



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015— NO. 104

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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING SUCCESS



A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped join in the world's biggest coffee morning on Friday 25th September. As a result of everyone's support we raised £121.35 for this good cause.

We were grateful to both Starbucks based at the Wharf, Walsall and also to The Village Bakery in Pelsall who contributed hot drinks and a selection of cakes respectively.

Thank you also to the young people in the nurture group who were perfect hosts serving and tending to guests—feedback from the evaluation sheets was very complimentary especially to Callum Walker in year 8b who was a real superstar.



Various competitions took place including guess the weight of the cake (beautifully made by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher) which was won by Helen Osborne, Carer of a pupil in Year 9. Lynn Maritza (School Business Manager) was the closest to the guess the weight of the cake and won a very tasty sponge cake (made by Bradley Ravenscroft in Year 10a). The guess the spots on the cake competition was jointly won by Ms Lloyd guessing 572 and Nicola Ravenscroft (mom of Year 10a pupil) with 580—the actual number was 576.

The prize of £15 was shared equally.

It was also nice to see Janet Lunn, retired teaching assistant from Elmwood, come along and catch up with staff and pupils. Jan will shortly be moving from the area and it was nice to see her before she leaves.



Finally thank you to Di Cadman, teaching assistant, for sourcing the little extras including flowers helping to make the day extra special.



All left over cakes were given to Harden Nursing Home for residents to enjoy with their afternoon tea.

TOP MARKS TO LYNN THE COOK



Well done to Lynn Rymer, School Cook, following the recent inspection by Environmental Health. She was thrilled to learn that she had achieved top marks of a grade 5 for cleanliness and hygiene, which is justly

deserved. The certificate is now proudly on display in reception.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We launched our new after school club on Monday 5th October. A number of students chose to take part with football, art/design technology and drama being the preferred options. A big thank you to the staff involved for giving their time and helping to make the scheme a success.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting this term took place on 2nd October with the new School Council members. Eleven students and four staff met in the library which turned out to be a very productive and informative meeting. Items discussed were a possible visit to the Houses of Parliament, a Christmas School Fayre, Christmas Meal, disruptive learning, bullying and rewards. A special mention was made in the minutes to Marcus Rose in Year 11 who was an excellent role model to all the young people there. Well done to Jamie, Cythian, Marcus, Bradley R, Jordan, Thomas, Callum W, Levi, J'Ermiel, Rico and Steven for their contributions.

WELL DONE MARCUS

Marcus in Year 11 is to be commended for his honesty—his parents should be very proud of him as on Thursday 8th October he found a mobile phone at the front of School and came and handed into the office. Well done Marcus we are hoping to be able to trace the owner shortly who will no doubt be very relieved to have it back.

VISIT TO JAGUAR LANDROVER



On Wednesday 7th October, six students accompanied Mr Collins and staff to the Jaguar Landrover plant at Castle Bromwich. What a fantastic time pupils had especially when they were given a tour of the Lamborghinis, Jordan, Lee, Marcus, Reace, Ricardo



and Liam were in awe of these superfast cars. The boys were also able to watch the robots in work on the assembly line but for security purposes could not take any pictures. A big thank you to parents and carers for supporting this trip with the £15 donation.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT NEW PARK SCHOOL



On the 23rd September the KS4 football team participated in a tournament at New Park School. The team came very close to winning the trophy but fell just short in the last game. The scores were lost 2-0, won 2-1 and drew 2-2. The pupils who participated deserve so much credit and accolades. Those included in the team match squad were Marcus Rose,



George Cocking, Fahed Matter, Simon Farrington, Bradley Sladszyn, Thomas Carter and Carl French. Bradley Sladszyn walked away with "the player of the tournament" award after his fantastic contribution to the team.



