

Welcome from the Headteacher



Welcome to our new re-styled Autumn Newsletter! I hope you enjoy catching up with our news, as much as we enjoyed taking part in all the exciting things we've been involved in this term. It has been a busy term welcoming and settling all of our wonderful new Year 7 students into Elms Bank life. They all have done so well and we are exceptionally proud of each of them making a great start to their first term! We also welcomed our new CEO, Mr James Franklin-Smith, who has certainly enjoyed seeing the amazing work all of our students have been involved in over this term. We celebrated all the great achievements and qualifications our last year's Year 11 and 14 students secured at our on line Awards Evening in November. It was so lovely to see them transitioning successfully into their new lives either at college or in the work place. Our online Christmas Concert also showcased many of our talented young people and if you didn't get chance to see it – please follow the link in the newsletter. As we get closer to Christmas, I wish you all a peaceful and restful holiday period and look forward to seeing everyone back on 5 January 2022!

Happy Holidays, Mrs Langley-Sadler



Message from our CEO

Just like our Year 7 pupils, I joined Oak Learning Partnership in September and already I have many wonderful memories of an incredible first term. I am privileged to be able to support and work with the Elms Bank community, and I have enjoyed getting to know our inspiring pupils, teachers and support staff. Elms Bank is an inspirational place full of compassion and care and staff are committed to making a difference on a daily basis. It's always a vibrant and friendly, but never more so than at this time of year. The artwork around school, not to mention the costumes and Christmas jumpers, have done a great job in spreading festive cheer. I hope this continues for you and your families despite the challenges we all continue to have, and that you have a wonderful break and a Happy Christmas.

James Franklin-Smith

Term Dates



Wednesday 5 Jan 2022 – School re-opens

Friday 11 Feb – 3.15 finish for ½ Term

Monday 21 Feb – School re-opens

Friday 1 April – 2pm finish for Easter Holidays

Tuesday 19 April – School re-opens

Basketball Tournament



On Wednesday 20 October, 10 of our Year 7 pupils headed over to Newbridge School in Oldham to represent Elms Bank in an Inclusive Basketball Tournament against a number of other school in the region. Our Year 7s, from Wood, Heathfield and Ripon classes took part in the Key Stage 3 tournament.

It was the first time these pupils have had the opportunity to represent Elms Bank and they were by far the youngest team at the tournament, nevertheless, they held their own and played 3 competitive matches against other schools and came away having done themselves and Elms Bank very proud!



Awards Evening – Thursday 25 November



The Elms Bank Awards Evening took place virtually on Thursday 25 November. Where we were able to celebrate all the achievements of our wonderful pupils over the course of the last academic year. Of course, it has been another very challenging year and we are immensely proud of what all our students have achieved.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors.

Charity Bake Sale



On Thursday 21 October, we had a Charity Bake Sale in school to raise money for supplies for refugees. The sale has been organised by our Year 8 Radcliffe students who were inspired to raise money after reading 'The boy at the back of the class' by Onjali Q. Rauf during their Reading for Pleasure sessions.

A huge thank you from Radcliffe class to you all for your support today. We made a whopping **£130** and the students were able to purchase the following items from the Choose Love Charity:

- Child's coat
- Hot food
- Warm winter clothes x2
- Emergency bundle
- Search & rescue

Thank you everyone



Free School Meals



Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - and your earned income is less than £7,400 a year, after tax and not including any benefits
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, providing you are do not get Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income is less than £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you get Working Tax Credits you will not be eligible unless you are receiving the four week 'run on' payment after stopping work.

Free school meals are also available for eligible households with:

- children at local authority maintained nurseries, providing they receive education before and after lunch
- students aged between 16 and 19 who go to Elms Bank College
- students who receive Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right

If you think your child may be eligible, please visit www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Bury SSP Panathlon Xtend



On Tuesday 16 November, we took a group of our pupils to the inaugural Bury SSP Panathlon Xtend Event at Bury Grammar School. The pupils competed against Unsworth Academy and St. Monica's across 8 different events including Harlem Hoops, Volley Bat and Boccia Blast amongst others. Our team fought hard and returned to Elms Bank victorious with gold medals, certificates and a trophy which will take pride of place in school.



Excellence for All

Duke of Edinburgh Award



Monday 13 September

Three hardy souls set out on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Their challenge was to hike from Nuttall Park in Ramsbottom to the College Hub in Prestwich, a distance of almost 20 miles! The trek was split over 3 days with 2 overnight camps at Giants Seat Campsite in Radcliffe.

So with a bit of drizzle in the air that we started out on our first day. This took us from Nuttall park, following the Irwell Sculpture trail towards Burrs before finally finishing near St.Gabriel's School in Bury. The lads carried all their provisions for the day and took it in turns with the map reading duties, they walked at a good pace (I was running to keep up at times!) and hardly made any navigational errors.

After a short bus ride up to Giants Seat campsite, attention turned to making camp. Showing great resilience and determination in what were pretty trying conditions we managed to get all the tents up before dark so could now turn out attention to the most important subject, what's for dinner!

Day 2 started off a bit damp too. After a good breakfast and having made all our own lunches, we got our lift back to our start point and started out on day 2. This took us from Bury centre, along the Radcliffe canal towpath back to the campsite. Navigation was a bit easier this day, we just had to follow the canal and turn off when we reached the Meccano bridge. Mrs Latham was doing a great job meeting us at agreed rendezvous points, just in case we had any issues. Finally we made it back to the campsite. We were expecting a visitor on Tuesday night, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Manchester Karan Lee. Karan was hugely impressed with our exploits and told us all about her role as Deputy Lord Lieutenant - basically she's there to represent the Queen!

The final day was just a short hop down the Sculpture Trail, over the M60 bouncing bridge, through Outwood Park and into Prestwich Clough, adrenaline had taken over as they were racing back to the College Hub to confirm the successful completion of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. An amazing effort by all three lads in less than favourable conditions. Well done guys!

Also, a huge thanks to Mrs Latham for her amazing support.
Mr Brown



Christmas Joy at the Unsworth Centre!

Over thirty students from Elms Bank School, ranging in age from 11 to 16, came to the centre to perform Christmas favourites such as 'Jingle Bells' and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' with some of the students performing solos. They were dressed to impress in an array of Christmas jumpers and accessories! The audience were hugely entertained and joined in with the signing and actions. This was the first public performance the choir had given since 2019 and the Friends of the Unsworth Centre were overjoyed to be hosting this special performance.

The audience were then delighted by a special performance from the Sunny Bank Ukulele Group – who played and sang festive favourites. The group practise at the Unsworth Centre on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am – 11.30am and new members are welcome – just bring along your ukulele and join in!

The audience were then treated to a delicious mince pie made by the catering students of Elms Bank College.



Excellence for All

MP's visit Elms Bank School



Back in June Christian Wakeford visited Elms Bank. Students asked some great questions about SEND funding and his impact on people with disabilities! Christian replied hoping that we can all work together to keep improving services for Bury children!



James Daly also visited Elms Bank, saying 'it was great to visit Elms Bank, what a brilliant team making sure the incredible potential of each student is unlocked'.



Old Trafford Mathematics Trip

Lawrence class enjoyed a fantastic Maths trip to Old Trafford this term. They studied estimation and actual amounts through the analysis of goals scored. They also enjoyed a fantastic tour around the stadium and spent time learning about Manchester United within the football museum. Student's behaviour was excellent; they were an asset to the school. Well done Lawrence and thank you to all of the staff for your support!

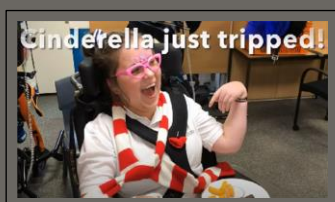
Virtual Christmas Concert



Our annual Christmas Concert took place again this year via Youtube. Over 100 students from across all pathways were involved in showcasing their talents in music, dance and drama. Including a few comedians too – watch out Peter Kay!

Performances included rock bands, jingle bell ensembles and even some very 'Revolting Children' from the musical Matilda. The concert was also an opportunity for us to showcase the students who have extra-curricular instrumental lessons through ALFA music. The evening was a huge success with viewing figures currently topping 1.2K with feedback from parents and student incredibly positive. We are all very proud!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE6dKAvzqDo>



National Fitness Day – the Pedometer Challenge

Wednesday 22 September was National Fitness Day and we celebrated this with a school wise Pedometer Challenge. Each class got one pedometer each and were tasked with completing as many steps as they could before the end of the day when the winners were announced.

The challenge created a real buzz, pupils (and staff) used all sorts of techniques to get their steps in, walking the long way to lessons, asking to go out and do laps of the field and we even had rumors of one class taking turns on the treadmill!

At the end of the day, the results came flooding in and our winners were announced:

3rd place: Nuttall and Palmer

2nd place: Heathfield

1st place: Duffy



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Part of the
Oak
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