

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

20th September 2024

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of week three in the first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a tremendously positive start to the academic year. I've been truly impressed by the students' attitudes and their efforts in lessons. Even more noteworthy has been the courtesy, manners, and overall etiquette our students have displayed around the school. It's been fantastic to see, and I want to commend all students for their contributions to making this term so successful so far.

As we move from week three into week four, I'd like to place a particular emphasis on attendance. The data shows that attendance in these early weeks sets the tone for the rest of the year. Maintaining good attendance during weeks three and four is critical, and we are committed to encouraging this as much as possible. Over the next few days, we will be giving out several prizes to students who have achieved 100%

attendance because we understand how vital it is for them to be in school every day.

In other exciting news, our House system is now in full swing! For those new to the school, every student is placed into a house, and this week, our Year 7 and Year 12 students will be participating in their official "sorting ceremony." It's a bit like the Hogwarts sorting ceremony from *Harry Potter*, but without the magic hat! Once placed into their Houses, students will have the opportunity to take part in weekly events on Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as many other activities throughout the term. These events are designed to engage all students, offering a variety of activities and challenges that allow everyone to participate, contribute points to their house, and work towards winning the big house prize. It really adds an exciting and fun element to the school day!

Wednesday night marked another key event for us – our Sixth Form Information Evening. It was wonderful to welcome so many families to learn more about the final two years of the seven-year journey here at The Elms Academy. Our Sixth Form is truly a beacon of excellence, and we were thrilled to see so much interest and enthusiasm from both parents and students about the opportunities ahead.

Lastly, I want to touch on an important safeguarding matter. As the Safeguarding Lead of the school, I have growing concerns about the McDonald's on Clapham High Street and its surrounding area after school hours. After visiting the location regularly, I feel that it presents an increased risk to young people during these times. With the safety of our students as our top priority, we have decided that Elms Academy students are not permitted to visit this McDonald's after school. I will be addressing this directly with students in my whole school assembly on Monday, but I would greatly appreciate it if you could reinforce this message at home. Keeping our children safe is a responsibility we all share.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to another successful week ahead.

Warm regards,
Jon Lynes

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The Elms Academy Values

During part of our whole school assembly this week, we looked at our values of Integrity, Determination and Ambition and how these are being demonstrated throughout the school. Sharing these core values brings us together as a community. We look forward to seeing further examples of our values being achieved.

One Community

Integrity shown last week

- Students handing in lost items such as dinner cards – Thank you!
- Y10 and Y11 being role models for younger students
- Student being considerate on transitions, holding doors open for others
- Behaving appropriately at local bus stops

Determination shown last week

- 100% effort in PE lessons
- Showing resilience for difficult topics in Science lessons
- Students learning new vocabulary in MFL when at first it feels impossible

Ambition shown last week

- Students being courageous when performing in front of others in Drama
- Students sharing ideas to the class following turn and talk
- Students working towards top grades with written work rather than producing 'just enough' in English lessons.

Year 7 House Allocation



This week saw the launch of the house system for year 7. Students were given a badge for their relevant house to wear on their blazer. The lunchtime house events start next week so we look forward to seeing Year 7 students participate in a wide variety of activities along with other year groups to gain points for their respective house.

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Imperial College London - Year 12 Chemistry Taster Day

On Tuesday, 10th September, 27 of our year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to attend a Chemistry Taster Day at Imperial College London. The day provided an invaluable glimpse into university life and the field of Chemistry, giving students hands-on experience in state-of-the-art labs and the chance to engage with world-class academics.

The day began with a warm welcome and a thought-provoking talk on "Why should students study Chemistry?" delivered by Dr. Benji Fenech Salerno. This was followed by a captivating taster lecture and a session on university admissions, where students gained insights into the application process and the academic expectations of a top-tier university.

After lunch, students took part in an interactive practical session in the Briscoe Laboratory, guided by the university's technical team and student mentors. This allowed them to experience firsthand what it's like to work in a university laboratory setting.

Overall, the event was a tremendous success. Our students left feeling inspired and motivated, with a deeper understanding of what studying Chemistry at a higher level entails. A huge thank you to Imperial College for hosting such a memorable and enriching experience for our students.



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Key Stage 3 Enrichment launch



We are pleased to announce the launch of our Monday Enrichment for Years 7, 8 & 9.

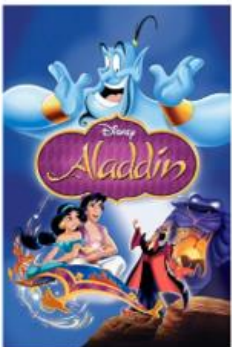
Students will be able to select their Enrichment Options by filling in the form sent via email or by clicking on the link posted on Show My Homework. The deadline to complete the form is **Sunday 22nd September at 6pm**. Any student who does not fill in the Enrichment Options within the time allocated will be assigned a club by us.

These clubs will run until Christmas and then students will choose again in January (our club offer may change for next term depending on student feedback). Please note that the PE and Performing Arts department also run other activities on various days of the week in addition to the enrichment listed above. We will send this timetable out in due course.

The following arrangements are in place for enrichment:

- Enrichment is compulsory for y7, 8 & 9 on Mondays 3:35 – 4:30 – *first session Monday 30th September*.
- We expect all students to conduct themselves with integrity, gratitude and enthusiasm
- If a student is given a detention on a Monday, they will sit the detention after enrichment from 4:30-5:00.
- Students sent to the Reflection Room on a Monday will not be able to participate in Enrichment

The Elms Academy Musical announcement



We were delighted this week to launch The Elms Academy musical which will be Aladdin.

Students were invited to sign up this week to take part and auditions will be held in the Drama studio on Thursday 26th September from 3.30pm until 5.00pm.

Good luck everyone.

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Getting to Know You

Name: Tom Wood

Job: History Teacher

House: Thornton

Currently Reading: Europe in the Sixteenth Century, by David Maland

A favourite film: Gladiator

Interesting fact about me: I have a twin brother, who is a geography teacher (boo!)

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: I like that everybody, staff and students, are so polite when walking around school. Everybody says good morning/afternoon and asks about your day; it's very welcoming.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 11 Final Push Evening	Thursday 26 th September 2024	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Preparation for Open Evening	Tuesday 1 st October 2024	Students will leave at 2.30pm
Late start for all students	Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	Students are to be for 9.30am
Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Evening	Thursday 10 th October 2024	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Key Stage 3 Information Evening ONLINE	Thursday 17 th October 2024	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Half term holiday	Monday 28 th October - Friday 1 st November 2024	All Week