



Dear parents, carers and readers,

As the autumn leaves begin to fall and the days grow shorter, we are excited to bring you the latest updates, highlights, and stories from our school. This month's edition is packed with important announcements, exciting events, and a few moments of celebration that showcase the incredible work happening around us.

LAST MONTH

- **Wear It Yellow Day**— Staff/pupils wore something yellow to spread awareness for children's mental health week. There was also a Mellow Yellow Mile which the pupils completed through the day.
- **Macmillan Coffee event**— Thank you to everybody who took time and attended this event to support a great cause and raise money .
- **Funday Friday**—students voted amongst themselves what activity they wanted to participate in, such as Flip Out, trip to Birmingham and many more!
- **Open Afternoon for Year 6**—potential students and their families have visited our school, met our fantastic team and saw the facilities and classrooms.
- **Art Project Day**—4 of our students participated in making one of the section of the mural that might decorate part of each school from the Matrix Trust Academy
- **Parent Advisory Forum (PAF)** established for parents to replace governors and provide parents' input in running the school.

Parents Advisory Forum (PAF)

This month saw **Elmwood's first PAF meeting** that took place on **21st October**. This is the direct forum in which *parents / carers can listen, understand and learn* about how hard the school works in supporting their children. It is also an appropriate forum to share any future improvements the school could make on our drive to excellence. All of which is shared with the Board of Trustees. We welcomed **Sam Kibble** (Director of Talent Management) from The Matrix Trust as well as **Rebecca (Clerk)** from Attingham Education and we look forward to sharing future improvements and discussion points raised by the Parents for future meetings.

We are pleased to announce that **5 of our parents** have already joined our PAF and we are excited to work together with them:

Emma Evans, Emma Grainger, Carli Jones, Lisa Jones, Scott Paddock



If you would like to be a part of this fantastic group of people - who really care about the future development of the school then please speak to your child's tutor who will be able share further information.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is **Rachel King**, Administrator/ Receptionist.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? **Since September 2025.**

What do you love about your job? **Interacting with the students, parents/carers, and staff; and helping whenever I can.**

What films have you watched recently? **My children love watching films, we have recently watched Migration, Lilo and Stitch, Lion King, and Transformers One.**

Favourite Holiday? **Glamping with my family in the Brecon Beacons on a working farm. We wake up and help feed the lambs, let out the chickens and give any left-over food to the pigs. The rest of the day we explore the caves, castle ruins, or try and find waterfalls. We finish the day with food cooked on the fire pit and counting the stars.**

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? **I don't know my left from my right. I use my Left hand to make the letter L; but still get it wrong!**

PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

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

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? **The options I chose are quite fun.**

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? **College—Public Services course and maybe the army.**

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? **I am representing the Fire Cadets as the Guard of Honour for a High Sheriff event this month.**

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? **Probably the Netherlands, Lunteren primarily.**

Work Experience

On Wednesday 1st October, we were pleased to welcome back **Ellis B., Year 11 leaver in June 2025**. Ellis is currently attending college but as part of his studies has returned to carry out work experience; he already has aspirations to become a couch.

Ellis has begun by supporting in **Year 7 and Year 9** and we look forward to seeing his development over the coming weeks.

Freebies

If any parent/carers are in need of any spare items of uniform. We have a selection of donated used uniform available from former pupils that you can have. Please contact the school office if interested.

Farewell from Adam

As we take another step towards becoming a full member of the Matrix Trust, our partnership with eServices has ended now. Adam, our IT Technician, who provided a professional IT support at Elmwood, left a message for our school:

'I was extremely grateful for my gift and surprised at how well you know me. Lego, Pokémon and cold coffee, quite probably the title of my autobiography! I wanted to thank all the staff for being patient with me whilst I was at the school. I went from being someone very green to the IT world, to being pretty knowledgeable (if I do say so myself!). I enjoyed the different challenges that Elmwood set me, rather than my other Primary Schools. But with most workplaces, it is all about the people, and the staff at Elmwood were always very welcoming, and a bit mad, which is the best combination! :) I will miss you all. I'd like to wish you all the best for the future. Thanks.'

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone in eServices who has contributed their time, effort, and expertise to support our school and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

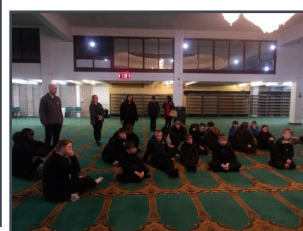
Learning activities and highlights

This term, our students had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting enrichment activities designed to broaden their learning experiences beyond the classroom. From **bulb planting**, **mushroom hunting** and **team-building** challenges to **Mosque visit**, pupils engaged in hands-on learning that sparked curiosity and built confidence. A highlight was our **Funday Friday**, which offered a fantastic chance to support children's personal development and the school curriculum.

Birmingham Central Mosque

On **Tuesday 21st October** our **Year 8 students** embarked on an educational visit to Birmingham Central Mosque—the largest mosque in Birmingham! The trip was part of our **Religious Education** curriculum, aimed at deepening students' understanding of Islam and promoting *interfaith awareness*. Upon arrival, students were warmly welcomed by the mosque's education team, who provided a guided tour of the prayer hall and facilities. The group learned about the *Five Pillars of Islam*, the significance of daily prayers, and the architectural features of the mosque. The experience offered a valuable opportunity for students to explore different perspectives and have an awareness of other people's beliefs.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff at Birmingham Central Mosque for their hospitality and to our Year 8 students for representing the school with such maturity and enthusiasm.



Mushroom champignons

As part of our outdoor learning, the children explored the surrounding woodland areas of Sutton Park, learning how to identify different types of fungi and understand their role in the ecosystem.

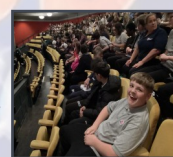
Pupils were fascinated by the variety of shapes, colours, and textures they discovered, and the experience sparked many thoughtful questions and discussions.



Blood Brothers experience

At the end of September, the whole of **Year 9** travelled to **Stoke on Trent** to watch the musical stage show of **Blood Brothers**. It was a great performance and reinforced the work being covered in

English lessons where all pupils have been reading the play. It was a long show but it kept everyone's interest.



Thanks to Mr O'Callaghan and Miss Clarke

Bulb planting

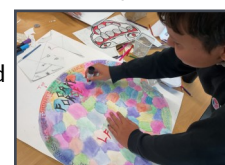
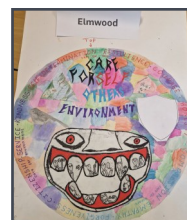
This term, students took part in a hands-on bulb planting activity as part of our seasonal outdoor learning initiative. Pupils worked together to plant a variety of **spring bulbs** around the school grounds, learning about plant life cycles, soil care, and the importance of nurturing the environment. The activity encouraged teamwork, responsibility, and a sense of pride in helping to beautify our school. We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work when the flowers bloom in the spring, adding colour and joy to our shared spaces.



Elmwood Students Shine at Trust-Wide Mural Project

This month four of our twice-exceptional (2e) pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit **Turves Green Boys School** to take part in a creative, trust-wide mural project. Accompanied by **Miss Askins** and **Frankie**, the group represented Elmwood with enthusiasm, teamwork, and artistic flair. Each school within the trust was invited to design and paint a mural reflecting their unique community and shared values. These individual artworks will later be combined into **one inspiring collection**, to be displayed across **the trust's schools**. Elmwood's mural beautifully embodied our school virtues through thoughtful design and vibrant creativity.

The pupils' behaviour was exemplary throughout the day, and their dedication and cooperation were a real credit to our school.



The activities assist in the development of 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.

Year 7

The STEM day was structured around four dynamic stations: **parachute design**, **LEGO robotics**, **programming/coding**, and **cardboard engineering**.

Firstly, pupils created a parachute to transport cargo to Mars in order to complete a mission for Tesla. Then, using LEGO kits and the app SPIKE students built and programmed robots to complete specific tasks such as navigating through MARS or picking up objects. Finally, pupils needed to create a communication tower that could be built on MARS. Pupils built many towers, and imaginative creations to support this mission. A fantastic day for pupils overall and they all showed great creativity in their creations, resilience and self-determination themselves when they found a task slightly challenging and amazing teamwork. The hands-on nature of each activity made learning tangible and fun, leaving everyone inspired for future challenges.



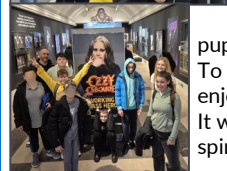
Year 8

Orienteering and puzzles—Students from 8a took part in an exciting **orienteering and puzzle-solving activity** designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and outdoor learning. The activity was a fantastic way to combine physical movement with mental stimulation, and it encouraged resilience, communication, and a sense of adventure.

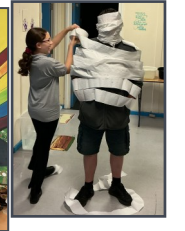


Birmingham—8b enjoyed an enriching visit to Birmingham, where they explored the city's vibrant cultural landmarks. A highlight was seeing **Ozzy the Bull**, the **Black Sabbath museum**, gaining insight into the band's history and its impact on global music.

The group paused at the **commemorative bench** dedicated to the band, reflecting on the city's pride in its creative roots. The trip was made accessible and smooth thanks to Birmingham's excellent public transport links, allowing students to experience the city safely and comfortably.



Halloween Bake Sale—8c students organised a mix of fun, laughter, and creativity! **Apple bobbing** brought out everyone's competitive side, with plenty of splashes and smiles. The **toilet roll mummy challenge** was a hilarious hit, as pupils raced to wrap their friends or staff from head to toe in record time. To sweeten the day, our cake stall was filled with delicious homemade treats, enjoyed by all and helping to raise funds for future school activities. It was a fantastic celebration that encouraged teamwork, imagination, and school spirit!



Year 9

Artistic creativity—Students of 9a took part in a creative **spray mural activity**, transforming a school wall into a vibrant celebration of **mountain landscapes and natural beauty**. Guided by a Matrix Art teacher, pupils learned about mural techniques, colour blending, and the importance of visual storytelling. This enriching experience encouraged teamwork, creativity, and pride in contributing to a lasting piece of school art that everyone can enjoy and keep developing in the future.

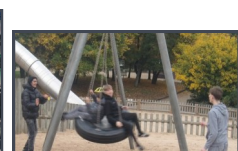


Assembly planning—9b students have taken an active role in planning and preparing a **school assembly**, showcasing their leadership, creativity, and teamwork. The process has helped build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of ownership in school life. We're proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their ideas come to life during the upcoming assembly.



Year 10

Telford experience—Our Year 10 students had a fantastic day out exploring the natural beauty of **Telford Town Park** followed by high-energy fun at **Flip Out Telford** and **Ice Rink**. The day was filled with laughter, physical activity, and shared memories—an enriching experience that balanced outdoor learning with active play and frosty ice skating.



Year 11

Our students recently took part in a dynamic and engaging day of military-style team-building activities, designed to promote discipline, resilience, and collaboration. Led by experienced instructors, pupils faced a variety of physical and strategic challenges such as obstacle courses, navigation tasks, and group problem-solving missions. These activities encouraged leadership, teamwork, and perseverance, while giving students a taste of cadet-style training in a safe and supportive environment. The experience was both empowering and enjoyable, helping students build confidence and strengthen bonds with their peers.



Important information for parents

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Macmillan Coffee Event



Thank you to all parents, carers, family member and friends of our students who attended our lovely gathering on **16th October**. We were pleasantly surprised by the high attendance, pleased by your interest in our school and seeing your children participating in the charitable event. We managed to get together again and saw some familiar faces, such as Dawn, who recently retired, and a previous student Izzy whose sister Amelia is in Year 7 now.



By turning up and buying the cakes and drinks made by our students, we have managed to raise **£257.28!** This is a fantastic result that will go to a great cause.



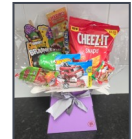
Thank you again and we are looking forward to seeing you again!

DIARY DATES

3rd November—Pupils return to school after half term break
6th November—Remembrance Day celebration at school
3rd -11th November—Poppy Sale
21st November—Elmwood Bake Off

Happy faces of our students

Few of our parents/carers donated lovely prizes for the raffle and it made our students very excited once they collected them.



Useful tips that could make a real difference in an emergency situation

Register Your Mobile for Emergency Texts

You can **register your mobile phone** to **contact emergency services** via **text message**. Text **"register"** to **999**. You'll receive a reply respond with **"yes"** to complete registration. Once registered, if you're ever **unable to speak** during an emergency, you can **text 999** with a brief **description** on the emergency your GPS location will be picked up and will be shared with emergency services.

Silent Emergency Calls (Mobile Only)

If you **call 999** and **cannot speak** or answer questions. **Press 55** or **tap the screen** when prompted. Your call will be transferred to the police, who can usually locate you. If you don't press 55 or respond, your call may be ended.

Quick Emergency Access via Lock Button

On many mobile phones, **pressing the lock button 5 times quickly** will automatically **call emergency services**. This is a useful shortcut if you need help but can't unlock your phone or dial manually.