



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER January 2020 – NO. 151

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PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

On Thursday 12th December 2019 our autumn term progress and achievement event took place when parents/carers were invited to meet with key staff and review their child's progress as well as look at targets for the spring term.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, the turnout was 67.6% with many parents and carers having supported the Christmas Production and Christmas Fayre which also took place earlier on the same day.

For information the spring term event will take place on Thursday 26th March 2020 and will be an opportunity for Year 11 parents/carers to discuss Post 16 with providers and or careers adviser.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Tuesday after school singing/ drama club put on a great performance when they entertained parents, carers, governors and staff with an array of songs that they had rehearsed with Mr Webb and Mr Damms.

Despite a number of pupils being absent due to illness, the five that took part sang beautifully and were a credit to their families and we can't wait for the next show. As Mr Webb pointed out it takes a lot of courage to stand on stage in front of an audience so very well done to all concerned.



A big thank you to both Mr Webb and Mr Damms for giving up their time every Tuesday after school in order that the pupils can enjoy these sessions.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Interviews took place on Friday 13th December for our vacancy of a Curriculum Lead for English. We are pleased to confirm that Mr Chris Bowen was the successful candidate and will be returning to Elmwood early in February. We look forward to welcoming Chris back after his short break from Elmwood.

RAISING MONEY FOR THE HOMELESS



Mr Cross, Acting Head, demonstrated what a good sport he was when he agreed to having cream pies thrown at him. This was organised by pupils in KS3 as part

of their PSHE £1 challenge work with Mr Holmes. Pupils and parents were keen to pay £1 in order to take part; Miles in Year 9 was a little too zealous in his actions and nearly broke Mr Cross' nose! A big thank you to everyone who braved the rain (and also to Ms Pow for keeping the rain off Mr Cross) and which helped to raise £32 for the Homeless Angels charity. The money raised from this and our other fundraising was spent during the Christmas holidays by Dawn in the office and her sister Denise, to purchase food, clothing and a drinks urn. Our donation was acknowledged on the Homeless Angels Facebook page.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



All staff, pupils and Tracy Brandwood, Chair of Governors, sat down on Wednesday 18th December to enjoy a festive lunch. As usual, Lynne the cook did a fantastic job (with a little help) to serve up over 100 hot meals. Pupils were a credit to the School and behaved brilliantly during the extended lunch break. Pupils who would have found the experience of being in the main hall difficult, enjoyed a quieter time with Mr Cross in an adjoining



classroom. A big thank you to Shelli George, TA, who once again decorated chairs as well as to Julie Burnell, Hilary Shaw, Lynn Maritza and Jo Hughes for their help in making the meal a success. Lynne the cook was presented with a thank you gift by Rico in Year 11 at the end of the meal.

It was lovely to see so many people wearing their festive tops which helped to raise £35 for local homeless people and this money was added to the £6 from staff who chose not to send Christmas cards and preferred to make a cash donation.

The reading raffle was drawn at the end of the meal with Charlie-Ann Barfield in Year 7 and Billy Cunningham in Year 10 being the lucky winners and receiving a £10 Amazon gift voucher each. Keep up the good work of independent reading and good luck to all pupils for the next draw at the end of the spring term.

Pupils had an extra surprise when they returned to their bases to find a Christmas gift waiting for them. All pupils received a selection box paid for from our school fund account - a big thank you to Stan, husband to Dawn in the office, who kindly wrapped all 70 up! More photos are available on the photo gallery page of the school website.

DECISION NOTICE

We have now received formal notification from the Local Authority that our application to increase school place funded numbers from 56 to 67 has been successful. No objections were received and this took effect from 19th December 2019. A copy of the decision notice is available on the school website, latest news section.

WELCOME BACK CALLUM

On Tuesday 14th January we welcomed Callum Walker, ex pupil, on a work experience placement. Callum is currently studying at Walsall College and will spend 2 days a week in school up to the beginning of March supporting in the nurture base. Callum has quickly settled into this new role and is doing well.

LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD

On Monday 9th December Elmwood School was assessed to see if we were eligible to achieve The Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA). The LPPA is a national award that aims to strengthen and enhance Elmwood's work with our pupils' parents and carers. The award, which meets Ofsted criteria, acknowledges evidence of our sustained approach to parental engagement and ensures parents and carers have a positive experience of the school.

Hannah Hall, an independent assessor for the LPPA, spent the day at Elmwood on Monday 9th December. After a tour of the school, Hannah met with pupils, parents, staff and governors to discuss and examine our evidence toward parental engagement.

We would like to extend our thanks to Tracy Brandwood, Chair of Governors, Danielle Webb, Parent Governor, and Mr Damms, Teacher, for taking time out of their day to discuss the importance of parent partnership with Hannah. We would also like to thank parents Gemma Griggs, Rachel Williamson and Sue Clewley, for coming into school to meet with Hannah and for their ongoing support at our school. Hannah also met with pupils Krystian Kastelik, Charlie Haddock and Connor Berry who did a wonderful job of explaining life at Elmwood School; they made us very proud.

We have now received the official outcome of the visit, Hannah's feedback was incredibly positive. She praised all of the hard work that Elmwood staff and parents put in to ensure we get the best outcome for our pupils. A copy of the report is available on the parents page of the school website—it is well worth a read. Report by Mr James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer.