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# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Message from the Principal



This week, it was a pleasure to visit classrooms and see focused, productive learning. The quality of work in students' books was fantastic, with great presentation and attention to detail. It's impressive to see Year 7 students using their books as revision guides. We encourage you to review your child's books and discuss their learning with them after all, explaining something to someone else is one of the best ways to show true understanding!

Our Year 10, 11, and 13 students had an excellent first week of exams. Their dedication and hard work were remarkable, and the exam atmosphere reflected their ambition. Keep up the great effort!

We had an incredible World Book Day celebration, with staff in costumes bringing books to life. Author Dan Freedman inspired Year 7 and 8 students with his engaging talk. Our KS3 Monday evening enrichment programme has been exciting, with activities like chess, table tennis, MasterChef, and choir. Congratulations to Qadraayuni and Toby in Year 10 for representing The Elms at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Final with outstanding confidence and eloquence.

Thank you to all parents who joined our online Parent Forum on Monday. Mr. Okojie shared valuable advice on supporting homework and revision. If you missed it, a recording is available here <https://www.theelmsacademy.org.uk/parents>.

We also discussed key upcoming dates, including our Coffee Morning on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, from 9:00-10:30 am at school. This will be a great opportunity to meet other parents, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and hear more about our Parent-Staff Association (PSA) – Friends of The Elms Academy. We hope to see many of you there!

Thank you all for your continued support—we look forward to another great week ahead.

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### Author Dan Freedman visits the school

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, as part of our run-up to World Book Day, author Dan Freedman visited the school to talk to our Year 7 and 8 students. As author of the Jamie Johnson series, following a young boy's ascent from secondary school into the Premier League, he was known to many of the students already. But over the hour-long Q&A, all our students were attentive and represented the school brilliantly. Dan discussed his career in sports journalism, the importance of reading — anything at all, too, not just fiction — and the variety of careers that you can have around football, even if you can't be a player. It was a real privilege to see the students get so involved, and Dan was really impressed with their engagement. Thanks to Dan and all the students who asked questions — particularly Lucas Knapp- Norton, who won a signed football for his question. Well done!





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## World Book Day

On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day with staff and some of our Sixth Form students dressing up in characters from famous stories. Lots of effort was put into creating some imaginative costumes. Well done to all who participated.





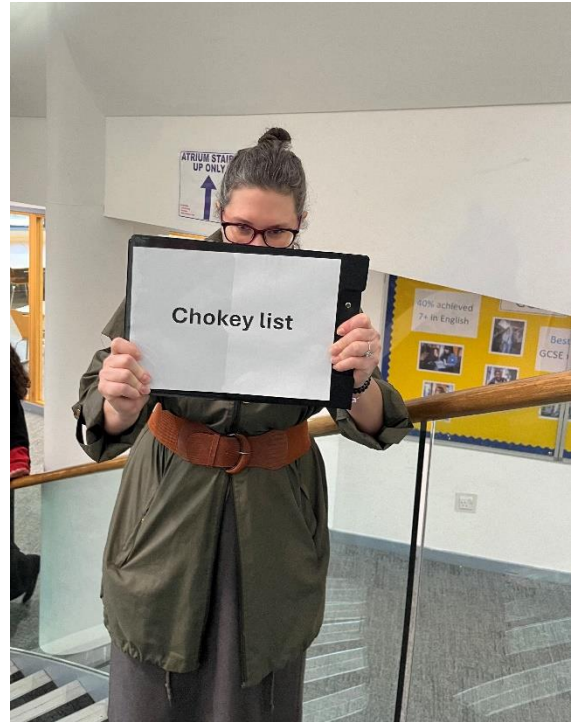
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### Sporting Success at the Elms Academy

We are thrilled to be able to share some fantastic sporting achievements from the past few weeks.

Huge congratulations to our year 7-9 girls who triumphed in their recent matches against The Hurlingham Academy at Clapham Common.

#### Match 1:

Final score 4-1 to the Elms Academy. Ramatu and Godslove both scored two tries. The player of the match was Godslove, Congratulations!

#### Match 2:

Final score 2-1 to the Elms Academy. Alison Mendonca and Tierra-Michelle who scored a try each. The players for the match were Alison Mendonca and Tierra-Michelle. Well done!

#### Match 3:

Final score 4-1 to the Elms Academy. Javaughna and Jasmin scored a try each and Alison Mendonca two. The player of the match was Jasmin. Congratulations!





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Well done to our year 7 boys football team who won their recent match against Oasis south bank 3-0. Prince scored a goal with Carson scoring two. Congratulations to Carson Keeble, who was named player of the match.



## Year 7 lung dissection

Students in Mr. Harris's Year 7 science class had an unforgettable hands-on experience this week, taking part in a lung dissection as part of their studies on organ systems.

Watching how the lungs inflate and deflate left students amazed as they connected what they had learned in lessons to real-life anatomy.



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### House event- Pancake flipping

Students took part in Pancake flipping on Tuesday to mark Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally Shrove Tuesday is the final day of Shrovetide with the start of Lent taking place the following day.



### Ramadan

During the month of Ramadan, we want to support students to maintain a school routine by advising those choosing to fast to stay hydrated during the evenings and night to help reduce symptoms such as dizziness and headaches during the school days.



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### Charity Donation

We are pleased to share the following letter with you from the BIGKID Foundation who received a charity donation from us following our own clothes day last term.



BIGKID Foundation  
Dexters Adventure  
Playground,  
6 Montego Close,  
London  
SE24 0LH

Email: [info@bigkidfoundation.org](mailto:info@bigkidfoundation.org)  
Web [www.bigkidfoundation.org](http://www.bigkidfoundation.org)

5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear The Elms Academy,

On behalf of the BIGKID Foundation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of £1,065. You are truly making a difference; we value your support tremendously.

Since registering as a charity in 2008 we have grown from working with 15 young people, kicking a football in the park, to over 2,500 young people each year. Our current programmes include a huge range of activities including community engagement (sports including American football, basketball, and football; youth club, social action, creative arts, trips and residentials), mentoring and Breaking Barriers, our highly acclaimed leadership programme, which targets young people at imminent risk of exclusion and has proven to turn lives around.

We don't want to stop there. We have ambitious plans to grow further, in direct response to growing needs amongst our young people, who have and are, facing ever increasing challenges. Your donation will go a long way towards ensuring we have a strong financial foundation, helping us both consolidate our growth and reach more vulnerable young people across London, supporting our mission to end youth violence in the capital.

We strongly believe that behind every KID is something BIG. The young people we work with are incredibly talented and have potential that is often neglected by the wider community due to their background, behaviour, or self-belief. Our busy and varied programme of activities includes the chance to access places and experiences that our young people would not otherwise have. In doing this, we broaden horizons, reveal unrecognised talents, passions, and potential.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

Shaninga Marasha  
Chief Executive/Founder



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### Mock Exams

Well done to all our students who are currently sitting their mock exams. Everyone is working hard on their revision and doing their very best with the exams.

### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Pathways Evening (Year 9)	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Two Weeks
INSET Day	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	All Day
Year 11 Exams Evening	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Late start for students	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day
Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	All Week

