

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 11th November 2022

## Message from the Principal



This was another busy week of trips and enrichment, along with high levels of engagement in lessons and for Year 10, 11 and Year 13, the focus was on revising for upcoming mock exams. Exams begin on Monday and last until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Students will experience exam-like conditions so it is important that come in to school on time, every day, fully prepared. There will be no masterclass after school during these mocks so students can go straight home and have the time and space to revise at home.

Year 11 students were shown the latest colour groupings and I awarded badges to those students in the gold group. Every student has the ability to improve. I always say it is not about how much talent you have, it is all about your determination and the work you put in. I have spoken in assemblies about how good GCSE and A-Level results open doors for our young people and allow them to have choices about what they want to do in the future. And in turn, this is what will lead them to live happy and fulfilled lives, which is what we want for all our students.

Tuesday I hosted my first online Parent Forum of the academic year and it was great to be able to tell you a bit more about what we are doing and our ongoing vision for the school. We are still recruiting for more Friends of The Elms Academy so please do contact me if you are interested. I am looking to arrange our first meeting in January.

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to please take 15 minutes over the next few weeks and complete our Parent Survey. Thank you for your continued support.



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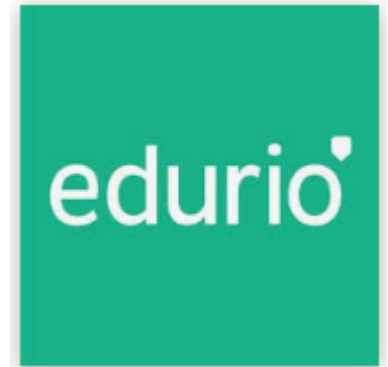
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### Parent Survey

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. Any problems, please contact the school.



### Music Trips to the Southbank Centre

The music department have started this term with trips to the Southbank. The first trip was over the weekend so students could explore careers in music with the professionals. Another trip was for the second part of SingLambeth!, where students joined others from the Norwood School and Lilian Baylis to learn new music and perform. They also had fun learning how to beat box. This is a pilot project organised by Lambeth Music Service.



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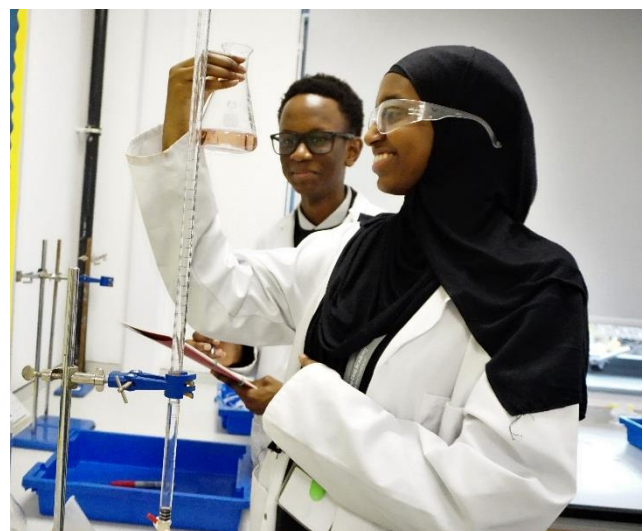
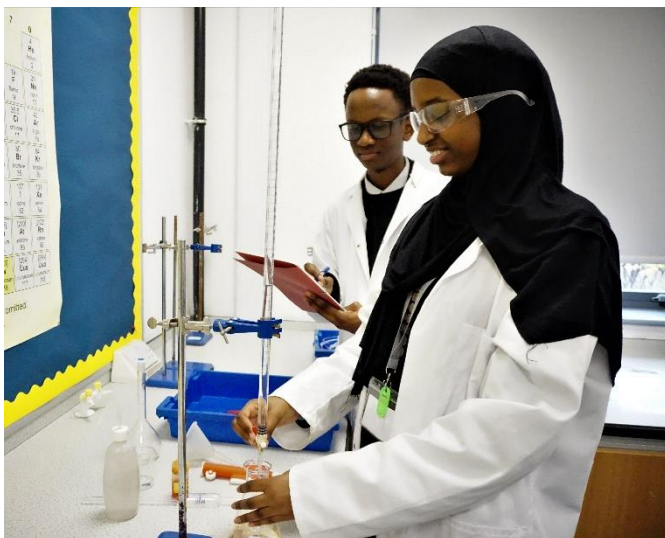
### Visit to Steinway Showroom

Through the music charity Restore the Music, our talented pianists visited the Steinway Showroom. Students sat down and got to play these amazing instruments. They were also filmed, along with students from other schools, for promotional material. Restore the Music are providing funds to bring more music into schools so every child enjoys these opportunities and experiences.



### Year 12 Chemistry Practical

Science teacher, Ms El Sakka's Year 12 chemistry class is always ready to put their learning into practice. This week students took part in a practical where they determined the concentration of hydrochloric acid.



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### Year 9 IntoUniversity Workshop

This week IntoUniversity organised a workshop for Year 9. One of the main activities was creating a budget to help students understand the practical side of student life. It was an eye-opening experience for our young people.



### Trip to Northeastern University

Following on from their workshop, Year 9 students travelled to Northeastern University near Tower Hill. The famous landmarks nearby provided a fantastic backdrop for photographs. Undergraduate students spoke to students about what a typical day is like and how they manage all their work. The day ended with an interesting workshop on how laws are made.



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### PSHCE Focus on Mental Health

This week our PSHCE focus during tutor time was on mental health. We are learning what it means and students are getting comfortable talking openly about how they are feeling, not just physically but mentally. The NHS-run Well Centre hosted a drop in during lunch where students were able to come and talk to a practitioner.



### Meet Our Prefect Team

Year 11 prefects put on their distinctive purple blazers for the first time and began supporting staff during lunch and break. They will also be holding leadership meetings and getting involved in supporting at school events.



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### Getting to Know You

**Name:** Mr Mason O'Brien

**Job:** Drama Teacher and Head of House Archer

**Currently reading:** I am reading our brand new Eduqas Performing Arts Unit 2 specification.

**A favourite film:** Hacksaw Ridge. It is a true story about a young, American field medic during World War II who refused to carry a gun during the war as it went against his beliefs. He took a lot of abuse for this but was determined to stay true to his morals. He became a hero to his peers.

**Interesting fact about me:** Some of my family are from Malta and I am currently trying to teach myself Maltese with a dictionary. It's really challenging but I'm enjoying learning a new language.

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** The amount of care that the staff have here for each other and our students it is what makes this such a great place to work.



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Mock exams for Year 10, 11, 13	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	During the school day
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
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Golden postcard trip	During the school day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Rewards trip	During the school day
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch at school	1.05pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term 2	TBC