

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

13th September 2024

Message from the Principal



Dear parents, staff, and students,

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you all had a restful summer break. As we embark on this new academic year, we are delighted to share some fantastic news about the tremendous progress made over the summer.

Impressive Results

Our achievements at both Key Stage 5 (A Levels) and Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) have been remarkable, reflecting the hard work and dedication of students, staff, and parents alike.

At Key Stage 5, 37% of our A-level results were at A* or A, with the average grade being a B. These outstanding results have secured our students places at Russell Group universities, and top-third universities. The courses they will pursue promise to broaden their horizons and transform their futures. It's always incredible to witness the journey from Year 7 to seeing where students head off and the exciting paths they choose to follow.

At Key Stage 4, we saw improvements across the board in all performance measures. This includes a higher percentage of Grade 4s, Grade 5s, and Grade 7s. Our students' exceptional performance places us among the top-performing schools in the country, and it's a testament to the dedication of everyone who works to create an environment that allows students to excel. These achievements ensure our students have the freedom to choose the next steps in their education.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Students and Staff

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff, as well as our new Year 7 and Year 12 students. It's wonderful to see so many families entrusting us with their child's education and to have such high-quality staff eager to join our community. We're excited for the journey ahead as we continue to move forward together.

A Positive Start to the Year

The first two weeks of term have been filled with positivity, with smiles from both staff and students. There's a real sense of community, and it's clear that we are all working together towards a common goal. Two cornerstones of this positive atmosphere have been uniform and manners. We are proud to see students taking pride in their appearance and interacting respectfully with each other – small acts like saying "good morning," "thank you," and "please" make a big difference.

Important Reminders for Parents:

1. School Photographer: The school photographer will be in next Thursday, 19th September. Please ensure your child looks smart and prepared for the day!
2. Lunch Cards: Replacement lunch cards cost £2. Please remind your child to take care of their lunch card and keep it safe, ideally in a secure pocket.

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3. Emergency Contacts: For safeguarding purposes, we require three emergency contacts for each student. If we only have one contact for your child, we will be reaching out to families to ensure we meet this minimum requirement. It's crucial to have multiple contacts in case of emergencies.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We're thrilled to see our students thriving and look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,
Jon Lynes

Whole School Assembly

As we welcome all our students back this week, we will be focusing on our core values of Integrity, Determination and Ambition as part of our character education. We will be looking at how we can achieve anything with the right mindset, the right character. Each student is encouraged to focus on developing their character during the course of the year and to focus on an aspect of their character which you want to develop this term

There are a wide variety of opportunities for students throughout the school which will help to develop their character.

**'Individuals with good character tend to have more stable
friendship and support groups'**

Character



- Being of 'good' character (integrity)
- Having character (determination)
- Being 'characterful' (ambition)

Character

"the combination of qualities in someone that makes them different"

Opportunities

1. PSHCE sessions (Being me in My World)
2. Student Leadership Opportunities – House Rep, Elms Future Leader
3. Taking part in House Competitions
4. Taking part in performances/sport fixtures
5. Taking part in enrichment opportunities
6. Charity fundraising

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Year 7 Prep

We were delighted to welcome our new year 7 cohort last week. They have made a really good start in getting to grips with their timetables and finding their way around the academy. For this week and next week, students will attend prep Monday to Thursday from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. They will be spending time with their tutors working on developing their independent learning skills and navigating our online homework platforms. We started off prep this week with a launch assembly on the importance of homework.



Winner of the Sparx Reader competition



Well done to all our Key Stage 3 students who participated in the Sparx reader competition over the summer holiday. Our winners will receive book boxes as their prize.

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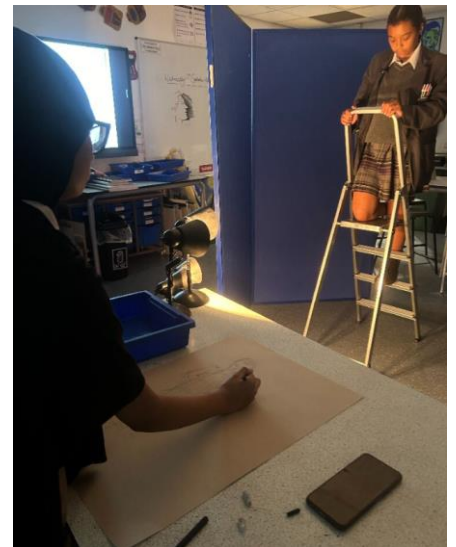
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Year 12 Art

Life drawing is an essential part of the KS5 Art curriculum at the Elms. Here is a snapshot of our Year 12s in their first lesson of the year, developing their technical skill, artistic expression, and a deeper understanding of the human form.

Drawing from life is often considered one of the most complex subjects in art. Our A-level program builds confidence by relentless observational drawing classes as these skills are transferable to all other forms of artistic practice, making artists more adept in handling any subject. We are delighted with the progress Year 12s are making at this early stage in the course.



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The Elms Academy Open Evening & Late start for all students



We are proud to be hosting our Open Evening on Tuesday 1st October where we show off our school to families with children in Year 5 and 6 to encourage them to join us when they begin their secondary school journey.

As a result, school will close early at 2.30pm to allow staff to set up for the event. Since many student ambassadors and staff will be at school until 7.30pm, we will also have a later start the next day. Students will be expected in school at **9.30am on Wednesday 2nd October**. Please note that the school will not be open to students before 9:30am, so please do not send your child in any earlier. Thank you.

Getting to know you

Name: James Harris

Job: Teacher of Science

House: Jones

Currently Reading: The men who stare at goats

A favourite film: Lord of the Rings and Forest Gump

Interesting fact about me: I have a Blue Peter badge

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: The community feeling!



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Key Dates for your diary

| Event | Date | Time |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Sixth Form Information Evening | Wednesday 18 th September 2024 | 5.00pm – 6.30pm |
| 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 |

