Elms Bank School & College

# Newsletter

Summer Newsletter

## Welcome from the Acting Headteacher

As we come to the end of a vibrant and exciting summer term, filled with sunshine and memorable moments, we'd like to take an opportunity to reflect on everything that has been achieved and celebrated across our school community.

One of our proudest moments came when James Brown represented Elms Bank at Buckingham Palace as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award journey – a truly outstanding accomplishment. We also marked VE Day with a lively and heartfelt celebration, where students enjoyed music, dancing, and traditional treats while honouring the spirit of the occasion. Meanwhile, our Nurture Group had a fantastic Wild Rodeo Day, filled with hands-on animal encounters and sensory experiences.

Educational visits continued to enrich our curriculum, with exciting trips to Lytham St Annes and Blackpool Zoo, both thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff. Our college students also had the incredible opportunity to attend Wimbledon, soaking up the atmosphere of one of the world's most iconic sporting events.

We celebrated Prom in true Elms Bank style – an evening full of pride, laughter, and a few joyful tears as we said farewell to our leavers and marked the end of an important chapter. Sports Day was a brilliant showcase of energy, determination and team spirit, while our whole-school Fun Day brought smiles to everyone's faces with games, inflatables, and shared enjoyment across the community.

A true highlight of the term was our school production, "Thank You for the Music." Across four dazzling performances, our talented students took to the stage with confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing weeks of dedication and hard work. It was a joy to watch and a celebration of all that makes Elms Bank so special.

As the term draws to a close, we also say goodbye to two much-loved members of staff: Linda Worthington and Ann Latham, who are retiring after many years of exceptional service. Their care, dedication, and warmth have made a lasting difference to our school, and they will be deeply missed. We also extend our best wishes to all other staff members who are moving on – thank you for everything you have given to Elms Bank.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Williams and Miss Hirst to our Senior Leadership Team. Both have been appointed as Associate Assistant Headteachers, and we are sure you will join us in congratulating them on their new roles.

Finally, thank you to all our students, families, and staff for your continued support, commitment, and positivity throughout the academic year. We wish you a safe, restful, and happy summer break – and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Elms Bank.

Catherine Dent
Acting Headteacher

## Term Dates 2025

New School and College timings will be as follows:

- School Start Time: 8:50am
- School Finish Time: 2.55pm

School and College opens on Wednesday 3 September at 8.50am

**Mid Term**
Close Friday 24 October (2pm finish)

Opens Monday 3 November

**Christmas**
Close Friday 19 December (2pm finish)

Opens Tues 6 Jan 2026

## Examination Results Day Thursday 21 August 2025

Results are available for collection from the School Office between 9.00—10.00am

## Good Luck!

From September our communication will be through the Elms Bank Facebook page and teachers2parents texting system.

teachers2parents

Please note that the Parents App is no longer being used.

Excellence for All

## Duke of Edinburgh

We were delighted that one of our teachers, James Brown, was among the select guests invited to attend a prestigious Garden Party at Buckingham Palace this week, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DoE Award).

Hosted by members of the Royal Family, the event honoured volunteers, leaders, and educators who have gone above and beyond to support the DoE Award—one of the UK's most respected youth development programmes. The Garden Party provided an elegant setting to celebrate those who empower young people through skill-building, outdoor adventure, and community service.

Mr Brown has played a pivotal role in delivering the Award at Elms Bank, ensuring students of all abilities have access to the programme's enriching experiences. His dedication has helped transform the lives of many young people, offering them opportunities to grow in confidence, independence, and resilience.

It is a real honour to be invited to the Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is incredibly important to our students—it helps them realise their potential and feel a real sense of achievement. This recognition reflects the hard work of the whole team at Elms Bank who support our young people every day.

## 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 available for pupils at local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, including academies. They are not available for children at private or independent schools.

They 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 Specialist Arts College sixth form

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**

Y11 and Y14
Prom
19 June 2025

Excellence for All

## Out and About with Clifton Class – A Term Full of Adventures!

This term, Clifton Class students have had the opportunity to step outside the classroom and take part in a range of exciting and meaningful trips. These experiences have supported life skills, encouraged independence, and brought plenty of smiles along the way!

### Life Skills in Action – Supermarket Visits

Our trips to the local supermarket gave students a valuable chance to practise everyday skills — from writing and following shopping lists to **practising paying for items and using money.** It was fantastic to see their confidence grow with each visit.

