



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018 – NO. 130

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## SCITT STUDENTS FOLLOW UP

Feedback from the 33 SCITT students who spent a day working at Elmwood was very positive. Some of the comments made were ‘staff and pupils were absolutely delightful and welcoming’, ‘an amazing School that I really enjoyed visiting. Students seem to enjoy every day and are very respectful’, ‘the more informal atmosphere but also practical approach to education. It’s not just about qualifications but life experience and skills’, ‘the opportunities pupils are given to develop responsibility and ownership of work and behaviour. Staff are open and enthusiastic and evidently care enormously about their work’, ‘the family feel, everyone knows everyone else. Fun’, ‘relationships and sense of family. All about the children’. A copy of the overall evaluation proforma is available on the Teaching Schools Alliance page of our website.

As a result of the above, Ashley Bullock, one of the students involved (PE ITT), has successfully completed his induction and commenced a six week placement w/c 5th February 2018. Ashley is really looking forward to engaging with the young people of Elmwood and sharing his knowledge and expertise from his first placement at Barr Beacon.

## GIFTED AND TALENTED TRIP TO LANDROVER



The Maths department was delighted to be able to take a group of our talented Key Stage 3 mathematicians to Jaguar Land Rover in January as part of a STEM day researching Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The students, accompanied by Mrs Francis and Leon Donaldson, were impeccably behaved throughout the whole visit which included a tour of the i54 Ingenium engine

manufacturing centre and some hands on practical workshops investigating measurements, rubbers & plastics and contamination

All students found the day interesting and challenging as they were able to work together as a team to make calculations and predictions for the flagship multi million pound car company.

Due to the success of the day and the benefits for the students we will certainly be looking at additional future events to work with Jaguar Land Rover again and give our talented students some more real life experiences of Maths, DT and Science. A massive well done to all involved and a special thank you to Mr Hinsley for organising such an enjoyable trip. Report by Gemma Francis, Maths Teacher



## YOUR VIEWS PLEASE

As part of our self review process it is important that we seek the views of our young people, staff and parents. We have recently undertaken surveys in School when all students and staff have had the opportunity to contribute and these results are currently being analysed. We would therefore appreciate finding out your thoughts and views on the School which you can do via the Parent View survey (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>). There is a link to the site on our website on the Ofsted page. Many thanks for your support.

## FACE Walsall Parent Carer Forum

FACE is a voluntary group of parents and family carers of children and young people aged 0-25 years with various disabilities working in partnership with Education, Health and Social care to help shape the future services in Walsall. Parents or carers of a child with any additional need or disability are welcome to join. Contact [facewalsall@gmail.com](mailto:facewalsall@gmail.com) or call 07856 314596 for further information

## STAFFING NEWS

Ms Lloyd returned from her trip to New York having celebrated a special birthday there with the additional news of becoming engaged. Many congratulations to Ms Lloyd.



Mr Whittaker was the next member of staff to hit a BIG birthday on Friday 9th February. Mr Whittaker was presented with an array of gifts and cards on this special day and also accompanied the pupils selected for McDonalds as an extra treat, we think the birthday cake looked brilliant.

Grant Hunt, Teaching Assistant, is continuing to recover following an operation. Hopefully Grant will be able to return to work after the half term break.

## NEW ADDITION



A new addition has arrived in School in the form of a pet rabbit. As part of our science curriculum,

Claire Whittlestone, Science Teacher, is planning on introducing other animals for students to learn and care for. Initially our new pet was nameless but this was soon addressed at a School Council meeting when a number of names were put forward for a whole School vote to take place. The winning name was Chubbs who is settling very nicely into her new surroundings.

## WOLVERHAMPTON UNIVERSITY SPORTS SESSIONS



As part of our collaboration with Wolverhampton University, Mr Cross, organised for students in KS3 to visit the campus on 25th January with KS4 visiting on 1st February 2018. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January students from Nurture were invited to participate in some sports taster sessions run by coaches at the University of Wolverhampton. While the students got to experience sports they have participated in through the PE curriculum, such as basketball and fitness, they also got to experience new sports such as

badminton and judo, the latter providing an opportunity to train alongside two young ladies who are hoping to represent the country at the next Olympic games. It was pleasing to see exceptional behaviour and an extremely high level of participation on the day and the University staff were incredibly pleased and impressed with how well our students conducted themselves. This was the very first invitation our students have received from the University of Wolverhampton however I don't believe it will be the last. Report by Mr P Damms, Year 7 Teacher



## E SAFETY CONCERNS

As a School we are getting a recent increase in issues coming into School as a direct result of young people using chat forums to share gossip and abuse. A recent survey has also confirmed that most of our pupils are not getting anywhere near the correct amount of sleep which is a significant barrier to learning and is known to exacerbate conditions such as ADHD. The above was reiterated in the letter sent by Mr Hubbard, Headteacher, on 31.1.18. A copy of which is also available on the Parents/Carers area, letters and forms page of the website.

## SCHOOL LEAVER SUCCESS

It is always lovely to see and hear from former students at Elmwood. We were delighted to learn on Monday 5th February that Sam Taylor (son of former Parent Governor, Bob Taylor) has been very successful with his post 16 learning. Having attended Walsall College he has recently received five University placement offers and is looking at accepting a place at Keele University. Sam will be following his love of all things technical and studying computer robotics as well as learning Japanese. We are very proud of Sam's achievements and wish him every success in the next stage of his learning.

## Walsall Works Expo

On Thursday 15th March from 12.30 pm to 5.00 pm the above event is taking place at The Hub, Walsall College, Littleton Street West. There will be the opportunity to meet with over 80 local employers and training providers, apply for jobs and careers in different sectors and receive support with apprenticeships. If of interest places need to be booked by either ringing 01922 654353 or via email to [walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk)

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

A reminder that the Spring Term Progress and Achievement Event is taking place on Thursday 22nd March 2018. Parents and Carers of pupils in Years 9-11 will be invited to attend to review progress and look at career options. Rita Martin, our Careers Adviser, will be in attendance together with representatives from local Colleges/Training Providers.  
The spring term reports will be forwarded for pupils in all year groups.

## COFFEE MORNING

Our latest coffee morning took place on Monday 12th February and had three purposes. Firstly to introduce two of our school governors (Tracy Brandwood, Chair of Governors and Rose Burley, Vice Chair) together with one of our parent governors (Sue Hill). Tracy and Rose were able to hear parents views of past experiences as well as gaining a full understanding of parents views of Elmwood School. It was reassuring to hear the praise given to staff by parents and their children. Tracy and Rose made it clear that they want to fully immerse themselves in Elmwood School. Governors want to be approachable. They reassured parents that they understand the School and the needs of the pupils.



Secondly, Lisa from Sensorywise gave a presentation about sensory needs. This ties in beautifully re autism when their sensory needs are addressed, learning will follow. Again parents spoke about Elmwood School and how staff pick up a child's sensory needs early and adapt accordingly e.g – fidget spinners, elastic bands/blue tac being used for some children allowing them to fiddle whilst listening.

The other purpose of our coffee morning was to share experiences. Parents were able to give advice to each other and share thoughts, feelings and successes. A quote from a parent was 'I knew I had a lot of information to share with other parents but I have learnt so much more today. It gives me something to take away and use'.

Thank you to everyone who attended—Bev Bailey and James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officers.

## WHAT A TEAM!

Elmwood's football team won 6-0 against Hilcrest Shifnal School on Wednesday 31st January 2018. Goals were scored by both Fahed and George. This result now puts Elmwood School in 4th position in the league table on 6 points. The next fixture is away against Westminster School on Friday 9th February so stay tuned to see if we record another win. Well done to all those who took part and represented the School.

Report by Mr M Hakes, PE Teacher

## HALF TERM OFFER

Jumpxtreme in Tamworth are offering a half term family offer of £5 per person for the 9.00 am to 10.00 am session. To take advantage of this deal the promotion code FAMFEB5T code needs to be used when booking online.

Pupils really enjoy the reward visits to the Centre which offer fun and exciting entertainment all the family and in addition to the fabulo trampoline park now also features a fantas soft play and adventure centr

## CONTACT FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

The latest newsletter bulletin from Contact West Midlands is now on our website on the Parents/Carers page. Contents include a free workshop on coping with challenging, new look parent guides, free tickets to various events such as Kidz to Adults exhibition as well as subsidised events such as Cadbury World.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

School Council members met with Bev Bailey and James Hawkins on 7.2.18. Items discussed included the Prevent assembly, Eco Schools, marking and feedback, the taster/work experience session at WHG, behaviour in School, medication, attendance, rabbit naming, School Council badges, school toilets, mentoring, phones and uniform. A very busy meeting indeed but one that the School Council members conducted themselves brilliantly in. A copy of the minutes are available on the students page of the School website.

## MEDICATION REMINDER

A reminder to Parents/Carers that pupils who are prescribed medication need to ensure that their child is medicated with the correct amount at the correct times. It is also important that the School has an adequate supply if medication is required during School hours. The School has a right to turn away any child who is not medicated for health and safety reasons but is one we wish to avoid as it impacts on academic achievement/success. Your support would be appreciated in this matter.

## INTERNET SAFETY DAY—6.2.18

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and the campaign sees over 1,600 organisations unite to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK.

We were pleased to learn that our Year 7 and 8 pupils won 2nd prize in an Online Safety Competition which was to create a short electronic story book with theme of being safe whilst creating connecting and sharing content. Prizes from Education City include key rings, note pads, pens and stickers. Congratulations to everyone involved on their success.

Pupils were also made aware of the dangers involved when going on line and keeping safe during Friday morning assembly on 9th February 2018 with Mr Hubbard.

## APP AWARENESS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

YOTI app is where children can request the removal of sexual images of themselves which have been shared online which has been verified as legitimate by the National Crime Agency. Childline and the Watch Foundation have come together to provide a service children can request the removal of sexual images of themselves which have been shared online. As part of that process the child would be asked to provide a link to where the image is stored online, rather than send the image itself. The child is also required to verify their identity which is done through the YOTI app. YOTI will not store images of the child's ID following the verification process. Further information available on the Safeguarding page of our School website.

## ATTENDANCE BUDDIES

As part of our Raising Achievement Target to "improve wellbeing and absence" all staff have been allocated an attendance buddy who is responsible to verbally welcome back that member of staff after a period of absence. This way staff feel valued upon their return and appreciated for all that they do for the pupils at Elmwood. In addition to this staff also have been allocated a pupil in the same way as above to generate a greater sense of belonging within Elmwood Learning Community.

Staff enjoyed selecting their member of staff and pupil out of an envelope and was a real conversation starter for those staff whose member of staff and pupil were out of their own learning base of nurture, transition or pathways.

Report by Mr Lee Cross, Deputy Head