



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025 – NO. 211

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BIKEABILITY SCHEME



Bikeability took place on 21st & 22nd May 2025, beginning with Year 8a on Tuesday. The pupils from 8a showcased their cycling skills, impressing both the staff and course instructors who were focused to their guidance. Frankie, teaching assistant, consistently offered encouragement and support, assisting the pupils in overcoming any challenges they faced while biking. They quickly advanced to the main road, where they practiced crucial biking awareness skills that will equip them for safe biking in their community. Congratulations to 8a for successfully achieving their Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability certificates.

On Wednesday 22nd May 8b pupils maintained an uplifting spirit as they displayed their biking talents. Like their peers in 8a, they demonstrated impressive biking skills, with some pupils proving to be quite advanced. It was particularly rewarding to see pupils showing bravery and confidence in tackling new challenges, which highlighted their development in skills, confidence, and biking awareness.

Rashaun and Chey, teaching assistants, provided invaluable guidance and unwavering support, enabling the pupils to successfully earn their certificates. Congratulations to the 8b pupils for achieving both Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability certificates, and credit and praise to both 8a and 8b for having a great day. A huge thank you goes out to Frankie, Rashaun, and Chey for their unwavering support during both days; it was truly appreciated. Report by Leon Donaldson,



Walsall Inclusion Festival 2025

Pupils from groups 7c and 9a had the exciting opportunity to attend the Walsall School Inclusion Festival held at the Walsall Campus of Wolverhampton University. The event brought together pupils from across the borough to take part in a range of inclusive and engaging sports activities.

The festival was designed to promote teamwork, inclusion and skill development in a supportive and fun environment. Pupils were able to try their hands at several adapted sports, including polybat, archery, seated volleyball, and curling. For many, it was the first time experiencing some of these unique activities – and they absolutely loved it!

The highlight of the day was not just in the friendly competition, but in the spirit of togetherness and the joy of trying something new. Whether it was aiming for the target in archery or sliding curling stones across the court, everyone gave it their best shot and encouraged each other along the way.

A huge thank you to the organisers and staff at Wolverhampton University and to our staff who facilitated the experience for our pupils. Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Head

We are the champions!

Our very proud Boccia champions were thrilled to show off their winning trophy with Mr Hawkes, Assistant Head. Very well done to Ryan, Daniel and Caitlin once again on such a great achievement.



KIND DONATION

A big thank you to The Trussell Trust who very kindly supported a parent in need.

Following a conversation with the Charity from Bev Bailey, Family Support Worker, one of their volunteers kindly arrived at school on 20th May laden with bags of a variety of food items.

These were kindly delivered by one of NA Taxis to the home in question and were gratefully received.



DOING A GREAT JOB

Our transport team have two new assistants helping out with the morning and end of day transport arrangements. Julian and Bradley in Year 10 are doing a sterling job and look the part in their high vis waistcoats. The boys conduct themselves professionally and efficiently adding real value to the team. Well done both and keep up the great work.

STAFFING NEWS

With the start of a new academic year coming up, there are inevitably staff changes. At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to a few staff but will also be welcoming some new faces.

Firstly we will be saying goodbye to Mr Bowen, Curriculum Lead for English, who has been successful in gaining promotion as a Deputy Head post in another Local Authority and is currently on secondment at his new school. Mr Bowen has worked at Elmwood for 11 years in total, having initially joined the school in 2013 for 6 years before leaving and returning in 2020. We wish Mr Bowen every success in his new role and for the future.

Also moving on is Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning. Mr Whittaker also joined the school in 2013 and has not only developed the outdoor learning programme, but has also organised many events/experiences that pupils and staff have enjoyed. Mr Whittaker will be moving to a school in a neighbouring Local Authority as a science teacher and we wish him well with his new post.

Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant, will also be saying farewell at the end of term, when she moves on to a new teaching assistant post with another Local Authority. Kerry has been with the school since 2008 and over the years has built up great relationships with both pupils and staff. Again, we wish Kerry every happiness in her new post.

Dawn Canham, Secretary/Clerk to the Governors, will also be leaving at the end of term having worked at the school since it opened in January 2008. Dawn has decided to take early retirement and so will be able to enjoy spending more time with her family and friends, as well as going on holidays outside of term time! A new adventure beckons.

Congratulations to Lea Slivka Blaskova who was successful in securing the senior administrator role and will be joining the school in early July, ahead of Dawn's departure. A very warm welcome to Lea and we hope she soon settles into her new post. Interviews are due to take place on Thursday 3rd July for an admin assistant to also work in the office. A big thank you to Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager for her assistance with both of the above.

Sarah Lock, teaching assistant in nurture base, has also tendered her resignation and will be leaving at the end of term. We wish Sarah all the best for the future.

Mr Simon Wood, Year 11a teacher, is currently off absent from work due to ill health. We wish Mr Wood a speedy recovery.

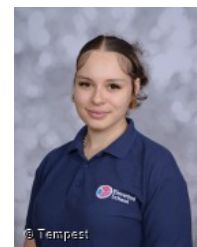
Congratulations to Leesha Holland-Mansell who was successful at interview and will be joining the team as a permanent member of staff from the 1st July as an instructor. Leesha has been working on supply at the school and has thrown herself into the role whole heartedly. She recently accompanied a number of Year 8 pupils on a residential sailing trip where she forged even greater relationships with pupils. Very well done Leesha and we know you will be a great asset to the school.

Congratulations to Sam Bignell who was also successful at interview on 19th June for a teacher position. Sam has also worked at the school on supply and quickly fitted into the Elmwood Way— another great asset to the team. Many thanks to Lisa Jones, Parent Governor, for her support with this appointment.

Finally, for now, teaching assistant interviews were held on 23rd June when three appointments were made. In September we will be welcoming Jennifer De Santo, Sharna Cartridge and Amber Wright and we hope that they enjoy their time at Elmwood and soon settle into their new posts. A big thank you to Carli Jones, parent governor, for supporting Mr Cross with the interviews.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Charlie-Anne Barfield, Apprentice Teaching Assistant



How long have you worked at Elmwood? *I have been working at Elmwood as an apprentice around ten months.*

What do you love about your job? *I love that I could inspire pupils to do what I'm currently doing and that you never know what tomorrow could bring.*

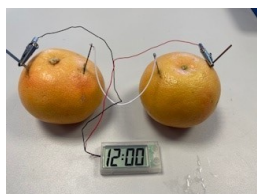
What films have you watched recently? *I have watched the new Lilo and Stitch, and the Life List which was about a girl that gets sent on a quest to complete a bucket list.*

Favourite Holiday? *My favourite holiday so far has been to Marmaris, Turkey.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *In my free time I do people's nails and occasionally me and my family go to an RAC track with our bikes.*

SUPPORT FROM TESCO

I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Cross for securing the fruit donation and to Tesco for your generous donation of fruit to our class (7a) The pupils were thrilled to see the variety of fruit donated recently, especially the rose strawberries. They enjoyed trying them and noted that while they were not as sweet as the red strawberries, they were still delicious. Our other favourite fruits include grapes, watermelon, apples and bananas. The donation helps us aim for our recommended five-a-day, promoting healthy eating habits among the pupils. Thank you once again to Tesco for their support and generosity. It is greatly appreciated by all pupils and staff. We look forward to their continued support and future donations, which makes a significant difference in encouraging healthy eating habits in our school.



We can also see the power of fruit through Science where pupils made their very own "organic" digital clock.

Tesco continues to support all aspects of our curriculum and environment through donations of display planters (arriving w/c 23rd June 2025) and money to purchase our very own swinging chair which is being used well by Year 9 pupils (when the weather is nice) and a new bench built by Mavarick Perry (caretaker) and pupils in 9c.

Report by Stacey Urmon, Teaching Assistant and Mr Cross, Headteacher



PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Julian Wilkins-McCallum in Year 10 so a big thank you to Julian for his responses.

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *Everything and transport.*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *No clue to be honest.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *Depends - home or school are different.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *Atoms in science.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *I would go to Chernobyl.*

Malvern Country Show



On Friday 13th June, seven pupils across the school had the amazing opportunity to visit the Malvern Country show for an agriculture experience, linking to their outdoor learning curriculum! There were many wonderful experiences and stalls to explore. Firstly, pupils began exploring farming equipment, many large tractors, agricultural systems and diggers! We then moved into the animal areas with pupils showing care for the animals. Within the petting area we saw sheep, pigs, alpacas, ponies, rabbits, guinea pigs and goats!

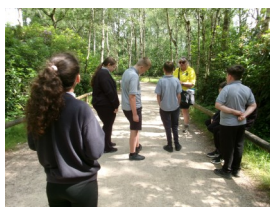


Over lunch time, we sat and watched an extreme timber sports competition, competitors were using a range of equipment to saw tree trunks and perform timber sports through the sponsor of STIHL; pupils were amazed when two members of the public also competed against each other! After lunch, pupils had the opportunity to explore a mini cave, and there was even a large ball pit! A couple of pupils showed great resilience during this activity as they had never been caving before, there was great care and teamwork shown by all pupils in helping others, definitely living into the Elmwood Values! Next, pupils spoke to Army



officers and had the opportunity to sit in army vehicles, finally pupils watched a horse parade before heading home.

Moreover, pupils were respectful to others around us asking enlightening and deep thought-provoking questions to enrich their understanding. Pupils were also eager to learn more from the different vendors! Many pupils were resilient in conquering fears today! All pupils highlighted true Elmwood values and should be very proud of themselves for their conduct and behaviour, definitely a credit to Elmwood School! Thank you to Mark Trahearn, teaching assistant, who accompanied the trip and ensured all pupils enjoyed the day out! More photos are on our school website, photo gallery page.



Year 7 Geography Trip

On Monday 16th June, Year 7 pupils were given a fantastic opportunity to participate in geographical learning outside of the classroom, and utilise skills previously learnt in lessons to different situations and activities. This trip will allow pupils to use cross curricular skills and retrieval of knowledge of ecosystems, different habitats and biomes in Africa at the Monkey Forest at Trentham Gardens!

In the morning, we began our trip with our wonderful guided learning about the species of monkeys and their original location, in North Africa, more specifically Morocco and Algeria. As we walked around the forest there were approximately 140 monkeys to be seen in their habitats. Monkeys were grooming each other, play fighting and communicating between each other. After exploring and spotting many monkeys climbing and swinging through the trees, we stopped for some delicious lunch. Pupils were communicating and chatting about the cute sights they had seen in the forest! To finish off the day pupils played on the park, which was themed to mimic primate behaviour. At each point, pupils were understanding the varieties of monkeys species and their natural behaviour and how evolution has impacted the growth of their tails.

Pupils highlighted outstanding teamwork throughout the day, they were working with staff and pupils from other year 7 groups. Moreover, pupils were respectful to our leader at the Monkey Forest, asking enlightening and deep thought-provoking questions to enrich our understanding with pupils eager to learn more! Many pupils were resilient in conquering fears today! All pupils highlighted true Elmwood values and should be very proud of themselves for their conduct and behaviour, definitely a credit to Elmwood School!



Thank you to Sonya Woollery, Teaching Assistant who accompanied the trip and ensured all pupils enjoyed the day out! Reports by Miss Rose, Humanities Teacher