

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 10th March 2023

Message from the Principal



This week Mr Aung spoke during our whole school assembly about resilience. He shared how resilience isn't something we are born with, but something that we can develop. Resilience is shown by our students who turn up to school every single day despite feeling a bit tired or under the weather because they know how important it is to attend every lesson. Some students gave up in exams because they didn't know an answer to a question, and they stopped trying and put their head down. However, those with resilience gave it their best and kept trying despite finding things difficult. Resilience and determination, one of our school values are closely linked. We strive to be people who don't give up. When things get difficult and challenging, do we persist in the face of difficulties or do we just give up. Coming in and powering through days when we don't feel 100%, doing our best to finish exams and our homework, even when we don't know all the answers, these are the things that build character and will help us to be successful in the long term. At the end of his talk, Mr Aung asked all students a question: What part of school life do you lack resilience in? He then gave students 20 seconds to think and then asked them to write on their white board one commitment they can make to improve their resilience. They shared this with their tutors. When you have time, I encourage you to ask your child what they wrote and discuss with them ways to improve their resilience. It will make a huge difference to how they handle life's setbacks.

It has been great to see Year 11 have a taste of Sixth Form life during the two transition days at the end of this week. They looked incredibly smart and it was really exciting to see them engaging so positively with their taster lessons and imagining them starting as our new Year 12 cohort in September.

Following on from National Offer Day, many of our Year 6 families came for tours of the school. They were very impressed with the focus and engagement in lessons and I couldn't have been prouder of the excellent teaching and learning on display. The Elms Academy is the first choice for many families and if you were to come by school at any time during a regular school day, you would see why.



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Music Workshop

Year 9, 10 & 13 musicians took part in a fantastic workshop with Mercury prize nominated jazz saxophonist and composer Cassie Kinoshi, MOBO award winner Zara McFarlane and Nate Holder. They composed pieces and performed them at the end of the session. They were also gifted VIP passes to Cassie's concert at the Southbank.



IntoUniversity Workshop Year 7

Our wonderful partners from IntoUniversity ran a workshop with Year 7s where they spoke about plagiarism. This is an important topic of discussion in a world where everything can be Googled and copied. Using our own words to write essays is vital to academic success. Year 7 students practised paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism.



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Trip to the Old Vic Theatre

On International Women's Day, students went to The Old Vic to see a performance of the play, *Sylvia*. The play is an incredibly powerful, thoroughly entertaining and inspirational retelling of the Suffragette movement and the dynamic of the Pankhurst women. Thank you to Mr O'Brien and Ms Haworth who organised this special excursion.

Students were also treated to a surprise visit from an extra special audience member, Ms Mowbray, who happened to be in attendance. What an amazing way to celebrate International Women's Day!



House Activities

This week's house activities were board games. While it was cold and even snowing outside, inside the atrium the competition got pretty heated during a game of Connect 4. It was great to see so many students playing chess, encouraged by House Captains who are always trying to score those coveted house points.



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Year 11 to Year 12 Transition Days

Following on from the end of their second round of mock exams, Year 11 students were able to relax a bit and attend two transition days organised to show them what life is like as part of our Sixth Form. Students attended taster sessions, workshops with mentors from Motiv8 and IntoUniversity, and enjoyed the perks and benefits of the Sixth Form lounge and Independent Study Room. Friday ended with a lively BBQ.



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Getting to Know You

Name: Mr Abdelhak Alilouis (Chef Hassane)

Job: Canteen Chef

Currently reading: I'm reading a book about the history of Algeria by James McDougall. It is fascinating and makes me appreciate my country and all that it has been through.

A favourite film / series: I like the Lord of the Rings movie and I love watching football. I used to play with a club for many years.

Interesting fact about me: I have been in the catering industry for 15 years. I love cooking and growing my own vegetables. When I was young I worked on my father's farm. I think of food as medicine and I like to make people feel good with my cooking. In the past I have worked as a chef for some important people in private houses.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: I was a bit surprised when I started working in schools as I found many chefs didn't have any skills! This is a lovely place to work as everyone is very nice and friendly. The kitchen staff are good people and I enjoy working with them. I love seeing the students eating and enjoying the food we prepare for their lunch.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
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
Bugsy Malone	Thursday 23 rd and Friday 24 th March	5.00 – 7.00pm
Last Day of Term	Thursday 30 th March	3.30pm