets will be available soon so do put the dates in your diary.



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Sixth Form Leadership Meeting

Year 12 students who make up the Sixth Form Leadership Team held their first meeting of the term to discuss the upcoming projects that they are working on.



Subject Love Letters

Year 8 King's Scholars were challenged to write a love letter to their favourite subject. What a special way to celebrate Valentine's Day! The letters will be sent to King's College London where a panel of judges will select the best letters and award prizes to their authors.



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Speak Out Challenge

Wednesday the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final was held at Dunraven School in Streatham. Hosted by the Jack Petchey Foundation, it was an evening of brilliant speeches. Year 10 students Jasmine and Bohdan represented The Elms Academy and presented their speeches along with 12 other contestants representing schools across the borough of Lambeth. Both speeches were memorable. Jasmine's speech on the US healthcare system made the audience appreciate the NHS while Bohdan's speech criticising the English curriculum gave plenty of food for thought. Labour MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Pauline George were on hand to present participants with certificates.



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Getting to Know You

Name: Ms Jamila Al-Jaberi

Job: Assistant SENCO

House: Thornton

Currently reading: You by Caroline Kepnes. This is a book based on the Netflix series and it is a fascinating look at obsessive love and how dangerous it can be.

A favourite film / series: My favourite film is Top Gun: Maverick. I had ambitions to be a pilot when I was very young but as I got older I realised I am afraid of heights.

Interesting fact about me: I love travel and I have been to many interesting places. Bali is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and I also love the food. I recently walked the Pinnacles (mountains) in New Zealand and this helped me overcome my fear of heights.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: As a new member of staff the students here make you feel really welcome and are really friendly. The other thing that makes working here so great is that every day brings something new so it is never boring and you never really know what to expect.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
AP2 for Year 10, 11 and 13	Monday 27 th Feb – 10 th March	During the school day
Enrichment for Year 7 & 8	Mondays after school	3.30 – 4.30pm
Enrichment for Year 9 & 10	Thursdays after school	3.30 – 4.30pm
Bugsy Malone rehearsal	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	3.30 – 4.30pm / 3.30 – 5.00pm
World Book Day celebrations	Friday 3 rd March	During the school day
Sixth Form Information Evening	Monday 6 th March	6.00 – 7.00pm