



Elmwood School

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Headteacher: Mr. L. Cross, BA Hons. MSc, NPQH,

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G Francis, BA Hon, NPQML Assistant Headteacher: Mr M Hawkes, BA Hons, NPQSL

11th April 2025

Dear all,

As we come to the end of what has been a challenging term for everyone, the Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time.

Elmwood truly is an exceptional school offering enriching and specialised opportunities to all our young people. As Governors, we wholeheartedly believe in Elmwood's vision, and it is our privilege to volunteer our services to ensure these unique and empowering opportunities continue. Reading the newsletters fills us with immense pride and joy, as it highlights the dedication of the entire Elmwood community in striving for the very best for our students.

This moment also provides an opportunity to reflect on the academisation journey, as we understand there may have been some reservations regarding this decision.

With these factors in mind, the Governing Body now feels that this is the right time for Elmwood to voluntarily embark on the academisation process. This step represents an important milestone towards achieving an outstanding provision—not just for our students but for all stakeholders. Joining a MAT, with a long-standing relationship with Elmwood, is a natural progression, building on the benefits already experienced through our partnership work. Whilst academisation has been considered in the past, it was not pursued as the school was not in the right position nor was the ideal MAT identified. We now believe that The Matrix Trust is the ideal match, primarily due to their values of "Education Without Exception" and how these work in parallel to "The Elmwood Way". From there the Governing Body have also identified additional benefits i.e.

- Ability to enhance the pupils' curriculum beyond the current core offer, aligned to pupils own personal strengths.
- Ability to share best practice and expertise with other schools ensuring sustainability and a continual development of teaching and learning.



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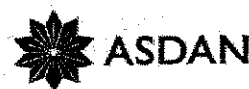
Team Teach Gold Award

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2020-2023



- Significant investment to the school building and infrastructure ensuring a more environmentally sustainable future for us all.
- Further enriching experiences that build upon pupils' cultural capital.
- Preparing staff and pupils for the digital age and access to appropriate technology to further enhance everyone's daily experience.
- Build up recruitment and retention of high quality Teachers and Teaching Assistants.
- We will be able to improve economies of scale in our purchasing which will generate more funds to enrich pupils (and their families).

To provide clarity, below we have shared the key steps along the academisation process. Each step ensures that the transition is carefully managed and aligned with the school's goals.

- The school has registered its interest in converting and has received an academy order from the Department for Education.
- The Governing Body passed a resolution to convert.
- Consultations with stakeholders are taking place.
- The school establishes an Academy Trust and Funding Agreement.
- The school officially joins a multi-academy trust.
- Completion of pre-opening and pre-approval checks.

The final decision to join Matrix Academy Trust will be taken by the Governing Body and will be based on the best interests for pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. As part of the decision making process, the Governing Body is committed to consulting with stakeholders so their views are considered when making the final decision. Although the Governing Body has voted to commence the academisation journey, the statutory consultation process with all stakeholders has now started and will end on 30th May 2025. This will enable additional comments on the proposal to enhance the already received information as part of the stakeholder engagement events to date. Alongside this letter you will find an anonymous survey, hosted by the Local Authority, where you can share your view on Elmwood becoming an academy.

We are committed to keeping you informed and ensuring transparency throughout and will be creating a section on the school website identifying key pieces of information. We value your input and encourage you to share your thoughts as we move forward. The consultation process and feedback will then be reviewed at the Full Governing Body meeting on Thursday 5th June 2025, where a final decision on academisation will be made.