### Time to Unwind – Park Visits

We've enjoyed visiting a variety of local parks where students could relax, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with nature. These trips provided a calm, positive environment for socialising, exercising, and taking a well-earned break from the classroom.

### A Dive into Discovery – The Sealife Centre

Our visit to the Sealife Centre was a definite highlight. **Watching the sharks and stingrays,** students were fully engaged and curious throughout the day. The hands-on learning and sensory experiences were a brilliant way to support our curriculum in a new environment.

### Celebrating Progress and Participation

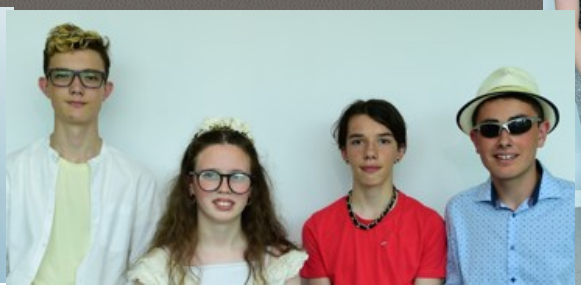
We're incredibly proud of how our students embraced each outing – showing maturity, kindness, and a real sense of teamwork. These experiences are not just enjoyable but form an important part of developing independence and life readiness.

## Thank you for the Music

Pupils at Elms Bank wowed sell-out crowds this week with their spectacular production of *Thank You for the Music*, a vibrant school show inspired by the timeless hits of ABBA. Performed to packed audiences over several nights, the show was the result of just three weeks of intense rehearsals—and a whole lot of creativity.

From toe-tapping renditions of *Mamma Mia*, *Dancing Queen*, and *Waterloo*, to heartfelt performances of *Thank You for the Music*, students lit up the stage with energy, talent, and teamwork. But the magic wasn't just in the music. Every aspect of the show—from the hand-made costumes and props to the student-designed scenery and makeup—was crafted by the pupils themselves.

Even the merchandise sold at the performances was created by the students, turning the show into a true celebration of their collective effort and artistic flair. The production was a triumph of collaboration, proving that with passion, creativity, and a little bit of ABBA sparkle, pupils can achieve something truly unforgettable.



## The Polytunnel

The polytunnel has been relocated from the sensory garden to a new spot near the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) play-ground. Moving it was no easy task—our team put in some serious hard work, digging deep to prepare sturdy footings. Every shovel of earth was a testament to their strength and determination as they laid the groundwork for this exciting new space.

This new location offers a wonderful opportunity for children to seamlessly switch between active play and engaging gardening activities, promoting a healthy balance of movement and mindfulness.

## Wimbledon - Tuesday 8 July

We had the opportunity to attended Wimbledon Day 9, which was quarter final day, on Court No1.

Over the last few weeks pupils and staff have been completing a range of fundraising activities in order to raise funds to pay for their Wimbledon Ticket & Travel to London. One of the fundraising activities was to complete a 'Walk/Cycle to Wimbledon' which consisted of pupils walking or cycling a total of 374km (232 miles) which was the distance from Elms Bank College to Wimbledon.

Pupils were up early to catch the 8:30am train to London. Arriving in London, pupils had to navigate the London Underground to get to the famous Wimbledon Arena. Once in Wimbledon pupils took to their seat to watch the quarter finals match of both male and female competitions. Throughout the day pupils showed excellent behaviour and did Elms Bank proud. After the tennis, pupils again navigated the London Underground back to London Euston were they grabbed a bite to eat before boarding the train back to Manchester.

## Blackpool Zoo Trip – 20 June 2025

The Lovely Langdale class went for a trip to Blackpool Zoo on their last day before transitioning up for College. Fun was had by all pupils and staff. The children loved looking at all the different animals. Langdale class visited the giraffes, lions, gorillas, elephants and many more.

The pupils had a fantastic time and to top the day, we all had some delicious ice-cream.

### Roblox introduces new parent controls to support families

Roblox has rolled out a new suite of parental control features, aimed at giving parents greater oversight when managing their children's accounts. These additions enable parents to block specific friends, gain deeper insights into their child's in-game activities, and adjust settings in real time to better align with their family's evolving needs.

Please go to the website for further information - Roblox introduces new parental controls to support