



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MAY 2025 – NO. 210

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REWARD TRIPS—11.4.25



JUMPTXTREME TRIP

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent end-of-term reward trip to JumpXtreme in Tamworth. It was an incredible day filled with excitement, laughter, and memorable moments.



Activities and Equipment: The pupils had the opportunity to explore a variety of equipment and activities at Jump Xtreme. They enjoyed bouncing on the trampolines, mastering backflips and front flips, and playing energetic games of tag. The foam pit and dodgeball area were particularly popular, providing endless fun and challenges for everyone.



Pupil highlights: Harry Pickford/George Hancox/ Charlie Smyth impressed everyone with their backflip/front flip skills.

Freddie Hickenbottom, Nate Green, Archie Rist, Daniel Coney and Harlow Jones demonstrated great sportsmanship in the tag games.

Lucy Millward, Lilly-May Hughes, Cadence-Che Evans, Chloe Raymond, Daniel Christie—it was heartwarming to see them socialising and building on their friendships, making new connections and engaging with one another.



Lunch Options: After a morning of active play, the pupils were treated to a delicious lunch. They had the choice of a cooked buffet, chips and pizza, or cold sandwiches, catering to different tastes and preferences. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying their meals and recharging for more fun.

Overall, the trip to JumpXtreme was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of the term. We are proud of all the pupils for their enthusiasm and energy throughout the day. More photos are available on the photo gallery page of the school website. Report by Stacey Urmson, Teaching Assistant



Rewarded at Tamworth Snow Dome

Pupils were recently rewarded with an exhilarating experience at the Tamworth Snow Dome, where they enjoyed a fun-filled day of ice skating. The trip was organised as part of the school's initiative to promote physical activity and teamwork among pupils. Upon arrival, the pupils were greeted by the friendly Snow Dome staff who provided them with all the necessary equipment and safety instructions. The pupils, ranging from beginners to experienced skaters, took to the ice with enthusiasm, showcasing their skills and learning new techniques. The laughter and joy on the rink were contagious, making it a memorable day for everyone involved.

This trip not only provided a break from the usual classroom routine but also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among the pupils. The school looks forward to offering more such trips in the future to encourage holistic development and create lasting memories. Report by Dr Price, Curriculum Lead of Science

Game Time—Some pupils preferred to remain on site and enjoy a day of playing on their games consoles and showing off their gaming talents. A great time was had by all.

STAFFING NEWS

Following a successful interview, we are pleased to confirm that Mrs Dudley, Skills Development Coordinator, has now been appointed as Teacher of Food Technology. Many congratulations to Mrs Dudley on this much deserved promotion.

Interviews were held on 15th May for an additional Family & Multi-Agency Liaison Coordinator. We are pleased to confirm that Leon Donaldson, teaching assistant, was successful and will begin this new role in September 2025. Leon will work alongside Bev Bailey and help strengthen this department. We wish Leon every success in his new post. A big thank you also to Sarah Thornton, co-opted governor, for assisting Mr Cross with the interview process.

Finally, Rashaun Nero-Wallace who has been working on supply at the school, has secured a permanent teaching assistant post commencing in the summer term, and we send him our congratulations on joining the Elmwood team.

ATTENDANCE SUPERSTARS

Many congratulations to the following pupils who all managed to turn up every day during the spring term and earned themselves a £5 Tesco gift voucher and certificate. Keep up the great work.

Keegan Baker, Daniel Christie, Alex Clarke, Joshua Evans, Aidan Garbett, Logan Gosling, Nate Green, George Hancox, Freddie Hickenbottom, Harlow Jones, Cody Love-Knight, Dylan Paddock, Leo Powell, Charlie Smyth, John Southall, Rebecca Spendlove, Re'Shae Williams and Oscar Worley

Well done also to the following staff who also managed to avoid any bugs and make it into work every day. Staff were also presented with certificates for their achievement.

Carol Bratt, Julie Burnell, Dawn Canham, Debbie Causer, Gemma Francis, Martin Hawkes, Lynn Maritza, Mike O'Callaghan, Alan Price, Nicole Rose and Frankie Smith

Welcome Nibbles and Nigel



In April 2025, 8a were very grateful to receive two new additions to the classroom. Two gerbils called Nibbles and Nigel have become a part of our Elmwood family, they have settled in extremely well to their new surroundings and are enjoying having lots of cuddles from pupils around the school. Their next steps will be to experiment and explore in their ball around the classroom and a new wheel in their cage. Pupils in 8a have gained lots of responsibility to help care for the animals by cleaning the cage, feeding the gerbils and ensuring they are well hydrated, but most of all ensuring Nibbles and Nigel are happy every day! Report by Ms Rose, Form Teacher



FOOD WASTE

Due to changes in legislation, it is now a requirement that schools recycle food waste. Unfortunately, Walsall Council Clean & Green Services are not currently offering this service, so to adhere to this legislation, we have arranged a contract with Veolia and our new food waste bin has arrived.

All food waste produced in classrooms will be recycled through new white plastic tubs, which will be emptied daily by the caretaker. Please see flyer for information.

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



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Stacey Urmson, Teaching Assistant



How long have you worked at Elmwood? I have been employed at Elmwood since September 2nd, 2023, and have accrued nearly two years.

What do you love about your job? What I truly love about my job is the unique experience each day brings. My passion drives me to make a positive impact on our pupils' lives, both academically and emotionally, the chance to make a real difference in our pupils' lives. It's incredibly fulfilling to see them grow, overcome challenges, and thrive. The camaraderie among the staff is something special; we all pull together to support each other, creating a warm and collaborative environment that benefits our pupils. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support that our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) extends to both staff and pupils. Whether it's navigating work-related challenges or dealing with personal issues, SLT are always there to offer their guidance and assistance. Their commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment is truly commendable. They understand that our well-being is paramount, and they go above and beyond to ensure that everyone feels valued and heard. From providing professional development opportunities, to offering a listening ear during tough times, the SLT's dedication to our community is evident in everything they do. Their open-door policy encourages open communication, making it easier for us to seek help and share our concerns without hesitation.

What films have you watched recently? Mufasa: The Lion King and The Greatest Showman

Favourite Holiday? My favourite holiday destination is Turkey because there's so much to do there. From thrilling jeep safaris to exciting party boats, there's never a dull moment. My children absolutely love it, and the weather is always perfect. However, every holiday is special to me because it means spending quality time together with my family, whether we're exploring new places or simply relaxing together.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? Before starting at Elmwood, I was working in A&E for seven years. During that time, I was given the opportunity to train as a nurse through a program funded by the trust called TNA. I went through the interview process, but then received a phone call from Mr Cross offering me the job at Elmwood, which I accepted. This allows me to continue working in A&E on a bank basis, so I'm able to do both jobs that I love, making a difference not just for our pupils but also for people who need medical help. My personal motivation behind my work is the deep satisfaction I get from helping others and knowing that I can make a positive impact on their lives, whether it's in an educational setting or a medical emergency. Additionally, I am trained in adult basic life support and paediatric life support, and I hold safeguarding level 2 certifications for both adults and children. I also have a Level 5 Diploma in Health and Social Care. I am committed to using my skills and experience to contribute positively to both Elmwood and the wider community, striving to make a meaningful difference every day. In September, I have been given the opportunity to attend a three-day course on Full First Aid at Work course. I am motivated to attend this course because it will enhance my ability to provide immediate and effective care in emergency situations, further equipping me to make a positive impact both at Elmwood and in the wider community.

PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Charlie Wood in Year 11 so a big thank you to Charlie for his responses.

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *Lots of opportunities and off site experiences.*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *I want to get into teaching nursery children.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *Fishing.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *I have already completed my level 1 qualification and nursery work experience placement in Years 10 and 11.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *I want to go fishing in France.*

Elmwood School are Boccia Champions of the Black Country 2025



Elmwood School are celebrating being the Black Country Boccia Champions of 2025. The dream team of Ryan, Caitlin, and Daniel in Year 9 represented Elmwood fantastically throughout the tournament. They showed great form, going unbeaten in the group stage and topping their group winning all matches. They even had chance to relax to read their books during intervals which clearly kept them calm and focused throughout the competition.

In the semi-finals, Elmwood faced off against a strong side from The Brier School. Our team delivered a great performance, winning 5-1 and booking our place in the final with eyes firmly on the prize.



The final saw Elmwood take on Ormiston Shelfield Academy in what proved to be a nail-biting contest (mainly for Mr Hawkes I must add). With both teams demonstrating their skills and competitive spirit, the match was filled with suspense and drama. Elmwood held their nerve and edged ahead with two well played ends, securing a 2-0 victory to become Black Country Boccia Champions 2025!

Thank you to not just Ryan, Caitlin, and Daniel but to those pupils who also participated in the regional competitions this year. We look forward to many more competitions next academic year.



Fencing is coming to the PE curriculum soon!

We're excited to share some news from the PE department! Myself and Mr Murcott, PE teacher, recently took part in a fencing qualification course, and we had a fantastic time. The course was excellent. It combined skill development and tactical awareness. Its something that we thoroughly enjoyed and are very excited to bring it into lessons soon.



With plans already in place, fencing is set to become part of the PE curriculum from the next academic year. We believe fencing offers something unique, especially for those pupils who may not feel as connected to more traditional team sports. It's an inclusive activity that caters to a wide range of abilities and we hope it will capture the imagination of our pupils.

Fencing improves not only physical skills but mental skills too. It improves hand-eye coordination, balance, and agility, whilst teaching patience, respect, and sportsmanship. These are valuable life skills that can support personal growth both inside and outside of sport. Watch this space for more updates and get ready to pick up a foil. Maybe you will be the next Fencing Champion.



Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Head

THEATRE VISIT

Each day the young people read a section of a book as a class. Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman has been a key text for some year groups this year.

The book is a powerful story about friendship, loyalty and family around this topical and controversial issue. 'That's all I ever did - watch and listen. I was always a spectator, never a participant. I didn't call that living. I was alive - but that was all.' Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is a 'normal' life - friends, swimming, school, family. But his life is far from normal. Not every thirteen-year-old desperately needs a new heart because theirs doesn't work properly. Finally, one doctor offers hope. Cameron could - if he and his parents agree - take part in a radical and controversial procedure involving the transplant of a pig's heart into his human body. It's risky, and it's never been done before . . . While Cameron comes to terms with the idea, he finds the world around him is much less accepting. 'But surely everyone will understand that it's better to have a pig's heart that works than a human heart that doesn't - won't they . . .?'

A small group from Key stage 4 and Year 9 had the opportunity to watch the stage version of the book at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. The production was edgy, but connected well with the learners.

Thanks to all staff who arranged and led the trip. Report by Dr A Price

LET'S DANCE



A selection of pupils discussed the benefits they felt Dance could bring to the school's curriculum. This was following a curriculum experience within PE lessons, followed by a masterclass from local



students at Walsall College. We look forward to seeing how these skills will develop as well as how it can support pupils stress management. A massive thanks to Leesha for arranging these experiences and seeking the views of pupils.
Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher