



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022 – NO. 180

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DOING A GREAT JOB

During the summer term, Sam Ashbery in Year 7b kindly volunteered to water the plants in the front quad, to keep it looking beautiful. This was a job that I was trying to keep up with (and failing) and when Miss Pow mentioned it to him, Sam was very happy to help me out. We bought a new hosepipe and tap adapter to make it easier for him, as I had been using watering cans, which took a long time. Thanks Sam for showing true Elmwood Values and looking after our environment.

Report by Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager

SCHOOL CLOSURE

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 3rd October as it is a staff training day.

School will also be closed on Friday 21st October for a further training day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 11s ON THEIR GCSE RESULTS

The cohort of Year 11s in 2022 have demonstrated great resolve and commitment during the re-introduction of examinations post COVID-19. As a school we are always striving to provide each and every cohort the best possible opportunities and outcomes, this year has been no different.

This year will see many “comparisons” between 2020 and 2021 but as a school community we will celebrate the 2022 cohort in their own right, as the wealth of positive messages we received from pupils, parents / carers and professionals following their leavers’ assembly really emphasized the true purpose of our school’s roles and responsibilities in developing well rounded and beautiful people who are a credit to our school’s values and vision.

There were though many “firsts” yet again this year – and these were the standout moments:

- 12 /17 (71%) of pupils achieved a GCSE Maths result.
- 3/4 (75%) of pupils achieved a grade 4 or 5 in GCSE Art.
- 2 pupils achieved a Level 2 Distinction in their BTEC Sport – our highest ever grade across any BTEC qualification suite.
- 5/7 (71%) of pupils achieved a Level 2 Pass in their BTEC Performing Arts – our most successful cohort.
 - Maintained 100% pass rate within BTEC Home Cooking Skills (Level 1 and Level 2).

I look forward to engaging with all pupils and Post-16 destinations to continue to support our Year 11 leavers with 94% of pupils having a named Post-16 destination for September – this is a positive outcome that reinforces the school’s curriculum INTENT is meeting the needs of its pupils.

Well done and congratulations to our leavers– enjoy what you have achieved with your friends and family and remember to surround yourself with Only Good People (OGP).

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Chris Bowen, Curriculum Lead for English.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? *I have been at Elmwood since 2013 - all except for 1 term.*

What do you love about your job? *Being able to help pupils be the best version of themselves. As a teacher I am here to educate pupils as to the beauty of our language and literature. As a dyslexic I struggled at school initially until two amazing teachers changed my whole perception of English and of myself. Seeing pupils grow in confidence, skills and ability is truly wonderful. Through the school every year I see pupils understand and build on their special educational abilities.*

What films have you watched recently? *I haven't actually watched any films, currently I am watching Simon Reeve's adventures and Frozen Planet II.*

Favourite Holiday? *This year was touring around Derbyshire and South Yorkshire - great countryside and superb food!*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I have distal hyperextensibility - hitch-hiker's thumbs!*

QUEEN'S BATTON RELAY



I would like to thank the school for nominating me. Today (23.7.22) was such an unreal experience and it never would have happened without you all at Elmwood School. I'm proud of the progress I made ever since year 7 and will someday come back to Elmwood School. Not as a learner, but as a leader. I love you Elmwood and you'll always be one of the closest things in my heart. Report by Rhys Humphries, Year 11 leaver.



Well done Rhys and what a fantastic experience, we are all very proud of you and wishing you every success for the future.

READING RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW

At the end of the summer term, the reading raffle prize draw took place. A total of 47 raffle tickets had been awarded during the term and the lucky prize winners were Jayden Jones in Year 7b and Joseph Jenkins in Year 8b.

Very well done boys and enjoy spending the £10 Amazon gift voucher.

Remember you have got to be in it, to win it. Good luck to everyone for the autumn half term draw.

STAFFING NEWS

Sarah Hawkins, teaching assistant, ended her time at Elmwood School on 31st August 2022.



Well done to Shelli George, teaching assistant, who bravely had her head shaved recently as a part of a charity event raising funds for SANDS—Alfie's smile appeal. As a result of Shelli's kind action, a total so far of £ 1976.60 has been raised for this good cause. What an achievement.

Congratulations to two of our teachers Charlotte Clarke and Paul Middleton, on the safe arrival of their second child, Maverick, born on 22nd September, a brother for Maisie. Sending our very best wishes to you all.

We are currently advertising for the site manager vacancy with interviews taking place on Tuesday 14th October. In the meantime Marvarick Perry is carrying out this role on supply basis.

ATTENDANCE SUPERSTARS

Many congratulations to the following pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the summer term. Pupils were presented with certificates and a £5 gift voucher during an assembly on 16th September 2022.

Sam Ashbery
Joshua Evans
Aidan Garbett
Mkenzie Gonderton
Izzy Hough
Joseph Jenkins
Adam Knibb
Rianna Lewis
Cody Love Knight
Jordan O'Brien
Paul Robinson
Nathan Scott
John Southall
Callum Wilkinson
Cameron Willetts
Re'Shea Williams

The following pupils have also achieved 100% attendance for the whole academic year, which is absolutely brilliant and what an achievement. Pupils were rewarded with a further certificate and £5 gift voucher.

Sam Ashbery
Mkenzie Gonderton
Rianna Lewis
Cody Love Knight

Congratulations to the following staff who also achieved 100% attendance for the summer term, well done to all concerned:

Lee Cross, Gemma Francis, Martin Hawkes, Chris Bowen, Alan Price, James Francis, Ashley Bullock, Hilary Shaw, Marcia Allen, Kerry Bowen, Debbie Causer, Shelli George, Jo Hughes, Mark Trahearn, Leon Donaldson, Anna Cahira, Dawn Canham, Lynn Maritza, Julie Burnell and Caroline Bratt.

VARIETY CLUB SUPPORT

A very big thank you to the Variety Club who have once again kindly donated a number of tickets enabling parents and carers to go along to West Midlands Safari Park on a number of dates during October. We would appreciate if any photos of pupils enjoying their day out can be shared with school so that these can be passed on to the Variety Club. Wishing all concerned a lovely time.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy on our governing body for a parent or carer to join the team. If you are interested in this post and would like further information, please contact Dawn Canham, Clerk to the Governors, in the school office. Your support would be appreciated.

FORMER PUPIL SUCCESS

We were very pleased to hear that Sam Taylor, a former pupil at the school, received his qualified teacher status in July 2022.

What an amazing achievement and testament to the hard work that Sam has dedicated to achieve this goal.

We wish Sam every success in teaching computer science—we are all very proud of you.

MARVELLOUSME GUIDE

A new guide for parents/carers who use MarvellousMe is available on the school website. The quick reference guide is on the Parents/Carers page and contains lots of useful information.

If you have not yet joined up to using MarvellousMe and would like further details, please contact Dawn in the office, who will gladly sort this out for you.

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHS

A reminder that if you would like to order your recent child's school photograph, to return any orders to school by Friday 7th October.

If you did not receive a copy of your child's image, please let the office know and we can organise a further copy.

The school receives commission from any orders placed which is used solely to benefit pupils so a big thank you in advance for your support.

Craig's Duke of Edinburgh Award

My name is Craig Williamson and I left Elmwood a year ago but I came back to Elmwood once a week all of last year to help with Out and About and PE lessons. I did this for the volunteering part of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, which I'm doing through Scouts. I had to set myself some aims at the start of the 12 months and work to achieve them through helping in the lessons then Mr. Cross wrote a report on how well I had met my goals.

This was one of 5 parts I had to do and each one is for a different length of time. I had to learn a new skill or improve my skills so I chose cooking and I learnt new recipes and tried to work on my presentation. It was for 6 months. I had to do an expedition for 4 days walking about 20 km a day and then do a group presentation on the places we visited and what we had found out. In August I did my residential trip. It is for 4 nights and has to be done without anyone else you know there whether they are an adult or a young person. There were lots of things to choose from but I chose a mountain skills course in Wales. It was fun doing lots of hiking, climbing, pitching tents and some survival skills. I got certificates for mountain skills and climbing which will be good for the future especially because I have just started doing a BTEC Level 3 Sports course at college. All I have left to do now is finish my physical skill. I'm doing hockey and need to do it for 18 months so I should finish it in March next year. Then the assessor will look at everything I have done and decide if I have passed.

I have learnt a lot from doing my Duke of Edinburgh Award. It has made me go into situations I find difficult but I know that has helped me starting a new College. At Elmwood, I gained confidence in communicating with both the pupils and the staff and understood the way to give clear instructions to help pupils learn the skills.

I would tell anyone to do a Duke of Edinburgh Award if they get the chance. It is challenging but fun and it has been good for me. And thank you to Elmwood for helping me to do it.
Report by Craig Williamson, former Elmwood pupil



STAFF WELLBEING DAY

As a school staff wellbeing has been a priority for some time and this culminated at the end of term with a whole school appreciation day. Staff had the option of choosing a nature walk on the Long Mynd in Shropshire led by local guide, Geoff, where some damselflies, a few birds and butterflies, a lizard and a shrew were spotted. A big thank you to Paul Crooke and Tracy Pow for driving the minibuses, which was a bit hairy around some of the tight twisty corners at the

top of the Mynd.

Fishing was another option organised by Mr Wood. Staff set off to Coppice Lane Fishery in Hammerwich where staff could either try their hand at landing a fish or just relaxing by the pool. Mr Whittaker was pleased with catching his first tench and having had such a good time, some staff chose to return back again the following day.



The final option was to enjoy a bike ride organised by Mr Price along the disused Aldersley to Wombourne railway line. A big thank you to Mr Price for planning this activity, which again was enjoyed by everyone who took part.

Finally a big thank you to Martin Hawkes, Assistant Head, for coordinating everything—a great time was had by all.