



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018 – NO. 137

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LONDON TRIP TO SEE THE LION KING SHOW



Members of the drama team and staff accompanied a group of young pupils to watch the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre in London; this included two pupils who had moved onto further education in September and had been given permission to take part.

This is what Henry in Year 10 had to say:

'On Wednesday 26th September I went to see the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre in London. I went with a couple of years 8's, 9's and two ex year 11's (having taken part in the school production of the play but finished Yr 11 by the time of the trip). There was about 20 of us in total, we made our journey via train then the underground (though I hate the idea of the underground). It was fun at best, a nightmare at worst. The play itself was a Disney musical based on the Shakespeare play of Hamlet. Though I have not seen the original Disney film the play was quite enjoyable. My favourite part has to be Scar. I also enjoyed the costumes as it really made the play feel as if it was a tale from the native tribes of Africa and it could have gone wrong with it. The costume department really succeeded to have put a lot of time and effort in the overall design and research to get inspiration for the costumes.'

Review by Jamie Ashford, former student of Elmwood School:

Introductory —The West End's version of The Lion King was so good that it was almost worth the trip to London. I can safely say that its reputation is well deserved, for I had previously heard nothing but positivity regarding it. But what makes its performance so great? Well, that's what this review is here to find out. The plot—not much to say here that hasn't already been said, for the plot is the same as it is in the film, but with a few added scenes. I have the same gripe with this performance as I do with the film, which is that the first half is vastly superior to the second. This feeling is probably inflated due to the first half being written so well, since the second almost feels rushed and sloppy. The most notable example is Simba (who was living a quiet, chilled life) was able to hold his own against Nala, and later, Scar. Other than that, the plot is good. The characters—where do I even begin? The characters, while not so different from the film, all had great actors providing an elegant performance. Dare I say, some of them are better than those in the film! Mufasa stole every scene he was in. The actor playing him suited the character perfectly, and delivered the best performance in the entire play. The actors for young Simba and Nala matched their adult counterparts tremendously (some would think that they really were the same people). Zazu's actor was humorous and likeable, and the limited comic-relief scenes helped create light-hearted moments. I have somewhat mixed feelings on Scar. He was played by a good actor, but he didn't feel like the Scar from the film. Perhaps I'm so used to hearing film Scar (due to the fact that I had to study the character for my own performance) that any other version feels off. Moving on, Timon and Pumbaa felt just like the characters in the film, and so did the hyenas. There is nothing necessarily wrong with this, it simply means I don't have much to say about them. Finally, there is Rafiki. I hate to say it, but the actress they hired for the character didn't suit Rafiki at all. But that's not the real problem; the problem was the fact that she would just shout every line in a high-pitched, irritating voice. In the film, Rafiki's voice was high-pitched, but the actor restrained himself, as to not get on the audience's nerves. Final verdict: "It's to die for!" With very few flaws, the West End's version of 'The Lion King' is truly a great experience. I would give it a 9/10, since it is not quite perfect, but the good most certainly outweighs the bad. Although it should be noted that travelling all the way to London just to spend a couple of hours watching it doesn't feel right. However, that isn't a gripe at the play itself.

Jamie's review was so thorough that insufficient space was available to include it all—the full version however is available on the student page of the School website. A big thank you to Jamie for taking the time and trouble to submit his review.

Visiting London was fantastic for our pupils to experience and we are very grateful to Nancy Shakerley at the Lyceum Theatre for organising the subsidised tickets for us. With the trip returning until late evening the above could not have taken place without the staff who gave their time for this to happen so a very big thank you to MR WEBB, MR DAMMS, KERRY BOWEN AND JENNA WILKINS, you are superstars.

Pupils are now busy preparing for their Christmas performance which is already looking and sounding amazing—we can't wait.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the annual 'Macmillan World's Largest Coffee Morning' on Friday 28th September. Parents/Carers, staff, pupils and governors all helped to raise £145.76 for this worthwhile cause whilst enjoying delicious cakes and refreshments. Well done to all pupils and staff who helped to make the morning a great success. A big thank you to everyone who contributed cakes. As a result of the above we raised £145.76. Congratulations to Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer and Habib, Year 11 pupil, who were the lucky winners of the cake competitions.



GOVERNOR NEWS

Mr Dave Watton, Associate Member of the Governing Body, has offered to continue his commitment to the School by renewing his membership for a further four years from October 2018. A big thank you to Mr Watton for his dedication and support to the School.

Mrs Rita Martin, Co-opted Governor, is recovering from a recent stay in hospital and we send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Tempest Photographers came into School on Friday 12th October so that all pupils and staff had the opportunity to have a school photograph taken. Pupils not only looked smart in their uniform but also behaved brilliantly. All parents and carers should have received a copy of their child's photograph but please contact the office if you haven't. Orders can be placed either on line with Tempest direct or via the School. Deadline for orders to receive free postage and packing through School is Monday 5th November 2018.

NEW PRIVACY NOTICES

In line with the new GDPR regulations our privacy notices for parents and carers has been updated. A copy of the new document is available on the School website, parents and carers, letters and forms page however if you would like a printed copy, please contact the School Office who will organise this for you.

POPPY APPEAL

It is that time of the year again when we support the British Legion's annual poppy appeal.

A number of poppy related items are being sold by some of our Year 11 pupils which include traditional poppies as well as reflective ones, wristbands etc. Prices are a minimum of 20p for the paper poppies and a £1 for all other items.

The above will be on sale up to Friday 9th November ahead of Armistice Day on Sunday 11th.



VARIETY CLUB EVENT

We were fortunate once again to receive tickets for the Variety Club event at West Midlands Safari Park on Saturday 20th October. Parents/

Carers who had applied for tickets were rewarded with a fantastic day out with their families; even the weather was kind. A very big thank you to the Variety Club for giving our pupils this opportunity and we look forward to seeing some of the pictures taken on the day.

Football Match Report
Elmwood School v The Brades on 21st September 2018



First Half

As the year 7 and 8 boys turned up at the away venue they were nervous about their first game together. During their warm up they became more confident and as kick off came they were ready for action

Kick off commenced and during the first couple of minutes Elmwood played some amazing tiki-taka football and caused some real problems for the home team. Cameron Willetts and Rhys Humphries created some spectacular chances but unfortunately failed to find the back of the net early on in the game. The Brades fought back with some counter-attacks and eventually this paid off as they went 1-0 up within the first 10 minutes.

Again the Brades carried on applying the pressure and managed to put away their chances to secure another goal and make it 2-0 within the first half however Elmwood pupils know that giving up is never an option and continued to play some lovely football in the centre of the park to provide Cameron Willetts with a chance to get himself on the score sheet which he took and made it 2-1. Motivation was now high with the thought of equalizing before half time and Rhys Humphries stepped up to secure an equalizer just before half time to level the score with a perfect timed run and a clinical finish.

Second Half

Both teams were out and ready to battle it out through the second half to take the win. Elmwood showed great character throughout the first 5 minutes of the second half with great passing between each other but unfortunately The Brades countered us once again and caught us off guard to go 3-2 up. Shortly after Elmwood made a mistake as they tried to push forward with most players and this left them open at the back for The Brades to slot another 2 goals past Elmwood to go 5-2 up. However, Elmwood did not give up throughout the whole game and continued to battle to claim back another goal in the last few minutes to finish on a high. Great sportsmanship was shown after the game with Elmwood giving 3 cheers to the opposition and giving handshakes to all players. Report by Mr A Bullock, Nurture/PE Teacher



ANIMAL NEWS UPDAE FROM SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



BEFORE PICTURE

EGG citing news by Oliver, Year 8 pupil

Since returning in September the chickens seem more settled than before and the si chicken has just started to lay eggs, the first one she laid was very small. Also they have grown and improved with their health massively since they first came in Easter. We've also trimmed their wings so they can't jump as high.

Bunny update written by Kacey, Year 9 pt

Since returning to Elmwood school the rabbit has fit in wonderfully in morning activities the pupils been picking up the rabbit and making her feel secure. The rabbit is happily sneaking into the chickens area and playing with them she enjoys being with them so now the pupils have built a tunnel so she can get through but the chickens can not get through to her side.

Chubs is a healthy rabbit eating her greens everyday also enjoying corn on the c



AFTER PICTURE



TRAINING DAYS

A reminder that School will be closed to pupils from 24-26th October for health and safety training purposes. Staff will be carrying out their annual Team Teach refresher training as well as first aid training.

School will also be closed on Friday 9th November for a training day.

STAFFING NEWS

Mr Hubbard and Mr Donaldson continue to be absent from work for personal reasons and we send them both our very best wishes.

Ms Shaw will be taking a few days off to recover from a hospital procedure at the start of next term and we will be welcoming back Bal Shabbir to cover during her absence. Take it easy Ms Shaw.

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

Our private school fund account has now been audited for the last academic year and will be presented to Governors at their termly meeting.

Recent purchases using these funds have included additional Elmwood water bottles and drawstring bags. These form part of the welcome pack that pupils receive when joining the School.

A big thank you to Norma Stamps, for auditing the account on behalf of the School.



ENGLISH VISIT TO COVENTRY

Year 10 enjoyed their trip to Coventry on Monday 15th October. The weather failed to dampen enthusiasm, as pupils learnt about the

history of the motor car, as well as learning first hand the devastation caused by war in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

Pupils will use the experience to further their literacy skills, completing coursework based on their experiences. Report by Mr C Bowen, English Teacher



UNIFORM REMINDER

We have noticed that a number of pupils are coming to School wearing brightly coloured trainers and other inappropriate footwear.

Our school uniform policy clearly states plain black shoes/trainers must be worn to School.

Can you please ensure that your child wears suitable footwear on return from the half term break. Failure to comply may result in your child being sent home.

NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Our new year 7 pupils are settling in nicely in food technology lessons working safely and hygienically in practical lessons. One of their first tasks to complete was to make cakes for our annual Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 28th September. Pupils in 8b did a brilliant job of serving tea, coffee and cakes to all the parents and carers who turned up for it.

Year 7's also had a lesson on tasting food from around the Caribbean and Africa for Black History month.

Year 8's and 9's have been making Cuban tomato soup, Ackee and salt fish and Caribbean rice and beans.



With Halloween around the corner pupils in Years 7 and 8 are discovering what they can do with leftover pumpkin—pumpkin cake and pumpkin soup, always a winner on a cold winter's day. Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher