

# The Elms Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of this half-term, I've been reflecting on our students' many achievements. They've shown fantastic progress in lessons and enjoyed exciting enrichment activities. A highlight was Thursday's house drop-down day, filled with creativity and teamwork through MasterChef challenges, young entrepreneurs, drama performances, and a t-shirt design competition. Thanks to everyone who participated, and also to Ms Haworth for making it happen.

I also want to thank parents for their support with attendance. Strong attendance this half-term has been crucial, and your support ensures students make the most of their learning.

This week has been particularly busy for our students: Year 11 drama students went to see *The Mousetrap* in the West End, whilst Year 12 music students attended a residential at Cambridge University, and our Year 7 Kings Scholars

visited King's College for the first time. The Year 7 students did us particularly proud, every single student was praised for their attitude, curiosity, and kindness. Well done to them all!

Thursday's house assemblies sparked excitement with Szabo in the lead for house points, though this could change once this week's points are added. It's great to see such engagement in the house system.

On Friday, Year 9 students reached their second graduation checkpoint. Congratulations to those on track! For those not quite there yet, there's still time to catch up. Parents, please reach out with any questions.

We are now just 10 days away from mock exams for Years 11 and 13, and the first full set for Year 10. We're making every minute count with structured revision and homework. We appreciate parents' support in helping students balance rest and study over half-term as we approach the final countdown to exams.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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### Whole School Assembly – Positive mental health

We looked at the impact of positive mental health during our whole school assembly this week. We considered what factors make up our mental health and some of the ways we can promote positivity. We also considered what help is available for when things may become overwhelming.

Please do make contact with your child's Head of Year if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing.



### Useful online resources for support for students and parents

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/find-help/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>



Support if you need it



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### KS3 Enrichment – Crafting Club

Students in the KS3 Crafting club created fondant pandas during their session on Monday. Skill and patience were needed to mold the fondant into the correct shape and assembly all the pieces together. Well done to all who took part.





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### The Elms Bake Off – Round 1 - Cupcakes

Students from every house competed in a cupcake creation contest, showcasing various flavors, colors, and decorations. It was fantastic to see students embracing the house system and our school values. Thank you to all participants and supportive parents. Points and Round 2 qualifiers for Bake Off will be announced soon!



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### Drop Down Day – House Activities

On Thursday we hosted our second Drop Down House Afternoon where students engaged in a number of different activities to win House points for their respective Houses. Activities included Young Apprentice, CREATE (House T Shirt Design), Sports Extravaganza, MTV (Making a Music Video), Performance (Harry Potter Play), Cheerleading, Masterchefs and News Reporters. We were so proud of the way students worked so collaboratively and with respect for each other's ideas and opinions, pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones and got well and truly stuck in. We can't wait to find out which House won the most House points!

These days are so important for our students as they provide opportunities for them to develop their character, build a sense of belonging, discover new talents and explore new friendships.





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### Year 12 Trip to St. John's College, Cambridge University

Our A-level music students had an unforgettable trip to St John's College, Cambridge, from February 4th to 5th. The warm welcome and vibrant atmosphere inspired them.

Over two action-packed days, they experienced university life, met the admissions tutor, participated in a vocal workshop with St John's Choir, and had tea with the Director of Music. They also explored improvisation with a 3rd-year student and the Director of Studies, watched the choir rehearse for Evensong, and attended the evening service. They enjoyed a takeaway dinner and stayed overnight in college accommodation.

The charming Gothic streets, the library, and the stunning architecture left a lasting impression, igniting their passion for A-level study and academic excellence. And, of course, the food was superb!



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### Kings College Trip

Year 7 King's Scholars attended their first visit to King's College London. They had an exciting day which started with an introduction to the King's Scholars programme, students then had a tour of the Strand Campus and later spent the afternoon working in teams, designing their own student societies. Throughout the day, the year 7s had a chance to speak to the current students at King's, learning about their experience and the life of a university student.





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### Aladdin rehearsals

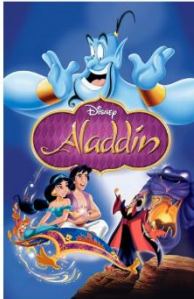
#### Rehearsals

Wednesday: Aladdin, Jasmine & Friends, Rahoul & Guards, Jafar, Iago

Thursday: As above PLUS Sultan & Aladdin's Friends

#### REMINDER

This Saturday (8th Feb) rehearsal 9am-3pm for ALL CAST



A reminder of the rehearsal schedule for Aladdin. We are looking forward to seeing the performance soon.

### Attendance Prize Draw

The winners of our 100% attendance draw will be announced on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. We look forward to sharing the outcome with you soon.

#### Attendance matters...

Winners announced on last day of this half term (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February)

9 days to go...



### Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Year 7 Parents Evening	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Late start for students	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 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
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	All week
Year 12 Parents Evening	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	4.30pm – 7.00pm
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



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