It was a historic day on the 2nd October 2015. The KS3 football team made history to win a football tournament for the first time in over 5 years. The team played three games winning all of them. They won 2-0, 3-2 and 3-2 to take the trophy. Goals were scored by Bradley Sladszyn, George Cocking, Thomas Carter and Carl French. Elsewhere Nathan Davis-Sealey was voted player of the tournament by his teammates and Fahed Matter made his debut. Bradley Sladszyn once again was voted the manager's player of the competition after



his stand out performances. Paul Middleton, teaching assistant, was elated in his post-match comments 'this is a special bunch of players who have grown into a team that can challenge anyone in the Walsall Schools area, the football they played today was hair raising and outstanding to watch'.



Upcoming fixtures:



9/10/15 vs Jane Lane Away
16/10/15 vs Jane Lane Home

Report by Mr Martin Hawkes, PE Teacher

DATA ANALYSIS FOR 2014/2015

As a school we are constantly striving to improve standards ensuring that your child has the best possible education which will hopefully ensure success in the future.

It is therefore important that your child attends school regularly, observes school rules and therefore is not excluded. We also do not tolerate bullies or racism and this is reiterated both in the classroom and in themed assemblies.

However a small minority of pupils continue to miss lessons and upset others with their behaviour. This is reflected in the data information collated for the last academic year.

Overall attendance	85.7%
Authorised absence	9.8%
Unauthorised absence	4.4%
Exclusions	150.5 days
Bullying	21 incidents
Racist incidents	37 incidents

Your support in striving to improve on the above figures would be much appreciated.

STAFFING NEWS

Congratulations to Paddy Hinsley who was successful in securing a temporary teaching post in the School. Paddy has been working on supply at the School for some time as a one to one support worker and is delighted to be joining the team. Well done Paddy.

Lisa Barker decided to leave the cleaning team on Tuesday 6th October. We were sorry to see Lisa go and until her replacement is appointed, our other able Cleaning staff of Julie and Carol will be going the extra mile ensuring School is kept clean and safe.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

In addition to the health and safety day closures from 21st to 23rd October, School will be closed on Friday 20th November for staff training.

SCHOOL FUND

Our school fund account has now been audited which has seen a big decrease in funds this year due to the purchase of new computers and School PE strip. We will be looking at ways to raise funds over the coming year which will ultimately benefit pupils.

Quit assembly

On Friday 25th September, QUIT, who have been commissioned by Walsall Council, came along to an assembly to talk about their smoking prevention programme. The presentation covered topics including facts about smoking, effects on looks, health problems associated with smoking, the financial cost, Tobacco Companies and more. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the pre evaluation survey forms that were sent out.

Looking good!



The front area of School is looking quite a picture thanks to the work of Mr Whittaker in out and about lessons and Mrs

Cadman, our gardening guru.

The new autumn addition of the harvest wheel barrow and heather planters add some lovely colour—not sure how long the vegetables will remain however!!



FUN AT THE MAP

Tyrun in Year 9 has been putting his artistic talents to the test during time spent at The MAP in Walsall. The MAP specialise in



supporting students, in areas where they lack confidence and in many cases help them develop practical and functional skills which

will support them back into mainstream education, employment or training. Keep up the good work Tyrun, it looks impressive.



POPPY APPEAL

We will once again be supporting the British Legion's annual poppy appeal by selling the following items:

- Self adhesive poppies—minimum 20p
- Reflective poppies (suitable for key rings etc) - minimum of £1
- Assorted coloured wristbands—minimum of £1

These will be available for purchase after the half term break up to 11th November 2015.

On a sad note, Trevor, who has been working on behalf of the British Legion for a number of years and annually delivered and collected the poppies, passed away in May of this year. The office staff have fond memories of Trevor who was a real gentlemen.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SPECIAL VISITOR

Following a recent School Council meeting, Bev Bailey has organised for Wendy Morton, Local MP, to come and meet with the members of the School Council as well as attending our weekly Friday assembly. This has been organised for Friday 11th December 2015 from 9.00 am to 11.00 am.

The visit has been organised in response to a letter the School received in which Wendy is trying to give students the opportunity to visit Westminster and look at the Houses of Parliament. We will keep you posted.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOURS YET?

A reminder that if you have not yet checked and returned the SIMS data collection sheet or any outstanding consent forms, can these please be returned to the School Office as soon as possible. It is important for health and safety reasons that we have the correct contact information and necessary consents for offsite activities.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

As discussed with the School Council a Christmas Fayre is being organised for Thursday 10th December 2015. We hope that this will be well supported with lots of craft items and stalls to tempt visitors which will help to raise vital School funds. Further details to follow!

Family Learning Festival 17th Oct - 1st Nov 2015

Explore the great things you can do as a family and try something new - from crafts to discovering science. There are activities happening around the country plus lots of great things you can do at home and in your community to get your learning journey rolling.

Find out more by going to :- <http://www.familylearningfestival.com>

Report by Sonia Cook, Family Welfare Officer

A message from the Head

In my time working with young people I have had first-hand experience of the damage that drugs do to developing brains. A male brain is not fully developed until you are in your 20s and is particularly vulnerable to developmental damage in teenagers. Cannabis psychosis is real and I have seen the effects. As a school we have managed to ban smoking on site and have a strong anti-drugs policy. However we are aware of a few young people who believe that drug use is 'normal' and not at all dangerous. We have had The Beacon (formerly T3) in in July to talk to two groups of young people about the risks of drug use. It is to be hoped that our young people are not getting messages from home or elsewhere that drug use is safe never is.

The use of cannabis in particular causes me concern. It is obvious that there is cannabis in use around Walsall (the pungent smell wafting from cars and some houses is evident even on my cycle ride to and from school) and the strength is far higher than it would have been a few years ago. I quote from the NHS website.

*Cannabis can have other effects too: it makes some people feel faint and/or sick – this is sometimes known as a "white-out" it can make you feel sleepy and lethargic some people find it affects their **memory, making it harder to remember things** it makes some people **feel confused, anxious or paranoid**, and some experience **panic attacks** and hallucinations. These effects are particularly common with **stronger forms of cannabis, such as skunk and sinsemilla**. If you use cannabis regularly it can make you **demotivated and uninterested in other things** going on in your life, such as **education or work**. Long-term use can affect your ability **to learn and to concentrate**.*

Obviously as a school we are working hard to ensure that all of our young people leave here with the best possible life and any cannabis use is likely to make their diagnosed medical or mental conditions worse and damage their educational chances of a successful life. We are not saying that this is an issue that affects many but we are aware of a few who are at risk and these are due to factors outside of the school's direct control. Any child who is caught with drugs in school would face a substantial sanction, up to and including, permanent exclusion. We do reserve the right to send home anyone who arrives at school under the influence of drugs (or appears to be). So far the issue is an out of school one but we are still the one picking up the pieces of damaged young lives.

Please ensure that you have a conversation with your child. Drug use is not safe or acceptable. It is expensive and ruinous. Help is available through the school for anyone who needs it; please contact Beverley Bailey or Sonia Latimer for confidential advice. Thank you, Simon Hubbard.

WHAT'S BEEN COOKING IN FOOD TECH?

Year 7 pupils have settled into cooking lessons demonstrating excellent health, safety and hygiene skills during practical lessons - well done to all.



October is black history month and pupils have had the opportunity to prepare, cook and eat some wonderful exotic dishes—ackee and salt fish, ostrich, venison, prickly pears, African piri piri kebabs are amongst some of the foods we cooked and ate to taste test (the jury is out on the ostrich).



Pathways—Years 10 and 11, enjoyed their first half term working on Jamie's Home Cooking Skills completing their first mock assessment with good results. Parents, carers and families will be invited into school to join and support the pupils with their next practical assessment taking place on 2nd December at 12.30 pm.

Finally Ms Shaw would like to congratulate Connor Rose and Sam Taylor in Year 11 2014-15 cohort and Ethan Parker and Ricardo Vidal currently in Year 11 on achieving BTEC Level 2 Home Cooking Skills Qualification. In addition Aldain Francis and Matty Hunt in Year 11 in 2014-15 cohort achieved Level 1 in Jamie Oliver's Home Cooking Skills.

The boys worked really hard to achieve this qualification, not forgetting the support from the teaching assistants, Debbie Causer, Di Cadman and Helen Dudley.

Report by Ms H Shaw, Food Technology Teacher