



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2022 – NO. 179

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Science big bang trip  
A select group of young scientists from Years 7 and 8 were invited to the Big Bang STEM fair at the NEC on 22nd June 2022. The fair contained stalls from lots of different employers, Rolls Royce, The Army, The Royal Air Force and MAN trucks to name but a few. There was also the opportunity to try some computer programming and inventing like Wallace.



Isabella came along as a helper on the visit, so a special thank you to her and Bradley our latest driver.



The best part of the visit was a presentation inside a planetarium dome, the young scientists were very knowledgeable about stars and different nebula and they learnt how to find different constellations in the night sky and some of the ancient stories related to them, like Orion the great hunter.

The visit was an opportunity to see the breadth of applications where science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are used, you never know it may spark future career interests.

Report by Dr Price, Curriculum Lead of Science

### DIDN'T HE DO WELL



On Thursday 30th June, Krystian Kastelik, Year 11 leaver attended Chesford Grange Hotel in Warwick following his nomination by Mr Cross for an International Award.

Krystian stated that on arrival he was nervous and that the presentations took over 3 hours (but there was a nice buffet included). He was however delighted to receive the bronze international award for his work in English.

Krystian was presented with a framed certificate and glass trophy, proudly watched on by his mom. Well done Krystian and what a great way to end your time at Elmwood, we are super proud of you.



### GOLDEN TICKETS MEAL—17.6.22

Since the introduction of the "Golden Ticket" in 2019 following the initial launch and exploration by Dan Whittaker (in his previous role of Associate Assistant Headteacher) the idea has continued to grow and is an integral part of the schools ethos and celebratory culture of the use of positive communication. There is a constant buzz of excitement from visitors when they are provided with this opportunity to gift this to any pupil who shows this positive communication. Due to COVID-19 the opportunity to celebrate the overall winners of the most Golden Tickets achieved within an academic year has been limited BUT this year we had the opportunity to attend a meal at The White House, Aldridge where the successful pupils had to order their own meal and drink and engage in purposeful conversation with each other and members of the local community. It was an amazing opportunity for me to spend high quality time with pupils—Reece Oxford (Yr 9), Miles Hall and Wezley Bartin (Yr 11) and they really appreciated spending that time with their Headteacher.

Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Matt Webb, Teacher in nurture base.



**How long have you worked at Elmwood?** I think it is my 10<sup>th</sup> year in November! "Where did that go!" 😊

**What do you love about your job?** I love that I am able to teach both theory (English and PSHE) and practical (Drama) lessons and life at Elmwood is never boring! 😊

**What films have you watched recently?** The latest Marvel Dr Strange and the true story Leon about a man's journey on finding his real mum after being left on a train in India when he was 5 years old - an amazing film.

**Favourite Holiday?** My favourite holiday so far was Zadar in Croatia.

**Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?** Over 20 years ago I worked with street children in Romania which is an experience that will stay with me forever.

### NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT

A SIGN OF SUMMER!!



Mr Whittaker once again organised for all pupils to enjoy a barbecue lunch w/c 20th June. He certainly picked the right week with temperatures soaring by the day.



A big thank you to parents and carers who kindly donated £1 towards the cost of the above, the additional sausages went down a treat. A

big thank you also to Lynne the Cook for her help with making the above happen.

Can you BEElieve it?



Friday enrichment has seen a new addition to the programme. We have managed to arrange a series of visits to the Winterley Allotment (where we grow our potatoes) to see the bee hive opened and meet the bees. The pupils have enjoyed wearing the protective suits and using the smoke to calm the bees as well as learning about the fascinating hierarchy of a productive bee colony.

Pupils were also welcomed warmly by the allotment team with cordial and biscuits too.

The pupils came back buzzing!

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

### STAFFING NEWS

Interviews were held on Monday 4th July 2022 for an apprentice to support Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer. Unfortunately we were unable to appoint but a big thank you to Di Cadman, Associate Member Governor, for her support with the interview process and Gemma Francis, Assistant Head. Jo Hughes, teaching assistant, will temporarily be assisting Bev for 2.5 days per week. A big thank you to Jo for this support.

Mr Collins, art instructor, who has been absent from school for a few weeks has resigned and will therefore not be returning in September. We wish Mr Collins all the best for the future.

We will also be saying goodbye to Paul Crooke, Site Manager, who is moving on to a new post in September. We also wish him well.

Beverley Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, celebrated a special birthday on Saturday 2nd July and was presented with an array of gifts from staff on Friday 1st July.

We were pleased to welcome Mr Holmes, teacher, back to school on 7th July after his latest operation on his knee, which has hopefully been successful.

Grant Hunt, teaching assistant, is currently absent from work due to ill health. We wish Grant a speedy recovery.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mr Damms, Teacher in Pathways base, who will be leaving at the end of term. Mr Damms is having a break from education and has accepted a new challenge in Ireland. Mr Damms has made a big impact during his time at Elmwood and has supported many out of school events such as Circus trips and after school clubs. Mr Damms will be missed by both pupils and staff and we send our very best wishes to both Mr Damms and his wife, Megan, for the future.

Charlotte Clarke, English ECT, may not be back in September depending on whether baby number two makes an appearance during the summer break. We wish Charlotte and Paul all the best ahead of their new addition to the family.

Following interviews on Friday 15th July for a teacher vacancy, we are pleased to confirm that Olivia Diponia will be joining the team in September. A big thank you to Sara Thornton, Parent Governor, for her support in the interview process and many congratulations to Olivia.

