



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016 – NO. 116

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STUNNING STAINED GLASS WORK



During the last few weeks of the summer term you may remember that Elmwood ran a stained glass challenge to design two mosaic stained glass windows in the theme of "Life at Elmwood." This term Wendy from Fox Glass delivered the completed pieces and they look stunning! Fantastic work from all of the students involved. Plans are underway for these to be hung in our reception area so that they can be admired by all. Report by Mr J Francis, DT Teacher

Remembrance Service



Once again we had VIP guests from the Staffordshire Regiment along with their wives to participate in Elmwood's remembrance day service on Thursday 10th November. The veterans could not praise the pupils enough, all enjoyed receiving a small gift of a leather poppy key ring pupils had made with our DT teacher, Mr Francis, as well as a lovely ceramic poppy made by pupils with Mr Collins, Art teacher. A great poppy cake was also made by Bradley Sladyszyn and decorated by Ethan McKenzie, both in Year 10.



A big thank you to Luke Briggs, a pupil from Aldridge School, who did a fantastic job of playing the last post—a very poignant point of the service.



It was also lovely that a number of parents and carers joined us for the event.

Report by Mr Shaw, Food Technology



STAFFING NEWS

Congratulations to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager, who was successful in her application to become a Specialist Leader in Education. Lynn will shortly begin her training and will then be in a position to offer help and assistance to other local Schools who need her expertise in financial matters.



On Friday 11th November staff attended the SEMH Conference/workshops as part of our training day. Two members of staff delivered workshops namely Mr Whittaker and Mr Hawkes,

which were very favourably received. As you can see from the picture, the pole lathing activity looks good fun. Feedback following the event was very positive.

Congratulations to Paddy Hinsley, Teaching Assistant, who was successful in his application to join the SCITT, initial teacher training programme in 2017 through Barr Beacon School. Feedback to Mr Cross from Mrs Clayton, Director of Maths, was very positive including her stating 'an outstanding starter to a very strong lesson'. Very well done Paddy, a brilliant achievement.

POSITIVE PRAISE

We recently had a visit from our Health and Safety Adviser who carried out an inspection of the School building. The feedback received from him with regards to the behaviour of our young people was exceptional; he was full of praise for the manner in which he was welcomed by students. As a School we receive lots of visitors and our students always make them welcome. We are proud of you all, well done.

FOOD TECH INVITE

On Friday 2nd December parents and carers are invited to join Ms Hilary Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, in a Christmas themed cooking activity with students. Sounds like good fun!

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?



Safeguarding/child protection is of paramount importance to everyone who works at Elmwood and covers a wide range of forms. This is clearly displayed on the flow chart produced by our Chair of Governors/Safeguarding Governor, Chrissie Grainger. All staff will be receiving the latest child protection training on Wednesday 14th December so that they can be made aware of recent developments.

Parents' and carers' attention is also drawn to an app called 'Amino'. The app allows users to create a profile where they can pretend to be a character, cartoon, vampire etc and they can discuss fantasies. The app appears very child like with colourful cartoon characters and could be easily overlooked by parents. The site appears to revolve

around fantasy role play and would be an ideal tool for use by perpetrators wishing to contact or groom victims. Please be aware of an app called Dumbsmash which is a video messaging app where people can upload themselves singing over famous songs and then choose to share via Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram or via a text message. It is not intended for children under 18 and you must be 18 or 13 years or older with parents permission to use it. There is also a questions and answers site about the app which talks about Dumbsmash 2. Dumbsmash 2 has nothing to do with the Dumbsmash app as it is a malware app that hides itself on phones and then pushes users to porn sites. As soon as it is set up, the icon deletes itself and runs it in the background without the users knowledge. Please be aware of students use of this app.

WEBSITE REMINDER—our website contains a wealth of information for parents and carers including upcoming events, forms, photographs etc. Please try and check it out on a regular basis as recommended by our student council members.

FREE TREES

Mr Whittaker and pupils in out and about lessons are going to be very busy over the next few weeks following the arrival of our latest batch of free trees. Thanks to the Woodland Trust we have received a further 420 trees to plant around the School grounds.

