

Elmbank Vision, Values and Aims

At Elmbank, we aim to raise self-esteem and remove barriers to learning, to maximise potential and emphasise learning, to develop pupil's social and life skills and prepare young people to play a productive part in society and the local community, to meet the needs of all pupils and to get it right for every child.

ELMBANK VISION STATEMENT

**BY WORKING TOGETHER
WITHIN SCHOOL, WE WILL ENSURE
ALL OUR PUPILS ARE PROVIDED WITH
A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT
WHERE THEY CAN
CONTINUE TO BECOME**

**EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS
SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS
RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS
AND
CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS**

ELMBANK SCHOOL VALUES

Mutual Respect **Fairness**

Responsibility **Support**

Enjoyment

In order to improve communication with mainstream schools, and to prepare for the changes that will occur in the next few years as a result of the Dumfries Learning Town project, we are proposing to launch a Link Teacher model of working with mainstream schools from after Easter. See below for details of the proposed link teacher for each mainstream school, although this may be subject to change. In coming weeks and months, teachers from Elmbank will be in touch with the relevant mainstream schools to introduce themselves and to begin to make links with relevant mainstream staff.

Elmbank School Proposed Mainstream School Link Teachers From Monday 11th April 2016

Mr S Jewell (Headteacher)	Mr G Smith (Principal Teacher)	Mrs S Murdoch (Class Teacher)	Mr S Thornely (Class Teacher)
Maxwelltown High School Moffat Academy	Castle Douglas High School Sanquar Academy St Joseph's College Wallace Hall Academy	Dalbeattie High School Douglas Ewart High School Dumfries High School Kirkcudbright Academy Stranraer Academy	Annan Academy Dalry Secondary School Dumfries Academy Langholm Academy Lockerbie Academy

Keeping Fit!

As part of the curriculum at Elmbank, pupils take part in PE and fitness activities, led by Mr Robson.

We have an excellent partnership with Dumfries Sports Club at Nunholm, and Mr Robson takes pupils there to take part in a variety of activities including squash and table tennis. Many thanks to Dumfries Sports Club for their continuing support.

Some pupils have also been going with Mr Robson for swimming during their PE and fitness lessons.

Mr Robson has also been busy shopping for some sporting equipment that can be used on the grounds of Elmbank in the better weather.

The photo on the right shows Cairen about to hit the winning squash shot at the Dumfries Sports Club!



Elmbank School

Elmbank Update

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2016

SCHOOL DATES:

- School closes for Easter holidays at 3.25pm on Thu 24th March 2016
- School reopens at 9am on Mon 11th April 2016
- May Day holiday: Mon 2nd May 2016
- Inservice Day for staff: Fri 3rd June 2016
- School closes for Summer holidays at 1pm on Fri 1st July 2016

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Headteacher:
Mr S Jewell

Welcome to our first newsletter!

I am happy to welcome you to our first 'proper' newsletter!

Over the coming months and terms, I hope to update you on the work of the school. This newsletter is intended for parents AND partners including mainstream schools and other agencies with whom we work.

Lots of work is going on behind the scenes at Elmbank to ensure we continue to provide nurturing and supportive learning environments to allow young people to achieve.

One of my first acts as new Headteacher was to consult on the school's vision, values and aims, which you will see more about on the back page.

A large part of our work moving forward is going to be to make positive and sustained links with mainstream schools, both in the burgh of Dumfries but also across the region. We plan to roll out a Link Teacher model of working with mainstream schools after Easter.

I hope you enjoy reading about our work in this newsletter and I would welcome any contact from parents or partners about the work of the school. Please do not hesitate to contact me.



Steven Jewell,
Headteacher

Our staff



From left to right:

Mrs Diab (Clerical Assistant), Mrs Murdoch (Teacher), Mrs Marchbank (ASL Assistant), Mr Smith (Principal Teacher), Mr Thornely (Teacher), Mr Hayes (ASL Assistant), Mr Robson (ASL Assistant), Mr Jewell (Headteacher).

Not pictured:

Mrs McColm (ASL Assistant), Mr Barnes (Supply ASL Assistant)

Elmbank Art Studio

“This is now my favourite room in Elmbank because I feel calm and relaxed”

Elmbank quiet room has recently been renovated into a new Art Studio.

fun and creative environment for pupils to work on their art projects.

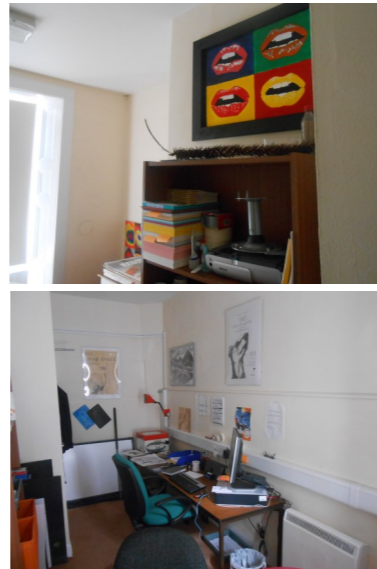
The room was empty and unused and Mr Hayes thought it would be good to create a space for pupils to use for art. He renovated the room himself including painting, cleaning and giving up his own time to complete the Art Studio.

This is now my favourite room in Elmbank because I feel calm and relaxed which helps me to concentrate on my art work.

Thanks Mr Hayes!

(by Darrel Robinson, S3)

The room before was damp and depressing, but now it is a



Elmbank’s budding chefs!

One of our favourite experiences as staff at Elmbank is to see the wonderfully creative work that is produced by our pupils. One of the areas where we see creativity regularly is in the kitchen.

enough to have a taste of the culinary delights produced by pupils!

planned and cooked by two of our pupils, Lanna and Cairen. Both of these pupils are proving to be stars in the kitchen!

All pupils who have lessons in the kitchen are collecting evidence which will be used to gain ASDAN short courses and qualifications.

Pupils also regularly produce baked goods to take home and enjoy with their family.

Most pupils who attend Elmbank have some time with Mrs Marchbank in the kitchen and sometimes staff are lucky

Below are two-course meals

Keep up the hard work folks!



Learning Outdoors

Elmbank returned to Mabie Forest outdoor classroom again last month to build on their bushcraft skills. Michael Angus and Ryan Cringean started by learning some useful knots such as the timber hitch, round turn two half hitches to set up a taught line between trees. They then secured a tarpaulin over it with more ropes to make an effective shelter using the clove and rolling hitch. Pegs were made by cutting wood with loppers and bow saws.



The pupils kept their fire-lighting skills honed by kindling the Kelly Kettle and group fire with tinder, flint and steel. They also had to think about risk assessment and what controls to put in place to make the activity as safe as possible. In Week 2 Ryan used the fire to make his own bread.



In Week 3 they made tools with the bill hook and bushcraft knife. Here Ryan is using the two man technique for safely cutting with a bow-saw. A ring is cut around the log before pieces are chopped out using the mallet and bill hook. They also split a small Ash log with the axe to make a spatula, the back was removed to create a flat 'blank' and then a template was drawn onto it using artist charcoal which they made back in the summer with the Holywood Primary children. The rest is carved with the bushcraft knife.



Thank you to Mr Thornley for this update, and for taking the pupils out to Mabie Forest along with Mr Robson. It is hoped that more pupils from Elmbank will gain these experiences next term.