



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JULY 2019 – NO. 146

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YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



On Monday 1st July we officially celebrated the end of 'The Elmwood Journey' for our Year 11 students. Parents, carers and students were able to reminisce about wonderful times and memories during an emotional assembly before students and staff went off to fill their boots at a local buffet restaurant. It was

lovely that our Careers Adviser and Governor, Rita Martin, was also able to come along and celebrate the end of their time at Elmwood too.



All of our students have been on impressive journeys where not only have they achieved great academic progress, but they have learnt more about themselves, matured and are now ready for their next exciting chapters.



Students are now prepared for either college, training providers and apprenticeships and Elmwood staff have every confidence that they have the skills and determination to succeed in the future. We can't wait to hear all about it!



Report by Mrs G Francis, Lead Teacher of Maths

"The wise man is he who knows when and how to stop"

- Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

A message from Mr. Hubbard

After a turbulent year, that can only be described as 'challenging', I have decided it is time to go to seek fresh opportunities.

I am proud of what I have achieved since coming to Elmwood in 2012 and will miss the young people immensely. I would like to thank many parents and carers for their support in allowing us to develop our vision of a nurturing alternative to the cycle of punishment, failure and exclusion that had been most SEMH pupils' experience prior to coming to Elmwood. A school that 'gets them' and understands their needs.

Despite recent setbacks I'm sure the school will continue to offer an effective alternative with outstanding outcomes through a dedicated staff team and systems that have proven to be effective.

Best wishes for the future and thank you.

Simon Hubbard

END AND START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder that pupils will be breaking up on Friday 19th July at 12.30 pm for the summer holiday. Pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return on Tuesday 3rd September as Monday 2nd September is a staff training day. Pupils joining the School in Year 7 will commence on Monday 9th September when twelve pupils from a variety of primary schools will be welcomed to our community. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable break.

IT'S A HATCHET JOB!



Following staff training on their outdoor education training day on Monday 3rd June, Mr Whittaker is obviously getting prepared for delivering this aspect of the outdoor learning curriculum. It looks like lessons are going to be fun.



BIRMINGHAM FOOTBALL ANNUALS

We are once again very grateful to Valerie Day from Variety, the Children's Charity who has kindly donated a number of Birmingham City FC annuals for use

by our young people. These were presented during a sport based assembly on Friday 12th July. A big thank you to the Variety for their ongoing support which is much appreciated.



ANNUAL REVIEW MEETINGS

As you are aware, all pupils have an annual review meeting when parents and carers are invited to review their child's EHCP as well as look at progress or discuss any concerns. From September these meetings will be held on Wednesday and not a Thursday. We will also be welcoming Rachael Maybank as our Careers Adviser; Rachael will be attending reviews of pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11. Rachael will be taking over from Rita Martin, who has worked at the School for many years and has forged excellent relationships with both pupils and parents/carers. Rita is planning on enjoying life by doing a bit of travelling once she has retired and we look forward to still seeing Rita at School in her role as a Co-opted Governor.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION VISITS

On Monday 1st, 8th and 15th July we welcomed pupils currently in Year 6 who will be joining the School in September. The bulk of the pupils (6) will be transferring from our feeder school, Phoenix Academy with other pupils coming from Old Park Primary, the New Leaf Centre, All Saints National Academy and the Delves School. Pupils spent transition mornings with their key staff as well as taking part in our Grand Designs Day on the 15th July. Feedback from one of the boys after taking part in these transition days was that he has loved his transition and was beaming and very excited for September.

POPPY APPEAL REMINDER

You may recall the request from Mr Whittaker, Lead Teacher for Outdoor Learning, for help with our plans for Armistice day in the autumn term for knitted poppies. Any contributions to help decorate our grounds would be much appreciated. A pattern is available for anyone who may be able to help; please contact the school office who will gladly pass this on. Pupils will also be helping with this task following our outdoor training day when staff were taught by Sara Morris from Barlaston WI on wool weaving to establish beautiful poppies.



Chicken Progress!

It has been a long time since the chickens took place to live in their coop. When they came they laid barely any eggs, but now they are common. This could mean the chickens feel safer and are healthier, due to them adapting to live with the rabbit and eating better chicken food.



