

The Elms Academy

NEWSLETTER

Integrity

Ambition

Determination

Friday 14th March 2025

Message from the Principal



What a fantastic week at The Elms! We're thrilled by glowing feedback from our Regional Director's visit, which praised our strong lessons, ambitious curriculum, and warm community. The calm, purposeful atmosphere and our students' enthusiasm for their learning were also commented upon. The atmosphere was described as calm and purposeful, with rich language being used in the classroom and a good balance between direct instruction to the whole class alongside one-to-one support. Our students spoke enthusiastically about their experience, particularly in terms of the quality of teaching and learning they receive every day.

Attendance has notably improved since last year, and it's wonderful to see the difference it's making. Thank you for your support in fostering belonging and academic success, we are building a real sense of belonging and creating moments of fun and joy alongside the important learning in lessons. We know that strong attendance is closely linked to academic success, and your support is making a real difference.

We were also delighted to welcome Bill Sweeney, the CEO of the RFU, to The Elms this week to showcase the fantastic rugby partnership. Bill was incredibly impressed, and a huge thank you to our PE team. In addition, our Shakespeare performers had an exciting opportunity to showcase *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Twickenham Exchange — a fantastic experience that broadened their horizons, built their confidence, and sharpened their drama skills. Year 9 students hit a milestone today with their graduation checkpoint, ready for the next phase of their journey.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to be hosting morning tours for our new Year 7 students and their families. It's always a pleasure to show off the fantastic work happening in our school, and we can't wait to welcome these families into our community. This year, we are heavily oversubscribed for the first time, with a long waiting list — a testament to the strength of our school and the positive reputation we are building together. Thank you for being such an important part of our success.

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Rugby Football Union visit - Touch Rugby

On Tuesday a number of students took part in a special rugby event in which they had the opportunity to showcase their skills to board members of the Rugby Football Union (RFU). This event provided an excellent opportunity for our students to demonstrate their talents and gain valuable experience.

T1 rugby has been developed in our school since September with an RFU coach coming in weekly to deliver touch rugby sessions during PE lessons and after school. We now have 3 girls rugby teams, from year 7 to 9 who compete in regular games.

RFU members were very impressed with the development of rugby in our school and with the level of skill demonstrated by our students. They commended the students on their performance. RFU visited with their board members including their CEO and members of Allianz who sponsor the initiative.

We are very proud of the students who represented the academy at this prestigious event.



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Fixture results from the past week

We are thrilled to share some outstanding performances by our teams this week.

Huge congratulations to our year 7 boys football team who won 3-2 against Trinity. Troy scored one goal and Carson scored two. The player of the match was Carson.

Congratulations to the year 7 girls football team for their incredible efforts in the tournament and coming third overall. Kimbereley scored two goals with Gracie-Lee, Jazmine and Amira scoring one each. The player of the match was Jazmine.



A fantastic performance by the year 7 and 8 girls Touch rugby team as they secured a dominant 4-0 win against Bishop Thomas Grant School. Alison Mendonca scored two tries, while Tierra-Michelle and Charlotte scored a try each. The player of the match was Charlotte.

Huge congratulations to the Year 9 boys' football who won 4-1 against Norwood. Findieu scored two goals with Ethan and Omar Dair scoring one each. The player of the match was Sammy.



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Sixth Form Event

This year, 2025, there is an overlap of two religious events; Lent and Ramadan. Lent remembers the 40 days Jesus fasted before his Crucifixion and Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the 5 Pillars of Islam.

Our Sixth Formers who were participating in Lent and Ramadan made the decision to create a community and gather together to break their fast in a meaningful way. The atmosphere that was created by their teachers was so warm and inviting, and it was so clear that a lot of thought and effort had gone into making it an unforgettable experience for the students.

Special mention goes to Isha and Leyla for their contributions of planning games, cooking, hosting and supporting the event! Thank you also to the students, staff and families that cooked and contributed to this unique event.



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Year 8 Student Receptionists



The role of Student Receptionist provides students with valuable real-world experience, helping them develop key skills such as communication, responsibility, and professionalism as well as new opportunities to develop their oracy skills.

This links closely to this term's **PSHCE & Careers programme**, which focuses on developing essential life skills, preparing students for future employment, and fostering a sense of responsibility. Through this experience, students gain a greater understanding of workplace expectations, customer service, and time management — all of which are crucial for

their personal and professional growth.

For **Year 8**, this experience is further enriched by their participation in the **First Give** charitable careers-based project. By working with local charities such as **The Baytree Centre, Ace of Clubs, and Brixton Soup Kitchen**, students not only develop leadership and teamwork skills but also gain insight into the charity sector and the importance of social responsibility.

By engaging in both the **Student Receptionist role** and **First Give**, students develop holistically, gaining skills that will benefit them both inside and outside the classroom while preparing them for future career pathways. Well, done to all our Y8 student receptionists. We are very proud of you!

Sparx completion success

Congratulations to the following classes for being top of the leader board for on-time completion of Sparx Maths, Science and Reader. Well done on your hard work.

Top classes for On-Time completion

 <p>Sparx Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7xy/Ma17xy/Ma2	 <p>Sparx Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7xy/Sc17xy/Sc28xy/Sc310XY/Sc1	 <p>Sparx Reader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7xy/En17xy/En5
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 Keep up the amazing work!
Every completed task builds your knowledge and confidence!

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Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Pathways Evening (Year 9)	Thursday 3 rd April 2025	5.00pm – 6.00pm
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	Thursday 24 th 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

