

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 4th April 2025

Message from the Principal



What an incredible end to the term! There's been so much going on, and I couldn't be prouder of everything we continue to achieve together as a school community. It's inspiring to see the many ways our staff go the extra mile to make sure our students get the very best out of their time at school —every single day.

Last week, we launched our PSA group, Friends of the Elms, and held a welcome coffee morning for new Year 7 parents, with nearly 100 attendees. It was wonderful to see so many families connecting. Our Year 7 ambassadors warmly welcomed new families and answered their questions. This collaboration between home and school will strengthen our community and have a lasting positive impact.

This week was packed with fun and enrichment opportunities. From Monday enrichment sessions to the Thorpe Park reward trip, students made the most of what's on offer. Year 12 students presented their social action project at the Envision final, and a group participated in the United Learning Big Sing at the Royal Opera House. A highlight was the mock interviews for Year 10 and Year 12, where students honed their oracy and presentation skills with professionals. Our Sixth Form leadership team hosted a student voice clinic, listening and taking action.

We also welcomed Year 9 students and their families for our Pathways Evening, marking the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, and we're excited to support each student in making choices for their future success.

Today we marked the end of term with a non-uniform day, raising money for MIND and Papyrus—two incredible charities supporting mental health and suicide prevention. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed so generously. Looking ahead, we're excited for Charities Week, starting Monday 28th April, and we can't wait to see the energy and creativity our students bring to supporting great causes once again.

We look forward to welcoming all students back on Wednesday 23rd April at the usual time. It's the final push for GCSE and A Level exams, so it's vital we make every moment count. To parents and carers of students in Year 11 and 13: please ensure your child attends all of their Easter revision sessions on time—they make a real difference.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter break.

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Year 8 First Give Charity Support

This week, **Year 8** have continued their fantastic work in promoting local charities and raising awareness for their worthy causes through the **FIRST GIVE** program. They are competing for a chance to **win £1,000** for a chosen charity!

So far:

- **8A** welcomed *Ksenia Gorenstein* from **The Baytree Centre**
- **8C** met *Heidi Shrimpton* from **Ace of Clubs**
- **8D** engaged with *Harley Mitford* from **Olive Branch Aid**
- **8E** had an inspiring session with *Solomon Smith*, founder of **Brixton Soup Kitchen**

After half term, **8B** will look forward to welcoming a representative from **Fighting Knife Crime London**.

In the Summer term, **Year 8** will take the lead in a series of **fun-filled activities** during **Charity Week** (*Monday 28 April – Friday 2 May*) to raise funds and support for their causes. Events will include:

🌀 *Sponge the Teacher*

🕷️ *I'm a Teacher... Get Me Out of Here!*

🕒 *Students vs. Teachers Dodgeball*

...plus many more exciting opportunities for the school community to get involved in!

Look out for more **First Give** updates to come next term.



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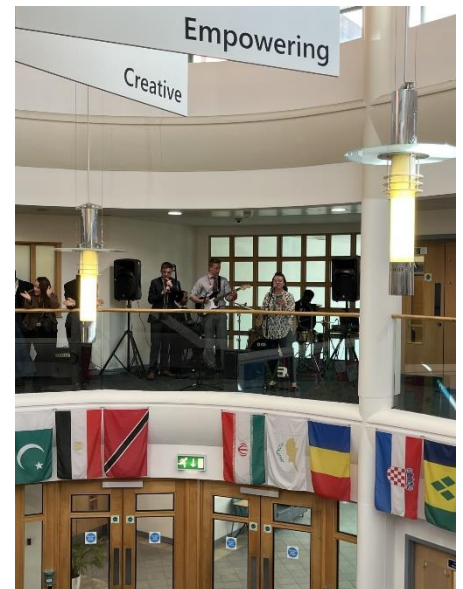
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Lunchtime Live Lounge

Monday at lunchtime saw the atrium buzzing with talent as students showcased their incredible skills in various performances. The event featured captivating singing, dynamic rapping, and impressive musical instrument displays. To bring the event to a delightful close, a teacher band performed Jessie J's hit song, "Price Tag," leaving the audience singing and clapping along. Well done to everyone who participated!



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Thorpe Park Trip

On Thursday students enjoyed a trip to Thorpe Park. Students who had high attendance, merits and had the least number of detentions in their year group were invited to participate. Everyone who took part enjoyed this exciting day out.



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Part of United Learning

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Whole School Assembly – Autism awareness

During our Whole School assembly this week we looked at Autism as April marks World Autism acceptance Month.

Autism is a type of neurodivergence. This is a non-medical term that describes people whose brains develop or work differently. This means the person has different strengths from people whose brains develop or work more typically.

1 in 7 people in the UK are neurodivergent. People with Autism are different, not less. They can have different strengths and struggles to people whose brains develop more typically.

Further information relating to Autism and the support available, can be found on the following website:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>



Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 th April 2025 – Monday 21 st April 2025	Two Weeks
INSET Day	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	All Day
Year 11 Exams Evening	Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 1 st May 2025	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Late start for students	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Year 11 normal start time 8.00am Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 Students are expected in school by 8:45a.m
May Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May	All Day
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May	All Week
Summer Showcase	Tuesday 1 st July 2025	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Last day of term	Friday 18 th July 2025	