



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022 – NO. 182

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

OFSTED ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pride that I can announce, that following our recent Ofsted Inspection (21st – 22nd September 2022), Elmwood was awarded a **GOOD** for Overall Effectiveness. This is an improvement on our previous inspection and is an acknowledgement of the determination, commitment and care to be that 1% better each and every day. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to showcase all of our hard work and also build and develop to be even better in “re-imagining our potential”.

I have extracted a number of quotes that supports our work as a school community:

- Pupils feel happy and safe and respond positively to high expectations and clear routines.
- Pupils would recommend the school to a friend who moved into the area.
- Reading is at the heart of the curriculum. Pupils know that reading is important for future learning.
- Pupils are well prepared for the next stages of their education.
- Staff have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour.
- Pupils learn how they can contribute positively to society and strive to do so.
- The school has strong shared values and a positive and productive culture.
- All pupils receive high-quality careers guidance.
- Staff involve outside agencies appropriately. There is a culture of vigilance and support throughout the school.
- Governors have improved since the last inspection and carry out their duties effectively.

The areas that were identified by the Inspectors to improve were already in development , further strengthening leaders’ knowledge and understanding of the school’s next steps. The amount of feedback provided throughout the two-day inspection was extremely positive and has further strengthened our progress as a high performing SEMH school across West Midlands. We all look forward to continuing our work in building upon the recommendations, as well as supporting other organisations, as they strive for further improvement.

This outcome is one that should be celebrated by any member of our Elmwood community (past and present), since our last inspection as we have maintained our integrity and belief that what we do is in the best interest of our pupils.

Thanks for all of your support . Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher

BREAKFAST BOOST FROM KELLOGG’S

Thanks to Jo Hughes, Teaching Assistant/Family Support Assistant, we have been successful in receiving a £1,000 payment from Kellogg's to help fund our breakfast club.

Research has shown that breakfast clubs help with everything from attendance and attainment to alleviating hunger. 68% of teachers believe pupils would struggle to concentrate in class without their breakfast club.

We are very grateful to Kellogg’s for this additional funding which means we will be able to offer a much wider variety of items for pupils to enjoy at the start of the day.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistant/Staff Governor.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? 6 years.

What do you love about your job? I love that everyday is different. Being able to help and support the young people of Elmwood enabling them to see their full potential not just while they are at Elmwood but for life overall. Working with pupils to show them that the negative situation they face can be turned into a positive one.

What films have you watched recently? Black Panther 2-Wakanda Forever was a good film 8/10 positive example of women empowerment. Good Will Hunting, a movie I have watched many times - very inspiring.

Favourite Holiday? Jamaica- I have been many times. The food, music, family, friends and of course the sunshine. Last trip was Summer 2019 so I'm long over due a visit.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? Music is a big passion of mine. Apart from DJing and organising my own events, I used to work as a sound technician. This involved setting up the stage and equipment for music acts and working alongside a team to monitor the sound and lighting whilst the musicians are performing. I've done this job at various venues such as Birmingham O2 Academy & Institute, NIA and the NEC. Two concerts that were both random and memorable that I worked at were Madness in September 2015 (Wolverhampton Racecourse) and Sam Smith in October 2014 (Birmingham O2 Academy)

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Elmwood held their annual remembrance day service and, without disappointment, the veterans from the Staffordshire Regiment joined us along with Jack, a VIP guest, who is a serving member of the Irish Artillery regiment. The weather held out for us, all a bit windy, but at least it stayed dry. This year we also invited the new Year 7 parents and carers.



The catering event was led by BTEC Level 2 students, Riley Higgs and Harry Moore in the food tech room. Both young men were impeccable supporting the new Year 7a class mentoring and guiding them through the whole morning as well as Julian meeting and greeting visitors; Sophie and Rebecca serving refreshments to everyone, Malachi taking photos and Charlie being a fantastic waiter.

After the service Harry's homemade butternut squash soup, served with Cody Walton's freshly baked crusty cobs, were very welcomed, followed by Riley's delicious poppy shortbread biscuits. Logan Clews made a crunchy batch of flapjacks and Sam O'Shea made a seasonal Scottish ginger cake. All the food was demolished by our guests.

Year 9b, with support from Tracy Jackson, Teaching Assistant, helped to decorate the room. The new art teacher, Ms Askins, made very pretty painted poppies using recycled pop bottles with pupils during her lessons. These were presented to the veterans. Mr Francis, DT teacher, as always, came up with a great idea that he designed and produced on the laser cutter which were wooden Elmwood bookmarks. Mr Francis and Mr Hinsley enjoyed themselves making the tassels!!



So, all in all, it really was a team effort from the staff and pupils at Elmwood School and because of this we all had a fantastic day. Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

STAFFING NEWS

On Friday 4th November, Shelli George, Teaching Assistant in Year 8, celebrated a special birthday. Shelli was presented with gifts and cards from staff to mark this occasion. You are looking good Shelli.

Chris Young, Teaching Assistant, and his wife welcomed their first baby on Saturday 5th November with the safe arrival of Arlo Arthur Thomas weighing 6lb 6oz. Many congratulations to them both.



Interviews took place on 17th November for the two Teaching Assistant vacancies we have in school. We are pleased to confirm that Tammy Mahey and Sonya Woollery were the successful applicants (both currently working on supply in the school). A big thank you to Sarah Thornton, Parent Governor, for her support with the interview process.

FUNDAY FRIDAYS




Funday Fridays are a curriculum enhancement that looks to support your child's personal development. Additionally this expands the breadth of the school's curriculum. Pupils progress through a carousel of activities. These activities act as vehicles to develop your child's **communication, leadership and preparation for adulthood**, as well as them demonstrating the school's observable behaviours aligned to our values of Care for Self, Others and the Environment.

Staff will utilise the groups' success within communication, leadership and preparation for adulthood to plan for opportunities to address in their next activity.

These experiences are a core component of your child's education and are not a reward trip. They are an essential experience that supports the school's curriculum.

This half term's activities include visiting Blists Hill Victorian Town in Ironbridge and Ninja Warrior in Walsall, pupils delivering an assembly, bowling trip, organising a raffle fundraiser, selling bags of sweets, visiting Cannock Chase, working in the community and a trip to Twycross Zoo.

Here are a selection of IMPACT measures following this half terms experience:

Nurture (Yr7 & Yr8)	Transition (Yr9 & Yr10)	Pathways (Yr11)
<p>Yr 7 embarked on an educational experience to step back in time to Blists Hill Victorian Town to support the launch of geography in KS3. The majority of pupils were inquisitive and asked pertinent questions.</p>  <p>8a – pupils demonstrated resilience and determination following their plan a day experience at Ninja Warrior, Walsall.</p> <p>8b – pupils overcame being nervous to prepare and deliver a whole school assembly, showing real team work.</p>	<p>Cole in Year 9 visited Twycross Zoo. Cole has been learning about minibeasts, animal habitats and sorting animals into groups during science lessons this half term. This lent itself to a visit to Twycross Zoo. Cole had a great day out, seeing lots of monkeys, tortoises, zebra, penguins, butterflies, birds and his favourite, the giraffes. Staff found that Cole has a hidden talent as a photographer, taking some great photographs.</p>  <p>9a – pupils were relaxed and confident during their plan a day at a local bowling alley. Those pupils who are traditionally quiet really shone.</p> <p>9b – pupils used their entrepreneurial skills through organising a raffle making a profit of £24.10 for school fund.</p> <p>10 – pupils worked with each other's strengths to create a whole school assembly (it was also a great opportunity to welcome Mr Middleton back after his paternity leave).</p>	<p>11a – pupils worked as a team to generate Halloween sweet packs making £19.60 for school fund. A real production line was generated.</p>  <p>11b – pupils enjoyed an experience of site seeing around Cannock Chase as well as playing in the rain.</p> <p>KS4 Mixed – pupils showed resilience in horrendous weather to add value to our school environment.</p>

XTMAS STANDS FOR SALE

With Christmas looming we have a few Christmas tree stands that are no longer needed by our outdoor learning department. If any parent or carer is interested in purchasing one of these, a donation of £5 is requested, which will go into our school fund account. A bargain

price as these retail at approx. £20.

Please email Mr Whittaker on dwhittakerer@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk or contact the school office if these are of interest.



KIND DONATION

We were recently contacted by a local resident, Terry Whitlock, who had witnessed some of our pupils finishing. On 18th October he visited school with his wife when he donated a whole host of fishing equipment, including rods and landing nets. Mr Wood, who supports our pupils during fishing activities, was delighted with the equipment which will be a great asset to our fishing gear.



SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

A big thank you to Norma Stamps, who has once again audited our private school fund account. Any monies held in school fund are used solely to benefit pupils and pay for any treats such as Easter and Christmas gifts, reward vouchers etc.

This money also included all pupils receiving a Halloween cupcake on the last day of the autumn half term as part of our Ofsted celebration and all bases receiving a stock of PE outdoor equipment.

As a result of photograph orders placed with Tempest Photographers, our funds have been boosted with commission of a further £84.94 .

2e English/Science experience



The science and English departments collaborated in delivering a 2e experience day for pupils from Years 8 to 11 (George and Nathan in Year 8, Francis and Logan in Year 9, Jordan and Izzy in Year 10 and Jake and Rianna in Year 11).

Pupils were set the challenge to construct remote control vehicles, working in their 'garage teams'. Each team had a challenging model to work towards with teams then competing in a set of challenges. These included driving blindfolded whilst directed by their co-driver through to timed laps of the circuit.



Learning taking place included developing understanding of engineering, scientific calculations and communication skills. Pupils also demonstrated 'care for self, care for others and care for the environment.'

Reflecting on the day pupils stated that they had 'developed resilience, teamwork, leadership and creativity.' These skills underpin pupils' development across the whole curriculum and beyond. More photographs are available on the photo gallery of the school website.

Report by Mr Bowen, Curriculum Lead for English and Dr Price, Curriculum Lead for Science

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

A vacancy still exists for a parent or carer to join our Governing Body. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this role, please get in touch with Dawn Canham, Clerk to the Governors, in the school office who will gladly help.

SPOOKY GOINGS ON



Monday 31st October saw a host of staff and pupils looking very spooky for Halloween. What a fabulous bunch of outfits and well done to everyone who took part. More photographs are on the photo gallery page of the school website.



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

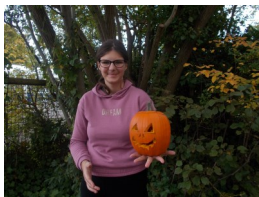
A reminder that it is our autumn term progress and achievement event on Wednesday 7th December. Your child's form staff will be in touch to organise a mutually convenient time for you to attend to discuss your child's progress and look at targets for the spring term. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be available if you wish to discuss any matters with them. We look forward to seeing you on the 7th.

SEND OPEN EVENT

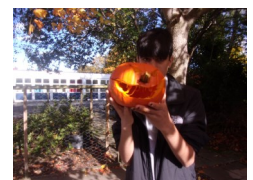
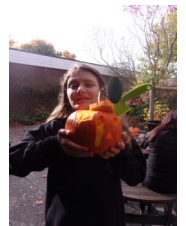
Walsall College will be hosting a SEND open day for parents and carers of pupils in Year 11. The event will take place at the Wisemore Campus from 3.00 pm to 6.30 pm on Wednesday 30th November. To book a ticket to attend, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-open-day-tickets-207840806447>

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT

PUMPKING PICKING



Once again we went to Sheepwash Farm in Whittington to collect pumpkins which we then went onto carve during out and about lessons. Pupils showed great skill and artistic flair at pumpkin carving with the winning pupils in nurture achieving gold for Rhys Sheamar, silver for Caitlin Walker and bronze for John Southall and in transition/pathways base, Sennen Gregory took gold, Izzy Hough silver and Jack Poxon bronze. Winning pupils won a large bag of sweets for their efforts.



