



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MAY 2019 – NO. 144

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

What an excellent spring term result for attendance with 14 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 13 week period. All pupils were presented with a £5 gift voucher in an assembly in recognition of this achievement. Very well done to: Ashley and Sophie Clewley, Nathan Coley, Rhys Humphries, Rianna and Ricky Lewis, Swayvon O'Connor, Mark Reddington, Callum Wilkinson, Craig Williamson, Courtney Allport, Connor Berry, Callum-Rhys Dixon and Archie Kavanagh.



TEAM TEACH GOLD AWARD



Wednesday 1st May was a special day for Elmwood School when we were presented with its Team Teach Gold Award, making us the fourth school nationally to secure such an accolade in our drive and commitment to safeguard the pupils and staff within our organisation. We were pleased to welcome Johnathan Newport (Operations Director), Dean Cotton (Principle Instructor) and Steph Bellet (Business Manager) who presented the award. A big thank you also to Dan Mason, Vice Principal (Safeguarding) Pool Hayes Academy, PC Grant Stokes and PC Taylor from West Midlands Police and Tracy Brandwood, Chair of Governors for sharing this occasion with us. This award could not have been possible without the



support of parents/carers and pupils approach to our school ethos and the staff in making this dream a reality.

TRAINING DAY REMINDER
A reminder that pupils will return on Tuesday 4th June after the half term break due to School being closed on Monday 3rd June for a staff training day.



LOOKING SMART



Over the Easter holidays the main reception area and school office were given a make over with building works taking place. Feedback from visitors has been very positive and it is now a much more welcoming environment. Di Cadman, teaching assistant, has also been putting her green fingers to work with the addition of some new plants at the front of School which she has kindly purchased and given to the School. Elmwood is looking good!



FUN IN OUT AND ABOUT LESSONS



Following the successful staff outdoor learning day last summer, a new activity of axe throwing has been introduced in outdoor learning lessons. Feedback from pupils so far is that they are really enjoying it. Staff are eagerly awaiting to hear what is planned for their next training day session on Monday 3rd June!



STAFFING NEWS

Unfortunately a number of teaching assistants remain absent from work namely Leon Donaldson, Dawn Nicholls and Jenna Wilkins. We send them our best wishes and hope to see them back soon.

Richard Tranter, School Caretaker, celebrated a very special birthday on Friday 3rd May 2019. Many congratulations Richard, we know you had a great day.

On Friday 10th May Julie Powers, teaching assistant ended her time at Elmwood. Julie's bubbly and caring personality will be missed by both pupils and staff alike. We wish Julie every happiness for the future.

We will also be sadly saying goodbye to Rebecca Webbe, supply teaching assistant. Rebecca has worked in pathways base (Key Stage 4) for approximately 18 months and more recently has been supporting a Year 11 pupil on a one to one basis. Rebecca has done an amazing job and will be missed by all; good luck for the future and keep in touch.

WALSALL COUNCIL SERVICE

Parents and Carers are able to access online services for council tax and benefits providing you with instant access to your accounts and notification letters, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Registration is quick and simple, further information on how to register can be found at:

www.walsall.gov.uk/benefits
[www.walsall.gov.uk/council tax](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/council-tax)

GOVERNOR NEWS

We were delighted to hear that Rose Burley, Co-opted Governor at the School and local Councillor, will be taking on the role of Deputy Mayor, with effect from Monday 20th May. We wish Rose every success in her new appointment—many congratulations, we know you will do an amazing job.

School Council Meeting

Members of our school council met with Bev Bailey, James Hawkins and Mr Cross on 8th April when the single agenda item was staff tolerance towards physical assault and impact of mental health and well being. Mr Cross spoke to the group and questions such as 'Do you feel staff are too tolerant of physical assault?', 'What do council feel should be the consequence of violence towards staff during a physical intervention and unprovoked assault?', 'Do pupils in the School feel supported' and 'Is there anything more we as a School can do to support staff and pupils?'. As always the group were engaging and the responses to the questions posed can be found in the minutes on the School website, students page.

INFORMATION RE CONTACT SERVICES IN THE MIDLANDS

Sadly funding for the projects organised by 'Contact' came to an end at the end of April. Support for local families however is still available via their website, www.contact.org.uk, where online advice, information and concerns can be raised. A Freephone helpline is also available on 08088083555 between 9.30 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday.

YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE

Our Year 11 pupils have a busy few weeks ahead as their time at Elmwood draws to a close. Pupils will commence their study and transition leave on 24th May with a number of exams taking place during May and June. All parents and carers have received a copy of the exam timetable but a further copy is also available on the school website on the examination results/timetable page. Good luck to all pupils, believe in yourself—you can do it!!

