

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This Monday, I had the privilege of starting the week with a whole school assembly, where I spoke to our students about an important theme: contributing to a better society. I cannot express enough how proud I am of our students. Every day, they amaze me with their conduct and the way they represent our school. However, when I'm out in the local community, I notice a difference, and that's what I wanted to address.

I spoke to them about the concept of "being better." This isn't about striving for perfection as individuals, but rather about how we can all contribute to making our community a better place.

In the assembly, I challenged our students to think about how they conduct themselves in public spaces, like at bus stops or local shops. As a school, we value integrity and I regularly speak with local shopkeepers and business owners to ask how our students are behaving when they're out and about. I'm delighted to report that the vast majority of them are acting with the integrity we teach, contributing positively to the community. But there's always room for improvement. I believe that our school can be a leader of change and that by acting with integrity, we can help create the kind of community we want to live in.

In other news, our Year 11 students enjoyed an educational trip to Walton-on-the-Naze earlier this week. Despite the slightly gloomy weather, it was a valuable opportunity for them to complete their fieldwork assignments on coastal erosion and drift. They had a fantastic time, and I am pleased to hear that their behaviour was exemplary throughout the trip.

We also hosted Into-University workshops for our Year 8 and Year 9 students. These workshops are designed to inspire our students, showing them that they have the opportunity to attend any university they aspire to. The sessions focused on building the academic skills necessary to achieve their goals.

For Year 11, we held our Final Push Evening, which was a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see so many of you in attendance as Mr. Aung, Miss Amiri, and Mr. Mathershaw led the session, supporting students and families as we approach this crucial time.

Lastly, we saw the exciting launch of our House activities on Wednesday and Friday. It was great to see so many students actively participating and earning points for their respective houses. The spirit of friendly competition and teamwork was truly energizing!

I want to express my gratitude for the continued support you give to both me and the school. It is through our collaboration that we can continue to provide the best outcomes for our students.

Warm regards  
Jon Lynes

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### Spark Reader Leaders



Congratulations to the following students for accumulating the highest scores this week for Sparx Reader. This learning platform offers students “fantastic books at their level from a wide range of texts.” As students engage in the programme they, “answer regular questions, helping them to stay engaged in the story.”

Students gather Sparx Reader Points and compete with other students to “climb the league table.”



Keniyah McIntosh Willams topped the leader board with 4413 points. Well done!



Ibraheem Shaw scored 2583 points, great work!



Te'Yen Burley has earned a very impressive 971 points, great effort!

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## Year 11 Geography Field Trip

This week also started with our year 11 students enjoying an educational trip to Walton on the Naze. With perfect weather, students engaged in hands-on investigations of wooden groynes and longshore drift. They measured the drop height of the groynes and applied their classroom knowledge in a real-world context. The enthusiasm and teamwork displayed were impressive, as students collaborated to gather data and discuss findings. It was wonderful to see them connecting theory with practice while enjoying the beautiful coastal scenery.



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### Extra Curricular Opportunities

Starting this week, there are a wide variety of extra curricular opportunities offered to students during and after school. We look forward to welcoming students to these activities.



### Music Clubs starting this week

Jazz Band – Wednesday 3.30-4.30  
Elms Voices Choir – Wednesday 3.30-4.30

*Speak to Music Teachers for more information*

Grounded Sounds will be restarting soon!

#### Extra curricular- ALL YEARS

DAY	LUNCHTIME	LOCATION
<b>MONDAY</b>	Table Tennis	Sports Hall
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Basketball	Sports Hall
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Gym (PE kit required)	Gym

#### Extra curricular

DAY	AFTERSCHOOL	Location
MONDAY	Boys Football Club <b>Year 7-8</b> Girls Touch Rugby <b>Year 7-9</b>	MUGA
TUESDAY	Boys and Girls Boxing Club <b>Year 7-8</b>	Sports Hall
WEDNESDAY	Boys Football Club <b>Year 9-10</b>	MUGA
THURSDAY	Boys and Girls Boxing Club <b>Year 9-10</b> Girls Football <b>Year 7-9</b>	Sports Hall MUGA



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### Key Stage 3 Enrichment

We look forward to starting our exciting programme of Enrichment for all of our students in Key Stage 3 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The clubs will run from 3.35pm until 4.30pm.

### Getting to Know You



Name: Xiaoli Zhai

Job: Chinese teacher

House: Jones

Currently Reading: a Chinese book 《三体》

A favourite film: Titanic

Interesting fact about me: I like hiking, watching movies, playing badminton, eating, travelling.

What I like about working at The Elms Academy: I like learning from the excellent teachers at our school and seeing our students make excellent progress in Chinese.

### Key Dates for Your Diary

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