



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2016– NO. 114

[www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk)



### YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPORTS DAY

We were once again very lucky on Thursday 14th July 2016 when we held our annual sports day event which was officially opened by the new lady Mayor, Kath Phillips. Following the event the Mayor emailed saying **she had had a most delightful morning and was very impressed by how well the event was organised.** The students were brilliant and also the parents who supported them. The **event was thoroughly enjoyable.** The four house teams of Wiggins, Ennis, Ainslee and Murray competed against each other with the overall winners of the coveted trophy being won by Wiggins with 338 points much to the dismay of Ennis team who had 336 points! A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along and enjoyed refreshments which looked great thanks to Ms Shaw and helpers. The generous donations made for the goodies on offer helped to raise £61.47 for funds.



Lots of new records were broken and all students and staff were rewarded with a chocolate bar thanks to Mr Breakspear—Governor. On Thursday 8th September a



special assembly was held when all students were presented with certificates for their achievements. Finally thank you to Mr Martin Hawkes, PE Teacher, for his excellent organisation of the event and to Mr Paul Middleton, Teaching Assistant, who did a great job as official photographer!



### HEALTHY GIFT

All students received a personalised Elmwood sports water bottle thanks

to School Fund money. Students were able to put these to good use ahead of sports day and new students will receive one in their goodie bag when joining the School. Pupils in year 8b were soon quick to say thank you and pose with their gift.



### LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

A special assembly was held on Tuesday 12th July when we said goodbye to our year 11 students. All students and staff enjoyed the memories shared of the young people involved Sarah, Zieton, Ricardo, Marcus, Ethan, Cailum and Cole. Students were presented with their record of achievement files and a gift voucher. Finally the students accompanied their form staff for a slap up meal at Cosmo which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We wish all our students every success with their future education/world of work.

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

On Thursday 8th September our attendance superstars were congratulated on their achievements.

Very well done in particular to THOMAS CARTER and CYTHIAN OGUNBODEDE who both managed to turn up every day for the academic year therefore achieving 100% - they both received special certificates and £10 gift vouchers.

The following students were not far behind with between 95-99% so received certificates and £5 gift vouchers:-

Jamie Ashford, Luke Morgan-Fryer, Reece Rudd, Tyrone Peakman, Callum Groom, Reace Phipps, Jordan Hathaway, Ciaran Lawrence, Jordan Williams, Ethan McKenzie, Levi Dingley, Jamie Lockley-Campbell, Tia Phillips, J'Ermiel Riggan, Shani Scott, Liam Clarke, Rico Maritza-Yates, Fahed Matter, Liam Cheetham, Dion Griffin and Bethany Read.

Finally George Cocking was presented with a certificate and £5 voucher for his improved attendance from the previous academic year.

## STAFFING NEWS



At the end of term we sadly said goodbye to Lisa Pugh, Teaching Assistant in Pathways Base, who has followed her dream to live and work in Cornwall. Lisa was presented with cards, gifts and money which we hope she enjoys spending.

Jade Lunt, Teaching Assistant in Nurture Base was also presented with gifts and cards as she not only celebrated a special birthday in the holidays but also went on maternity leave. We are pleased to say that she had a beautiful little girl in August called Ava.

Paul Emms, joined the School on Monday 26th September as a volunteer. Paul brings a wealth of experience and expertise and will initially be working with pupils in Year 11. A warm welcome to Paul we hope he enjoys his time with us.

## Out and About news



As you can see students have worked very hard on the school



allotment thanks mainly to Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant, who has overseen the area. Drinking hot chocolate also goes down well!

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

On Tuesday 20th September all students and staff had the opportunity to have their photograph taken by a photographer from Tempest. The images produced were excellent and proofs have been sent out to all parents and carers concerned. Can you please send any orders back to School by Friday 7th October. Many thanks.

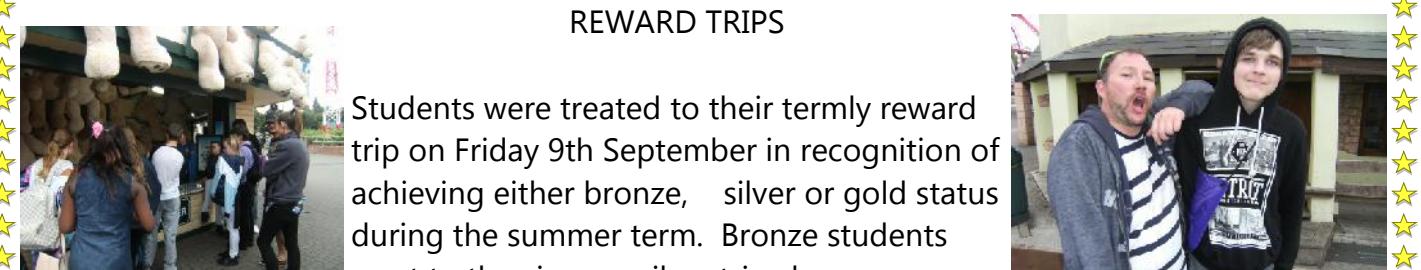
## SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE

The School Nursing Service has introduced a new texting service for young people aged 11-19. The new text service is confidential and enables young people to anonymously and confidentially text a trained nurse about health issues. These can include sexual health, drugs and alcohol, smoking, weight management, immunisations, keeping healthy and emotional health.

