



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023 – NO. 191

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GOLDEN TICKET RESULTS

Pupils who impress visitors when they display our school values of care for others, care for self or care for the environment are rewarded with a golden ticket.

A total of 67 golden tickets were awarded for the academic year 2022-23 and we are pleased to announce that Julian Wilkins-McCallum received the most over the course of the year (5 in total) and will be accompanying Mr Cross, Headteacher to a local restaurant in the future to enjoy a slap up meal. The runner ups were Ryan Keenan and Josie Leigh Evans, who both received 4 golden tickets so very well done to you both too.

SUMMER TERM REWARD TRIPS



For the gold reward trip, a kitted-out van came to the school allowing pupils to choose from a wide range of consoles and games to play. They had PlayStation 5s, Xboxes, Nintendo Switches and even a VR headset for pupils (and Leon) to try. Pupils got just under 3 hours to experience new games and consoles while playing games with pupils and staff that they would not usually have played with. They found some new favourites throughout the day. Even the staff had fun competing against each other in Mario Kart! Report by Ms Askins, Trip Lead



Pupils on the silver reward trip enjoyed another successful, fun day and yet again jumped for joy at JumpXtreme! Being the largest reward trip we were escorted to our venue in Tamworth on a luxury coach. Many pupils have experienced trampolining at JumpXtreme before and loved telling the new staff all about it and what a great time they would have.

After an initial rundown on health and safety by the professionals, pupils were all set to jump! We had free reign on all the trampolines and were lucky not to have to share with anyone. Pupils were spoilt for choice at what to go on next, not only could you just jump up and down on the wall to wall trampolines you could also play dodgeball, do slam dunks, which really tested their agility.

We finished off by eating a lovely buffet that JumpXtreme provided for us of pizza, chicken nuggets, sandwiches and chips, which were quickly eaten along with all the squash you could drink! Another brilliant day at Jump Xtreme and once again all pupils (and staff) were a credit to the school displaying all the Elmwood values of care for self, care for others and care for the environment. Thank you to all the staff that made it a memorable day! Report by Mr Webb, Trip Lead

Bronze trip had a wonderful walking experience around Chasewater. The pupils did so well considering the heat that day. I believe we walked 7.3km! We completed the full cycle in time to then play on the park and we even squeezed in an ice cream. Thanks to Rubina, Adam and



Shelli, teaching assistants. We all had a lovely day. Report by Kerry Bowen, Trip Lead

The other bronze trip option was to go fishing, which was a very successful trip. All of the pupils were successful in catching something and they thoroughly enjoyed the peace and relaxation. The day wasn't as productive as usual due to the high air pressure and temperature on the day which made the fish reluctant to bite. We did manage to get hooked up into a few fish though and the children had a great day. I would also like to thank Pipehill Fisheries in Lichfield for allowing us a pool of our own. Report by Mr Wood, Trip Lead



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Jade Lunt, Teaching Assistant,



How long have you worked at Elmwood? *I have worked at Elmwood since it opened on 1st January 2008.*

What do you love about your job? *The reason I love my job is because I've been part of some amazing young people's lives. The young people have brought me some amazing memories over the years, that I will treasure forever.*

What films have you watched recently? *Super Mario Bros Movie. This is a film I enjoyed watching with my own children*

Favourite Holiday? *My favourite holiday was Disneyland Paris with my family. We had a memorable photo with Buzz Lightyear! This is a picture I will treasure forever and it always make me smile.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I love watching the boxing. My favourite fight was watching Joe Calzaghe vs Mikkel Kessler in Cardiff at the Millennium Stadium; the atmosphere was electric.*

SITE VISIT



On Wednesday 19th July 2023, Jay Marklew and Reece Oxford from Year 10 went on a visit to a construction site. Pupils had a full site induction, were issued with safety helmets and then looked around Lovell Homes' 'The Junction' building site, Oldbury, seeing all phases of the process of house building, from foundations being put in, right through to the finished show-home.

Pupils watched a three man brick laying team in action and were able to see the techniques they have learnt during their Rodbaston multi-skills training, in action.

They also received a talk from the site manager about the different trades on-site and career options available including the (potentially very large) salaries which can be earned, providing they acquire at least their Maths and English qualifications.

Both pupils conducted themselves appropriately on-site, were polite, attentive and followed all the safety rules.

Thanks to Chris Williams of Lovell Homes for enabling the trip and to Adam Michell, TA, for supporting.
Report by Mr Holmes, Teacher (prior to leaving at the end of the summer term)

Exam results

Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils who received their examination results on 24th August. For some pupils this was a confirmation of their achievements over the past two years. For others this was to see how they managed those GCSE exams. There were some stand out performances within Fine Art this year as well as one pupil securing a grade 5 in both Biology and English Language—an amazing achievement.

This year's cohort has been so much more than just the end outcome, it has been about ensuring each and every pupil has left Elmwood School as the best version of themselves. I am extremely proud to share that the majority of pupils have made above expected progress from their starting point/EKS2 assessments.

We are all extremely proud of their achievements as a cohort and know they will continue to grow and develop with their Post-16 providers; we look forward to hearing of their future successes.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

ATTENDANCE SUPERSTARS

Many congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the summer term. Pupils were presented with certificates and a £5 gift voucher during an assembly on Friday 15th September 2023.

