Message from our Principal

What a fantastic week it has been to round off the half term.

We have spent the week celebrating Cultural Diversity Week, which began with an informative and thought-provoking assembly from Miss Haworth on Monday. It was a powerful reminder of the richness that diversity brings to our school community and of the importance of understanding, respecting and learning from different cultures, beliefs and experiences. In an increasingly interconnected world, these values are more important than ever.

Throughout the week, students have engaged thoughtfully in tutor-time activities, exploring cultural diversity through historical events, contemporary issues and different aspects of life both locally and globally. It has been wonderful to see the maturity, curiosity and respect with which students have approached these discussions. In doing so, they have demonstrated our value of integrity in action by keeping an open mind, listening to others and engaging thoughtfully with perspectives that may differ from their own.

The week culminated in our International Evening on Thursday, and what a fantastic celebration it was. Thank you to all the families who attended and to those who so generously contributed food. The evening showcased the very best of our community through cultural performances, fashion, music, artwork, creative writing and, of course, some incredible food. I left feeling immensely proud to be part of a school community that can come together to celebrate both our differences and the shared values that unite us.

Alongside these celebrations, it has also been a busy and purposeful week in lessons. With AP1 exams beginning just one week after half term for Years 11 and 13, there has been a real sense of focus and determination across the school. At The Elms, we often talk about every year group mattering, every lesson counting and every day being important. Success is built over seven years through sustained effort and excellence, and we remain committed to ensuring that no learning time is wasted. Thank you, too, for your continued support with attendance and punctuality right up to the final day of term.

There have also been some fantastic enrichment opportunities this week. A group of Year 11 students visited Imperial College London for a STEM event designed to inspire future aspirations and broaden horizons. Our Year 12 Drama students enjoyed a visit to the Old Vic, while Key Stage 3 students continued to benefit from our wide range of enrichment activities and house competitions.



As we reach the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to thank students, staff and families for their ongoing support and commitment.

I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Amy Welch

Metropolitan Police Services visit **at New Scotland Yard**



David (Year 10) and Lukus (Year 13) had the opportunity to visit the Metropolitan Police at New Scotland Yard, where they took part in the Met's community day celebrating Black History Month.

During the visit they met a range of specialist officers from the Mounted, Dog and Firearms units. They also got to wear and handle some of the equipment officers use every day.
The afternoon ended with a panel discussion featuring two senior officers, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dr Alison Heydari and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adelekan. They spoke openly about their own journeys into policing, the wide range of roles and opportunities available within the service, and the achievements they are most proud of in their careers.

It was an inspiring day that gave both students a real insight into the many career pathways policing offers. Well done to David and Lukus for representing the school so brilliantly.





International Evening











Our International Evening was a great success! It was a wonderful celebration of the many cultures within our school community, with everyone enjoying delicious food from around the world, fantastic music, and lively dancing. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and a real sense of togetherness. A huge thank you to all the students who performed, sang, and shared their talents with us, making the event so special.

International Evening















Thank you!

A big thank you to all our fantastic Subject Ambassadors and Tour Guides who did such a brilliant job representing The Elms Academy at our Open Evening! You were welcoming, enthusiastic and full of knowledge, helping our visitors get a real feel for life at The Elms. We really appreciate all the time and effort you put in to make the evening such a success. Thank you also to our amazing Tour Guides who continue to support our Open Mornings, welcoming prospective families and sharing what makes our school so special. We're so proud of you all – thank you for being such wonderful ambassadors for our school!

Key Dates For Your Diary

October Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026	All Week
INSET Day	Monday 2nd November 2026	All Day
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 26th November 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
INSET Day	Friday 27th November 2026	All Day
Sixth Form Open Evening	Thursday 3rd December 2026	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Winter Showcase	Wednesday 9th December 2026	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Year 13 Parents' Evening	Thursday 10th December 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Academic Awards Night	Monday 14th December 2026	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Last day of term	Friday 18th December 2026	Half day
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027	
INSET Day	Monday 4th January 2027	All day

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