## LEAVERS ASSEMBLY 28.6.22



It was fantastic to see so many Year 11s and their parents/carers sharing in the celebration at the leavers assembly on 28.06.22, which was also supported by Di Cadman and Sarah Thornton, governors. The theme of the assembly was to acknowledge how great they have been as Elmwood Ambassadors and also that with this greatness comes an immense amount of responsibility to continue to live into The Elmwood Way. We shared experiences from previous Year 11 leavers and also

spoke about the importance of being that 1% better when representing themselves and Elmwood in their new Post-16 provision. Pupils were also presented with their personalised leaver's book, an outdoor learning gift and MarvellousMe memory book. Staff were also able to come and share their memories of working with the pupils (through the ages). This was achieved through a brilliant buffet (Whitehouse Catering) and it was pleasing to see that we managed to feed so many family members and staff. Following the assembly I was inundated with positive messages about how the school has improved their child and some very emotional goodbyes and thanks from pupils. A big thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards that were also presented to the school, which were very much appreciated by staff. It has been a pleasure to be involved with these young people's lives and their families and I look forward to seeing them in the future and to enjoy those moments as well. A proud Headteacher. Pupils will be awaiting the post person on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022 where I am confident we will be celebrating many successes. Photos from the day are available on our school website (photo gallery page). Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher



LOVELL HOMES RECIPE BOOK  
Following our visit to Lovell's construction site in May 2022, Elmwood School was invited to submit a recipe for consideration within their welcome packs for purchasers to the new development, Lockside. Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, was delighted to hear that our recipe for Spicy Bean Burgers had been selected for inclusion (provided by Josh Haycock, Year 11 leaver). Please click on link below if you would like to try out the burgers for yourself:  
<https://www.lovell.co.uk/media/m30jdcn4/a-taste-of-lockside-recipe-book-final.pdf>



### Awards Ceremony

On the year 11 leavers final day of school, we held an awards ceremony! Myself and Mr. Bullock presented each student with a number of unique awards. These had been selected by staff from across the school, and they celebrated the students as individuals as well as their achievements. It was a lovely occasion, with students cheering each other on and reminiscing on some of the more stand-out moments of their school career. When all the awards had been handed out, we headed to Pizza Hut for a buffet lunch where students (whose behaviour was exemplary) enjoyed pizza, ice cream and each other's company as they celebrated reaching this pinnacle moment.



Report by Miss Clarke, English ECT

### ARTS AWARD

Following a positive meeting with Lisa Habberley (Student Leadership Co-ordinator, Shelfield Academy) regarding the Arts Councils Bronze Arts Award. I am pleased to say that Elmwood was successful in its bid to launch this Level 1 qualification for up to 15 students in Year 9 and pupils within KS4 who would benefit from this experience. This is a brilliant opportunity for pupils who will progress through the qualification using the following themes of "Taking Part"; "Being in an Audience"; "Being Inspired" and finally "Sharing your Skills" within the domain of Art. This will also enhance our Art curriculum offer for our budding artists who have recently been showcasing their skills and enjoyment of Art with professional artists from Walsall Art Gallery.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

## SPORTS DAY—11.7.22



Well, what another fantastic sport day at Elmwood School this year. Despite the scorching temperatures all pupils were out and ready to compete to try and get their hands on the house cup! Murray were last year's winners but all other houses were in great contention to cause an upset this year. The day hadn't even started and we already had a great turnout of support from families too as they awaited the first set of events to take place.



We kicked off the day with pupils competing in the 800, 400 and 200 metre races on the main track - long and triple jump taking place in the sandpit area with Mr Bullock and javelin, shot put and discuss taking place with Mr Cross in the throwing area.

There was a huge buzz in the air as each house sent their competitors out to their events - the roar of encouragement from their respective houses was frightening.

It didn't take long before one of Elmwood School's records had been smashed and this time it was by Francis Gosling (Yr 8) over at the sandpit. Francis managed to make a jump of 3.45 metres beating that of George Cocking's 3.41 metres. Well done, Francis!



We broke up for lunch at 12 pm where pupils could get a well-earned rest ahead of the afternoon events and the all-important relays! As pupils made their way back out they were treated to a slushie or Mr Whippy ice cream which was delicious!! A big thank you to Waj from N A Cars who once again supplied this freebie for staff and pupils to enjoy. The events continued and Riley Higgs was able to smash a school record in the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.59 seconds smashing Rico Maritza-Yates' time of 15.22 seconds! Well done Riley!

As the day drew to a close, we finished with the relays which were intense! The 4x200m and 4x50m were full of drama and excitement but it was Ainslee who took victory in the 4x200m and Ennis who caused an upset with victory in the 4x50m.



It was now time for the results... All the points had been counted and pupils gathered in their houses to find out who was lifting the trophy. Mr Hawkes took centre stage and announced the results. In fourth place with 282 points was Wiggins. In third with 304 was Ennis. In second with 340 was Murray and beating them by 2 points was Ainslee with 342 points!!



A big thank you to our School Fund account for covering the cost of the medals that pupils were presented with on the podium and to Mr Hawkes for organising and collecting them.

Well done Ainslee and thank you to all staff for their help during the day. Thanks also to friends and family for coming along to show their support and also to Rhys, Krystian and Charlie, Year 11 leavers who came back to help on the day. A thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved.

Report by Mr Bullock, PE Teacher



Elmwood would like to mention Zoe at Starbucks based at the Wharf in Walsall and say a big thank you for supporting Elmwood's Sports Day with refreshments.



Also a big thank you to Heather from Hockley Social Club in Birmingham, part of the Digbeth Dining Club, for the kind donation of clear plastic cups which enabled us to see all the wonderful colours of the mocktail making that took place; Logan from Year 10 enjoyed a morning of learning the art of mixology. Feed back from pupils and staff was they thoroughly enjoyed the much welcomed ice cold drink on what was a very hot day.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher