



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MAY 2024 – NO. 199

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

We are pleased to confirm that our new school website will be launched with effect from 3rd June. Following our move to Wolverhampton ICT services in April, we commissioned their department to produce and transfer over the content from our old website as well as making a few new changes.

Please take the time to check out our new site (www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk) and if you have any comments, please feel free to share by emailing postbox@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

We hope you enjoy what you see and we will continue to update our site with regular posts and information.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Please be advised of the upcoming changes to be in place for September 2024 from the Education Attendance Support Services.

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within three years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those three years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

CHANGE TO POINTS SYSTEM

The points system is a well established way that staff and pupils at Elmwood School are able to celebrate successful sessions over the school day (and also remedy some of those areas that need extra support or intervention!)

We proudly celebrate pupils that have managed to achieve Bronze (70-79%), Silver (80-87%), and Gold (88%+) status but have noticed there are several pupils who are now able to achieve really high points throughout the week resulting in totals of 92% and above! This is testament to hard work and determination, and of course the ever-improving standards we are striving for, which needs to be recognised and celebrated.

As a result when we return after the Whitsun half term break, we will be introducing a Platinum status for pupils who achieve 92% or above.

The idea came from pupil voice during a recent upper school assembly so well done team for coming up with yet another way for us to celebrate our exceptional pupils who are living into the Elmwood values.

Report by Mrs Francis, Deputy Head

STAFFING NEWS

We were pleased to welcome Tracey Pow, Teacher, back to school on Monday 20th May having been absent for a few weeks due to illness. Her pupils in 7a have really missed having their form tutor in class and sent some beautiful get well cards whilst Ms Pow was absent, which were so gratefully received.

Ms Shaw, Food Technology instructor, continues to be absent from school and we send her our very best wishes.

Ben Micklewright, TA, joined the team on Tuesday 21st May and we hope Ben soon settles into his new role.

FORMER PUPIL'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

We were thrilled to hear from Craig Williamson's mom, former pupil at the school, of his continued success since leaving Elmwood School in June 2021; you may recall that Craig represented the hockey GB team at the special Olympics held in Germany in June 2023.

Craig has now successfully attained his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, which Elmwood School assisted with in giving Craig an opportunity to work as a volunteer at the school.

Craig received an official invitation to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Monday 13th May which involved a lot of activities as well as being able to wander around the gardens—all very exciting. The event was very relaxed, beanbags were chucked into holes (or not, as the case may be!), tea and cupcakes were enjoyed as well as listening to military brass bands. There were three excellent and inspirational speeches given by the Duke of Edinburgh, a gold award recipient who is deaf and signed her speech with an interpreter translating and Tim Peake, the astronaut. The weather was kind dry, and not baking hot and a great day was had by all.



In hockey news, Craig has had a selection day for a tournament taking place in Holland in June, which is a small 3 day event so we're waiting to hear if he's got into the team.

EXAM TIME

Pupils in Year 11 are currently sitting their end of Key Stage 4 examinations ahead of ending their time at Elmwood School at the end of June 2024.

We wish all of our pupils the very best of luck in achieving the qualifications that will assist them on the next stage of their education journey.

Parents, staff and governors will be able to join in our leavers assembly on Tuesday 2nd July when we will be able to celebrate their achievements during their time at Elmwood.

NEW ARRIVAL

We were delighted to hear that Marissa Graham, Director of Cert Solutions, who provide the school with quality supply staff and supports the school with our fundraising events, has had her first child, baby Oscar. We send our sincere congratulations to Marissa and husband Paul and look forward to hopefully seeing the new arrival during the summer term.

KIND DONATIONS

A big thank you to the grandparents of Alfie in Year 8 who have kindly donated a tent and gazebo to the school. These will be put to good use, especially during the summer months when holding events such as sports day.



Thanks to Marcia Allen, Teaching Assistant, we now also have a new catering size water urn that she has kindly donated. This will also be a great asset when we have events

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT

THANKS

As our external provider for our reporting system in Out and About discontinued his services last year, we have been working hard to develop a new reporting system.

I have to thank Dr Price, curriculum lead for Science, for his help in tutoring me with XL spreadsheets and to Mr Middleton, Unqualified Teacher, for formatting the content in such an attractive way.

Watch this space!

ALLOTMENT NEWS

As part of our ongoing developments in Out and About, we have secured a new larger plot at the allotment. This includes a small wildlife pond and two well established rhubarb plants. In September we will increase the number of raised beds to nine to accommodate the increasing pupil roll at Elmwood.

ARCHERY VISIT

As part of the national start of archery week for Archery GB week commencing 6/5/24, we had our annual competition across the school for sports day medals. On Tuesday 7th May, Helen Smedley, Regional Coaching Officer from Archery GB visited Elmwood and was very impressed with how accomplished pupils were at archery and how well we are adapting our activities for inclusion for all.



SCHOOL VALUES DISPLAY

During Out and About, pupils have enjoyed using pyrography to create a new display at the front of School. This has involved controlled burning with soldering irons of slices of wood with individual letters. These letters make up the school intent values of Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for the Environment. Pupils have practiced the virtues of focus, creativity and trust during this activity. A photo of the finished display will feature in a future newsletter.

RAMPING THINGS UP!

Pupils have added a new element to our biking sessions by creating modular ramps. These have been constructed from adapted planks, tyres and gabion mesh cages filled with wood. This means we can create a variety of obstacles to meet a pupil's skill level on bikes. Pupils have practiced the virtues of determination, co-operation and self-reliance.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

LEON'S FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

Finally, following Leon's epic 100 day push up challenge during April, the grand total raised for MacMillan Cancer Support came in at an amazing £411. Leon managed to complete a total of 3220 push ups and as a result is now looking super fit. Very well done Leon on such an achievement, what a superstar you are.
