

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 10th February 2023

Message from the Principal



During this week's whole school assembly we spoke about the job market and how the workplace has changed from a generation ago. A lot of changes are down to technology which allows people to work from home, or in some cases, has replaced jobs that were previously done by individuals. There is one key statistic which was pointed out to students and that is the fact that 60% of all jobs require a diploma. Therefore, doing well in school continues to be essential to success in the majority of careers. Year 11 and 13 will have their second round of mock exams after half term so while we are encouraging everyone to take time out to recharge, setting aside a few hours for revision every day is vital for these students who will be sitting public exams starting in May. We look forward to seeing Year 11 and Year 13 students next week for our GCSE and A level interventions.

Many people have come to school for meetings and tours and I love when visitors come and tell me how polite and articulate our young people. I am really pushing for all students to focus on their manners so that our interactions with others are always courteous.

Attendance slipped a bit last week which is concerning because we know how important every single minute of every lesson is. I appreciate that there are colds and other bugs going around but at the start of next term I really want to see every child in school on time every single day unless there is a doctor's note confirming illness. Determination and resilience is what is going to allow students to compete in the job market in the future. Enjoy the half term break.



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Year 12 Trip to Cambridge

A group of Year 12 students visited Cambridge University as part of the Excellence in Thinking Programme for our high-achieving Sixth Formers. The day started with a talk about the Oxbridge application process and how studying at Oxford or Cambridge is different from studying at other universities. Later, the Year 12s met with current undergraduate students in an interactive Q&A session. After lunch, students toured the campus and finished the day with a taster of an academic discussion on the topic of Art and Artificial Intelligence.



Year 13 Art Trip to Kew Gardens

On Tuesday this week our Sixth Form Artists celebrated the last week of term by 'taking the air at Kew' with Head of Art, Mrs Smyth. The trip involved a visit to the Shirley Sherwood and Marianne North Gallery. It was a very inspiring day out and students will take what they experienced into their next art project.



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Year 11 Science Practical

Year 11 students were investigating how the concentration of a solution affects the rate of a chemical reaction. They reacted sodium thiosulfate with hydrochloric acid and discovered how the rate of reaction changed as the thiosulfate solution became more diluted.



Library Lessons

Year 7, 8 and 9 students spend 45 minutes every other week enhancing their literacy by reading a book in their Library Lesson. Ms Maia, our dedicated Librarian, ensures that each child is engaged with a book that holds their interest and challenges their vocabulary.



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Rank Order for KS3

Year 7, 8 and 9 celebrated the rank order this week. Overall, students were delighted with their ranking and a group of students who made the biggest leap into higher sets were treated to a small celebration Friday at the end of the school day. Every student has the opportunity to move up the ranking if they are willing to put in 100% effort.



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Getting to Know You

Name: Ms Ananya Sengupta

Job: Teacher of Science

House: Thornton

Currently reading: Feminists Don't Wear Pink (and other lies) - a book where inspirational women from all backgrounds tell their stories about their relationship with feminism. It covers some important themes, which leaves me feeling empowered after reading a chapter!

A favourite film / series: I really enjoy watching The Apprentice! I always look forward to the time of year when it's back on.

Interesting fact about me: I went to Fiji for four weeks in 2019, where I taught children English and Maths, and was living in a village with no hot water, no Wi-Fi and no electricity! It was an amazing experience and I would love to go back.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: I love the people here. It is incredible coming to school every day and being surrounded by such hard-working students and friendly staff members.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Start of Term 4	Monday 20 th February	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
Mrs Welch's Parent Forum (Online)	Tuesday 21 st February	6.00 – 7.00pm
AP2 begins for Year 10, 11 and 13	Thursday 23 rd February	During the school day