



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2017 – NO. 121

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

On Thursday 6th April parents and carers of pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to attend the above event with an emphasis on KS4 and KS5 transition options. At the event a number of service providers came along from Impact, Juniper, Wolverhampton College, Rita Martin

(IAG Careers Adviser) and WAAC.

We were pleased with the turnout by parents and carers which overall was 75% and a big thank you to everyone who was able to come along. Any action points raised will be addressed by staff.



EASTER GIFT

At the end of term all students were given an Easter egg gift thanks to money from our School Fund voluntary contribution account. Two students who have been gaining experience on a weekly basis on a Friday, Caitlin and Aliyah, were also presented with an egg in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

VERY TASTY!

As part of his BTEC coursework, Reece in Year 11 has had to produce a two course meal at home. Reece prepared a caesar salad starter and bbq pork, roast vegetables and rice which looked delicious. Reece then used his ICT skills to compose an email with photograph attachments proudly showing his finished results.



Reece also cleaned up after himself—which is always good to see! Hopefully he will be rewarded with a good result. Well done Reece.



Free resources

Mr Bowen, English Teacher, has been successful in securing £300 worth of free books/dvds via How2Become Limited—the UK's leading careers information and development website, winner of several IPG awards, How2Become has been helping people unlock their full potential since 2005. This includes comprehensive career guides for all kinds of vocations from teacher to M15 intelligence officer! These books contain expert tips and insider's advice needed to pursue a career of your dreams from the starting point of writing a CV, all the way up to the final interview. How2Become's guides are tailor-made to guide you through every step of the process. These guides are supplemented by courses which can be attended to give you the extra edge in the selection process.

Daily blogs posts on www.how3bcome.com and Youtube videos (on the CareerVidz channel) are free and informative to help achieving goals.

We are extremely grateful for this fantastic gesture and support which will be put to good use by our young people. Further details of the organisation can be obtained by clicking on their website - www.how2become.com.

STAFFING NEWS

We welcomed Jade Lunt, Teaching Assistant, back to School on Tuesday 9th May following her maternity leave.

As a result of the above we said goodbye to Robyn Watson on Friday 5th May, who has been covering Jade's absence. A big thank you to Robyn and we wish her every success for the future.

Di Cadman will be missing for a couple of weeks whilst she carries out jury service, hurry up back Di missing you already!

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

All students were recently invited to join in a short story competition. The difficult job of choosing a winning entry was carried out by Dawn and Lynn in the Office who both selected Callum Walker in Year 9. Callum's story was well written and full of drama including Di Cadman attacking a dinosaur and Lynne the Cook eventually killing it by pouring hot gravy over it—hilarious! Callum was presented with a £20 gift voucher and all entrants received a chocolate bar. Well done to everyone who took part.

IS IT THE UNIFORM?



Richard Tranter, School Caretaker, now has aspirations of becoming a fireman following an emergency call on the last day of term. A fire had been started at the rear of the school perimeter fence which needed attention by the Fire Brigade who arrived promptly and made the area safe. However Richard could not miss the opportunity of climbing aboard the tender unit and by the look on his face he was in his element!

DONATED GOODS

Fishing is very popular with some of our young people during out and about lessons so we were thrilled to receive some additional fishing tackle kindly donated by Mrs Hill (Mom to Tom in Year 10 and parent governor at the School). This will be put to great use.

A big thank you also to Debbie Causer, Teaching Assistant, who has donated some sleeping bags, which will again come in extremely useful.

Finally thank you to Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, who has donated a Wii and Playstation console for use during morning activities. All gifts gratefully received.

READATHON

Your child is taking part in Readathon, a national sponsored reading event, to encourage students to read for pleasure whilst helping children in hospital at the same time. To sponsor a pupil go to www.readathon.org.

The money raised helps seriously ill children in the UK and helps to provide books and storytellers to children in hospital.

Please encourage your child as much as possible by supporting their reading and sponsoring them as well.

TOXIC CHILDHOOD PRESENTATION

Mr Hubbard, Headteacher, has produced a powerpoint presentation based around the Toxic Childhood book by Sue Palmer. A copy of this informative presentation is available on our School website under the Parents/Carers page—you might need to allocate an hour to read it all!

SPRING REWARD TRIPS



On Friday 28th April 2017 students who had achieved gold, silver or bronze status during the Spring term were rewarded with their termly trips.

Gold students enjoyed trampolining at Jump Xtreme, silver students went Ice Skating at Silver Blades, Cannock and bronze students went to Star City playing a game of crazy golf and bowling.

Feedback from everyone who went along was of a very enjoyable day and once again a big thank you to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager, for organising it all and to the trip leaders for their hard work.



Message to Parents from Mr Hubbard

EDS at Elmwood

I am proud of the achievements of pupils and staff at Elmwood; we are currently waiting for Ofsted in our strongest ever position. Last week 86% of our pupils achieved 'Gold', a school record, and the atmosphere is really positive, calm and focussed.

However, as you know, our budget is incredibly tight and we are struggling to balance the books for next year. Lynn Maritza, our business manager and Mr Cross have done an amazing job; but even they can't keep spinning straw into gold.

Since coming here in 2012 myself and Mr Cross have wanted to see the vocational centre at the back of Elmwood School used for the benefit of Walsall's learners and for our school.

After numerous planning meetings, from the 5th June, a company called EDS will be using our vocational centre. They have units in Telford, Shrewsbury and Dudley and seem professional and caring. This is independent of Elmwood; the learners are registered with EDS and they will have their own entrance and different lunch and breaks to Elmwood. Elmwood is going very well and we are not going to do anything that will impact on the success of our learners. Indeed there may be a few who could benefit from having this resource on site which we can access at a discounted rate. Financially this will make a huge difference to us; the books should balance and we can cope and continue to develop.

Their offer is for 2 groups of up to 10 learners per group to do construction, catering and hair and beauty (still via Alpha Hair). They will have a centre manager and receptionist as well as instructors. Their learners will be from all over Walsall and will either have been excluded from other schools or are on the verge of exclusion. Some may be known to some of our learners.

The upheaval will be considerable and we need to move our staffroom and the drama studio over the next couple of weeks. We need to clear out the construction room of our accumulated stuff into a container. Any offers of help would be appreciated (specifically anyone who has expertise in moving kitchen units and plumbing).

We must make sure that our learners behave positively around our guests and are welcoming. They will be subject to the same rules as us whilst on our site e.g. non-smoking site, no mobiles, no swearing, use correct entrance etc. However our staff are not responsible for their learners and they will operate a 'three strikes and you are out' policy for serious breaches of their behavioural codes.