Hannah and I are looking forward to meeting parents / carers on Friday 2nd May 2025 at either of the advertised times (9.00 – 10.00 or 14.30 – 15.30) where we will be welcoming Sir Mark Aspinall (Chair of Trustees) and Lyndsey Draycott (CEO) to share their vision on how joining The Matrix Trust will enhance pupil educational experiences, building upon the current



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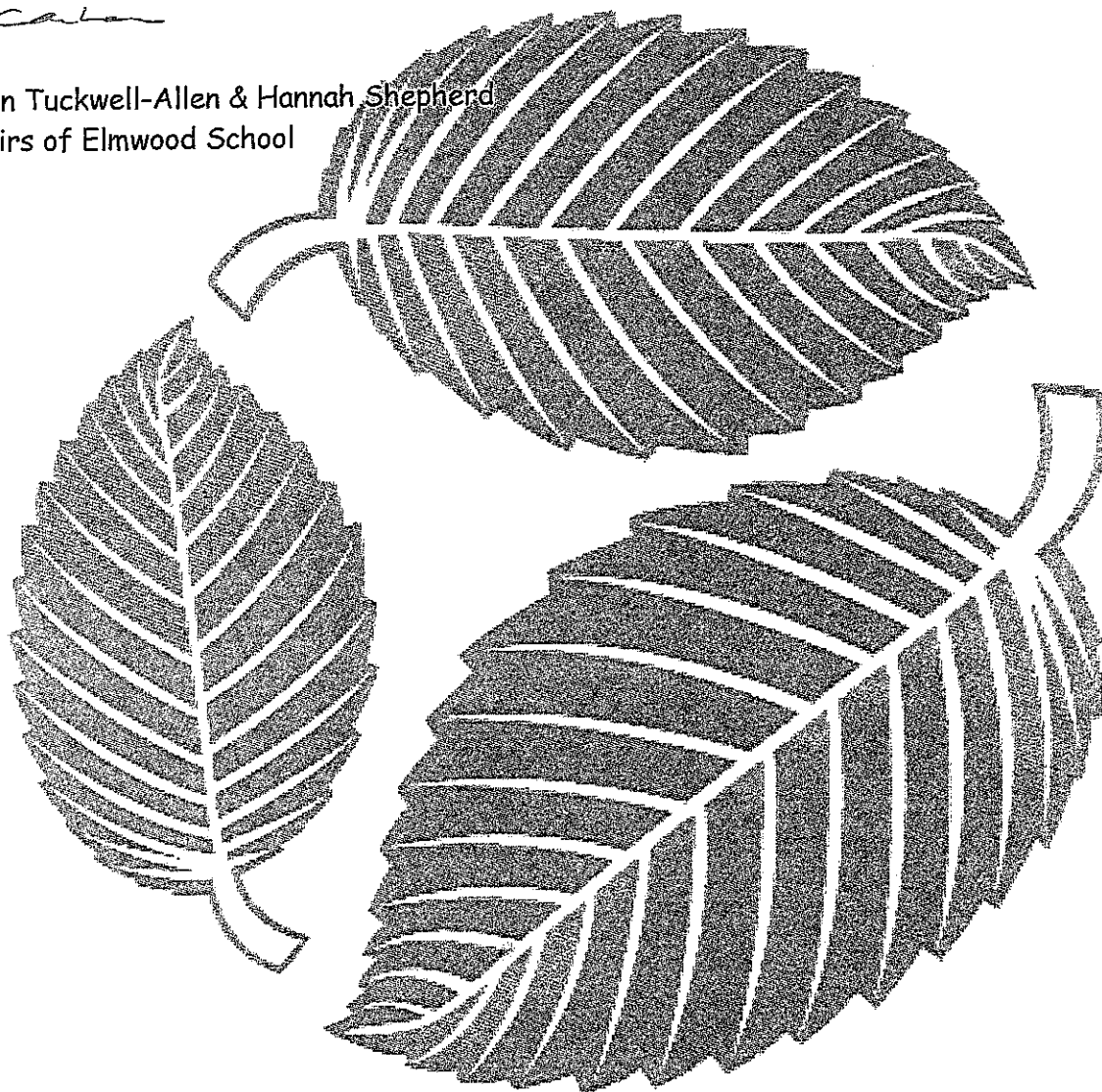
successes of Elmwood. Presentation materials and any discussion themes will be shared with you via the school website.

In the meantime, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support and dedication to our young people, who remain at the very heart of everything we do. We are deeply committed to their success and well-being.

On behalf of the Elmwood Governors, we wish everyone a restful and peaceful holiday.

D. Calver

PP Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen & Hannah Shepherd
Co-Chairs of Elmwood School



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