REMEMBRANCE DAY TRIBUTES



Francis Gosling in Year 9 helped to create a new garland of poppies from a whole collection that was knitted by his mom. Francis, along with Sennen Gregory, also helped to put the display up outside the front of School which looks amazing.

As part of the Remembrance commemorations, Mr Holmes and myself have taken the pupils to the National Memorial Arboretum during out and about lessons. As well as finding their family names on the huge memorial, they have also laid their rag rug poppies at a memorial of their choice. Pupils have enjoyed making these poppies in previous out and about lessons. The session proved to be a popular activity and linked to recycling, Victorian history and the virtues of altruism, self-reliance, patience and empathy.



I would also like to thank 'JOLO dressmaking' for their kind donation of red and black material. https://all-opening-hours.co.uk/08719029/jolo_-Creative_Fashion_&_Dressmaking Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

KIND DONATION

When Year 9a were in need of a new microwave, Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, tried looking on freecycle and social media for a replacement. Unfortunately none were available until Bill Jones of Jones and Son Property Maintenance messaged to say that he would purchase a new microwave for the school. Bill kindly dropped this off on Monday 14th November much to the delight of Year 9a. A very big thank you to Bill for this extremely kind gesture, which is so very much appreciated.



DIARY DATES

We will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 9th December. Raffle tickets are now on sale as part of our fundraising appeal and we would appreciate any support in the sale of these tickets.

Pupils who are part of Mr Webb's singing group, will also be performing on the 9th, commencing at 11 am. Places are limited to a maximum of 25.

All staff and pupils will join in our annual Christmas school lunch on Tuesday 13th December. If your child does not normally have a school meal but would like to join in, the cost is £2.10, or free for pupils who qualify for free school meals. Everyone is welcome to wear their festive tops for this event.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, we will be saying goodbye to Sam Allen, Associate Member Governor, with effect from 22.11.22. Sam joined the governing body in October 2021 and will be missed by the team. Thank you Sam for your input over the last year and wishing you every success with your business.

THANK YOU MR BOWEN

I would like to thank Mr Bowen, Curriculum Lead for English, for his very kind gesture of bringing in to school some home grown chillies fresh from his allotment. It is a great help to my food tech budget with the price of food going up as every little helps



I would also like to mention a big thank you to staff, parents and carers who bring in recycled butter tubs, take away container etc. This is a massive help to my subject enabling pupils to take home their food.

REMEMBER ...when you've eaten all those lovely choccies at Christmas save the plastic tubs for school.

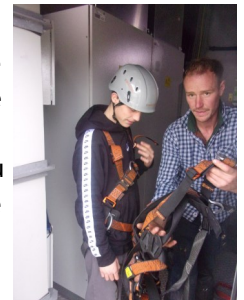
Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

The Best Out and About Pupil 2022



This year, this was awarded to Reece Oxford in Year 10. He is consistently helpful, on task, focussed and assists others during lessons. His reward was the opportunity to scale the inside of Sheepwash Farm's very own wind turbine.

We climbed a series of ladders to hatched platforms inside, which are closed as you ascend. We also wore a full body harness which has an auto-locking system attached if you were to mis step—you are therefore completely safe throughout. The total height is 100 metres. Reece climbed in record time.



The real excitement is once you reach the top capsule where Reece was rewarded with fantastic views of the surrounding countryside as you peek out of the top hatch. Jonathon, the farmer, also opened the bottom hatch of the capsule (with us all attached). This revealed where the engineers would winch up materials. The view is straight down to where our minibus was 'matchbox' car sized and Jonathon's dog was mystified as he called it below.

It was interesting to see the vanes automatically turn to maximise windspeed and thereby optimise electricity generation as the wind direction changed.

Another factor was the wind speed that day. I have never experienced such high winds on previous turbine climbs (not the highest, by any means, according to Jonathon). The result was the turbine tower was flexing (it's designed to) and rocking like we were at sea!

The fun wasn't over there though, as descending was next and far easier than ascending, once you got the knack of 'over riding' the auto brake on the harness to climb down.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning