

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

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Determination

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Message from the Principal



I hope you all had a lovely, restful, and enjoyable Christmas break, with plenty of time spent with family and friends. It's been fantastic to see everyone back and ready for the new term — and what a great start we've had!

We've certainly started back with a bang, as the countdown is well and truly on for AP1 exams for Years 7, 8, 9, and 12. It's been wonderful to see the hard work and dedication from our students as they prepare for these assessments. They're taking their revision seriously and are eager to show off what they know. Please do continue to encourage them to use their revision checklists to review content thoroughly — these exams begin on Monday. We wish all of Key Stage 3 and Year 12 the very best of luck as they sit their exams next week!

Alongside this, our Sixth Form students have been sitting their BTEC exams this week, with more taking place over the coming weeks. They've shown real commitment and preparation, and we're extremely proud of the effort they've put in.

It's also been a great week for Character Education and enrichment. Year 10 took part in Jack Petchey Oracy Workshops to develop confident speaking skills, which students thoroughly enjoyed. Meanwhile, IntoUniversity workshops for Years 7 and 8 helped broaden horizons and encourage thinking about future opportunities, including university pathways.

I've also enjoyed delivering my welcome-back assemblies, where we revisited our vision and values of Ambition, Determination and Integrity. I congratulated students with 100% attendance and homework completion last half term, as these foundations are key to future success.

Finally, thank you to all Year 11 parents who attended Parents' Evening. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss progress and next steps, and we're grateful for your continued support and partnership.

As we move through this term, let's keep the momentum going. Your support at home makes a huge difference, whether it's helping with revision, encouraging good routines, or simply checking in on how things are going. Together, we can ensure every student feels confident and prepared to achieve their best.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students succeed. Here's to a positive and productive term ahead!

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### Year 10 Chinese Exchange lesson

At the end of last term, the Chinese department held language and cultural exchange lesson for Year 10. The lesson between The Elms Academy and CKXC Maoming Campus was a lively and meaningful cultural experience. Students prepared presentations in Chinese to introduce their school as well as key aspects of Chinese and English culture, building confidence and cross-cultural understanding.

The exchange also became interactive as the CKXC students taught the Elms Academy students Taiji, allowing everyone to learn through movement while deepening appreciation for traditional Chinese culture.



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### Jack Petchey Workshops

On Wednesday, we welcomed a team from the Jack Petchey Foundation to deliver their *Speak Out* programme through a series of engaging Oracy Workshops for our Year 10 students. During the sessions, students developed key speaking and oracy skills, building confidence in expressing their ideas clearly and effectively. The workshops concluded with students presenting a short speech they had written themselves on a topic they felt passionate about.

A huge shout out to the following students who received special commendation from the facilitators for their outstanding contributions: Maryann, Sammi, Nadia, Godslove, Ermia, Lucia, Ramatu, Ezequiel, Precious, Lejon, Junior, Fatima and Jasmina. These students will go on to present their speeches in an assembly, with two students being selected to represent The Elms Academy in the regional *Speak Out* Final.



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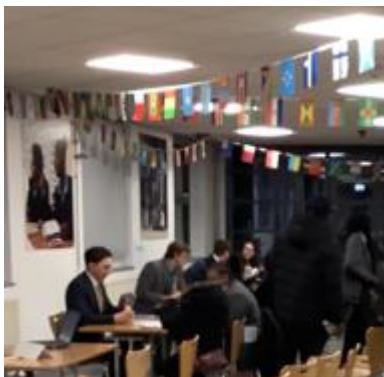
Determination

### Year 11 Parent's Evening

We were delighted to see so many students and parents attend the Year 11 Parent's Evening. The evening provided a vital opportunity for parents to discuss their child's learning and progress. Parental involvement makes a crucial difference to pupils' achievement. Discussions took place on how best to use the time left before the start of the GCSEs to ensure success.

The evening allowed parents to gain a clearer understanding of their child's progress, identify any challenges, and explore the steps needed to help them reach their target grades.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend.



### KS3 Enrichment

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will start their new enrichment club on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. They will take place after school from 3.30pm until 4.30pm.

Students have been encouraged to try something new, be brave, be bold, meet new friends and be fully engaged in the club they have chosen.



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### Inset day reminder – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



A reminder that Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 will be an INSET day.

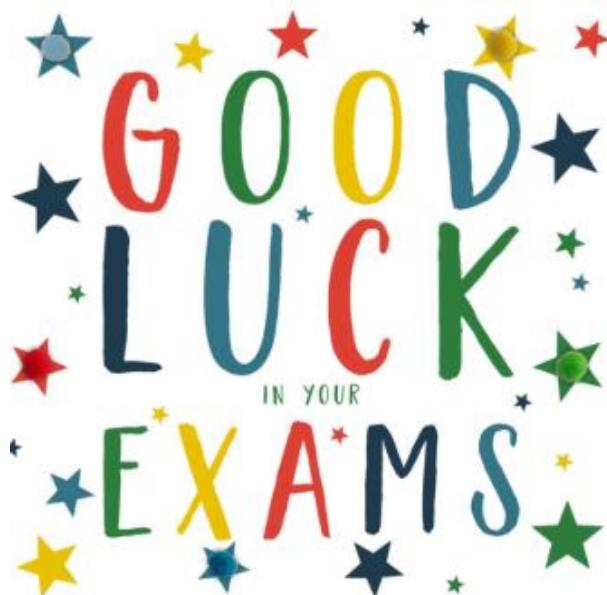
Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 will not be required to attend school on that day.

Students in Year 11 will be expected to attend school for an English mock exam in the morning. Details of the timetable for the day will be emailed to parents next week.

### Key Stage 3 and Year 12 Assessments

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 will be sitting their AP1 assessments from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This is an opportunity for them to demonstrate all they have learnt during their lessons and when completing their homework.

We wish them all well.



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### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
INSET Day	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	All Day
Year 9 Graduation Information Evening	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Half Term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	All week
Parent Forum - Online	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	6.15pm – 7.00pm
Lion King – Musical	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Lion King – Musical	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Late start for students	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are expected to be in school by 8:45 a.m. For students in Year 11 will start at the normal time of 8.00am.
Year 11 Exams Essentials Evening	Thursday 23rd April 2026	5.00pm. – 6.00pm
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 30th April 2026	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Late start for students	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are expected to be in school by 8:45 a.m. For students in Year 11 will start at the normal time of 8.00am.