



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2019 – NO. 143

[www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk)

### Exploring Walsall's Leather Heritage

As a link to Walsall's industrial past, Elmwood pupils have made leather 'trick wallets' during their out and about lessons. This has revealed the flexibility as well as the complexities of working with leather to our students.

This has proved an ideal stepping stone to understanding the craftsmanship they have witnessed during a follow up visit to Walsall's Leather Museum. Whilst there, we saw the great variety of goods made from hide and saw a variety of skins ranging from crocodile, snake and fox fur and discussed the ethics of their historical use.



We wore flying jackets and leather Roman gladiator armour too. The pupils saw the work involved in producing a horse saddle and realised the links between this industry and the local football ground and shopping centre.

We were also able to emboss leather with a hand press and chosen stamps onto a leather key ring. After this we embossed gold leaf onto another keyring. We also learnt of the future College of Saddlery to be constructed across the road from the museum, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers School in London.



All in all a great experience and pupils were a credit to the School and we thank Claire and David Mills, the Curators at the Museum for such an enjoyable series of visits. It seems they too enjoyed our visits as David emailed to say "It has been really nice to have your visits, please come again".

Report by Mr. Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

### BUSY TIME IN COOKING

**What a busy week we had in food technology lessons making cakes for moms, carers and family members ahead of Mother's Day on Sunday 31st March. Pupils learnt the skill of using roll out icing and making flowers and hearts using stamps and cutters, some dared to make a sugar paste rose.**

**Year 11 pupils had their BTEC Level 2 practical assessments and finished off their outstanding coursework ready to be submitted. Good luck boys on your results.**

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher



## VISIT BY BLESMA, THE LIMBLESS VETERANS

On Tuesday 19th March a charity called BLESMA came into School. Years 11, 10, 9 and 7 met an amazing soldier called Jessie. He gave the pupils a talk on what had led him to being in the army, to his service in the army, which led to a serious accident in Canada that left him with PTSD then he lost his leg through diabetes which made his PTSD spiral. He sought counselling and now has learnt to live and deal with PTSD. The theme of the session was to teach our young people about having resilience in times of adversity.



The facilitator was called Owain, who along with Jessie, gave our pupils an exercise to complete, raising awareness of how we can all talk to someone if we feel alone. There is always a person you can talk to in times of stress and anxiety, no matter how big or small it may seem. The visit generated a lot of conversation afterwards back in classrooms.



Jessie and Owain left with leather BLESMA keyrings made by Mr Francis, DT Teacher, and a tray of homemade cupcakes to take on their journey home.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

## STAFFING NEWS

Unfortunately a number of teaching assistants remain absent from work namely Leon Donaldson, Dawn Nicholls and Jenna Wilkins. We send them our best wishes and hope to see them back soon.

We will also be sadly saying goodbye to Julie Powers, teaching assistant currently in Year 9I, who will be leaving Elmwood on Friday 10th May. Julie will be missed by both pupils and staff alike and we wish her every success for the future.

## Progress and Achievement Event

A big thank you to all parents and carers who braved the rain and attended their appointments on Thursday 4th April for the above event. With over a 79% turnout (the highest ever), it was lovely for staff to be able to share pupil successes and targets for next term as well as having the opportunity to enjoy a drink/chat in the food technology waiting area. Parents and Carers were also able to meet with Rita Martin, our Careers Adviser and Governor at the School.

## EASTER TREAT



Well done to Courtney in Year 8 who was the only pupil to successfully make a chocolate rabbit using a plastic mould; all other students used the more flexible silicone type. Well done Courtney it looked not only cute but delicious too. Hope you enjoy eating it!

## READING RAFFLE

On Thursday 11th April the reading raffle prize draw took place. Pupils are entered into a prize draw each time they achieve 10 independent reading sessions with a termly prize of two £10 Amazon vouchers up for grabs. The two lucky pupils for the Spring Term were Oliver Fletcher in Year 8 and Rhys Humphries, also in Year 8. Congratulations to both boys and well done all pupils who were in the draw—good luck for next time!