

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

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15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Message from the Principal



It's been another wonderful week at the academy, marked by focused learning, hard work, and a strong sense of community. It is a privilege to welcome your children into school every day and to see them engaging so positively with their school experience, in and out of lessons. I had the pleasure of visiting all the enrichment clubs that take place on a Monday after school this week, and it was great to see the range of activities going on from table tennis to debating, chess to choir and so much more. The energy, enjoyment and enthusiasm of the students and staff were palpable, and truly infectious.

A special congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have completed the first week of their mock exams with exceptional dedication and focus. Their commitment and preparation are a true reflection of our core values, particularly the determination to never give up, even when things are difficult and to know that we learn the most when we are challenged. These mock exams serve as a valuable

opportunity for our teachers to assess each student's progress and identify any areas that may need further support as we look ahead to the summer exams.

We're also incredibly proud of our school's attendance record this year, which has been better than ever! We've seen particularly impressive attendance in Key Stage 3, with students showing fantastic commitment to being in school every single day. Every minute in the classroom counts, and we know that consistent attendance is closely linked to higher achievement. When students are in school, they're receiving high-quality instruction from our dedicated teachers, which is crucial for their ongoing progress. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's presence in school every day.

This week, a group of Year 9 students have embarked on an unforgettable history trip to France and Belgium. They are having a wonderful time exploring significant historical sites and deepening their understanding of world events in a truly immersive way. These kinds of extracurricular experiences are invaluable, allowing students to broaden their horizons and connect with history on a deeper level. We're thrilled to offer these opportunities and look forward to hearing all about their journey when they return.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all parents who have completed the parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable as it helps us shape and improve the school experience for every student. Hearing from each parent is essential in making our school the best it can be, and we deeply appreciate the time you take to share your thoughts with us. The survey takes about 15 minutes and is open until Friday, November 29th. The link has been sent via email and text.

Have a great weekend!

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### Remembrance – Two-minute silence observed



On Monday we observed a two-minute silence as an act of remembrance for those who sacrificed their lives during conflict.

Remembrance is a time to remember and give thanks to the people who help and protect us now and have done so in the past. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to honor those who fought and those who died.

Cameron Kallon from 9B paid his respect for remembrance by standing at ease in front of our Remembrance Display.

Cameron is a keen Historian and proud member of the Balham Army Cadets youth program. He is currently with classmates on The Elms Academy trip to Belgium and France to tour the World War One Battlefields with his teachers.



### Remembrance Art work



On Monday students honoured Remembrance Day with enrichment activities including making paper poppies, poems and paintings. Students were respectful and mature in their discussions and worked hard in their sessions. A big shoutout to Y8 boys for their beautiful soldier paintings and to the Crafting Club for their wonderful poppies. Thank you for providing a space for students and visitors to reflect on the significance of the day and honor those who served.

Well done to Khalil, Karl, Sean, Sidik, Jahmar, Kai and Armani for their amazing work in creating these moving images.



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### Atrium Art by Georgia Williams

Georgia's work is currently on display in the Atrium.

Georgia explained the inspiration for her work. "This was a self-portrait, looking at distortion and how technology can distort our self-image. I was inspired by an artist called Davide Cambria who has this distinct style of expressive and thick strokes. For this piece I used oil paint on a cardboard background."



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### Spark Reader – new school record set



Congratulations to Daniel Stoy in Year 8 who has set a new school record by achieving 18,584 points on Sparx Reader.

Amazing work, well done!



### South Bank Centre trip

As part of their ongoing shadowing of the 2024 Booker Prize, eight of our A-Level English Literature students went to the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre to see the shortlisted authors discuss and read from their nominated novels. Accompanying them was Ms Diamond, Ms De Belder, Ms Tait, and Mr Blackburn, who are all also shadowing the prize. Each student is reading at least two of the six shortlisted novels, and over the coming weeks they will reach a consensus decision on their winner. Although nothing has been decided among the Elms judges yet, some authors helped their cause significantly — whereas a few others ruled themselves out! It was a wonderful evening where our students got to see renowned writers onstage and at the signing afterwards, including Percival Everett and Rachel Kushner.



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## COP29 event

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of November, our Year 12 students came together with fellow Sixth Formers from across United Learning to play the part of world leaders, Non-Governmental Bodies (NGOs) or Media representatives. The aim was to produce a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Tying into the forthcoming COP29 summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, later this month, this was the third event of its kind, organised in conjunction with, and hosted at the British Council offices in Stratford. Everyone threw themselves into their roles, getting more passionate about their causes as the day progressed. They sought global agreements on CO2 emission targets and came away inspired with positive actions to tackle climate change.



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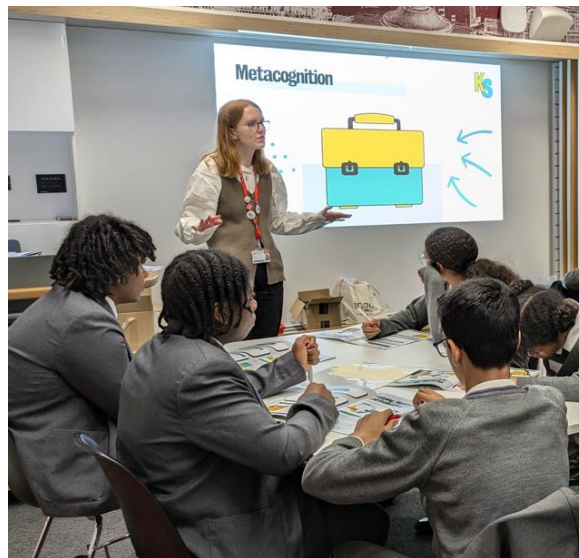
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### Year 8 Kings College trip

King's College London welcomed a group of Year 8 students at another fantastic day as part of the King's Scholars programme. The students put their King's Scholars skills to use and worked in teams to design their own university. Each team had to decide on the research focus and explain how their university will address a world problem. The winning team showcased a compelling presentation about raising the future generation of researchers who will address food shortages in developing countries.



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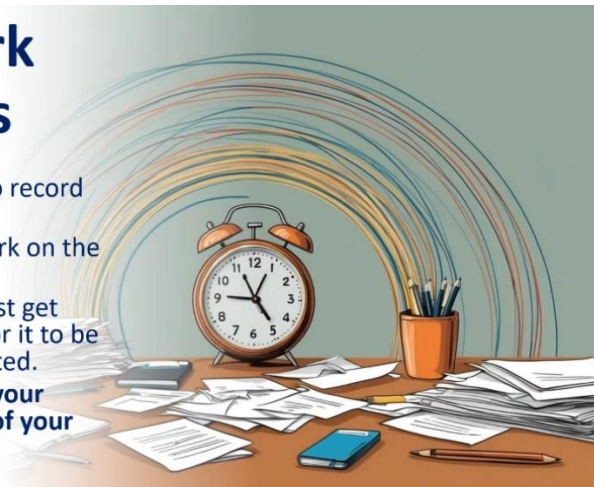
## Homework

During our whole school assembly this week, we took a brief look at homework and the importance of getting this completed. Homework forms part of a valuable revision resource to students for when they are revising for exams.

All homework is accessed via the Show My Homework portal which can be found on our website. Homework is completed mostly on-line, and this helps to ensure students stay organized and independent. Students will always have seven days to complete a task. Homework club is available to any student if they support.

## Homework reminders

- Use your planner to record your homework.
- Start your homework on the day that it is set.
- Remember you must get 100% on all tasks for it to be considered completed.
- **In all year groups, your homework is part of your revision!**



## Cheerleading Tryouts

Well done to everyone who participated in the Cheerleading tryouts this week. We saw some impressive routines choreographed by students. We look forward to seeing more from the groups in the coming months.



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### Getting to know you

**Name:** Nick Harding

**Job:** Maths Teacher

**House:** Archer (the best house).

**Currently Reading:** Unruly: The Ridiculous History of England's Kings and Queens – by David Mitchell.

**A favourite film:** Johnny English (I can't believe it didn't win any Oscars!).



**Interesting fact about me:** After finishing my degree I wanted to learn Spanish, so I spent a year working at a university in Chile. I lived with a Chilean family who adopted me as their new two meter tall 'gringo' son and welcomed me to the family. During the summer holidays I even had the chance to backpack and hitchhike almost 2000km along the Carretera Austral (the road that runs most of the length of Patagonia).

**What I like about working at The Elms Academy:** I've been into many different schools and the friendly atmosphere really stands out as the Elms Academy. There is a real sense of community, and this makes it a really nice place to come to work every day.

### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 9 Parents Evening	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	4.30pm – 6.00pm
Sixth Form Open Evening	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	5.00pm – 7.00pm
INSET Day	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	All Day
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	4.30pm – 6.00pm
Winter Showcase	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Academic Awards Evening	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	6.00pm – 8.00pm
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Two weeks
INSET Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	All Day