



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018 – NO. 132

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PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

A big thank you to the parents/carers who attended our Spring term progress and achievement event for pupils in Year 9, 10 and 11. Turnout for the event was 76.9% which is a slight improvement on last year's attendance. During the course of the afternoon there was the opportunity to speak with lots of Post 16 providers (Juniper, Wolverhampton College, WACC, Walsall College, Impact and NCS) as well as our Careers Adviser, Rita Martin. Feedback from the event was very positive and a big thank you to Bev Bailey and James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officers, for organising and for their input on the day.



Accord 'Local Homes' Factory Visit



In the Autumn term we visited a local building site where we toured the brick built houses and each of us tried our hand at laying a brick. Whilst there it was suggested we might visit the firm that supplied the wooden roofing frames.

At the factory, in Leamore, we met James Nicholls (Business Development Manager), who showed us the whole production line.

What we were surprised to discover was that the real work of the company is to produce economic, energy efficient and ecological timber based houses. A whole house, with insulated walls, windows and doors fitted is created inside of a day. These are sent in kit form, on a lorry to site, where they can be built within one day.

The impressive automation means that just 15 employees achieve this. The business is going from strength to strength with new premises planned. The pupils asked some very pertinent questions to James and he was impressed with how polite they were.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Lead Teacher Outdoor Learning.



UNIFORMS AVAILABLE ON LINE

Parents and Carers now have the opportunity to order uniform directly from the suppliers, A J Design based at Chasewater, near Brownhills. The link to the site is <http://www.a4jdesigns.co.uk/school-uniform-store/elmwood-school> and the link is also available on the uniform page of the School website.

SUPPORTIVE COFFEE MORNING



Parents and carers joined us for a supportive coffee morning on Tuesday 27th March. This allowed Year 11 parents to speak about transition to post 16 as well as the summer programme with NCS. The realisation that their child is moving from a supportive and small environment to a larger establishment is somewhat daunting. The continued support which will be offered by Elmwood is a comfort to them and their child.

Parents attended from all year groups allowing the opportunity to speak about progress and settling in at Elmwood coupled with progression both emotionally/ socially as well as academically.

It was also nice that Councillor Rose Burley, Vice Chair of Governors, was able to come along and join two of our parent Governors, Suzanne Hill and Tina Ashford.

A huge thank you to Tom Rudd, Adam Choudhury and Joseph Dunn for continuing their food technology lesson and hosting the coffee morning. Thank you also to Di Cadman and Ms Shaw for your support.
Report by Mrs B Bailey, Family Welfare Officer



ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM CAMPAIGN

Elmwood School urges the public to help the police tackle terrorism and save lives by reporting suspicious behaviour and activity. Communities defeat terrorism. With the enduring terrorist threat, it is now more important than ever that everyone plays their part in tackling terrorism. Your actions could save lives. Don't worry about wasting police time. No call or click will be ignored. What you tell the police is treated in the strictest confidence and is thoroughly researched by experienced officers before, and if, any police action is taken. Any piece of information could be important, it is better to be safe and report. Remember, trust your instincts and ACT. Further information is available on the dedicated sub page of our safeguarding page on the website.

EMAIL ADDRESS INFORMATION

The School is looking into using an app that Parents/ Carers would be able to use to check and amend personal information we have on our system such as telephone numbers etc. In order to access this however an email address is needed and therefore we would ask any parents/carers who have an email address to email the postbox@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk address so that we can collate this information. Many thanks

THE LION KING SHOW



The drama team recently wrote to the Lyceum Theatre in London and were thrilled to get a response from Nancy Shakerley, Education and Outreach Manager. Nancy enjoyed seeing the

photographs of the masks and head dresses that have been made for our production and arranged for a signed framed poster and good luck letter from the cast to be sent to School.

Discounted tickets may also be available in September or November to see the show live in the West End, which



again will be a

fantastic opportunity for all involved.

Our talented drama students will be showcasing this production to pupils/staff on Friday 18th May and to parents/carers at 3.00 pm on Friday 24th May. A show not to be missed!



SUPPORTING SPORTS RELIEF



For Sports Relief 2018, the PE department organised two inter-house sporting events. The events took place at Manor Farm Community Centre. Well done to all those who took part which included a variety of sports; handball, tennis, basketball, hockey, teambuilding and rounders. The upper school competition was won by Murray House who have continued to dominate the house competition for the upper school since the last sports day. The lower school winners were Ennis House, who narrowly won the trophy with an outstanding performance throughout. Mr Hawkes, PE Teacher, was very impressed with the enthusiasm and participation of the pupils throughout and a big thank you to all PE and supporting staff for helping to run the events. The School also held a non uniform day on Friday 23rd March 2018 which helped to raise £66.92 for this good cause. Report by Mr M Hawkes, PE Teacher.



