



Welcome from the Headteacher

In September we welcomed new staff and students into the Elms Bank community, and I am happy to see them settling into the Elms Bank way of life so well.

The term started with a bang as we had our OFSTED Inspection. We are all so proud of our staff and students achieving Outstanding!!! The OFSTED process was a rigorous and robust one, where inspectors were blown away by what our staff showed them, not just on a two-day inspection, but what they do every single day. We are exceptionally passionate about our young people and the community we serve, and I am so pleased that OFSTED recognised everyone's hard work.

Our students have been involved in lots of fun activities throughout the term. The Annual Awards Evening was held in October in which we celebrated the successes of our pupils from Year 12 and leavers from Year 14. It was great to see them transitioning into their new lives as mature, responsible young people.

Pupils have taken part in the Winter Fayre and Winter coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many parents and members of the local community attending these events.

Our Winter Concert showcased the talents of some of pupils and we were thrilled to have some Hazel Wood and Unsworth Primary pupils perform with us. It was attended by over 180 friends and family - an absolute delight to watch.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to some of our staff as Mrs Taylor and Mrs Dewhurst are both retiring. Between them they have been part of the Elms Bank community for 67 years!!! We would like to thank them both for their massive contribution to school. It will not be the same! I am sure, like me - you will want to wish them well in their adventures away from Elms Bank.

Mr Herbert has recently been successful in securing a promotion within the Oak Learning Partnership, as Deputy Head Teacher. He will be supporting schools across the trust.

Ms Pemberton has also been successful in securing a new post as Head of Outreach, for Oak Learning Partnership Trust, supporting schools within the trust and across Bury. Ms Pemberton will still be based at Elms Bank but will no longer have a teaching commitment in school.

Mr Herbert and Ms Pemberton have both been integral members of the Elms Bank team for many years and will be sorely missed. We want to express our gratitude for their dedication and contribution to our school community and wish them all the best in the next stage in their careers.

Ms Dent, Assistant Head Teacher, will be taking over from Mr Herbert as named SENCO. Ms Dent will be familiar to you all. She is highly skilled and experienced, and her details can be found on our website for parents needing to contact her.

I wish you all a restful holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back on 8 January 2024.

Mrs Langley-Sadler



Term Dates 2024

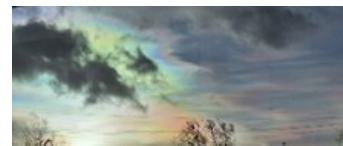
School re-opens
Monday 8 January

**Spring Term
Holiday**
Friday 16 February
Close at 3.15

Monday 26 February
School re-opens

Thursday 28 March
Close at 2pm

Monday 15 April
School re-opens



Rainbow Clouds

We were lucky to view the Rainbow Clouds on Thursday 21 December over Elms Bank. What a magical view!

Bowling Competition

Thompson Class went bowling on the 3 October going head-to-head against 9 other schools in the Bury area! Students showed incredible resilience and exceptional teamwork.

Shout out to Joseph who clinched the most strikes for the team, making us incredibly proud. Way to go Elms Bank!



Heathfield's Christmas Cheer

Heathfield class went to Tesco on Monday 4 December, they spread plenty of Christmas cheer with their amazing singing and signing.

They then helped our local community by packing groceries at the till.

We raised an incredible £74.46, we are going to choose a community cause to donate to during PSHE this week.



Well done everyone, you should be so proud!



CINDERELLA

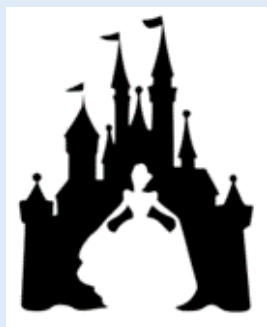
In November, our KS4 Performing Arts students hopped on the bus to Pantoland via Bolton Victoria Hall- to watch the pantomime, Cinderella. Some highlights include: The Ugly Sisters' flamboyant costumes, the larger-than-life dancing unicorns and, of course, Cinderella and Prince Charming living happily ever after.

Additionally, our students loved to boo when the ugly sisters came on stage, especially because the sisters thought that they were beautiful- as if!!!! As part of the Arts Award qualification, KS4 Performing Arts students have to watch a live performance and give their review of it; what they liked, what they didn't like and, their favourite moment of the show.

Here's what our Elms Bank critics thought of the show: "I didn't like it when the sisters ripped up Cinderella's invitation", "I enjoyed it when the ugly sisters picked on a teacher from the audience " "My favourite character was Cinderella"

The cast of Cinderella invited the audience to participate in their finale song 'Sparkle and Shine' and in true Elms Bank fashion, our pupils definitely shone as they danced, sang and signed along.

A great trip to the theatre was had by all, with learners exhibiting exemplary behaviour and engagement; truly demonstrating our Elms Bank values.



Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

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



Christmas Tree

Decoration Competition

Students were invited to create a Christmas tree decoration for use in the Hydro Pool area.

Mia and Alfie both won prizes for beautiful colouring for the competition.

They were very happy with their prizes.



Excellence for All

Winter Concert 6 December

The Arts scene continues to flourish at Elms Bank. We held a very successful Winter Concert attended by over 180 friends, family, and Oak Learning Partnership students. Over 70 students displayed their talents with great enthusiasm and confidence. Numerous soloists, rock bands, and school choirs performed during the concert. While singing will always play an important role in Elms Bank music events, some pupils played instruments such as guitar, drum kit, percussion, and keyboard. Learning an instrument involves a lot of challenges and difficulties, so this is a huge accomplishment for our students. The students of Elms Bank were joined by Unsworth Primary School's choir and students from Hazelwood. Pupils received excellent feedback after the event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.



Winter Fayre — 13 December

We welcomed parents, governors and visitors from the local community to take part in our Winter Fayre. Class teams had taken time to prepare fun packed stalls including the Chocolate Tombola, Roll a coin, Topsy Reinders and matching snowmen. We also had craft stalls, food stalls and Crompton students ran a café, serving breakfasts and hot drinks.

Students and staff worked incredibly hard to raise almost £2000 which will help provide fantastic opportunities for our students in the new year for residential and educational trips.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who supported us, all the money raised will make a big difference.



St George's Choir Performance

11 December



The Christmas festivities continued with a performance by the choir at St George's Church, Unsworth. With a lovely turnout and warm atmosphere the pupils sang their hearts out.



Excellence for All

Halloween PE Lessons



Year 7 students, along with the Thrive classes, participated in Halloween-style PE lessons. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The sight of our students in their fancy dress costumes was truly amazing!

The PE Halloween event added a touch of excitement and festivity to our school atmosphere. It was heartwarming to see our students actively engage in the activities and enjoy the festive spirit. I am delighted to announce that some of our students have achieved PE Star Awards for their outstanding performance and dedication. These awards recognize their hard work, commitment, and progress in physical education.



Congratulations to all the deserving recipients!

Awards Evening



We were delighted to hold our annual Awards Evening at Elms Bank college. The event was a great success in which we paid tribute to our brilliant students for all their achievements. They truly make us proud! College sparkled with all glitz and glamour of the occasion and our hospitality students made refreshments for our special guests.

We were thrilled that our guest speaker was Ms K Lee, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Manchester who speech was about the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many of our student obtained their Duke of Edinburgh Certificates at Elms Bank. Mrs B Garner, the Chair of the Trust, presented the awards and trophies to our students

Guests were entertained by the school choir and there was not a dry eye in sight.



Elms Bank Halloween Style



Forest School

Thompson, Palmer and Cedar have been enjoying getting outdoors, connecting with nature, learning about the environment and interacting with each other.

We've been making dens in the rain, learning how to light and maintain a fire, cooking marshmallows, playing games and crafting items from nature.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas



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Part of the
Oak Learning Partnership