The service runs from Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Text 07480 635363.

## WEAR IT PINK DAY

We will once again be supporting the annual Breast Cancer Campaign on Friday 14th October. Students and staff are invited to take part in this non uniform day (preferably with a touch of pink on show if not stickers can be provided) and pay £1 towards this good cause.



## REWARD TRIPS



Students were treated to their termly reward trip on Friday 9th September in recognition of achieving either bronze, silver or gold status during the summer term. Bronze students went to the cinema, silver trip chose



trampolining and gold headed off to Drayton Manor. A new venue was chosen for trampolining, Jump Xtreme in Tamworth, which was a real hit with both students and staff who came back buzzing from not only an excellent venue but the dedicated staff who made the visit so enjoyable. A big thank you to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager, who organised all of the above.

## MINUTES FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Ten members of the student council met with Bev Bailey, Mr Hubbard and Mrs Hinton on 15th July. Students reflected on what they had achieved during the year which included their involvement in staff interviews, taster sessions organised at Wolverhampton College for all students to get involved with which will be organised again in the future. Bethany, Shani, George and Thomas were thanked for their support when visiting the Phoenix School as part of our transition process for the new year 7 pupils. They all represented the School as excellent ambassadors. Finally Bev thanked all the students for their invaluable contributions adding how proud she was of them all.

## CAVE ART ON DISPLAY

The front of School is being transformed with the addition of cave art pieces undertaken by both pupils and staff with Mr Whittaker, Outdoor Learning Teacher. As you can see they brighten up this area of the building and show case some of the talent we have at Elmwood. We look forward to seeing more pieces added over the coming weeks.

## WEBSITE

Parents and Carers will be able to access any copies of letters sent home via the school website. Additional copies will be available on a sub page to the parents area.



## ACADEMY UPDATE FROM MR HUBBARD

As you know we have been looking into the option of becoming an Academy as part of ATT (one of only 7 Ofsted identified successful academy groups which actually improve life chances for young people). Our main reason was that we are seriously underfunded as part of the Local Authority. Loads of preparatory work has been done; an Academy order has been granted and we were due to convert on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

However over the past few weeks it has become apparent that far from being better off as an Academy we would actually be worse off because all Academy chains take a percentage (3-8%) for their services. This money comes directly from the School's, already overstretched, budget and in our case from some of the most vulnerable young people in Walsall.

On a personal note I may well have been better off but we could well have been facing staff redundancies in the near future, to balance the books, compromising our independence and safety. As it is we are facing a substantial deficit this year due to cuts in Local Authority funding and a carryover of last year's deficit.

We are looking at other options and are happy to remain with the Local Authority for the time being. (Local Authority maintained schools are currently outperforming Academies and Free Schools, a fact that the Government don't want you to know). Academisation is not in itself improving education, but it is allowing many people to suck substantial amounts of money out of the education system in inflated salaries and duplicated services that ought to be going to fund improving life chances for young people.

It may be that at some point Academy status is the right thing for Elmwood but in the meantime we will continue lobbying the Local Authority to fund the school fairly as we have always been a poor relation in the spectrum of 'specials' in Walsall. Despite this our social, emotional and academic outcomes are amongst the best nationally and we certainly outperform all similar schools in the West Midlands.



### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER



Elmwood welcomed parents and carers to our Macmillan coffee morning on Thursday 22nd September. The whole school prepared, baked and lovingly presented a range of beautiful home made cakes and pies to sell at the event. Tea, coffee and squash were also served. Year 7a were outstanding in their duties as hosts for our



guests. All were keen and eager to take part in all the activities that were carried out. A big thank you to the parents and carers who came along to support this event. A grand total of £61 was raised and Ms Lloyd and Ms Shaw would like to thank everyone for contributing. The winners of the competitions



were Mr Simon Wood, Year 7a teacher, who won the spot the cake, Nicola Flett, Mom to a Year 10 student won the raffle and Callum Walker, pupil in Year 9 correctly guessed the weight of the cake. Lots of photographs are on the School Website, photographs page.

Report by Ms H Shaw (Food Technology Teacher).