As part of the Green Tree Schools Award scheme we have achieved silver status and are only three points away from gold! We will soon be proudly displaying our silver plaque in reception—well done Mr Whittaker.



YEAR 10 PUPILS VISIT THE SKILLS SHOW

On Thursday 17th November Year 10 pupils visited the Skills Show at the NEC. Accompanied by Mr Bowen and Mr Hawkes Year 10 pupils were given the opportunity to meet some of the largest employers, universities and colleges across the region. From catering to high tech engineering, a whole range of future career possibilities and opportunities were presented. Pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school. Apparently we have already got some excellent aeronautical engineers! Report by Mr Bowen, English Teacher.

OUT AND ABOUT VISIT TO CONTAINERISATION CENTRE



During out and about lessons this term we have been visiting Pentalver, the container depot on the way to Cannock, as part of experiencing real workplaces. Pupils were welcomed and hosted by Nick Matthews, the Manager and his team (Ade and Nick). We were treated to a brief video in the boardroom after which we visited the yard with over 2,000, 40ft containers



stacked six high. Nick explained as we watched the huge 'tonka toy' mobile cranes lift the 40 ton containers and place these onto the queuing lorries. We then walked into a dry container and then a freezer container.

As the operation employs 200 drivers and lorries we looked at a loaded truck and learnt about stopping distances and blind spots. We then sat in the truck cab and had a short drive around the loading circuit. Each pupil came away

with an Elmwood emblazoned high vis vest, hard hat, Pentalver pen and toy truck—as well as wanting to drive cranes and trucks in the future. A very big thank you to Pentalver for such exciting and interesting visits. Report by Mr Dan Whittaker, Outdoor Learning Teacher



MOBILE DENTAL UNIT VISIT

On Tuesday 8th November the mobile dental unit from Birmingham Community Healthcare visited the School. Parents and carers were offered a dental check up for their child and as a result these students were offered a dental examination. A new service being offered is a return visit by the dental hygienist followed by a dentist to undertake any necessary dental work. Well done to all who took part and to Di Cadman, Teaching Assistant, who coordinated the event.

BEHAVIOUR TALK

Mr Hawkes our Specialist Leader in Education for Behaviour and Discipline gave a talk to parents and carers on Friday 18th November. A big thank you to those that came along and supported this event. The feedback was that they had found the session useful and hopefully will be able to utilise some of the skills/advice learnt in the future.

CHILDREN IN NEED EVENT



On Friday 18th November we joined in with the BBC's Children in Need Spotacular event. Pupils and staff were able to pay £1 to wear non uniform which could include pyjamas, onesies, fancy dress etc. Pupils in



Year 8 produced Children in Need cakes which they sold around School helping to raise £8 towards this good cause. To date we have raised £73.32 so a big thank you to everyone who helped support the event. As you can see from the photo, we had a few 'Pudsies' in School looking the part.

BOOST TO SCHOOL FUNDS

A big thank you to all parents and carers who purchased their child's recent school photograph, as a result we have received a commission cheque for £84.27 which will help boost our school funds. This money is used for the benefit of pupils and will be spent wisely. Thank you once again for your support.

LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The School recently had a reassessment by Steve Freer, LPPA Verifier, due to the expiry of our previous award of the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

We were delighted to learn that our assessment was successful meaning that we can proudly display this award for the next three years.

The School was recognised for its range of involvement with external agencies, the regular and varied sessions for parents to come together, how parental engagement forms a key part of the School's Raising Achievement Plan and the celebration of achievement for both pupils and parents.

Three parents met with the Assessor and stated how pleased they were with the level of support they receive, the high level of confidence in staff and the supportive environment the School offers. Parents appreciated the termly attainment and progress meetings and feel well informed about their child's academic achievements. The new technological methods of communicating such as the use of 'MarvellousMe' was praised and parents felt that their views and feedback were taken into consideration when making decisions. A very big thank you to Zoe Carter, Miss Wright and Mrs Clewley for giving their time and speaking with Mr Freer.

We now look forward to receiving our new certificate which will be proudly displayed in our main reception area. A big thank you to all staff involved in gaining the award especially our Family Welfare Officers who work closely with our parents and carers.