STAFFING NEWS

We were pleased to welcome Debbie Causer, Teaching Assistant in Year 10, back to School following the Easter break.

Debbie has been away for personal reasons and we are glad to have her back as part of the team.

Rebecca Webbe, supply teaching assistant, who had been covering for Debbie will continue to work at the School providing one to one support for a year 10 pupil.

Amanda Barker, who had been covering on supply for some time, ended her time at Elmwood on 29th March. Amanda is expecting her second child in May and we wish her all the best with her new addition.

In order to help with the lunchtime rush, Julie Burnell, our Head Cleaner has taken on some additional duties with the collection and return of dining trollies and assisting in the nurture dining area. Feedback so far has been very positive for this trial role and hopefully will continue for the summer term with a view to possibly making this permanent.

Lynn Maritza, Specialist Leader in Education (School Business Management), will be supporting another local School on a Wednesday with her financial expertise which will continue for the foreseeable future. Good luck Lynn!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND EXTRA FUNDING FOR SCHOOL

The Free School Meals Service would like to invite all parents/carers to complete a free school meals registration form for their child. If you are eligible now the service will register you, otherwise they will continue to check your details for ongoing entitlement and will automatically register your child if you become eligible at a later date.

Your child does not need to take the meal if you would prefer them not to, but by being registered, the School will receive the extra funding.

If you are eligible, you are most likely to retain your eligibility until the end of your child's current phase of education even if your circumstances change. You need only apply once.

You can get any easy to complete registration form either from the office, or from the school website on the letters and forms subpage of the parents area, or by visiting the benefits service at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall or by phoning 0300 555 2855.

EASTER EGG GIFTS

All pupils had a surprise when they returned from the end of term assembly on Thursday 29th March when they discovered an Easter egg waiting for them in their classrooms (thanks to Mr Cross acting as the Easter bunny!). This was made possible through our School Fund account which is funded from voluntary contributions or donations.

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE ACHIEVERS

What an excellent spring term result for attendance with 13 young people achieving 100%. This is a fantastic result and well done to all of the following pupils for making it in every day during the 11 week period. All pupils were presented with certificates and a £5 gift voucher in an assembly in recognition of this achievement. Very well done to: Jamie Ashford, Connor Berry, Sophie Clewley, Tyrone Peakman, Alice Dewsbury, Miles Hall, Rhys Humphries, Isaiah Jagirdar, Rico Martiza-Yates, Fahed Matter, Ethan McKenzie, Kieren Spencer and Craig Williamson.

NEW GYM AT ELMWOOD



We recently received a financial windfall from the Local Authority, raised from the sale of land for housing which was passed onto schools. We had to spend some of it on new flooring and doors which were dangerous. The best thing was that we were able to re-equip our gym which had been set up with lottery money in 2008 and was worn out. Huge thanks to Mr Cross who put in a bid to Achievement for All and Children in Need and was successful in attracting £9k toward the costs. The pupils (and staff) are enjoying a gym which is in constant use before and after school and during PE lessons. Report by Mr Hubbard

EXAM TIMETABLE

The summer term is always a busy one with our Year 11 pupils sitting final examinations prior to ending their time at Elmwood at the end of June 2018. All parents and carers have been sent a copy of the exam timetable, which is also available on our School website on the school timetable page. Good luck to all our young people during this important time of their education.

OUTSTANDING LESSON

George Cocking, Year 11 pupil, completed his assessment for Unit 6: Leading Sporting Activities when he delivered a humorous, enthusiastic and engaging football session to 7b. The 45 minute session was well planned and had really good structure and pace. The feedback from the pupils was all positive and pupils would welcome George back to future PE lessons. Report by Mr Lee Cross, Deputy Head

SPRING TERM REWARD TRIPS



On Friday 20th April all students who had achieved gold, silver or bronze status were rewarded with a visit to either Jump Xtreme, bowling/mini golf or ice skating. Thanks to Ms Maritza for organising all the venues and transport everyone had a brilliant day out. A big thank you also to Lynne the Cook for organising any packed lunches (which due to lovely sunshine meant being able to enjoy outdoors) and to the trip leaders. Mr Webb, drama teacher, was certainly acting the part when he PRETENDED to be hurt, I don't think he got much sympathy!