Sam Ashbery, Sophie Byrne, Josie-Leigh Evans, Mckenzie Gonderton, Francis Gosling, George Hancox, Bradley Hopkins, Izzy Hough, Carson Price, Paul Robinson, Rebecca Spendlove, Re'Shae Pearman and George Wynn

The following pupils have also achieved 100% attendance for the whole academic year, which is absolutely brilliant and what an achievement. Pupils were rewarded with a further certificate and £5 gift voucher.

Sophie Byrne
Francis Gosling
Rebecca Spendlove

Congratulations to the following staff who also achieved 100% attendance for the summer term— well done to all concerned:

Gemma Francis, Martin Hawkes, Tracy Pow, Lynn Maritza, Dawn Canham, Marcia Allen, Kerry Bowen, Sonya Woollery, Julie Burnell and Carol Bratt

Developments in Out and About

A huge welcome to Mr Middleton to the Out and About team. Mr Middleton has covered many out and about activities in the past and has always performed a sterling job.

Mr Middleton brings his own solid delivery style and a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm in the area of craft, which is a big part of the out and about programme and has often suggested potential activities in the past such as 'repose' amongst others.

Mr Middleton is undertaking lots of training and assessments across the year and is relishing the challenge. Great to have him on board! Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning



EXCITING TRIPS

Pupils in Year 10a enjoyed a trip to JCB on 18th July as a result of all the hard work they had been putting into maths lessons. The aim of the trip was to venture behind the scenes of JCB's world famous digger factory. Our tour included historical information, exciting insights and we got up close to the JCB

manufacturing process on the assembly line of the Backhoe Loader machine. Our pupils watched the process of how the machines are built from the delivery of the sheet steel, profiling, laser cutting, welding, paint shop, assembly and finally the finished product! It was a great pleasure being able to experience the day with such exceptional pupils and maybe they will back for an apprenticeship.



Our 2E maths pupils were given an exciting opportunity in the summer term to visit a new escape room experience in Walsall. When we arrived, we split into teams, with one team entering the creepy carnival and the other entering room 13. Both teams had to solve a range of problems from gathering clues to solving maths problems (including rubber ducks to chanting a secret code to get the door to open). Both teams managed to escape the room with only a few minutes to spare cracking the code to the final padlock. All the pupils worked extremely hard to escape using teamwork, resilience and perseverance, with all pupils living up to Elmwood's core values of care for self, others and the environment. Maybe this year will be your opportunity to join us for 2 new escape rooms? Report by Mr Hinsley, Maths Teacher

STAFFING NEWS

Unfortunately Mr Cross, Headteacher, was not able to return at the start of term having sustained a leg injury during the summer holidays. We wish Mr Cross a speedy recovery and hope to see him in school shortly. In the meantime, Mrs Francis, Deputy Head, together with the rest of the Senior Leadership Team, are ensuring that Elmwood continues to run smoothly.

Mr Daniel MacNulty has joined the team on supply as a teaching assistant and will be assisting in the nurture base until Christmas. A warm welcome to Dan.

We also received the following feedback from Imogen, a student on work experience in the summer term: "I just wanted to say thank you so much for letting me gain experience at your school. I have absolutely loved it. You have such a lovely school clearly filled with so much love and laughter. I hope I get to come back in the future. Many thanks again".

READING RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW

At the end of the summer term, the reading raffle prize draw took place. A total of 46 raffle tickets had been awarded during the term and the lucky prize winners were Charlie Ann Barfield in Year 11 and Caitlin Walker in Year 8.

Very well done girls and enjoy spending the £10 Amazon gift voucher.

Remember you have got to be in it, to win it. Good luck to everyone for the autumn half term draw.



Elmwood Represented at an International Conference.

Dr Alan Price and Mr Dan Whittaker entered the limelight when they hosted a seminar relating to 'Learning Outside the Classroom' at the SEBDA International Conference held at the University of Birmingham on Friday 15th September 2023.

Both spoke of their own research and influence on the school's curriculum through the teaching of social and emotional learning skills and the development of character through the teaching of the virtues.

The conference was well attended by people with PhDs, Heads of Special Schools, Oxford Professors, Clinical Psychologists, UNICEF, NSPCC, Barnardo's, and with some travelling from as far as Australia- making it a truly international conference. Report by Dr A Price, Curriculum Lead for Science

TESCO STRONGER CAMPAIGN

Thanks to Mr Cross, Headteacher, we are excited to announce that we have been successful in our application to the Tesco Stronger Campaign. This will be launched in October and run until mid January 2024.

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within the Tesco Walsall Extra store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction.

If you do not shop at this particular store, please save any blue tokens you may receive from Tesco and send them into school—we will make sure it goes in our collection pot.

The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500.

Any support towards this scheme during the voting period would be much appreciated and will help to improve the outdoor area for our pupils. Many thanks in advance and please spread the word to friends and family because as the saying goes, every little helps.

LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD

We are pleased to confirm that the school has successfully been reaccredited in achieving the above national award.

This accolade recognises the achievements of the school working alongside parents and carers and is a culmination of a lot of hard work providing evidence, together with on line presentations.

Thank you to the parents who contributed, in particular Rachel Williamson (mom to Craig, former pupil) and to Tracy MacDonald (nee Brandwood), joint Chair of Governors and Sarah Thornton, Parent Governor, for their input and support.

A big thank you to Jo Hughes, part time family support worker/teaching assistant for her time and hard work in achieving this award.

A copy of the report is available on the parents/carers page of the school website.