



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021 – NO. 169

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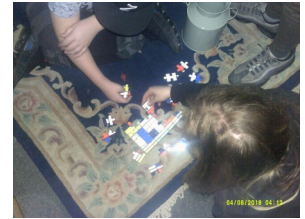
REWARD TRIPS

Pupils were finally able to enjoy a reward trip experience following the restrictions due to COVID. On Friday 3rd September pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 who had achieved either bronze, silver or gold status for their behaviour and learning during the summer term, were treated to a day out either at Telford Park, Jump Xtreme or Clockwork Escape Rooms. Below is a summary of what the gold trip got up to:

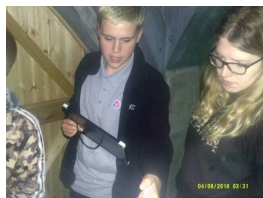
Clockwork Escape Rooms Gold Reward Trip



Pupils were met at the door by a leather tunic wearing gentleman in military cap. He beckoned us in to the darkened room where the rules of the escape rooms were explained to us. We were split into two teams and guided separately down a long corridor with a cornucopia of items to two different rooms. The room my team entered was called 'Sanctum'. It comprised of a series of rooms, the first had archways with symbols on and a compendium of problems to solve in order to open coded locks. The 'Guardian' was observing us in each room by cctv and was able to give clues (over the walkie talkie), when needed, which was just as well!!



On 'solving' this room we eventually gained the key to open the lock on the barred barn doors into the next room. This room resembled a Victorian parlour room. Using the library books and zodiac, we were able to gain a series of keys which led to us opening a door to the next room. This was in fact a blank wall, but a lever on it enabled us to find a hidden doorway behind the bookcase, through which we entered the last room. Time was against us here and we worked furiously on a jigsaw and other puzzles to escape this final room. Unfortunately time escaped us and we had to be rescued by the 'Guardian'.



The other room had a more futuristic theme. In here Paul Middleton's team found themselves hurtling into space, rapidly losing oxygen. There were many malfunctions on board the space ship and although the crew worked tirelessly, they were left with one small problem between themselves and safety. As time, and 'oxygen' ran out, the alarm sounded and the ship was deemed unsalvageable. The team returned to Earth in an escape pod - at which point we decided a pub lunch could be an excellent consolation

prize for all...

The Gold pupils were then treated to a meal and drink of their choice at a 'hostelry'. This became it's own escape room as we started with what appeared lots of time and this evaporated rapidly as we all hurried to eat our meals, despite the quick service, before departing for our minibuses to return to School for taxis. So much so, that one pupil was forced to deposit their own 'whopper chocolate sundae to share' into a plastic container and take it with him on the minibus!



Pupils did have fun, but it needs to be born in mind that beating the clock is not the 'be all and end all'. The process of working together and achieving the tasks along the way is the key learning and very much along the lines of out and about lessons. It was great to see everyone helping out where they could, even if it was just holding the torch, this was a key job, as those trying to solve the task would have no chance without seeing the puzzles. An enjoyable day was had by all, thanks to all staff playing their part and keeping the day on track.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning and Paul Middleton, Teaching Assistant

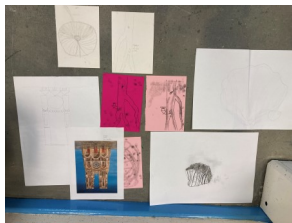
STAFF WELLBEING DAY—FRIDAY 16TH JULY 2021



Our Staff Wellbeing day took place on the 16th July where staff had the opportunity to choose one activity for the day which was a choice of either fishing, art, yoga or a walk. This was the first time we had put on a staff wellbeing day for staff and it was greatly appreciated. Two of the activities were led by external facilitators (yoga and art) who did a fantastic job in leading these activities.



A big thanks to Mr Price, who led the walk for staff and, incidentally, this activity had the largest uptake of staff. Lynne the cook wasn't able to join in on the day but was with everyone in spirit thanks to Julie carrying her photo around on the walk. A big thank you also to Mr Wood and Mr Hinsley for helping to organize the fishing outing. Even though Mr Wood wasn't able to attend on the day, he put in a lot of effort to organising the activity so that the staff got the best fishing spots at the venue. Mr Hinsley even caught his first ever fish, would you believe it!!



The wellbeing day was an acknowledgement of how difficult the last year has been and a celebration of staff's hard work during the year. Last year has been tough for us all but a big thanks to all our staff who, throughout the pandemic, continued to support pupils through either dropping off food parcels or running activities for them. We look forward to this year's wellbeing day and hope it is as good as the last.

Report by Mr M Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher



STAFFING NEWS



At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Gail Smith who had been working long term as a supply teaching assistant. Gail was given a good send off on the last day of term and we wish her all the best for the future.

Many congratulations to Patrick Hinsley (Year 7 teacher) and his wife Kelly, who welcomed the birth of their first child, Archie on 1st September.

During the summer break Chris Young, teaching assistant in Year 11, tied the knot with Abbie and they had a wonderful day.

Well done to our curriculum lead of science teacher, Alan Price, who managed to ride from Lands End to John O'Groats; what an achievement. It took Alan 11 days to complete this mammoth journey but what memories he has of his journey.



Our new caretaker, Paul Crooke, enjoyed a special birthday on Monday 20th September. Paul was presented with cards and gifts to mark this special occasion.

MORRISONS LET'S GROW SCHEME

Morrisons have re launched the above scheme which runs until the 30th October. This enables schools to claim a number of free items of gardening equipment including green houses, potato planters, seeds, wellington boots and tools.

Vouchers are issued for every £10 spent in store and we would love to receive any vouchers that will help us to claim for additional equipment.

Many thanks in advance.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Tempest Photographers came into school on Tuesday 21st September for their annual visit.

A copy of your child's sample image should have been received but if you have not received this, please let the office know.

If you wish the school to organise any orders, can these please be returned with payment by Monday 4th October. Otherwise you are able to order directly on line with Tempest.

Any orders raise funds for our school fund account which is used to support pupils with rewards, trips etc.

SUPER STARS

Many congratulations to the following pupils who all achieved 100% for the summer term.

Callum Wilkinson
Jack Poxon
Cody Love Knight
Rianna Lewis
Adam Knibb
Krystian Kastelik
Rhys Humphries
Jack Hulse
Jake Hall
Charlie Haddock
Sennen Gregory
Logan Gosling
Connor Berry
Swayvon O'Connor
Joshua Haycock

The above was celebrated in an assembly when pupils received a £5 gift voucher in recognition of this achievement.

Very well done to Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager who was the only member of staff who managed to get into work every day for the whole academic year—many congratulations.

KIND DONATION

During a wet start to the last summer term, the old Year 11b pupils, kindly went to a local sailing club, with Mr Holmes and Chris Young, to dismantle and load some picnic tables which had been freely donated to us.



Following the Elmwood values of caring for our environment and others, the Year 11's did this selflessly knowing that by the time they were rebuilt, painted and fit for use, they would have left the school.



During the Funday Fridays in June, various groups enjoyed reassembling the tables, this time in hot, sunny weather and with frequent ice-pop breaks!

The reassembled tables are now placed in various outdoor areas around the school, including the entrance quad, where visitors can sit in the fresh air and wait for appointments and where Dawn and Lynn have been known to have their lunch!



Report by Mr Holmes, Teacher

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Our summer term progress and achievement event took place on Wednesday 14th July 2021 when appointments were made with all parents/carers in Years 7-10.

Once again these conversations were held via telephone conversations in order to try and keep everyone safe ahead of the summer break.

As a result of the above 100% of appointments took place which is a brilliant achievement.

Feedback from these sessions helps to address any concerns and also to plan future targets.

TRAINING DAY REMINDER

A reminder that school will be closed for pupils on Friday 22nd October as it is a staff training day

Pupils will therefore return on Monday 1st November after the October half term break.



SURPRISE VISIT

Staff and pupils had a nice surprise on Friday 17th September when Tina Lloyd, former Assistant Head, visited School. Tina moved to live in Spain last year and this was her first trip back to the UK. Ms Lloyd continues to take an active interest in what is going on at Elmwood and looks forward to reading the latest newsletter. It was a nice way to end the week catching up on all Ms Lloyd's news.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Tracey Pow, Teacher.

How long have you worked at Elmwood?

I have been at Elmwood since July 2019 (2 years).

What do you love about your job?

I love the fact that every day is different at Elmwood and something happens every day to make me smile.

What films have you watched recently?

Films watched- Bridget Jones Trilogy, Shaun of the Dead, The Mechanic

Favourite Holiday?

Favourite holiday- Greek Islands (favourites are Crete and Kefalonia)

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?

Fun fact- I've been an extra in Coronation Street Emmerdale and Hollyoaks.

SINGING HAS RETURNED

With the easing of COVID restrictions pupils were once again able to enjoy after school singing sessions thanks to Mr Webb and Mr Damms.

Lessons resumed after school from Tuesday 14th September and will run weekly from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Previously these sessions have been very popular and have culminated in performances at productions/ events.

A big thank you to Mr Webb and Mr Damms for giving up their time enabling our pupils this opportunity.

GOLD PERFORMANCE

Amanda Kearney, Speech and Language Therapist, who works with some of our pupils, is celebrating after her daughter, Tully, won both silver and gold medals during the recent Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Amanda was unable to attend the games due to the pandemic situation but was able to share the moment she won gold with Claire Balding on Channel 4 alongside other family members.

A proud moment for Amanda and many congratulations to Tully.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Regardless of the many changes and disruptions to their normal learning opportunities our former year 11's (summer 2021) managed to attend regularly, engage with staff purposefully and work tirelessly to be that 1% better. This commitment and aspiration has resulted in yet another successful GCSE results day (continuing our 11 year trend). There have been many stand out achievements, but here are a few headlines:

2 pupils achieved Grade 9 (the highest possible grade) in English Language.

1 pupil achieved Grade 8 (our previously highest grade) in English Language.

3 pupils achieved Level 2 merit in their BTEC Sport – our most successful cohort at Elmwood.

2 pupils achieved a Grade 6 in chemistry (our first time offering this qualification).

2 pupils achieved a Grade 6 in maths – our highest ever grades!

3 pupils were able to record a GCSE Grade 4 or above across all core subjects (English, maths and science).

Very well done to all our Year 11 leavers and we wish them every success for their future career pathways.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

WHAT A RESULT—5-1



On Friday 17th September, Elmwood faced their first opposition since the season ended abruptly in 2020 due to Covid-19. Many pupils had attended the trials the week previously and Mr Bullock had the tough decision to whittle the list down to 10 players to be selected to face the Seeds School for their first game. The selected players were both excited and anxious for their first time stepping onto the field wearing their Elmwood football kit with pride.

The game got off to a tough start with the Seeds scoring within the first 3 minutes. However, Elmwood didn't let this phase them and they regrouped and motivated each other to keep going and keep their heads up, demonstrating Elmwood's core values of caring for others. Throughout the first half Elmwood controlled the game and maintained possession. There were some fantastic passages of play from the midfield and Jake Hall dominated the centre of the park with big tackles and accurate passes through to the forwards. But with every attempt Elmwood struggled to find the back of the net until towards the middle of the first half Swayvon made a run down the channel with the ball and slotted it past the goal keeper. It was 1-1. As the last minutes of the first half closed in Elmwood managed to find an opening in the middle and Swayvon managed to slip another one passed the goalie and take Elmwood in front. We had a game on our hands...

During half time and after a team talk with Mr Bullock, Elmwood was raring to go with some new tactics to go at the opposition with. Elmwood started the second half strong with Re'Shae surging forward with the ball, taking on every defender in his path and passing it through to Swayvon who managed to find the back of the net yet again and take Elmwood to 3-1.

With the back 3 (Theo Forrester, Riley Higgs and Wezley) holding a firm line of defence it allowed Elmwood to continue to press again and again creating many chances that struggled to find their way to the back of the net until Rhys Humphries was set up on the edge of the box and calmly placed the ball into the bottom corner. 4-1 Elmwood. We continued to show determination and resilience when the opposition became frustrated with the attacking force of Re'Shae and he once again battled through the tough year 11's of the Seeds and set the ball back to Cameron Willetts who slotted the ball between the goalkeeper's legs and into the net.

A great day for Elmwood's football team, with Mr Bullock's man of the match being awarded to Re'Shae, who may I add, was also commended by the opposition for his superb footballing skills.

Elmwood pupils really encapsulated the schools values of caring for others. Report by Mr A Bullock, PE Teacher

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE GOLD AWARD

We have some amazing news to share! As you may be aware, Investors in People have assessed us... and we are thrilled to let you know that we have achieved and invest in people resulting in gold accreditation!

I want to thank staff for their contribution and dedication because this is a great achievement for all of us. Only 17% of organisations achieve gold and at the crux of it, it means that every single person is involved in supporting each other and is doing their best to make work better.

Our 'we invest in people assessment' was a great opportunity for us to hear from staff and we've learnt a lot from what staff told us, as well as being delighted to hear that:

Leadership component:

"I can't speak highly enough about the support I've had from the leadership team both personally and professionally"

"We've made changes to make things better for the children. We've involved everyone as much as we can and have consulted with people and with the unions"

Support component:

"We're a team. Colleagues support each other and live our Values"

"We're able to access counselling and have been encouraged to exercise and try art as part of the school's approach to wellbeing"

Improving component:

"They take on board our suggestions – we're listened too; things change as a result"

"Observations and monitoring are positive. The approach helps me achieve my best – the feedback is always constructive"

But there's always something to learn – and these are already in motion and will priorities this feedback to make Elmwood even better. Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher