Elms Bank
School & College

Newsletter

Spring Newsletter 2025

Welcome from the Headteacher

It has been another really busy term here at Elms Bank and we have been very pleased to welcome some new staff to the Elms Bank team: Daniel Arrowsmith, Dayha Bannister, Shannon Coleman, Claire Graham and Alicia Webster. We are very happy to have them on board and hope they really enjoy their careers with us.

January saw our College residential trip to Bendrigg, where our students and staff had a fantastic time doing lots of different activities including ziplining, caving and climbing! There have been lots of day trips out across both College and School, including trips to the cinema, animal parks, the Welly Cafe, Morrisons, Slattery's and more. Getting out into the community is a really important part of the curriculum offer at Elms Bank and one which the students really enjoy. Our enrichment offer continues in school with our series of Drop-Down Days, most recently with a day focused around the theme of Charity. Our students dyed tie-dye clothing to donate to charity shops and raised funds and resources for local Food Banks.

Our Choir were guests of honour at the Bury School Governors' Association annual dinner, performing for the collected school governors of all Bury schools. The audience were absolutely enthralled by their wonderful performance and there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

It has been lovely this term to welcome so many parents and carers to our parent/carer workshops on a variety of topics. Feedback has been really positive - if you would like to attend sessions in future, please check our website for details.

This week, we will be sadly saying goodbye to two members of staff. After many years, Jane Keith in our Catering Team is taking well-deserved retirement. Emma Buxton, our Science Lead teacher, will also be leaving us to progress her teaching journey in another school. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both well as they leave Elms Bank and we thank them both for their wonderful contributions to school.

We look forward to ending the term on a high with our Easter Bingo event on Thursday 3rd April. The event opens at 5.45pm with eyes down at 6pm! Please contact school if you have not got tickets but would like to attend the event.

On behalf of the staff at Elms Bank, may I wish you all an enjoyable holiday. A reminder that school re-opens to all students and staff at normal time on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025.

With warmest regards,
Mrs Parkes

Term Dates 2025

School re-opens on
Tuesday 22 April

Closed Bank Holiday
Monday 5 May

Re-opens Tuesday 6 May

Mid Term
School closed on
Friday 23 May 3.50pm

(re-opens on Monday 2 June)

Manchester City Football Academy

Some of our students recently competed in a football tournament at Manchester City Football Academy.

The trip was a huge success, with the team winning one game, drawing 2 and losing 3, demonstrating excellent teamwork throughout the trip. The pupils found the trip entertaining and enjoyed representing Elms Bank at a tournament. There was a lot of socialising on this trip also, demonstrating respect after every game by shaking hands with their opponent and creating a positive and supportive environment throughout this trip.

To conclude, the pupils on this trip represented themselves and Elms Bank with pride whilst maintaining their enjoyment of the whole day.

Excellence for All

Elms Bank College Bendrigg Residential 2025

We enjoyed a fabulous week at Bendrigg again this year from 20-24 January and despite it being January, the weather was kind to the hardy 31 students and 13 staff.

Fuelled by the fantastic food at Bendrigg, we enjoyed a range of on and off-site activities such as climbing, caving, canoeing, zip-lining, bushcraft, cycling, crate stacking, archery and hoist swing.

It was so much fun we're already booked in for our visit in 2026!

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

Drop Down Day 16 January

Our students took part in a Drop Down Day to celebrate British Values.

They explored the importance of our school values and how these align with the core principles of British values, while also learning about the significance of being part of a diverse and vibrant community. The day was filled with exciting activities, including an afternoon tea and a lively Bhangra dance workshop led by Nisha Dance. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with cultural traditions, celebrate diversity, and reflect on the shared values that unite us all.

Animal Care Farm Trip

Nurture students completing the animal care qualification have been attending The Enterprise Centre Farm.

Students engaged in a range of activities from; walking the dogs, feeding and grooming the sheep and horses. The students supported the farm staff in caring for the animals as well as growing their own confidence.

The students who attended the five sessions received a certificate from The Enterprise Centre and all the work they completed will go towards their qualification. This has enabled the students to experience what would be expected when working with horses, sheep and dogs. One student feels he has benefitted from this as he aspires to do animal care at college. I am proud of you all!

Good Citizenship

Langdale class in Y11 have been learning about being good citizens in school. They know that looking after our school, staff and pupils makes us model citizens.

To set an example, Langdale class decided to thank the people who help them around the school. They made lovely thank you cards to hand out to various staff along with a slice of cake!

Staff really appreciated this kind gesture, and they all said that they were super proud of the students! The pupils also enjoyed walking around the school thanking those who help them.

Everyone was very pleased with their card and particularly happy with receiving some cake!

Well done Langdale! You brought a smile to many people's faces!

Food Banks

Apollo class have been researching all about food banks during their Independent Living lessons. As part of their learning journey, the pupils decided to collect items to donate to the local food banks. They made posters appealing for items and put them up around school and as a result donations came pouring in!

Pupils were so pleased as well as surprised with the amount they collected in such a short time. The whole process highlighted the importance of food banks and pupils saw how much people relied on them. Porch Boxes came and collected the donations and they were very grateful and praised the pupils for their efforts.

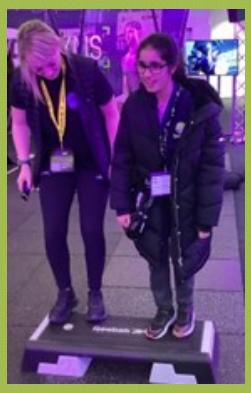
Apollo class also enjoyed carrying out a task where they were able to help others and they hope to do it again in future. Well done Apollo!

Radcliffe Market Talk at College

Marc, one of our ex pupils, visited college this term with his manager. They spoke with the college students about Marc's role at Radcliffe Market and answered some brilliant questions from our students and staff. Marc obtained this role whilst on the Supported Internship programme at Elms Bank 2 years ago and has successfully maintained this employment. Thank you so much for taking the time to visit us, it was lovely seeing you again.

Arts Week 2025
In pictures

JD UP Event



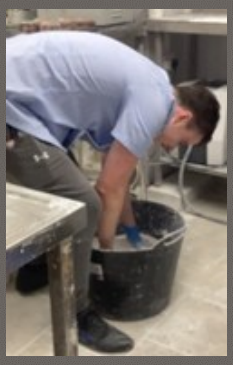
Year 9 and some of our college students were lucky enough to attend the JDUP event at Manchester Central this term. They experienced many of the different jobs available at JD, play games and meet the YouTuber Angryginge.

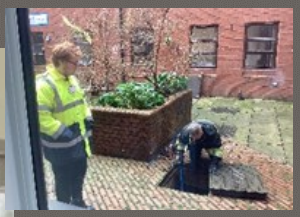
Nicola Kowalczuk, Chief People Officer at JD, said: "JD UP is about more than just exploring jobs – it's about opening doors, building confidence, and giving young people the tools to go after a career they are passionate about". We hope this is the beginning of a fantastic partnership between JD and Elms Bank.

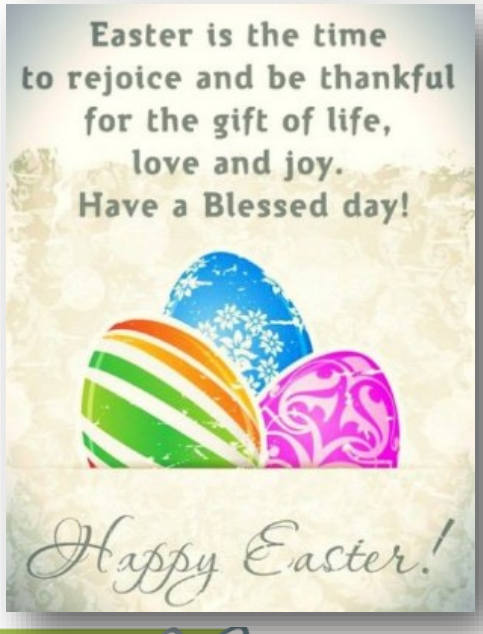
Supported Internship

The students on our Supported Internship programme have been working really hard as usual. Long term voluntary positions and also paid employment have been secured this term for some of our students already, well done guys!

A massive thank you to our placement hosts who we continue to have incredible support from; Fairfield Hospital, Wax and Beanz Cafe, Morrisons Whitefield, British Heart Foundation Furniture Store Bury, Funtime Activity Sports, Aspens Catering team and Premiere Dental Services in Bolton.
We couldn't provide the Internship programme without you.







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Part of the Oak Learning Partnership