Making a Splash!

During the spring term, all of the Year 7 pupils took part in swimming lessons during their 'Out and About' class. Lessons were led by school staff at Walsall Gala baths.

All of the pupils took to the swimming like ducks to water and their hard work and persistence paid off when they all showed progress over the six weeks, being rewarded and gaining at least one ASA swimming badge and certificate.

Pupils tried their hardest but a special mention must go to Callum Wilkinson who went from not wanting to enter the water on the first week to gaining his Water Skills 1 award as well as a Most Improved Swimmer certificate by the end of the course – well done!

Many thanks also to the teaching assistants, Jo, Mark and Chris who went into the pool to assist the pupils during the lessons.

Report by Mr Holmes, ASA Swimming Instructor

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN



Classes have recently been helping to 'Keep Walsall tidy'. We met with Mark Hickman, Community Liaison Officer from the Council at our local park. We held a litter collecting competition which

Mark judged and awarded a prize. Mark then disposed of the litter on our behalf.

As a result of this the School has benefitted already from being given permission from the Ranger to harvest fresh spars of wood from the Airfield for pupils to whittle to make their own walking stick. Mark has also offered to meet us at outdoor gyms in local parks and train pupils on how to use the equipment there; this will increase leisure opportunities outside of school. He has also offered a sports programme based in the parks as well as the potential to visit Mark's community allotment along with other opportunities.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Lead Teacher Outdoor Learning

YEAR 8 BIKEABILITY TRAINING



On Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th May pupils in Year 8 took part in the Bikeability scheme organised by Walsall Council. Students were put through their paces by Mike and Donna in order to achieve their Level 2 certification. Shelli George, Teaching Assistant, was also presented with a certificate for taking part over the three days and completing the test too; well



done Shelli. The weather was glorious which added to the enjoyment and pupils behaved brilliantly. A big thank you to everyone who assisted on the days in question and also to Mr Whittaker for organising it.

GOVERNOR THANKS

A big thank you to Dave Watton, Associate Member Governor, who kindly gave up two full days to assist Lee Cross, Acting Head/Deputy Head with the interviews for the various teaching assistant posts on offer. The field was very strong but we are pleased to confirm that Sarah Mosson, Anna Cahira, Adam Mitchell will be taking on the full time posts and Shelli George, who has been working on supply, will be doing the job share role working 2.5 days per week. As always the School Council members played a vital role in the recruitment of our new staff members and did a fantastic job. Pupil voice plays an important part in the School and therefore their views are always taken into account.

We look forward to welcoming our new team members in due course.

END OF TERM REWARD TRIPS

Pupils who had achieved gold, silver or bronze status during the spring term were rewarded with a fun day out on Friday 3rd May. Thanks to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager and Tina Lloyd, Acting Deputy/Assistant Head who organised the various venues, pupils headed off to Splash Landings at Alton Towers Hotel for the gold trip, Jump Xtreme in Tamworth for the silver trip and bowling/crazy golf for bronze pupils. A few students unfortunately had to remain in school to catch up either on work missed as a result of absences or as a result of their behaviour; hopefully they will be able to join in next time.



A big thank you to all trip leaders for their work in ensuring a successful day by all.

YEAR 5 AND 6 OPEN EVENING

Parents and carers of pupils currently in Years 5 and 6 are invited to attend our open evening taking place on Thursday 20th June at 3.30 pm.

In addition to a tour around the school, visitors will be able to meet the Senior Leadership Team and other key staff.

We look forward to welcoming and showcasing what Elmwood has to offer.

REGISTER MONITORS

With our Year 11 pupils due to go on study leave at the end of term, Nathan in Year 11 has been training up our new register monitor. Henry Nicholls in Year 10 will be taking over this role and accompanied Nathan w/c 20th May as part of the handover process. A big thank you to Nathan and Habib who have done a brilliant job over the last twelve months as monitors and were rewarded with gift vouchers in an assem on 24th May.



GIFT FROM DI

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Di Cadman, Teaching Assistant, at the end of this academic year when she finally retires and puts her feet



up for a well earned rest. Di being Di, she has kindly purchased a lovely wooden bench for pupils and staff to enjoy as a gift to the School which is sitting proudly in the entrance quad. A big thank you to Mr Francis, DT Teacher and Tyrone and Jamie in Year 11 who helped to assemble the bench. They were so shattered after doing so, they decided to christen the bench with a nap! Many thanks



Di, the bench will bring a lot of pleasure (Dawn and Lynn in the Office are already enjoying sitting out at lunch time to enjoy their lunch).