Teachers have bought eggs from the science room which helps the chickens and rabbits have a more comfortable and wealthier environment, letting them become healthier over time.

Written by Krystian, Yr 8 pupil

STAFFING NEWS

Unfortunately Leon Donaldson is still absent from work but we hope that he will be returning soon.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Claire Whittlestone, science teacher, at the end of the summer term. Claire has been a real asset to the school and has turned the science department around, pupils have particularly enjoyed the animal welfare aspect of the curriculum and our chickens and Chubbs the rabbit have come on leaps and bounds thanks to her guidance. Good luck Claire.

We will also be losing our Lead Teacher for English, Mr Chris Bowen, at the end of term. Mr Bowen has been instrumental in leading the English department to the great success that it now is and he will be very sadly missed. Mr Bowen will be taking up an Assistant Head's post in September and we send him our sincere congratulations on this appointment.

From September Ms Lloyd will be relinquishing her role as Assistant Headteacher and will be returning as a part time teacher from September. Ms Lloyd has undertaken this leadership role efficiently and professionally and will be a sad loss to the team; her support over the last few years especially during numerous inspections and the amazing job she has fulfilled in organising cover has been greatly appreciated.

In addition to the vacancy following Ms Lloyd's news, an additional post had been agreed by Governors to help strengthen the leadership team. Interviews were held on Monday 1st July when four candidates were interviewed by Mr Cross, Acting Head and Ms Brandwood, Chair of Governors. We are pleased to confirm that Gemma Francis and Martin Hawkes were the successful candidates and will take up their new posts in September. Governors also approved the temporary twelve month appointments of two Associate Assistant Headteachers namely Ashley Holmes and Dan Whittaker. Many congratulations to all concerned

A number of supply staff will also be moving on to new jobs at the end of term so we wish Matthew Penrice, Nicolle Roberts, Rebecca Webbe and Aris Belenge all the best for the future. Good luck to Charlotte Clarke, Teaching Assistant, who is due to have her first baby at the end of August, we look forward to hearing about the new arrival.

Finally, we will be saying goodbye to Di Cadman, teaching assistant, who has worked at the school since it opened having previously worked at Daw End School up until it closed in 2007 —a period of some 21 years! Elmwood will not be the same without Di who has worked tirelessly over the years supporting our young people and their families; she will leave a very big void in our community. We wish Di a very happy and well earned retirement and Elmwood's door will always be open for return visits. End of an era.

Residential 2019

On a sunny Wednesday morning some of the Year 10 pupils and staff left school to take part in two full days of activities with an overnight stay at Womerton Farm on the Long Mynd, Shropshire.

Upon arrival the team unloaded, had a quick look around the accommodation, ate lunch and then headed out mountain biking, culminating in an impromptu stop to look and help recover some gliders at the local club on top of the Mynd! After heading back to the farm and having a lovely Spaghetti Bolognese dinner cooked by Sophie and Paul (Jordan did the



breakfasts and Rico the lunches), it was off to the copse to chop wood, build and light a fire, gut and open-fire cook fish followed by toasting marshmallows..... then we went on a night walk. The next day was even sunnier and after breakfast, making packed lunches and clearing our kit from the bunkhouse we went off exploring and map reading, including Rico and Mr Holmes running up a steep hill..... another story. Exhausted but happy, we all headed back to school and unloaded, in time for the transport home.

The pupils were a credit to the school, giving 10088% to all activities, helping each other out with any chores and above all staying positive and smiling, even when they were tired!

Many thanks to the accompanying staff, Paul & Shelli, who gave up their own time to make this trip happen.

Report by Mr Holmes, Outdoor Education Department





'It's all gone swimmingly'

Having observed the rapid growth in popularity of stand up paddling (SUP), I have been keen for Elmwood pupils to enjoy this exciting activity. After speaking with Mr. Holmes, we both realised that his own canoe club would be the ideal venue and, as a result, our pupils have been able to enjoy the thrill of paddling across open water at Manor Park Sailing Club, over the last few weeks of term. This has proved incredibly popular with pupils and taught focus, determination, courage and resilience.

Report by Mr. Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

UNIFORM ORDERS

If you have not already placed orders for new school uniform, you will need to order directly from the supplier, A J Designs at www.a4jdesigns.co.uk/school-uniform-store/elmwood-school. For those who have already placed orders with the School, these will be ready for collection at the end of August or Monday 2nd September 2019.

SPORT AWARDS ASSEMBLY



On Friday 12th July Elmwood School hosted its first Sports Awards where we celebrated pupils achievements in sports over the current academic year. Pupils were invited to the ceremony via private invitation as an acknowledgement for their hard work. Awards included highest achievements in each of the sports covered within the curriculum where only one individual could win the award in each key stage.

This was then followed by our special awards that recognised a select few pupils from each key stage for their dedication to P.E. These included -

Most Progress for an individual who has shown the greatest progress over the year in lessons and inter-house competitor

- Winners - Key Stage 3 - Theo Forrester
- Key Stage 4 - Craig Williamson

Rising Star Award for an individual who has taken a greater interest in P.E and sports this year which has seen them improve greatly.

- Winners - Key Stage 3 - Sammy Kirby Rogers
- Key Stage 4 - Nathan Tompkins

Sportsperson of the Year for an all round sporting star who continuously shows maximum effort in P.E and always performs to the highest of their ability.

- Winners - Key Stage 3 - Jake Hall
- Key Stage 4 - Rico Maritza Yates

Well Done to all individuals who were invited and received an award and we hopefully look forward to seeing you there again next year.



Report by Mr A Bullock, Year 7/PE Teacher

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY



The school has recently helped to support St James' Primary School in Brownhills with their memorial garden by the making of bird boxes during DT lessons with Mr Francis. This has been organised via Di Cadman and David Cook from the project who recently came and collected the boxes; David was thrilled with what he was presented with and Elmwood will be thanked on their website for this kind donation. Well done to everyone involved and Mrs Cadman is looking forward to visiting the gardens when they are officially opened.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

Our summer termly progress and achievement event took place on Thursday 11th July when parents and carers were invited to attend appointments with key staff to discuss their child's report and look at setting targets for the Autumn term. A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. Turnout this year was 83% which is a fantastic result and far higher than last year at 72%. A big thank you also to Ms Shaw for organising the refreshments and also to our two Family Welfare Officers, Bev Bailey and James Hawkins for their help on the day. If you have not yet returned the parental comments section on your child's summer report, can you please complete and return for our records. For your information our Autumn term progress and achievement event will take place on Thursday 12th December 2019.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

A post has become available for a parent governor to join our governing body. Dawn Canham, Clerk to the Governors, will organise a parent/carers election to take place early next term and we would encourage any parent or carer who would like to take a more active part in their child's School, to consider this opportunity.

HEALTHIER LUNCHES

Our school kitchen team of Head Cook, Lynne Rymer and Assistant, Donna Jarvis, do a fantastic job every day turning out numerous meals for not only our pupils but also those at New Leaf and EDS. Recent changes have seen the introduction of home made yoghurts as well as many more dishes being cooked from scratch including tasty cakes. If your child would like to switch to school meals and does not qualify for free school meals, the cost of a hot meal, jacket potato or baguette and a pudding is £1.95.

GRAND DESIGNS DAY 2019



This year pupils rotated around nine different work stations across the School where they engaged in a variety of projects to improve the school site. These included tidying up each of the outdoor quad areas involving repairing all of the wooden planters, re grass seeding the hanging helmets, painting and repairing picnic tables, re-fixing the oil pan drums, xylophone tree dressing. Construction of a new rabbit and chicken run are underway, enhancement of the new cabin area with Mediterranean style planting and utilising last year's art project and gabions filled to provide homes for bugs and acting as seating. Also in that area was the repair of the bug houses and dismantling of the plastic greenhouse. Last year's mountain bike ramps and see-saws on the field were the scene of this year's art project decorating them in the Mondrian/razzle dazzle camouflage styling.



DT created laser cut inspirational quotes, which will be distributed across the School. The create station sees a remembrance motif of a silhouetted poppy strewn hillside with soldier and cross atop it, painted by pupils.



The allotment saw the digging of a new pond, as well as essential maintenance, base rooms were prepared. The visiting Year 6's on the day took a trip to the allotment, to familiarise themselves with the area.

The day was very hot and tiring but despite this the pupils took great pride in their work and the whole site looked very smart the following day, well done Elmwood!



Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning