



The Elthamian

LENT/SUMMER TERMS 2025

Honouring Eric Liddell in China

Pupils visit Weihsien and Tianjin, two places indelibly associated with the life and legacy of Eric Liddell

Grounds for Reflection

Head Groundsman and Estates Manager Tony Timms retires from the school after an extraordinary "innings" of 46 years

Talking Education with Barnaby Lenon CBE

Barnaby Lenon OE CBE discusses his career, and the books he's written on schools and education



Editorial

Forty-six years is a remarkable “innings” for anyone to serve at any school – but this is the accomplishment of Tony Timms, who retires this year as Estates Manager.

He joined the school in 1979 and has looked after the grounds since then; the oldest former pupils to have played on grounds he managed will now be in their sixties, while the youngest current pupils will be just eight years old – and all of them owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Timms and his team for creating the extraordinary playing surfaces on which they play (or played) a variety of winter and summer sports; as he explains in his extensive farewell interview, Mr Timms also oversees the school’s flower beds, and the famous plane tree – and you can also read about his observations about the ways in which the school (and Mottingham village) have changed since the late 1970s, and how the role of the school’s groundsman has changed in that time, too.

Tony Timms’ reflections will be of interest to both current and former pupils; former pupils especially will also enjoy our other extensive feature articles. We interview Barnaby Lenon CBE, a former pupil who has been Head of two major independent schools (Trinity School Croydon and Harrow School) and who recently stepped down as Chair of the Independent Schools Council; he is also the author of several books and

is currently Dean of Education at the University of Buckingham. There’s also an article by John Willis, whose new book mines an extensive BBC archive to tell the experiences of ordinary people during the Second World War; John attended one of the reunions we organise for former pupils (his was the “class of 1965”) and we have reports on this reunion and a very different reunion, also for OEs, which took place on the golf course. More recent Old Elthamians reflect on their career and higher education journeys while Mike O’Connell, President of Old Elthamians Rugby, summarizes the current fortunes of the team. Two other features that are specifically aimed at former pupils include “Times Past and Present”, which looks at the pages of this magazine from 1925 to 2015, while our regular historical feature looks at how the New Quad has changed over time – the recent expansion of the Science Block is just the latest alteration to a part of the school that many OE visitors to the school find unrecognisable.

Of course, the magazine also reflects on the experiences of current Elthamians – from Year 3 at the Junior School right to the Upper Sixth. The Heads of the Drama, Art and Music departments (in both the Junior and Senior schools) all enthuse about the accomplishments of pupils in these co-curricular areas, with plays including *The Comedy of Errors* staged, concerts galore and major art exhibitions rounding off the academic year. The Sports department has been busy

too, as ever; we have reports on boys’ cricket, rugby sevens and hockey, and girls’ netball and cricket, in addition to reflections on how the school’s teams have fared in athletics, tennis, ski-racing, aquatics and fencing. The school’s sportsmen and women have competed at various sports in Cardiff, Leeds, Nottingham and Dubai, and our round-up of these and other trips will take readers all over the world – not least to China, where Eric Liddell’s legacy was celebrated by a group of pupils and staff in July, and Uganda, where pupils have immersed themselves in helping out with the charity International Needs at one of the country’s rural schools. In addition we have full lists of the summer term’s prizewinners recorded for posterity at the Junior and Senior schools.

Enjoy!

ANDREW BEATTIE
Editor

Current and former parents, staff and pupils wishing to suggest an article for a future edition of this magazine should email the editor on adb@eltham-college.org.uk



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The front of the school and the plane tree (Sofia Kimchak, Year 11)

Contents

Welcome

From the Headmaster



It is with pleasure that I introduce to you this edition of the *Elthamian* magazine and its round-up of highlights from the Lent and Summer Terms of the last academic year.

I am always struck, as I review the pages of each new issue, by the extraordinary richness of life here at Eltham, and this time is no different. Triumphs abound: on the stage, on the sports field; from concert hall to expedition, within the classroom and way beyond. For me, though, this time there is one difference. Invited by our Governors to take a sabbatical in the Summer Term, for the first time in a decade, I was not personally on site to see some of these events unfold.

As these pages testify, school life continued in all its wonderful variety, and I would like to take this opportunity formally to thank Mr James Martin for so ably leading Eltham College as Acting Headmaster for the period of my sabbatical. It was knowing I could entrust the School into such safe hands that made it possible for me to take that brief step back, immersing myself once more in my own education, in France.

I returned in August to the best imaginable homecoming, celebrating with our outgoing Upper Sixth and Year 11 as they achieved exceptional A-level and GCSE results, significantly up on the previous year and continuing our recent pattern of improvement. I send my congratulations again to each one, and trust that our leavers in particular, immersed now in the next stage of their learning at universities and on apprenticeships the length and breadth of the country, will enjoy the opportunity to reminisce that this edition of the *Elthamian* brings.

Meanwhile, I could not be more delighted to be in school once more and fully focused on leading our excellent family of schools into the exciting next phase of its development. I look forward to working with you all in continuing to shape Eltham as a leading force in education and changing for better the lives of generations to come.

I wish you happy reading.



GUY SANDERSON
Headmaster

From Head of the Junior School



On behalf of all at Eltham College Junior School I am delighted to welcome you to the Lent and Summer 2025 issue of the *Elthamian* magazine.

Writing these words brings a bittersweet moment for me, personally, as this is also the last time I shall do so as the Junior School's Head. I would like to offer the warmest of welcomes to Ms Rachel Thompson, in whose very capable hands the headship of the school will rest by the time you read this and to whom the honour of penning this introduction will next time fall.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend huge thanks to Mr Richard Lock, who led the Junior School as Acting Head during the period of my maternity leave, and under whose guidance the activities of the Lent Term that are covered here took place. I know students, parents and staff alike will join me in expressing our gratitude and in wishing him continued happiness and success in his new school.

Caught as it was between the joy at becoming a parent myself and my imminent move to Blackheath Prep as Head, to me Summer Term at the Junior School was truly something to treasure. It was an honour to preside for a last time over Prize Giving; to be part of wonderful performances, to cheer on our teams and to celebrate so much student success. I look forward to continuing to share in all the school's colour and buzz – albeit from slightly further afield – as Ms Thompson and I work together as fellow Heads in the Eltham family of schools.

In the meantime, may I thank all in the Junior School community for the wonderful years I had the privilege to enjoy with you, as Deputy Head and Head.



VIKKI LLOYD
Head of Eltham College Junior School, 2020–2025

From the Chair of Governors



I am pleased to bid you a warm welcome to this latest edition of the *Elthamian*. The magazine is, as ever, a celebration of the excellence, dedication and spirit of generosity that are at the heart of the College's fine tradition and testament to the community that binds Elthamians old and new.

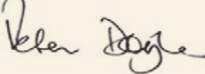
It is the sense of continuity that the publication conveys that I find particularly heartening and, indeed, somewhat humbling. For every enthusiastic new intake of students, an additional wave of Old Elthamians heads out into the world to make a difference – and so often heads back to lend support to those that follow. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the tremendous input made by our OE network into careers guidance and mentorship for existing students. Time and again, former mentees become mentors themselves, as you will read here; that Old Elthamians pack King George's Hall each year to reach out the hand of help to our Lower Sixth (see the article on page 60) is something I and my fellow Governors find a source of great encouragement and inspiration.

However, as members of our current parent body will testify, the months covered by this issue of the magazine were also a time of change and, for many, difficulty, as Government policy forced the charging of VAT on fees from January. We are acutely aware of the additional sacrifices many of our families are having to make as a consequence. Coupled with the financial pressure on independent schools that changes in National Insurance and business rate relief have wrought, there have already been many casualties in the sector.

Our schools, I am glad to tell you, remain in good shape; year groups are full; we have continued to invest in the fabric of our buildings and the facilities we offer. We are deeply grateful to those in our community who have so generously donated both to help fund these improvements and to enable us to continue our tradition of making our life-changing education available to talented children whose families could not afford it without bursary support.

I send thanks to these and to all who have contributed, in such a variety of ways, to the slice of vibrant school life contained within the pages that follow.

Best wishes,



PETER DOYLE (OE 1971)
Chair of Governors

From the President of the Old Elthamians Association



To all Old Elthamians and the Elthamian Community, a very warm welcome to this latest edition. As always, these pages seek to link the life of the School today with the memories and achievements that unite our community across the years.

We begin in the Chapel, where the stained-glass window first installed in 1994 (way back when I was in Year 10) has gained a striking new panel that celebrates the school's recent merger with Blackheath Prep School. It is a fitting reminder that our history, traditions and progress can sit comfortably side by side.

There are encouraging updates from the Development and Careers teams, showing how OEs continue to make a real difference – whether by mentoring Sixth Formers, opening doors through work placements, or contributing to bursary funds that widen access to the School.

After an extraordinary "innings" of forty-six years, Head Groundsman Tony Timms is preparing to retire. This edition's interview with Tony pays tribute to the quiet expertise that has underpinned countless matches and sports days since 1979.

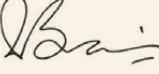
Literary achievements also feature prominently. John Willis ('65) offers fresh insight into everyday life during the Second World War, while Richard Skinner ('61) turns to children's fiction and reflects on the teachers who helped him overcome dyslexia.

We hear, too, from Barnaby Lenon ('73), who has just stepped down as Chair of the Independent Schools Council after distinguished headships at Trinity School and Harrow. His reflections on educational leadership are both candid and timely.

Elsewhere you will find reunion reports from the Classes of 1965 and 2014, a photographic look at the New Quad's changing face – including the new science-block entrance – our "Times Past and Present" feature, and the latest OE Rugby news.

I hope you enjoy this edition, and I thank you for keeping the *Elthamian* spirit very much alive.

With best wishes,



CHRIS BRAIN
President, Old Elthamians Association

From the Co-Chair, Eltham College Parents' Association



This year, with a new ECPA committee, whilst we have continued with some of the children’s favourite events in the junior school, the focus has been on trialling brand new events for parents and families in the Eltham community to enjoy.

In the Lent term we organised what has now become the annual Easter Trail in the junior school, followed by the always popular ‘Grow A Pound’ challenge. This year ‘Grow A Pound’ was run slightly differently, with years 4 and 6 growing their pounds and setting up stalls at the ‘end of challenge fair’ to sell their good/services to customers from years 3 and 5. The format worked really well and the children raised over £2,000 which they now get to decide how to spend – last year they chose to spend the monies raised on a 3D printer!

At the beginning of the Lent Term the ECPA sent out a parent questionnaire to find out what events parents would like to attend. As a result of this questionnaire, the first new event, a Cheese and Wine evening, was trialled in May for year 7 parents. The wine was sourced from the local Balfour Winery, our very own school head chef, Neil Scott, made up the most amazing cheese and charcuterie boards and professional sommelier Pierre Knap talked guests through each of the 6 delicious wines. The evening was a great success and will be opened up to a wider audience in the future so make sure to get your tickets early!

Our second brand new event was held in June, The International Family Food Festival, and what a delicious debut of an event this was. From sweet to spicy, tangy to tasty, parents from our diverse community that makes Eltham College so special, came together to serve up a feast of flavours to all the wonderful supporting families who attended the event. Not only was the event a sell-out, but keep your eyes peeled for the Eltham College International Food Festival recipe book which will hopefully follow next term!

We are busy planning many more exciting events but in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading through the pages of this edition of the *Elthamian* which showcases events and highlights of school life and the achievements of current and former pupils.

If you would like to get involved with Eltham College Parents Association or learn more about us please contact us on ecpa@eltham-college.org.uk

Very best wishes,

Stella Benavides

STELLA BENAVIDES
Joint chairs of the Parents' Association

Belinda Millar

BELINDA MILLAR

Marquee and Other Events at the end of the Summer Term

CSW

Eltham College and its grounds were bathed in sunshine as June ran towards July, and the end of the Summer Term drew close. The now traditional marquee which hosts both Senior and Junior School Prize Giving events, as well as the annual ECCO concert, started to take shape on the lawn, and so began the series of events that mark the end of the academic year.

Prize Giving

Services were held for both Junior and Senior School leavers in the final week, with the Upper Sixth also enjoying a black-tie Leavers' Ball at Beaverwood Club, Chislehurst, and the whole school gathered for a final assembly in the Sports Hall.



Prize Giving is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the passing of another successful academic year, to celebrate the achievements of our students and to give thanks to the whole school community for the enormous part they play in making Eltham College such an outstanding institution.



Senior School Prize Giving Guest of Honour Ramon Baker (OE 1999)



The Senior School was delighted to welcome Old Elthamian Ramon Baker, Head of Legal – Business Banking and International Retail and Commercial Mid-Market at NatWest, as this year’s keynote speaker.

Writing afterwards of the experience, he said: “[During] the time [I was at Eltham], I never would have imagined speaking openly about receiving a bursary ... today, I see it as a profound source of pride. That opportunity changed the trajectory of my life – opening doors, nurturing ambition, and giving me the confidence to believe that I belonged.”

In his deeply personal speech, he focused on impact, remembering how it became clear, as he progressed through the school, that Eltham was about so much more than just ➔



academic success: "It was about something deeper: values. The values of confidence, resilience, and ambition. These values don't vanish after you leave Eltham – they become part of you and grow with you so that you can help to instil them in others".

"This school changed my life. Not just through opportunity, but through the impact of people who believed in me, challenged me, and helped shape the person that I've become."

"My hope for you – all of you – is that you open yourselves to that same impact. And then, in time, that you go out into the world and have a positive impact on it and others. Because that's what real success is. That's what real impact looks like."

Junior School Prize Giving Guest of Honour Aryan Gupta (OE 2021)



Shortly after completing his Master of Engineering degree at New College, Oxford, Aryan Gupta returned to Eltham as Guest of Honour at Junior School Prize Giving. His speech traced his path from arriving as a new Year 3 in the Junior School "with a backpack that was far too big for his shoulders" and a passion for building LEGO Formula One cars, through an outstanding record in the College where he became Head Boy, a prestigious Academic Scholarship at Oxford, and on to his new adventure as he embarks on a career in markets and trading.

Aryan explained how the values learned in the Junior School – curiosity, kindness, and determination – had shaped his life and university career: "The curiosity that made him put his hand up in class...helped him tackle engineering problems and eventually led him to designing real rockets. And the willingness to try something bold – like that first school play audition – gave him the courage to take on a placement with a real Formula 1 team."

"Say yes to opportunities," he told Junior School pupils. "Say yes to new friends. Say yes to trying – and maybe failing – and trying again....Because that's where the magic happens."

We are indebted to Aryan for his inspirational speech, which delighted students, staff and parents alike.

The Acting Headmaster's Speech



James Martin, Acting Headmaster, began by thanking all students, whether prize winners or otherwise, for their efforts and contribution. His focus then turned to some of the books chosen this year as prizes, drawing from them a common thread – each one, in its own way, "exploring character" and offering "lessons on perseverance, communication, self-awareness, and the ability to overcome adversity." This he contrasted with our tendency today to look for shortcuts and "hacks" – illustrating the perils these can bring with a lesson from history – and by celebrating the "harder path" taken by those whose achievements Prize Giving celebrates: "effort over ease, persistence over passivity".

After thanking staff for their commitment, he concluded by announcing the three Headmaster's prizes for outstanding contribution to school life. For 2025, these were awarded to Seleena Travelletti (Lower School), Andrea Austin and Alex Olifierko (Middle School) and Sam Holloway (Sixth Form).

The Chair of Governors' Speech at Senior School Prize Giving



Owing to illness, the Chair of Governors, Peter Doyle, was sadly unable to join us at Prize Giving. We are enormously grateful to our Vice Chair, Sarah King, who so kindly stepped into the breach and gave Peter's speech in his stead.

The Chair's speech recognised how momentous a year this had been in the life of Eltham College: the first to see girls and boys in every single year group; the 10th anniversary of Guy Sanderson's tenure as Headmaster and the "ten years of improvement, change and development under his inspiring leadership which have made Eltham unequivocally one of London's leading schools", as underlined by a glowing ISI inspection report; and a time of change, as Blackheath Prep said farewell to Headmaster Alex Matthews, Vikki Lloyd stepped across to take his place, and we welcomed Rachel Thompson as the new Head of the Junior School. He also gave thanks on behalf of the Governors to James Martin who had led the College as Acting Headmaster during Mr Sanderson's sabbatical.

Mr Doyle's speech recognised the sacrifices many families were having to make following the imposition of VAT on fees and Governors' determination to "run a very tight ship" in the face of this and other costly government policy changes. He assured the audience, however, that

Eltham College remained financially robust and in strong shape, describing Governors' determination also not to let the difficult circumstances lessen the quality of education Eltham provides. He outlined further investment underway at all three schools over the summer and gave particular thanks to the generosity of donors whose support had been key to major projects as well as the provision of bursary support.

He celebrated this year's many successes across music, drama and sport before paying tribute to "the deep vein of humility and determination to serve others which truly makes Eltham College the place it is". As an example, he noted the ongoing impact on local children's lives of monies donated to The Personal Best Foundation following last year's Eric Liddell 100 fundraising campaign, and thanked a recent delegation from Weifang, China, who had invited Eltham students to take part in peace-themed runs to commemorate the death of Liddell in their city in 1945.

He ended with thanks to the assembled students for their "enthusiasm and determination to be [their] best; courage to try the new; willingness to support those in need and to use the talents nurtured here for the benefit of others".

Junior School Prize Giving



Ms Vikki Lloyd welcomed more than 400 parents to Junior School Prize Giving to celebrate the success of their sons and daughters in this, her final speech as the school's Head.

She spoke of the Eltham community "of staff, pupils, parents, governors and wider families"; of the way "we stand together, to support each other, lift each other up, celebrate our successes and face our challenges" – traits, she said that are at the heart of Prize Giving itself.

After speaking of developments in music and drama, the school's strong sporting tradition, the multiplicity of co-curricular opportunities and trips it offers, as well as the House system and Chapel and commitment to charity these support, Ms Lloyd gave thanks to staff and parents who contribute so much to the school. The evening ended with drinks in the Quad and very welcome ice-lollies for the children. ●



Speech Day

Senior School Prize Winners

LOWER SCHOOL FORM PRIZES

7AAP	
Top Academic	Isabelle Chen
Academic Progress	Elah Chan
Positive All Rounder	Oscar Tienzo

7KMD	
Top Academic	Elena Khoo
Academic Progress	Tom Laycock
Positive All Rounder	Helena Cao

7KAH	
Top Academic	Bea Da Cunha
Academic Progress	Florence Kirby
Positive All Rounder	Hugo Maynard

7BRH	
Top Academic	Felix Waite Perez
Academic Progress	Alfie Hall
Positive All Rounder	Lucia Montrasio

7BJK	
Top Academic	Min Ji Aw
Academic Progress	Emma Jiang
Positive All Rounder	George Lazarov

7VIW	
Top Academic	Bela Hall
Academic Progress	Ayan Raman
Positive All Rounder	Raya Fernandes

8JBA	
Top Academic	Yashvi Naik
Academic Progress	Ayah Chowdhury
Positive All Rounder	Santi Harrison

8MKC	
Top Academic	Alex Urban
Academic Progress	Henry McLaughlin-Garzon
Positive All Rounder	Avani Katukuri

8FLD	
Top Academic	Nicholas Lam
Academic Progress	James Millas
Positive All Rounder	Eliana Stewart

8AHA	
Top Academic	Josh Emmanuel
Academic Progress	Conrad Whittaker
Positive All Rounder	Isabelle Healy

8EPH	
Top Academic	Sebastien Holowaty
Academic Progress	Alexa Van Schalkwyk
Positive All Rounder	Aadi Raj

9JCA	
Top Academic	Alex Boughen
Academic Progress	Avni Verma
Positive All Rounder	Ridhi Sharma

9SHO	
Top Academic	Nathan Crossan
Academic Progress	Aurelius Ward
Positive All Rounder	Florence Billenness

9CAH	
Top Academic	Matthew Shirley
Academic Progress	Coyle Shao
Positive All Rounder	Liberty Goakes

9FNA	
Top Academic	Noah Mesquita
Academic Progress	Luke Roderick
Positive All Rounder	Nirvana Che-Lai

9EZR	
Top Academic	Barney Foster
Academic Progress	Stanley Kempster
Positive All Rounder	Vivienne-Leigh Peter

YEARS 10–11

10TBH	
Top Academic	Barney Devon
Positive All Rounder	Jonny Brayford

10SOC	
Top Academic	Darcy Irwin
Positive All Rounder	Hunter Caldwell

10RXG / 10RXJ	
Top Academic (10 RXG)	Ben McLoughlin
Positive All Rounder (10 (RXJ)	Riva Watkins

10ADM	
Top Academic	Melissa Tan
Positive All Rounder	Sarina Rikhi

10CAN	
Top Academic	Rosie Lightbourne
Positive All Rounder	Sofie Redshaw

11HDB	
Top Academic	Sofia Khimchak
Positive All Rounder	Horatio Hodge

11JAF	
Top Academic	Tilly Stafford
Positive All Rounder	Ed Thorpe

11HJH	
Top Academic	Maya Golsby
Positive All Rounder	Aiden Woodland

11JFK	
Top Academic	Samira Sharipova
Positive All Rounder	Tom Ravenscroft

11YOS	
Top Academic	Arnav Gupta
Positive All Rounder	Christine Kadiri

11LJT	
Top Academic	Roxolana Chaban
Positive All Rounder	Dylan Waters

LOWER & MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL PRIZES

SPECIAL PRIZES	
William Gardner Memorial Prize for Design & Technology (Lower School)	Harriet Allen
William Gardner Memorial Prize for Design & Technology (Middle School)	Max Leek
Frank Plant Essay Prize (Lower School)	Chloe Cully
Frank Plant Essay Prize (Middle School)	Alexia Karadaglis
Creative Writing Prize (Middle School)	Seth Jayawardhena
Paul McCartney Geology Prize (Middle School)	Aaron Crossan
Lower School Music Prize	Mila Poulton
Middle School Music Prize	Benjamin Ashcroft
Lower School Drama Prize	Ellie Caldwell
Middle School Drama Prize	Phoebe Ockendon-Rowe
Lower School Scholarship Prize	Alex Urban
Lower School Scholarship Prize	Mina Sui
Middle School Scholarship Prize	Isobel Gytetza
Mervyn Peake Prize for Wider Reading Lower School	Evelyn Xu
Mervyn Peake Prize for Wider Reading Middle School	Polina Milko
Eltham College Young Musician of the Year	Nirvana Che-Lai
Concerto Competition winner	Aaron Tian
Concerto Competition winner	Michelle Teibo
Concerto Competition winner	Phoenix Che-Lai
Theology Prize	Ellen Eburah

LOWER SIXTH PRIZES

SUBJECT	
Art Prize	Mary Sanderson
Biology Prize	Victor Poon
Chemistry Prize	Uzochukwu George-Amadi
Computer Science Prize	Jakub Zontek
Design & Technology Prize	William Tyler
Drama Prize	Sam Johnson
Economics Prize	Thomas Kay
English Prize	Phoenix Che-Lai
French Prize	Daniel Harrington-Hill
Geography Prize	Winnie Onyekwelu
German Prize	Arthur Nechyporuk
History Prize	Arthur Wallace
Mathematics Prize	Liam Foley
Further Mathematics Prize	Matthew McLoughlin
Mentoring Prize	Anyka Lin
Mentoring Prize	Victor Poon
Music Prize	Timothy Hobbs
Physics Prize	Matthew McLoughlin
Politics Prize	Utkrit Dawadi
Psychology Prize	Uzochukwu George-Amadi
Philosophy Prize	Timothy Hobbs
Spanish Prize	Sam Johnson

SENIOR PRIZES AND SPECIAL AWARDS

SCIENCES: BIOLOGY	
Martin Tayler Memorial Prize for Biology	Athena Horn
Hancock Prize for Biology	Ken Yeung
SCIENCES: CHEMISTRY	
Nicola Culshaw Prize for Chemistry	Alex Brown
Salters’ Prize for Chemistry	Dominic Rogers
SCIENCES: PHYSICS	
Harold Occomore Prize for Physics	Zach Hopley
Senior Physics Prize	Zac Devon
OTHER SCIENCE PRIZES	
Senior Computer Senior Computer Science Prize Science Prize	Hannah Brown
Senior Psychology Prize	Luke Perrett
Paul McCartney Senior Geology Prize	Evan Veitch
Porteous Bowl (General Science Award)	Athena Horn
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	
William Gardner Prize for Design & Technology	Dunming Xu
MATHEMATICS	
Nigel Pont Memorial Prize for Applied Mathematics	Alex Brown
Senior Mathematics Prize	Bishman Karnan
Pure Mathematics Prize	Anita Gordon
ENGLISH	
Antony Barnard Memorial Prize for English	Richard Wolfso
Frank Plant Essay Prize	Harry O’Hara
DRAMA	
Musical Theatre Prize	Cedric Tseng
Douglas-Fairhurst Shield for Services to School Drama	Charlie Shaw
Senior Drama Prize	Zach Hopley
Joe White Technical Theatre Prize	Toby Chick

SENIOR PRIZES AND SPECIAL AWARDS CONTINUED

DEBATING	
Michael Feeney Prize for Debating	Eleanor Roberts
Michael Reidy Rose Bowl for Debating	Miles Cobourne
MUSIC	
John Morris Prize for Music	Zac Devon
Winifred Howat Prize for Piano	Zac Devon
Brass Prize	Noah Hardy
Singing Prize	Richard Wolfson
Woodwind Prize	Fred Wu
ART	
Mervyn Peake Prize for Art	Ava Nguyen
John Pike Prize for Art	Ellen Smith
HUMANITIES	
R. J. Slader Memorial Prize for Geography	Tom Whatling
Anthony Callard Memorial Prize for a Geography project	Evan Veitch
F.W.Scott Prize for History	Wilfred Kirby
Senior History Prize	Miles Cobourne
Senior Economics Prize	Adam Cornick
Senior Politics Prize	Maddie O’Mahony
MODERN LANGUAGES	
Griffiths-Bakker Memorial Prize for Modern Languages	Fola Oluokun
Otto Maehler Prize for German	Noah Hardy
D. S. Moss Prize for French	Benedict Pagliari
Senior Spanish Prize	Ellen Smith
Mervyn Peake Prize for Wider Reading	Alice Knobel
EPQ Prize	Tobias Odukomaiya
SPORT	
Blackheath Cup	Xavier Turner
Alex Ludlow Memorial Prize	Zach Hopley
SERVICE	
David Allen Memorial Prize	Grace Burroughs
George Higgins Prize	Luke Perrett
A.W.D. James Prize	Nikesh Dhatariya
Turberville Cup	Bleddyn Mottershead
OTHER PRIZES	
The Maher Prize for Personal Courage	Deniz Colin
Chairman’s Prize	Amaia Davies
Headmaster’s Prize	Seleena Travelletti
Headmaster’s Prize	Andrea Austin
Headmaster’s Prize	Alex Olifierko
Headmaster’s Prize	Sam Holloway
Head Prefect’s Award	Hugo Jacquemier-Ward
Head Prefect’s Award	Eleanor Roberts
Chaplain’s Prize	Austin Colwell

Junior School Prize Winners

YEAR 3 PRIZES

PRIZE	NAME
Form Prize	Kiara Buch
Form Prize	Alexander Schlueter
Form Prize	Annie Chauhan
Form Prize	Douglas Shickle
Form Prize	Yino Zhao
Form Prize	Sebbie Karim
Science Prize	John Williams
Music Prize	Louise Chen
French Prize	Millie Hiramama
Computing Prize	Oliver Smith
Maths Prize	Gautam Karthikeyan
Art/ Design Technology Prize	Connie Greenhalgh
Laurie Wrafter English prize	Lottie Evans
Humanities Prize	Frankie Habib
Drama Prize	Pippa Evans
Year 3 & 4 Anne Pain Citizenship Prize	Alessa Giancola

YEAR 4 PRIZES

PRIZE	NAME
Form Prize	Eddie Cunliffe
Form Prize	Rachel Chen
Form Prize	Leo Wadley
Form Prize	Lucy Kavanagh
Form Prize	William Walker
Form Prize	Sienna Foley
Science Prize	Cicely Factor
Music Prize	Misha Izotov
French Prize	Maksymilian Murawa
Computing Prize	Adam Saiyed
Maths Prize	Ryan Teh
Art / Design Technology Prize	Shannon Saaty
English Prize	Sofia Sosnitskaia
Humanities Prize	Vivienne Gu
Drama Prize	Noah Ahmed

YEAR 5 PRIZES

PRIZE	NAME
Form Prize	Ishaani Bajaj
Form Prize	Oran McCann
Form Prize	Nina Green
Form Prize	Nate Holowaty
Form Prize	Edward Jarvis
Form Prize	Izzy Jackson
Science Prize	Elisabetta Russi
Music Prize	Aston Haydon
French Prize	Sophia Shapoval
Mandarin Prize	Jay Deeljur
Computing Prize	Aidan Ma
Art Prize	Alice Popova
Design Technology Prize	Mikhail Konstantinov
Maths Prize	Nilay Dawadi
Laurie Wrafter English Prize	Aveek Zaman
Humanities Prize	Imogen Hopkins
Drama Prize	Natalia Aryaija

YEAR 6 PRIZES

PRIZE	NAME
Form Prize	Alice Torpy
Form Prize	Raghav Pokhrel
Form Prize	Aricia Kasat
Form Prize	Meredith Mody
Form Prize	Aiyaana Sharma
Form Prize	Ollie Harrison
Music Prize	Leo Rodrigue
French Prize	Shlok Ranjiv
Mandarin Prize	Max Poon

SUBJECT AND SPECIAL PRIZES

PRIZE	NAME
Computing Prize	Sasha Patimov Heredea
Donegan Science Prize	Alisa Lugova
Sloan Art Prize	Max Urban
Design Technology Prize	Anna Delfaud
Mathematics Prize	Giri Padmanabhan
English Prize	Kitty Lindner
Drama Prize	Reuben Liu-Ktenas
Chess Prize	Yueci Li
Marlow Citizenship Prize	Eliza-Grace Agyeman Botchey
Wells Religious Education Prize	Ayaan Bhaiwala
Geography Prize	Alexander Henderson
History Prize	Austin Zhu
Prize for all round Contribution	Jeremy Ma
Prize for all round Contribution	Anabelle Leggett
Hughes Prize for Overall Progress	Benno Lindner
Hockey Prize	Emilia Brown & Thomas Isden
Swimming Prize	Niamh Lyons & Seb Garford Tull
Netball Prize	Melis Karagoz & Eliza Brown
Football Prize	Phoebe Zheng & Aaron Fang
Rugby Prize	Joshua Wadley & Danyal Motiwala
Best All Round Athlete Prize	Sophia Ng
The Charlick Prize for Cricket	Karamveer Bal
Prize for Excellent Contribution to Sport	Aria Nellicherry
Prize for Excellent Contribution to Sport	James Metherell
Community Prize	Ariana Tyagi
Lawson Memorial Prize for Personal Achievement	Yashraj Kang
The Cavendish STEAM Prize (for achievement across the S.T.E.A.M components)	Zahra Alghanim

Awards

COLOURS AWARDED IN THE LENT TERM

DEBATING

HALF COLOURS
Freddie Sawyer
Stanley Smith
Mirianna Upton

RUGBY

FULL COLOURS
Jarvis Sheehan
HALF COLOURS
Charlie Shaw

SCIENCE

ACADEMIC COLOURS
Alex Brown
Zac Devon
Zach Hopley
Athena Horn
Bleddyn Mottershead
Sienna Patel
Henry Wygas
Amy Xie

ELTHAM COLLEGE COMMUNITY AWARD

WELLBEING AND EDI
Gaby Brown
Daisy Dowling
Isabella Durham
Jess Gower
Rose Jones
Kate McGillicuddy
Mary Sanderson
Mariana Upton

NETBALL

FULL COLOURS
Tianna Popoff
Ellen Smith
Gabby Willis
HALF COLOURS
Amaia Davies
Orla Jones
Rose Jones
Sienna Patel
Maddie O’Mahony
Eleanor Roberts
Erin Schilling

HOCKEY

FULL COLOURS
Zach Hopley
Cameron MacQuarrie
HALF COLOURS
Louis Howard Bond
Hakeem Drammeh
Matthew McLoughlin
Henry Wygas
COLLEGE COLOURS
Daniel Egan
Xavier Turner
Tom Whatling

ART

FULL COLOURS
Grace Burroughs
Alice Knobel
Ava Nuygen
Ellen Smith
HALF COLOURS
James Phillips
Mary Sanderson
COLLEGE COLOURS
Haoran Zhao
Jakub Zontek

DRAMA

FULL COLOURS
Austin Colwell
Ella Hargreaves
Zach Hopley
Eddie Nicholls
HALF COLOURS
Temi Blaev
Sam Johnson
Wilf Kirby
Mary Sanderson
COLLEGE COLOURS
Elliott Corrigan

MUSIC

FULL COLOURS
George Caldwell
Phoenix Che-Lai
Seb Watt
HALF COLOURS
Ben Ashcroft
Michelle Teibo
Fred Wu
COLLEGE COLOURS
Amy Bates-Kawachi
Austin Chan
Seb Foley
Noah Hardy
Tim Hobbs
Sam Johnson
Lucy Wang
Dylan Waters
Christian White

COLOURS AWARDED IN THE SUMMER TERM

DRAMA

FULL COLOURS
Christian White
HALF COLOURS
George Caldwell
Isabella Durham
Sam Johnson
Freddie Sawyer

CRICKET

FULL COLOURS
Aaron McEntire
Edward Castle
HALF COLOURS
Matthew McLoughlin
Louis Howard-Bond
Vaibhav Garimella
Henry Lines
Edward Taylor
COLLEGE COLOURS
Harry O’Hara
Zach Hopley
Matthew Alexander

A Prize-Winning Essay

Moral Standards in Artificial Intelligence

In March Robert Welensky (Year Ten) was awarded first place in the distinguished Popper Prize Essay competition, hosted by Dulwich College. The Popper Prize is a well-regarded inter-school competition for Year 10 pupils.

This year, entrants were challenged to produce a 1500-word essay with the theme of Ethics and AI. Robert's work stood out among entries from 22 schools and was selected as the winning essay by Dr Caroline Green of the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford. Dr Green praised Robert's clarity of argument and depth of insight on a topic of growing global importance. We have published his essay below.

"The greater the freedom of a machine, the more it will need moral standards." (Rosalind Picard). Discuss this view.

Picard's statement that "The greater the freedom of a machine, the more it will need moral standards" is a significant statement in the current development of autonomous technology. The increasing independence of

artificial intelligence systems necessitates the urgent creation of ethical guidelines for their decision-making processes. This essay will explore the implications of machine autonomy, look at various ethical principles, and discuss the difficulties in integrating moral principles into AI decision-making and the effects of their actions on human society.

Moral principles cannot be disregarded when building AI systems as this can strengthen existing societal inequalities. The introduction of AI in new domains such as policing, medicine, and recruitment brings with it the potential to either bridge gaps of disparities or make existing divides worse. For instance, an AI ethical framework that isn't developed ethically will allow deep-seated biases in the training data to be used for further discrimination. One of the most publicised examples is the COMPAS algorithm that was implemented in US courts for estimating a defendant's chance of reoffending. The algorithm was notorious because while there was no proof to back this claim, it tended to discriminate against black defendants by suggesting that they had a higher chance of offending than white defendants (Angwin et al., 2016). This brings to light a disproportionate impact of uncontrollable AI and machine learning designs in sensitive environments, where even a small mistake can lead to devastating impacts.

To some, AI is just another tool which uses algorithms to determine the wisest course of action without any subjective interpretation. They suggest, we can and should rely on machines to make unbiased, metrics-based decisions. It is a fact that AI is capable of performing extensive data processing far better than a human ever could, but that should not allow us to forget the ethical issues that lie within the data itself. AI's ability to minimise human inclination to prejudice works on the premise that data fed into the systems are devoid of such traditional biases. Therefore, ethical oversight is necessary to

ensure that AI doesn't deepen existing inequalities.

Autonomous systems operating without human intervention raise urgent ethical challenges on how decisions are made. This is particularly critical for self-driving cars which automatically make life-and-death choices, for example, whether to prioritise the life of a passenger in a car over a pedestrian. In these instances, ethical principles are paramount. Can a machine decide that one individual should be sacrificed in order to save several people? A utilitarian approach would argue that one person can indeed be sacrificed for the benefit of many, but this raises difficult moral dilemmas (Lin et al., 2017).

Some people may argue that these hypothetical ethical dilemmas are too far-fetched and greatly outnumbered by the pros that come with self-sufficient technology. Many would claim that these intelligent machines would simply follow road rules and safety measures to avoid these tough calls. The problem stems from the fact that the real world is much more complicated than these safety rules, which can only be implemented in straightforward situations. There is no doubt that these kinds of engineering decisions present far reaching consequences and require unambiguous ethical systems to be in place.

Moreover, conflict arises from the ethical perspective itself. A machine that follows one ethical model may make decisions that are completely contrary to the ethical beliefs of another cultural or societal group. A deontologist perspective, for instance, will refute any action that brings any level of direct damage, irrespective of the end goal. Meanwhile, a utilitarian perspective can justify the damage if the end result is far more beneficial. The difficulty lies within developing a way to bestow machines an ethical framework that incorporates all the given unprecedented values while

retaining the flexibility to adjust to changing societal attitudes (Borenstein et al., 2017).

Shifting machine control to an autonomous system poses arguably one of the most important concerns regarding ethics and legal issues – the attribution of responsibilities. Who would accept the responsibility when something seems to have gone terribly wrong? It becomes difficult to attribute ownership of fault when any issue arises from a far more complex problem. Let's take AI-operated military drones that have the capacity to make decisions of utmost importance during warfare. If a drone commits a blatant blunder or disrespects international regulations, who should be answerable? Is it the army officials that used the device, the creators that built it, or the machine's intelligence itself?

The situation becomes even more intricate when the problem relates to allowing machines to make significant unilateral decisions, like when an autonomous drone irrationally attacks civilians. Some might argue that responsibility should always lie with human operators, as they ultimately control and monitor the machines. Others suggest that AI developers should bear responsibility for creating systems capable of causing harm. Still, there is a third perspective that argues AI systems should bear some form of responsibility, though this raises the question of whether AI can truly be held accountable like a human. This debate is significant because it touches on broader concerns about the limits of machine autonomy. If machines can make decisions but have no clear mechanism for accountability, there is a risk that ethical violations and resulting harm will go unaddressed. Clear ethical guidelines and accountability mechanisms are necessary to ensure that machines are not allowed to operate without oversight (Bryson et al., 2017).

This is especially difficult because it is hard to define and program moral →



Robert with Dr Caroline Green, of the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford

values into a machine. Machines do not understand concepts such as compassion, justice, or equity intrinsically the way a person would. Thus, embedding morality into a machine involves untangling dense ethical philosophies to determine which moral point of view to work with in the first instance. Take for example the famous “trolley problem”. Should one decide whether to divert a runaway trolley in order to save five people even if it means that doing so will kill one person? Some would argue that machines should take the most effective option with little consideration of the harm that will be inflicted on the one individual and instead focus on the greater good (utilitarianism). Does it make any difference ethically, if that one individual happens to be a child? Others would latch onto a quite different idea where logic is the focus, and the harm will not be inflicted under any circumstance no matter what the end goal is (deontology).

The primary issue here is that on an ethical level, designing the framework is easier said than done, the phrase ‘one cap fits all’ is simply far from the reality of life. Furthermore, the gap in ‘programming ethics’ goes beyond mere theoretical to include cultural differences where systems and rules may differ. Policies or codes of ethics that guide society a), do not necessarily apply in society and b), beg the question whether machines designed for a specific society should operate without moral regulation, or if a single universal moral code is necessary? It is a difficult problem that cannot be underestimated: it requires continuous debates about which values will have priority in teaching machines (Gunkel, 2018).

Ethical frameworks must be reimagined in the face of technological progress to align with shifts society undergoes over time. For instance, AI systems in healthcare are being used more and more to diagnose illnesses or direct treatments, sometimes even performing surgeries. AI is increasingly governed by ethical

standards, with growing societal concerns around data privacy, consent, and equity in healthcare becoming more prominent. Although it may be contended that the ethical framework and rules of AI should be strict and uniform, others claim they should be made to adapt with unforeseeable future changes. The ethical framework of AI in practice ultimately extends from capitalist values of monetary gain, but if we begin to value the level of care more than productivity (at least that is something to hope for), then our guidelines should reflect this. Equally, when AI machines move from minor to wide scale usage it is important we design these frameworks to accommodate this shift (Moor 2006).

In conclusion, Rosalind Picard’s statement, “The greater the freedom of a machine, the more it will need moral standards,” serves as a compelling reminder of the need for careful ethical consideration in the development of autonomous systems. As machines become increasingly capable of making independent decisions, it is imperative that we establish clear moral boundaries to ensure they align with human values and societal expectations. The challenges of defining and programming ethical standards for machines are significant, particularly in a world with diverse cultural values. However, by creating flexible, accountable, and adaptive ethical systems, we can ensure that autonomous technologies serve humanity responsibly, with due regard for fairness, justice, and human dignity. ●

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FOOTNOTES:
Artificial Intelligence (AI): A branch of computer science that focuses on creating systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as decision-making, problem-solving, and language processing.
Algorithm: A set of rules or instructions that a machine follows to perform a specific task or solve a problem. Algorithms are often the basis for decision-making in AI systems.

COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions): A risk assessment tool used in the United States criminal justice system to assess the likelihood of a defendant reoffending. It has been criticized for racial bias.
Utilitarianism: A moral theory that suggests the best action is the one that maximizes overall happiness or well-being. It often requires making trade-offs, such as sacrificing one person to save many.
Deontological Ethics: A moral philosophy that emphasizes duties and rules. It asserts that certain actions are inherently wrong, regardless of their consequences, and must not be violated.
Trolley Problem: A famous ethical thought experiment in which a person must decide whether to divert a runaway trolley to save five people, even though doing so will kill one person.
Ethical Framework: A system of principles and values used to guide decision-making in moral dilemmas. Different ethical frameworks prioritize different values (e.g., fairness, harm reduction, rights).
Autonomous Systems: Machines or devices capable of performing tasks or making decisions without direct human intervention. Autonomous systems can range from self-driving cars to military drones.

Visit of Paul Ssematimba, Headmaster of Buikwe Secondary School, our partner school in Uganda, to the school in May



Chapel and Christian Groups

JHH

The School Chaplain, Rev Houghton, reflects on the visit of Paul Ssematimba, Headmaster of Buikwe Secondary School, and on the Christianity Explored weekends away.

I write at 06:25am on Rwandair flight 712 back from Kigali to Heathrow having just finished a memorable and inspiring fortnight in Uganda (we flew from Entebbe to Kigali first in case you’re questioning my knowledge of African capitals) with 14 of our students. More will be written in another article about the trip but it was wonderful to see familiar faces and be reminded of many of the lessons that I learned and have tried to put into practice over the past year in the chaplaincy.

One of the highlights of the last two terms, and linked very directly to Uganda, was the visit of Paul

Ssematimba to London in May. Paul is the Headmaster of Buikwe Secondary School, the school we have a partnership with and in which I spent a term last year. He visited Eltham with the aim of strengthening and developing our partnership together. He spoke in chapel movingly of his experience of growing up in poverty in northern Uganda before being sponsored through secondary school and university and now working for the same for many other young Ugandans. He also observed and taught various lessons, met with many students and even managed to squeeze in a trip to the Emirates Stadium and *Les Mis!* The development of this partnership is very much a live issue and I’m always grateful for *Elthamian* readers’ emails with suggestions in response to these articles. My oft-repeated refrain (and said with more gusto now having just spent a fortnight there!) is that the partnership needs to be symbiotic in a very real sense given the emotional resilience and maturity of the teenagers in Buikwe and how much they have to teach us.

In other chaplaincy related news, we have had three weekends away since Christmas (hosted, as always, by the indefatigable Andrew Neden) including our first alumni weekend away in January and a full-to-capacity middle school weekend in March. Indeed, the latter was so full that we have now moved it to a warmer time of year in order to fit students (and maybe even some staff) into tents. It is a real honour for me to see the spiritual hunger of many of our students and the manifold ways in which God is working in their lives.

Huge thanks as always to all the staff, governors, parents and students who contribute to the Christian life of the school in myriad ways. Particular thanks to Charlie Nicholls who has modelled the Christian life so faithfully for three years here and moves off to work at Grace Church Dulwich. Thanks too to the team of chapel prefects this year who have shown real initiative in finding →

creative ways to meet the spiritual hunger of the school community – thanks to them we now have a student-led, voluntary chapel service on a Friday morning which is extremely well attended. Austin, Filip, Cedric, Ollie x 2, Bleddyn and Fola, we will miss you very much!

To close, we have spent the year working through the prophet Isaiah in chapel, and the epistle of the Philippians in ECCE. My prayer for us all as we gear up again for a new academic year is that our God will supply every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen! (Phil 4:19-20). ●



Above: Visit of Paul Ssematimba, Headmaster of Buikwe Secondary School, our partner school in Uganda, to the school in May



Charities

JAW

Mr Willatt reflects on fundraising events this year, and on the trip to Sheffield, where money was raised for the Personal Best Foundation.

Lower School Charity Club

This year, the Lower School Charity Club, coordinated by Charity Prefect Bleddyn Mottershead, has made a fantastic contribution to the school’s charitable efforts. Meeting every Friday during morning break, the club has been a hub of creativity, teamwork, and generosity.

Throughout the year, the students have organised a variety of fun and engaging events, including a talent show, an Easter egg hunt, and the ever-popular Prefects’ Den. These initiatives alone have raised over £200 for charity. ●

Twelve Hour Running Event in Sheffield

Seven of our Lower Sixth students took on an extraordinary challenge in February, participating in a twelve-hour overnight indoor running event at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Running continuously from 7pm to 7am, the team covered nearly 100 miles collectively – all in support of our charity partner, the Personal Best Foundation.

The event was a true test of endurance, determination, and teamwork. The students raised an impressive £1,800 to help the Foundation provide access to athletics coaching for underprivileged young people across the UK.

Before commencing the event, the students took the opportunity to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the English Schools’ Athletics Championships, drawing inspiration from some of the country’s top young athletes. They then enjoyed a well-earned break and fuelled up at Meadowhall Shopping Centre, making sure they were ready for the long night ahead.



The twelve hour running event in Sheffield

Whole School Fundraising

In addition to the club’s efforts, whole-school events such as own clothes days and Christmas jumper days have helped raise further funds for Eltham College’s chosen charities, the Personal Best Foundation, The Sick Children’s Trust and International Needs.

Further fundraising highlights this year included the Uganda 5to5 Challenge, held on Tuesday 25 March. This remarkable event marked Eltham’s fifth year visiting Uganda and supporting International Needs. Students ran and cycled non-stop from 5am to 5pm to raise vital funds for International Needs and The GEM Foundation – two organisations that will host Eltham College students during their visit to Uganda in July. A stationary bicycle was set up at the front steps of the school, while students ran continuous laps of the school field for twelve hours. The event raised nearly £6,000. In recognition of their efforts, the High Commissioner of Uganda visited Eltham College, joining students for lunch and discussing their upcoming trip.

The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the students involved have been truly inspiring. Their efforts not only support important causes but also help to foster a strong sense of community and compassion across the school. ●



During the challenge, each student completed 30-minute legs on rotation throughout the night, running on the indoor track at the English Institute of Sport. The camber of the track’s bends presented a unique physical challenge, placing strain on one side of the body. To help manage this, students reversed direction halfway through each leg to balance the impact and reduce the risk of injury. It was a gruelling test of stamina and resilience. After completing the twelve-hour event, they celebrated with a well-deserved McDonald’s breakfast before returning to Eltham College on Sunday.

Plans are already underway to expand the event in 2026 to include participation from more schools, making it an even bigger celebration of youth sport and charitable giving.

We are incredibly proud of our students’ efforts and the positive impact they are making through sport. ●



Visit of the High Commissioner of Uganda following the Uganda 5to5 challenge



Left: Zoolab Visit
Above: House University Challenge

Science Week

A Celebration of Curiosity and Discovery at Eltham College

Mr Marlow reviews the “packed schedule of events, talks, and competitions” that comprised this year’s Science Week.

Science Week 2025 at Eltham College was a spectacular celebration of innovation, exploration, and hands-on learning. With a packed schedule of events, talks, and competitions, students across all year groups were immersed in the wonders of science in its many forms.

Creatures, Crystals, and Chemistry

Year 7 students were thrilled by the annual visit from Zoolab, where they encountered an array of fascinating creatures – from giant insects and snails to snakes. Seeing these animals up close sparked curiosity and excitement, making biology come alive in the most literal sense.

Meanwhile, the Sykes-Farmer Society hosted a captivating lecture by Boden Kelly (Lower Sixth) on piezoelectricity – the phenomenon where certain materials generate an electric charge under mechanical stress. His talk

explored real-world applications, such as the quartz crystals in digital watches, and left the audience buzzing with questions.

Mind Over Matter and the Science of Sport

Miss Parkin’s insightful lecture on sports psychology, “Perfectionism: Conquering the Fear of Failure,” explored how mindset can influence performance. Her talk encouraged students to embrace challenges and learn from setbacks – lessons that resonate far beyond the sports field.

In Central Hall, the Sports Science team demonstrated how athletic performance is measured. Students tested their vertical jump height, power output on the infamous Wattbike, and compared their results to elite athletes. The experience was both humbling and inspiring, showing the science behind peak physical performance.

Competitions and Challenges Galore

Science Week wouldn’t be complete without a bit of friendly rivalry. The Maths Department’s Pi Recital Competition saw students reciting hundreds of digits of Pi from memory – an impressive feat of concentration and recall.

House competitions added to the excitement, with challenges ranging from building boats to carry the most weight, to creating fruit-powered batteries. In the House Families Survival Challenge, students role-played landing on a deserted planet and debated which items were essential for survival.

The Middle School and Sixth Form House University Challenge was a highlight, complete with a bespoke buzzer system. The Sixth Form final was a nail-biter: Livingstone led for most of the match, only to be overtaken by Moffat on the final question. The competition showcased students’ broad scientific knowledge, with questions spanning astronomy, geology, evolution, psychology, and the core sciences.

Dr Andrew Szydlo, whose lecture, “As If By Magic,” was a dazzling display of chemical transformations



Miss Parkin’s insightful lecture on sports psychology, “Perfectionism Conquering the Fear of Failure,” explored how mindset can influence performance

A Magical Finale

The week concluded with a show-stopping performance by guest speaker Dr Andrew Szydlo. His lecture, “As If By Magic,” was a dazzling display of chemical transformations. From colourful reactions and explosive hydrogen balloons to the poetic extinguishing of candles with invisible carbon dioxide, Dr Szydlo captivated audiences of all ages.

One of the most memorable moments was his demonstration with liquid nitrogen. As he poured it over a balloon, it shrank dramatically – only to reinflate moments later as it warmed. He ended the show by tossing a beaker of liquid nitrogen into the air, creating a cloud of fog that enveloped him in a scene straight out of science fiction.

Dr Szydlo also gifted Lower Sixth students a collection of his essays on landmark experiments in chemistry, inspiring the next generation of scientific thinkers.

In Summary

Science Week 2025 was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of staff, the enthusiasm of students, and the support of the wider Eltham College community. It was a week of discovery, creativity, and inspiration, reminding us all of the power and wonder of science. ●

Showcases and Student Research

Central Hall also hosted a vibrant exhibition of student work, including Design and Technology projects and the Five Sciences Challenge. The Sykes-Farmer Society launched its 2025 magazine, featuring student-written articles on topics ranging from aircraft wing physics and testosterone trends to the Diels-Alder reaction and Vitamin D synthesis. Society presidents Alex Brown and Amy Xie were on hand to answer questions and distribute copies.

The New Stained Glass Window

As many readers will know, the central panel of the stained glass window in the school’s chapel was installed back in 1992 to celebrate the school’s 150th anniversary. In April two new side panels were installed, to mark the school’s transition to full co-education. We asked one of the stained glass artists, Pippa Stacey, who collaborated with Wendy Stone, another glass artist, to tell us about the process of making the window, and the school’s chaplain, Jim Houghton, to explain what the imagery shows.

Rev Houghton (School Chaplain):

Someone said to me recently that, in their view, stained glass windows were reserved for images of war, or saccharine vignettes of Biblical characters. I’m sure that both of these have their place in other establishments, but I’m glad that at Eltham our stained-glass windows do something different. They frame the foundation and ethos of the school within the enduringly relevant narrative of the Christian faith. The new windows continue this tradition in admirable style and I am grateful to the Headmaster for his initiative and insight and to the design work from Pippa Stacey and Wendy Stone for putting it together in a way that continues this tradition so well.



The new windows incorporate various images portraying the school’s past and present, whether in buildings (the Junior School, Blackheath Prep and the previous site in Blackheath now make an appearance) or co-curricular activities (notice the variety of instruments and sports being played) or arboreal references.

More subtle perhaps, but foundational to the whole, are the symbols of the Christian faith that symbolically surround and suffuse the school’s everyday activities. Note the cross in the top left, through which light streams every morning into the chapel (a light, perhaps, of servant leadership, sacrificial love and redemptive security), or the empty tomb in the bottom right. Or again, either side of the house names on the scroll at the bottom, note the alpha and omega. This is a window that proclaims Christ before us and Christ behind us, Christ beneath us and Christ above us, so that we, the current inhabitants of Eltham College, may (to pick up on the theme of St Patrick) arise today!



Pippa Stacey and Wendy Stone (Glass Artists):

Early in 2023, I received an unexpected and thrilling invitation: glass artist Hazel Parry asked if I’d be interested in designing a new stained glass window for Eltham College Chapel as she had now retired from stained glass. Towering at three metres, the arched window included a central panel she had created back in 1992 – a breathtaking work, the main feature being the ancient plane tree that sits just outside the chapel in the college grounds. This window would now need to be complemented, not overshadowed. It was clear that this would be a monumental undertaking.

I enlisted the help of my friend and stained glass colleague Wendy Stone. She is experienced in larger stained glass projects and most notably worked on the recent Big Ben restoration. I began sketching concepts, and after several drafts and revisions, the final design was approved by headmaster Guy Sanderson. Scaling the figures up to fit the chapel’s towering window was another challenge. My initial method – photocopying sections and taping them together on the living room floor – was quickly upgraded when my son, a graphic designer, offered

to digitize and map the figures properly. A welcome relief and an unexpected family collaboration!

Wendy and I realised that our design and individual style would be different to that of Hazel’s so we decided that the best way to tie in our window would be to try and match the new glass with Hazel’s as close as we could. Wendy and I spent many hours on site, she perched high on scaffolding, holding up samples to the light, while I judged from below: “Yes!” “No!” “Maybe!”

Finding the right mouth-blown glass was a joy and a trial. We delighted in visiting English Antique Glass in Oxford, selecting beautiful handmade glass, and Pearsons Glass in Liverpool with their extensive range of textures as well as colours. Salvaged Victorian Muranese glass was perfect for catching the light and representing cherry blossom shining out against the darker background.

We created mock-ups using large glass easels and endless amounts of Blu Tack to hold the cut glass pieces in place to visualize the full composition. The real challenge

was achieving visual continuity with Hazel’s panel—both in colour and flow. We were fortunate to receive help from my Adult Learning Lewisham students, who brought enthusiasm and curiosity as they assisted and learned traditional leadwork techniques. We worked hard to include details for the viewer to spot and to be precise with our colour and shape choices. Each stage in the process is done by hand; glass painting, cutting and leading together. Many of the painted glass pieces were kiln fired several times in order to achieve the right tone and colour.

Finally, on April 1, 2025, the new panels were ready to be installed by a local glazing team. Wendy’s meticulous measurements ensured everything fitted perfectly. As the sun streamed through the glass that morning, the chapel came alive with colour, texture, and light. The finished window stands proudly alongside Hazel Parry’s centrepiece, a contemporary companion that honours the past while celebrating a progressive future. It was a labour of love, made possible by friends, family, and a community of makers. We hope it will shine on for generations of students to come. ●



Languages in the Junior School

BNM

Mrs Martin, Head of Languages at the Junior School, reflects on a busy two terms – from pupils savouring Taiwanese bubble tea to the residential trip to France.

The Languages department in the Junior School has been full of colour and noise and activity during the past two terms, with the Lunar New Year kicking off celebrations and activities for Years 5 and 6 on 28th January. An assembly of festive performances delighted children with a Lion Dance and the results of a Lunar New Year quiz which staff had taken in the run up to this special date. Mrs Pan organised three workshops to celebrate Chinese culture during the week which included Napkin dancing, exploring Chinese musical instruments and Calligraphy; they were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Bubble Tea craze has swept across the world in recent years and in March, Year 6 had the opportunity to experience this first hand. They were able to make, mix and taste their own

creation, led by a representative from Formosa, Taiwan's leading supplier of Bubble Tea to the UK.

The month of May sees Year 6 gear up each year for their residential trip to France, organised by Mr Wearmouth. This is the culmination of four years of hard work for students and they were able to put their French skills to full effect over the five day trip. With excursions to the battlefields and Nausicaá aquarium enjoyed by all, a workshop at Le Sucès Berckois on Tuesday morning provided students with the opportunity to listen to the owner explain the shop's history, followed by a tasting and some retail therapy, all conducted in French. Our gloriously sunny day at Bagatelle theme park afforded pupils some independence as they enjoyed rides, snacks and interactions in French,



building their confidence with the language in a real-life setting. The Year 6 curriculum focuses on language skills needed for shopping and ordering food, and Le Touquet market did not disappoint on this front! In small groups, children interacted with locals to buy souvenirs, gifts and snacks and their French language skills shone through, unlike the weather which did not dampen their enthusiasm! A final stop, en route to Calais, at the Boulangerie to make their own croissants and it was off home to recount their adventures.

In addition to many fantastic Junior School events at the end of the Summer Term, Madame Martin's Year 3 Petit Déjeuner always brings out the sunshine and smiles in June. The children put their learning into practice as they each order what is often multiple plates of pastries accompanied by cups of *chocolat chaud* to enjoy, picnic-style with friends on the field. With a *boules* tournament to enjoy as well, it's a true taste of France to reward their hard work at the end of their busy first year at ECJS. ●



Rolling for Glory

Inside the Eltham College Tabletop Gaming Club

STM

Tucked away in a corner of campus where imagination reigns and dice clatter like thunder, the Eltham College Tabletop Gaming Club has become a thriving hub for strategic minds and fantasy enthusiasts alike.

Whether you're navigating the perilous realms of Talisman, delving into the solo dungeons of Four Against Darkness, or clashing on the gridiron in the brutal fantasy sport of Blood Bowl, there's a place for everyone at the table.

At the heart of the club is the Eltham College Blood Bowl Club (ECBC), a dedicated group of students who have taken their passion for this tactical, turn-based game to new heights. Blood Bowl, a game that blends fantasy football with fierce strategy, has become the club's flagship activity. The ECBC runs its own internal league, which is ➔

currently in the playoff stage. Last year’s champion, Etienne Valbella, is once again leading the table, with Elliot Beech hot on his heels. Meanwhile, the Development League, designed to welcome newcomers to the game, is heating up with Paddy Lynam and Isaac Thompson battling for the top spot.

The club isn’t just about competition; it’s about community. Students from all year groups come together to play, learn, and share their love of tabletop gaming. Sixth Formers regularly mentor younger players, helping them grasp the rules and develop their strategic thinking. It’s a space where friendships are forged over dice rolls and tactical decisions.

This year, the ECBC proudly represented Eltham College at two major tournaments: one in Finsbury Park and the prestigious NAFC in Nottingham over the bank holiday weekend (see right).

The Tabletop Gaming Club is more than just a pastime; it’s a training ground for critical thinking, sportsmanship, and creativity. As the ECBC League nears its thrilling conclusion and new players continue to join the fold, the club remains a vibrant home for all things dice-driven and fantastical.



From Mottingham to Nottingham with the Eltham College Bloodbowl Team

Eleven of the school’s top Bloodbowlers attended the annual NAFC Blood Bowl Championship held at Nottingham University over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. This is the world’s largest annual Blood Bowl tournament, attracting hundreds of coaches from all over the world providing stiff opposition in a two-day long contest over six rounds to see who will be the champion.

Considering most opponents were adults with many years (and in some cases, decades) of experience behind them, the Eltham College students did incredibly well. Blood Bowl is an incredibly challenging strategy game, played on a board with squares, that can best be described as a fusion of chess, American Football, and Warhammer. Congratulations go out to the whole ECBC squad, who collectively did very well, but special mention must go to Elliot Beech and George Caldwell, both of whom finished in the top half of the table, no mean feat given the calibre of the opposition. A hugely popular club in school, the Eltham College league is now entering the playoffs to determine who will win the title this year. ●



The Sykes-Farmer Science Society

A Hub for Scientific Curiosity

STM



The Sykes-Farmer Science Society has had a remarkable year, continuing to showcase the very best of Sixth Form science at Eltham College. This prestigious society invites students to present lectures on scientific topics of their choice, often exploring areas well beyond the curriculum.

Each session mirrors a professional scientific symposium: a student-led talk followed by a lively Q&A, where peers and teachers delve into the finer details. It’s a space where curiosity thrives, and cross-disciplinary thinking is celebrated.

The year began with a fascinating presentation by Alice Knobel on polarisers, devices that filter light. Her live demonstration, where two polarisers blocked all light until a third was added to make the setup transparent, left the audience stunned.

This year’s presidents, Alex Brown (offered a place to read Chemistry at Oxford) and Amy Xie (offered a place to read Biomedical Science at Imperial College London), delivered standout talks. Alex explored mechanically interlocked molecules, which are physically linked rather than chemically bonded. Amy’s talk on chromosomal diseases like Edward’s

and Turner’s syndromes extended classroom biology into real-world genetics.

Other topics included aircraft wing design, cyclotrons, and abiogenesis. A special mention goes to Athena Horn, who became the first student to complete three Sykes-Farmer presentations, earning a reputation as the school’s expert on venomous creatures. To mark Science Week, the society published a magazine featuring highlights from the year’s talks: an impressive showcase of student-led science.

The Sykes-Farmer Society is more than a club; it’s a challenge, a community, and a celebration of scientific thinking. For those ready to explore beyond the textbook and engage with science at a deeper level, this is the place to be. ●





“Speaking For Tomorrow”

Science Challenge at Imperial College

STM

Eltham College proudly participated in the 2025 “Speaking For Tomorrow: The Health and Earth Challenge” at Imperial College London, a national competition tackling real-world environmental and health issues. Judged by entrepreneurs and Imperial professors, the event challenged students to think critically and creatively.

Round 1: Clean Air Solutions

Students proposed innovative ideas to achieve clean air, including genetically engineered microorganisms and large-scale purification structures. Each concept was grounded in scientific research and real-world feasibility.

Round 2: Tackling Plastic Pollution

With limited preparation time of only two hours, teams analysed the global impact of plastic waste and presented practical, creative solutions. Their ability to balance science with strategy impressed the judges.

Finalists Among the Best

One Eltham team, consisting of Isabella Baena-Pinkey, Vaibhav Garimella and George Caldwell, advanced to the final round, joining just three other UK teams. Their final task: propose how startups and SMEs can address the intersection of climate change and public health.

Judging Panel

The final was judged by Dr Sunday Popo-Ola, Dr Shiladitya Ghosh, and Saheela Mohammed, who praised the students’ clarity, confidence, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Beyond the Competition

Students described the experience as “invaluable,” gaining real-world insight and feedback from experts. The event blended debate, pitching, and academic discussion, pushing students beyond the classroom.

Looking Ahead

Eltham College looks forward to next year’s challenge, continuing its commitment to developing future-ready thinkers through supra-curricular enrichment. ●



HONOURING ERIC LIDDELL IN WEIHSIEN, CHINA

JAW

To mark the 80th anniversary of the passing of Olympic gold medallist and Eltham College alumnus Eric Liddell, a group of seven Sixth Form students were invited to China in July for a remarkable cultural and commemorative visit.



The trip was hosted by the Weih sien West Civilians Concentration Camp Site Museum and the Weifang Municipal Authorities, in recognition of Liddell’s legacy and his time interned at the Weih sien camp during World War II.

The students attended a moving ceremony at the museum to launch the “Mountains and Seas in Stride, Peaceward We Glide” relay run. This event, part of the United Nations’ International Cities of Peace initiative, brought together local runners and the Eltham College group in a symbolic act of unity, peace, and international friendship. Over the following days, the students joined Weifang runners in stages of the relay, embodying the spirit of harmony that Liddell himself championed.

The group also travelled to Tianjin, where they visited the city’s renowned Sports Museum and attended a special ceremony at the athletics track that Eric Liddell helped to build. Standing on the very ground where Liddell once trained and inspired others, the students reflected on his enduring legacy as both an athlete and humanitarian.

Beyond the running, the students immersed themselves in Chinese culture through a variety of enriching activities. They took part in traditional kite-making and kung fu workshops, gaining hands-on experience of local heritage. The trip also included a visit to one of the world’s most iconic landmarks – the Great Wall of China – offering a powerful moment of reflection and connection to history.

This unforgettable journey not only honoured the memory of Eric Liddell but also deepened the students’ understanding of global citizenship, resilience, and the enduring power of peace. ●





Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

SPT

Students at the Gold Qualifier in July *L–R*: Daniel Arrenberg, Edward Taylor, Cathal Nee, Samuel Riley, Ollie Akosa, Eddie Jenner



Gold Qualifier Expedition in the Lake District

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme continues to go from strength to strength at Eltham College, with a record-breaking 180 students enrolling this year onto the internationally recognised scheme.

An impressive 109 Year 9 students – representing the vast majority of the year group – embarked on their Bronze Award journey. Meanwhile, 51 Year 10 students took on the Silver Award, and 20 ambitious Lower Sixth students rose to the challenge of the prestigious Gold Award.

While the practice and qualifying expeditions offer valuable lessons in teamwork and resilience, much of the Award is achieved quietly behind the scenes. Students dedicate time to their Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections – many continuing with existing hobbies like fencing, music, or sports, while others take on new challenges such as creating a book on a favourite topic or conducting wildlife surveys.

We were delighted to continue our partnership with the ABC Book Club, which began last year when our Bronze Award students helped plan, organise, and host the charity's fifth birthday celebration at the College. This year, both Bronze and Silver participants supported another ABC Book Club event, held during Field Days in late June for local primary school children.

A particular highlight of this year has been the outstanding engagement of our Gold Award students with the residential section of the Award. This component requires a five-day, four-night shared experience away from home – and our students truly embraced the challenge. From volunteering with elephant care and research in South Africa, to sailing along the south coast of England, mastering paddle and canoe skills, and taking on a rock-climbing course in the Peak District, their sense of adventure and commitment has been truly inspiring. I hope their example encourages the next cohort of Gold Award participants to aim high and explore similarly exciting opportunities.

Gold award ceremony at Buckingham Palace Gardens in May. *L–R*: Orin Vitalis, Wilfred Kirby, Matthew Pownhall



One of the greatest incentives for completing the Gold Award is the honour of attending the official celebration at Buckingham Palace Gardens. I had the pleasure of attending the event in May, accompanying former Elthamians who had completed their Awards – a truly memorable and proud moment.

It's always inspiring to witness the diverse and meaningful ways in which students engage with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We look forward to welcoming a new wave of participants when enrolment opens again in September 2025. ●

Caroline Roche

CMR

Mrs Roche retired this year after thirteen years as the school librarian. We asked her to reflect on her time here.

I have spent a very enjoyable thirteen years at Eltham, helping to shape and expand the reading choices of the students.



When I came to Eltham in 2012 the library needed considerable renovation. Thanks to a generous donation from the PTA I got some bright furniture and some statement shelves, and I set about renewing the very old book stock. Today I leave with around 90% of the fiction renewed, and about 50% of the non-fiction. I have built up the online resources – there weren't any – and thus we now have an excellent eBook fiction and non-fiction library, access to university level journals (JStor), access to lectures from top academics (Massolit), and much more. I recommend any student from year 10 upwards to have a look at the specialist videos on Massolit (available through the online library pages on Sharepoint) if they want to deepen their knowledge on any subject.

I leave knowing that the students at Eltham have enough fiction to support their reading, whatever genre they enjoy, up to date information books to satisfy their curiosity, and the best online resources to help smooth the transition to the top universities.

During my time at Eltham, I have also been Chair of the National CILIP School Libraries Group, and am currently serving my second term as Chair. The group supports and advocates for school librarians all over the country. The photo is of me on the terrace at Westminster at a function for libraries last October 2024. I would like to thank the Headmaster for being very generous in supporting my time working and advocating for school libraries on a national level. ●

The Scholarship Programme

ERC

Mr Cavendish reviews the trips, lectures and activities offered in this year’s programme.

Student Leadership

I am very keen that there are opportunities for students to hear from their peers and to be able to present lectures themselves. Year 7 enjoyed a talk from Lower Sixth Student Tim Hobbs about the Silk Road and the website article about that talk was then written by one of our Year 7 students. Three groups of Year 8 Scholars delivered presentations to pupils in Year 5 on various philosophical themes. Members of the Year 9 Athenaeum delivered some excellent presentations on the Yorkshire trip to inspire Year 8 to sign up for next year’s trip, and members of the Year 10 Athenaeum enjoyed lectures from two Sixth Formers who participated in the National Articulation competition.

Beyond the classroom

In March members of the Year 9 Athenaeum enjoyed a trip to West Yorkshire: staying in a Youth Hostel in Malham, the group visited the Royal Armouries in Leeds, went underground at the National Coal Mining Museum, and visited the Utopian Village of Saltaire, finishing with the Brontë Parsonage and a walk on the moors. During the Summer term, the Year 7 students had a twilight session led by School Archivist Mr Andrew Beattie.

Using maps of the time, they explored the school and the surrounding area at various points of the 19th century and then explored the geography of the school site today.

Year 8 visited Parliament and the Supreme Court, and Year 10 visited the Maritime Museum and the Prince Philip Maritime Collections centre where they explored how exhibits are transported, catalogued, and restored. The students also thought about the function of Museums: what is in them and why?

Pupils in Year 11 also visited the Midlands (see article at the end of this section).

Context: Students need context to fully understand many of the ideas they encounter. For this reason, in preparation for the trip to Yorkshire, Year 9 enjoyed a talk about the Brontës, as well as a session on sculpture involving plenty of practical tasks and an overview of the economic geography of West Yorkshire. Year 8 had a session on Democracy prior to their trip to Parliament whilst Year 11 enjoyed a talk on Cryptography which prepared them for their visit to Bletchley Park. Mr Beattie’s lecture “Rebuilding the Red Wall” allowed

Year 10 to understand the context and significance of the 2024 General Election.

Members of Year 7 spent two sessions considering the nature of change and how and why it happens, while the theme of “commemoration” helped to develop students’ awareness of the constant dialogue between the present and the past; Mr Beattie’s talks on Richard III seem to involve discussion of a new theory about the Princes in the Tower every year!

Extension: The programme is designed to challenge students. In the area of philosophy, Year 8 students considered the nature of a game, Year 9 discussed the soul and Year 10 tackled Quantum Mechanics. The Chemistry undertaken by Year 11 went well beyond GCSE, and the work on Consciousness undertaken by the Sixth Form Symposium was designed to be really challenging and thought provoking. In terms of extending breadth of knowledge, Year 7 considered the broader principles behind design and the mind-boggling Maths of playing cards. Year 8 thought about death rituals and also had a session on linguistics, whilst Year 11 pondered the purpose of dreaming. The Symposium has also been

examining the nature of Truth, which has involved Language, Politics, Philosophy, Logic, Law, Theology and more.

I am delighted with the involvement and successes of our Sixth Formers in the Erasmus competition run by Dulwich College – while one of our Year 10 students won the Popper Prize (see p.17 for his essay).

Focus: In the many science-based sessions led by Dr Nicholls, the students have had the opportunity to hear about recent developments in gene editing. For Year 10 the session on probability highlighted the application of Mathematics to real world situations. Sessions on Stoicism, Rhetoric and the Historiography of the New Testament also provided excellent opportunities to dig into topics more deeply. There has not been as much focus on Modernism in this year’s programme, however Mr Cavendish has delivered lectures on the subject at other London Schools and Year 9 enjoyed a “special” on Kafka.

Links: EM Forster had as the motto of his novel *Howard’s End* the phrase “Only Connect” and that is in many ways the key philosophy behind the whole programme. These connections

could be in the form of method, or there could be links to a place, or indeed to a common challenge across disciplines such as judging the value of evidence.

The exploration of Truth brings multiple disciplines together in one topic and invites the questioning approach. Processes like Change are much in evidence, whether through re-evaluations of Empire (Year 10) or studying the failure of the retailer Comet (Year 7). The questioning approach of an enquiring mind, brought to bear on such a variety of areas, is the most valid connection of all.

Expertise: It is a privilege for me to be able to access the expertise not only of external speakers, such as Philosopher David Edmonds who we heard at Dulwich, but also of my colleagues who give their time so generously to the programme. I would like to thank Mr Beattie and Dr Nicholls who works closely with me on shaping the course, for their multiple contributions over the year. ●

Anya McNair reflects on the trips offers this year as part of the programme
The academic scholars at Eltham enjoyed participating in three separate day trips, to Bletchley Park, Cambridge and Oxford. The students that visited Bletchley engaged in difficult code breaking problems while learning about ciphers and machines developed during World War II, such as the Lorenz machine. They were also able to visit different areas of the site, each with great historical relevance. At Cambridge, students visited the Fitzwilliam and Zoology museum, discovering breathtaking paintings and incredible creatures, as well as seeing the colleges and activities in the area. The final trip to Oxford was fortunately on an open day, allowing the students to attend taster lectures and tour departments, gaining insightful knowledge to university life and education. The students also saw the many beautiful colleges in the area, and the Ashmolean museum, which contained hundreds of fascinating artefacts. The three trips furthered the students’ knowledge of both history and their future opportunities.
ANYA MCNAIR (YR 11)



1 Year Eight pupils in Parliament Square, on their visit to Westminster
2 Year 11 Scholars at Cambridge
3 Year 11 Scholars at the Bletchley Park wartime code-breaking centre
4 Year 7 Lecture on the Silk Road, delivered by Tim Hobbs, Lower Sixth

Working with International Needs in

Uganda

Sixth Former Alex Armstrong-Denby reflects on the school's trip to Uganda, which saw pupils working with schools and charitable foundations as well as visiting some of the country's fabulous scenery.



After a year of fundraising, a team of fourteen students led by Reverend Houghton and Miss Hampton-Armstrong embarked upon the much-anticipated trip to Uganda. Following a relaxing evening on the first night (which was definitely needed after more than fourteen hours of travel) we drove to the district of Buikwe the following morning, where the school Eltham is partnered with, through the charity partner International Needs, is located. While at the school compound we got stuck in with everything from performing a song in church to participating in a day of lessons to teaching British history to primary school pupils (including the cultural icons that are Sweet Caroline and "heads-down-thumbs-up"). While we did take some time away from the compound during this time, to visit the source of the Nile, we spent a great deal of time making true friends and even had several football matches with some local students. We were also able to visit the amazing projects that the money raised by the Eltham College community has made possible, when spending time with the team involved in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects.

One of the most rewarding experiences was when we had the opportunity to meet the sponsored children from both the Junior and Senior schools, getting to meet the

people that we have heard of for all of our Eltham lives and again seeing the major positive effects that Eltham is having for the local community. Following an unforgettable goodbye ceremony from Buikwe Senior Secondary School (and karaoke-filled party), we embarked on a lengthy drive to the Murchison Falls National Park, named after the world's most powerful waterfall. Here we took some time to enjoy Uganda's natural beauty by going on both land and boat safaris. We also enjoyed an action-packed rugby match between Zimbabwe and Kenya with some friends we had made along the way.

Before heading back to England, we capped off the trip with a few days with the GEM foundation, a charity that provides 24/7 care for severely disabled and orphaned children while fighting against the stigma around disabilities in the country. We all helped out wherever we could, with jobs including feeding the children and washing windows. While this part of the trip was the most emotionally challenging, it was definitely my favourite experience as I was pushed outside of my comfort zone while being able to genuinely help. When reflecting upon the trip I am so grateful for the opportunity to have visited and seen the benefits of Eltham's long-term commitment in Uganda. ●

ALEX ARMSTRONG-DENBY
(LOWER SIXTH)



Results

CSW

After weeks of anticipation, August brought joy to the Quad as Upper Sixth and Year 11 students assembled to receive their A-level and GCSE results.

As always, the first “results Thursday” belonged to our A-level candidates. After queuing nervously outside Reception and a brief address from Mrs Scott-Blount, they collected their envelopes from Central Hall and came through to the Quad to open them under glorious early morning sunshine.

For the vast majority, the news was all they could have hoped for, as results across the board surpassed last year’s already excellent outcomes. More than one-third (34%) of all grades were A* – more than four percentage points up against 2024. The three highest available grades (A*, A and B) remained firmly the norm for Eltham students, with 92% of all results falling within this band, also up on last year. Excellent performances across a wide range of subjects saw one in every three Eltham College students achieve a clean sweep of all A* and A grades, with 17 students gaining at least A*A*A*.

As always, there were of course disappointments – many of which have since been turned around by re-marks. Ultimately, no fewer than 83% of students gained places at their first-choice university, a further 10% at their second, with the remainder securing good alternative offers. Top university destinations this year were Durham, Exeter, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Oxford and Cambridge, Imperial, Newcastle, Bristol and Leeds. Many congratulations to all.

A week later, and it was the turn of our Year 11 students to open their envelopes. The cohort had already made history before they even joined the queue outside, as the first co-educational year group to take



GCSEs, and as they revealed their results they continued in the same vein. An exceptional 71% of grades were 9-8 (previously A*) – up four percentage points against 2024 and 12 points against 2023, Eltham’s highest tally outside Covid times.

By far the most common grade for the year group, extraordinarily, was grade 9, representing 45% of all results. Up over five percentage points against 2024 and almost 13 points against 2023, this marked a second year of significant improvement. Almost nine in every ten results (88%) were grades 9, 8 or 7 (A*/A equivalent).

Standout individual performances include Tilly Stafford, Arnav Gupta and Roxolana Chaban, who each achieved an extraordinary clean sweep of eleven grade 9s, while across the school, no fewer than 26 brought home results which included at least nine at this highest grade. Very well done to all. ●

Trips Round-Up

You can read about the trips associated with Christianity Explored groups, the Scholarship programme, sport and art in those relevant sections.

Geography Trip to Norway

Twenty-nine Geographers from Years Ten to the Upper Sixth spent five days in Norway over the first week of the Easter Holidays. Gifted with unseasonably mild and dry weather and travelling outside of the Norwegian Fjords region’s cruise ship tourism season, we were able to really get the best from our itinerary. On day one the group landed at Bergen airport and travelled inland to our accommodation in Kinsarvik; we made a short stop at Steindalsfossen waterfall and a visit to the Hardangerfjord Aquacentre to learn about the high-tech salmon farming industry in Norway. In Kinsarvik we were treated with spectacular views of Hardangerfjord, Norway’s second biggest fjord, and wonderfully welcoming hosts. Staying in a holiday park, the students shared cabins and had to prepare their own breakfast and lunch each day. On the second day the group spent a whole day snowshoeing on the Folgefonna glacier at altitudes of 1,100m and enjoying perfect visibility, followed by a full day of sightseeing the following day visiting Vohringsfossen waterfall, the Norwegian Nature Centre, the Hardangervidda plateau at 1,800m, and enjoying some free time in the small town of Eidfjord. The trip highlight was certainly our final full day spent climbing the via ferrata climbing steps on the side of a fjord in Tyssedal, with three out of the four groups reaching the top! Following this adrenaline rush, the group checked in to the rather luxurious Hotel Zander K in Bergen for our final evening. A leisurely historical tour of Bergen city centre on Friday morning concluded our visit where we learned about migration to the city from Germany and Denmark for trade. ●

JPC



Sixth Form Geography Trip to Bristol

Over a packed three days, twenty-one A-Level Geographers investigated the causes and impacts of flooding, as well as contrasting examples of urban and rural change, across the South West. The first stop was Bristol, where students investigated urban regeneration projects at Wapping Wharf and Canon’s Marsh, followed by an educational private boat tour around the harbour and a lively quiz night at a local restaurant. On Saturday, the group visited Tewkesbury to study flooding and its management, taking part in a practical workshop led by the local people. Back in Bristol, pupils explored Bedminster’s bottom-up, community-led regeneration and interviewed a local businesswoman about the area’s transformation. The final day took the group to Chipping Norton, where a treasure hunt helped students investigate the impacts of rural change. The trip was both educational and enjoyable, with plenty of valuable case study material gathered! ●

MKC



Spanish Trip to Valencia

The Spanish Department’s trip to Valencia this year was a resounding success. Alongside an immersive language course at Taronja School, we stayed with local Spanish families, deepening both our linguistic skills and cultural understanding. Not only that, we explored the city and its traditions: tasting authentic Valencian paella, boating in the Albufera park, cycling to the beach via the stunning Arts and Sciences Museum, and visiting Valencia’s Cathedral. A highlight was a language exchange with a local school, which broadened our perspectives. I thoroughly recommend this trip to younger students – a truly wonderful experience, and one that will not easily be forgotten. Huge thanks to Ms Watts, Ms Hassan, and especially Señor Almada for making it all possible! ●

DANIEL HARRINGTON-HILL (LOWER SIXTH)



Year Seven Adventure Course at Bentley Copse

During Field Week, Year 7s embarked on a two-day adventure at Bentley Copse activity centre in Surrey – and what an experience it was! Students camped outdoors and took part in thrilling activities like the cave maze, archery, zip wire, and the gladiator challenge, which tested their courage and teamwork. Evenings were just as exciting, with a giant inflatable football table, pedal kart races, and a hilarious ghillie suit stalk through the woods. The students bonded, showed resilience and made long-lasting memories. The food didn’t disappoint either as we refuelled with delicious pizza and burgers after action-packed days. It was the perfect mix of adventure and fun and successfully marked the end of their first year at Senior School. ●

MIC



Year Eight Watersports Trip to the Costa Brava

In June, Year 8 students jetted off to sunny Platja d’Aro, Spain, for an unforgettable watersports trip. Staying at HTOP Platja Park, pupils enjoyed kayaking, paddleboarding, windsurfing, and snorkelling at Escola de Vela i Caiac Sant Pol. They also had fun at Aqua Games Inflatable Park and Water World, with time to relax on the beach and explore Barcelona’s zoo. The weather was perfect for outdoor fun – sunny skies, warm days around 25°C, and minimal rain made every activity even more enjoyable. A fantastic blend of adventure, sunshine, and Spanish culture! ●

MAH

Classics Trip to Bath and Cirencester

In the Summer Term a group of eager Year Nine Classics students embarked on a fascinating two-day trip to Bath, rich in Roman history and archaeological treasures. Our adventure began in Cirencester, home to the remarkable Corinium Museum. As soon as we arrived, we were struck by the museum’s modern layout and engaging displays. Dedicated to the Roman heritage of the Cotswolds, the museum houses one of the most impressive collections of Roman Britain artefacts outside of London. Our students explored intricate mosaics, grave goods, and everyday Roman tools, gaining insights into both elite and ordinary life in Roman Britain. Next stop was one of the most iconic Roman sites in Britain – the Roman Baths in the heart of



the modern city of Bath. Hidden below today’s street level, this complex of temples, bathing rooms, and natural hot springs was once a thriving religious and social hub in Roman Britain. Wandering through the ancient structures and listening to the audio guides, we could almost hear the murmurs of bathers and worshippers from centuries ago. The afternoon featured a highlight for many: a walking tour of Bath, led by a local expert guide. This tailored tour connected Roman remains with the city’s later Georgian grandeur, revealing layers of history that are often hidden in plain sight. This trip was more than just a getaway – it was an immersive dive into the ancient world. ●

EKM



Year Eight STEM Trip to the Midlands

Year 8 enjoyed an action-packed STEM trip to the Midlands combining history, adventure, and creativity. The journey began with a fascinating visit to Bletchley Park, where students explored the secrets of wartime codebreaking. This was followed by an overnight stay at a residential centre, packed with exciting activities like archery, zipwire, crate stacking, and team-building challenges. On the final day, the group visited Stratford-upon-Avon, stepping into the past at the Shakespeare Schoolroom and unleashing their imagination at the MAD Museum. A memorable and enriching experience for all! ●

JXC



Lower Sixth History, Politics and Economics trip to Estonia

Lower Sixth students studying History, Politics and Economics enjoyed a three-day trip to Tallinn, Estonia, during the May half term break. A city with a fascinating Soviet past – yet a more recent evolution into a technologically advanced ‘smart city’ – Tallinn provided an ideal platform for students to think about the interesting historical, political and economic evolution of part of the former USSR. Students enjoyed a packed itinerary of visits, including exploring Tallinn’s medieval old town, a memorial to the victims of Soviet terror, Peter the Great’s Kadriorg Palace and the business district of Ülemiste. Students (and staff!) even had chance to show off their culinary skills in an Estonian cooking masterclass, making (and then eating) delicious pelmeni dumplings! ●

ATD

Skiing Trip to Canada

During the Easter holidays forty pupils travelled to Jasper, Canada, for an unforgettable week of skiing. The trip began with a wildlife tour, where highlights included various deer species and a memorable moose sighting. Skiing conditions were ideal, with empty forested slopes, brisk -20°C temperatures, and minimal chairlift waits. All pupils showed great progress on the slopes. Evenings were packed with activities, including an exciting Ice Hockey game, a fun quiz night, unlimited pizza, swimming, and a pool/darts evening. The trip was a huge success, and many pupils are already eager to return for more adventure and skiing in Jasper’s stunning winter landscape. ●

KAR



Year Seven and Eight Trip to the Bioasis, Devon

The Bioasis is a remote, 1,200-acre site of specific scientific interest in Devon. Exactly where is a secret! In the summer term 72 students from years 7 and 8 got an amazing opportunity to camp there for five days, to reconnect with the wilderness and learn about how to help the environment. We started by learning about invasive species like the rhododendron bush and how damaging they are to the ecosystem, then moved on to cutting down as much of it as we could. Next, we visited a hidden beach to carry out a clean-up operation, where we found some interesting things including a rubber duck and even a message in a bottle. This trip was an amazing experience, where we had fun whilst also helping the planet. I hope that there will be the same opportunity next year so that others can enjoy this experience as much as we did. ●

ADM



Durham Schools Debating Competition

At the end of March, two amazing Eltham Lower Sixth debating teams (Miriana Upton and Alex Armstrong-Denby, and Oliver Robinson and Stanley Smith) travelled to Durham University for the annual Durham Schools Debating Competition, the world’s largest residential school-level debating event, with over 70 teams from over 20 schools competing.

On the first day, the teams debated motions including sportspeople prolonging their competitive careers beyond the usual age of retirement; the rise of influencers; whether films and TV shows that use AI technologies should be eligible for awards; and how governments might prioritise policies aligned with *Buen Vivir*. On the second day, the teams debated topics including judicial activism and whether the interim government in Syria should call an immediate election.

After five qualifying rounds across the two days, one of our teams broke into the Novice Semi-Finals! The Semi-Finals were highly competitive, with the motion set as “THBT the environmental movement should advocate for veganism over vegetarianism.” The team delivered excellent speeches, only to narrowly miss out on a place in the Grand Final. A huge congratulations to Miriana Upton and Alex Armstrong-Denby on this achievement and to all our speakers for their high calibre speeches! ●

CJC



Biology Field Trip to Slapton, Devon

June Field Week whisked the Lower Sixth Biology students off to Slapton Ley, Devon, for five action-packed days of hands-on fieldwork and fresh coastal air. Based at the Field Centre, we explored a stunning variety of habitats along the South Devon coastline.

Armed with quadrats, we tackled the shingle ridge, carefully surveying vegetation communities. In woodland streams, we waded knee-deep to net freshwater invertebrates, while rock pooling brought us face-to-face with marine life – from nimble crabs to slippery bladderwrack. Identifying seaweed on the coast whilst sitting on a mat of lichen was a surprising highlight!

Of course, no trip is complete without a bit of friendly rivalry...Staff and students faced off in a football game full of questionable tactics and stellar performances in goal from Mr Marlow and Miss Rees, proving defensive tactics aren’t just for ecology! ●

FAHEEM ALLEY (LOWER SIXTH)



Staff and students faced off in a football game full of questionable tactics



House Reports

House Competition Results 2024-5

	Overall position	Total points
Carey	3	13
Chalmers	1	14
Livingstone	2	14
Moffat	4	11

CAREY

Trip to *Starlight Express*



As we returned from a well-earned Christmas break, Carey were as close to the top of the House Contest running as this Head of House can remember. A very exciting opportunity indeed!

The first major event on the calendar in the Lent term was the finale of House Music. Heats were held and finalists chosen. There were five categories contested: four for soloists and one ensemble. Carey was fantastically represented by Avani Katakuri (bassoon), Gaurav Manikandan (drums), Nirvana Che-Lai

(violin) and Abhay Murthy (voice). Avani brilliantly won her category. The standard of the musicianship was outstanding across the board.

Continuing the musical theme, for our charity day a group of talented musicians entertained members of the school as they enjoyed their lunch with a selection of Blues music in King George’s Hall, ably led by Ms Potter-Hicks.

In House Drama Charlie Shaw gave us a reimagining of *Humpty Dumpty* in a whodunnit style, winning

Best Director. Hesper Holden and Zach Szollosi expertly played the investigators trying to get to the bottom of the demise of poor old Humpty. Was there foul play afoot? It was an incredibly enjoyable performance, full of quick, dry wit and egg-cellent plays on words (apologies).

We also enjoyed a renewal of the Carey House trip, which saw approximately 20 students across all year groups travel to the Troubadour Theatre in Wembley Park to see the return of *Starlight Express*, Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s high octane, train-



Trip to *Starlight Express*



Charlie Shaw, best director, house drama

based musical. Year 9 student Matvey Shevchenko reports on his experience: “First off, let me be clear that I went into this show almost blind; no trailer, no photos, only ‘musical, but everyone’s on roller skates.’ But my (relatively low, to be fair) expectations were definitely exceeded: a very unique stage shape, atmosphere, and definitely a great costume department, the skaters looked both functional, train-like, and of course cool. The songs will not go unmentioned either, as being a musical there is almost a legal obligation for at least a couple of earworms, that even now still echo in my head. And despite the show’s eighties origins, it addresses some very modern concerns on our sources of energy. My occasional critiques mainly include a relatively clichéd plot, and the inescapable overpriced snacks, though that is to be expected. Overall, a solid 4/5 show”.

The above fell alongside the regular sporting events such as hockey, netball, basketball, football, athletics, tennis and others during Games and PE lessons. We once again saw excellent performances in Water Polo. Our Year 7 team was hugely successful, brilliantly guided by Stefan Crozet and comprising Harriet Allen, Uma Abhyankar, Elan Potter, Lowri Potter, Helena Cao and Ethan Christopher.

For House Art this year students were asked to create “exquisite corpses”. In small groups, each member had to contribute drawing part of a figure, without knowing what the previous contributor had done. From a selected few of these, one was brought to life in sculpture. Carey’s main sculpturers were Sophie Lu, Phoenix Che-Lai, Harriet Allen, Yulia Konstantinova, Antonia Jayasinghe, Will Tyler and Hector Mourin-Buckley along with other small contributors.

In the closest House contest in memory, we sadly faded towards the end, ultimately finishing 3rd. Next year will be our year. I can feel it.

As ever, we conclude the academic year saying farewell to our Upper Sixth cohort. My warmest thanks to Gabby Willis and Zach Hopley who have led the House with positivity and enthusiasm. We wish our leavers all the very best with their future endeavours; I am sure they, like Carey House, will continue to attempt great things. ●

ADM

CHALMERS



This year has been an exceptional one for Chalmers House – marked by dedication, spirited participation, and a deep sense of community. From the opening weeks of term to the final celebratory assemblies, our house has shown what it truly means to “make it happen.” Whether on the stage, sports field, or debate floor, Chalmers pupils brought energy, talent, and heart to every challenge.

House Debating was impressive in the Seniors with Tim Hobbs and Daniel Harrington-Hill’s sharp thinking and confident voices. Our team tackled difficult motions with maturity and flair, earning praise for their calm delivery and teamwork. It was inspiring to see younger students watching and learning from older peers, creating a lasting culture of support and curiosity.

In House Drama, Chalmers once again proved that creativity runs deep in our house. With limited rehearsal time and plenty of laughs along the way, the cast delivered a memorable performance full of wit and emotional depth in Chalmers creation of *Robin from the Hood* directed by House

Notable performances were from Rohan Singh, Daniel Oralusi and Daniella Oke.

On the track and field, House Athletics was a standout. Our athletes showed incredible resilience, determination, and sportsmanship. Every participant gave it their all, often competing in multiple events to support the house which resulted in a win in Year 8! Special mention must go to our senior leaders, who rallied the team and kept morale high even when the competition was fierce.

Chalmers House also shone in Open Events and Musical Theatre. Students took centre stage in performances that showcased not only musical skill but sheer stage presence. The dedication during rehearsals and the courage shown under the spotlight was remarkable. It’s no exaggeration to say that Chalmers contributed some of the most memorable performances of the year, both vocally and dramatically. Directed by Phoebe Ockendon-Rowe, Seren Booth and

Captain Austin Colwell. From actors to the backstage crew, each member played a vital role in bringing our story to life. The result was a production that balanced humour with real storytelling power, reflecting the diversity of talents within Chalmers.



Christian White we performed a slick version of *Room Where it Happens* from *Hamilton* full of solos, ensembles and advanced choreography.

What truly defines Chalmers, however, is not just winning – though we’ve had our share of success – but the spirit in which we approach every opportunity. Our committed members and House Heroes, many of whom have participated in multiple events across disciplines, exemplify what makes our house special. Their enthusiasm, positivity, and willingness to step forward again and again did not go unnoticed and we all congratulate them in their efforts.

Throughout the year, we’ve discovered hidden talents, from quiet students who revealed powerful singing voices to first-time athletes who stunned us with their speed and strength. It’s been a joy to witness personal growth, courage, and that unmistakable Chalmers fun – loud, proud, and infectious.

As we close the year, we look back with pride and forward with excitement. Chalmers House is not just a name – it’s a family built on encouragement, celebration, and striving for our best.

Here’s to another year of making it happen – together! I wish Freddie Sawyer and Mary Sanderson the very best of luck as I have no doubt they will absolutely flourish in the role of House Captains. I hand over to Mr Adrian as Head of House and wish him good luck in the role; he will be fully supported by our phenomenal Deputy Head of House Mrs Bilsby. I look forward to hearing about all of the success in Chalmers house in the future! **#MAKEITHAPPEN ● KAH**

LIVINGSTONE

What a year it has been for Livingstone House – full of passion, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to excellence across all year groups. We came joint first overall, narrowly missing out on the House Championship title by the slimmest of margins. Still, the journey has been nothing short of exceptional, and we couldn’t be prouder of what has been achieved.



The Lower School really made their mark this year with standout team performances. The boys’ hockey team stormed to first place, showcasing both skill and determination. In basketball, the Years 7 and 8 cohort worked brilliantly as a unit to clinch first position – a true demonstration of how powerful teamwork can be. These results reflect not only sporting prowess but also the energy and commitment these young Livingstonians bring to the House.

Middle School continued to be a powerhouse of talent, securing a remarkable set of victories across both academic and sporting events. The debating competition was a particular highlight. Our two teams, featuring Tommy Horn, Felix Sleddon, Elsie Smith, and Arabella Langman-Heath, delivered carefully constructed arguments over two rounds to take first place. It was a masterclass in clarity, composure, and critical thinking.

Sporting success was equally impressive. We claimed first place in Year 9 and 10 Table Tennis, with standout performances from Minhan Wu, Coyle Shao, Andy Giachino, Anoush Somaiya, Maximilian Tang, Lily Bye, and Isabelle Healey. Year 9 Cricket, Girls’ Hockey across Years 9–11, and Year 10–11 Netball also saw us triumph at the top. The Middle School have once again proven to be a driving force in our House success.

The Sixth Form delivered in true Green Army style. Our formidable Cross-Country team – Olly Buck, Sam Holloway, Elliot Corrigan, and Wilfred Kirby – showed grit and determination, racing to a first-place finish. Their dedication to training and competitive spirit made for an inspiring performance.

Traditionally, House Art has been a challenging event for us, but this year, with the theme of “Exquisite Corpse,” Livingstone truly turned the tide. Thanks to a concerted effort across all year groups, we shared the top spot, with ➡

contributions from Sanna Hjalms, Yashvi Naik, Naomi Perrin, Florence Kirby, George Caldwell, Gabriella Brown, Elliot Corrigan, and Elliot Curry. A phenomenal turnaround and a testament to the creative talent within the House.

One of the most memorable moments came in the final week of term with our performance of *Friend Like Me* from *Aladdin* in the Musical Theatre event. Rehearsed over just two weeks, it was a dazzling, high-energy performance that brought together students from across the school. Although we narrowly missed out on first place, the effort was nothing short of extraordinary. Special mention must go to Isabella Durham for her direction and leadership, and to performers George Caldwell, Olly Buck, Liam Foley, Ronan Corrigan, Milo Kirby, Florence Kirby, Alex Urban, Anoush Somaiya, Naomi Perrin, Elena Khoo, Aadya Raja, with brilliant technical support from Hope Perrin.

Fond Farewell and New Beginnings
As we say goodbye to our Upper Sixth, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Heads of House, Maddie O’Mahony and Olly Murray. Their leadership, spirit, and enthusiasm have left a lasting legacy. We now look forward to the year ahead under the guidance of our new Heads of House, Gabriella Brown and George Caldwell, whose energy and commitment will undoubtedly inspire another successful year for Livingstone.

To all members of the House – thank you for your contribution, your heart, and your House pride. Here’s to continuing the legacy next year.
Go Green Army! ●
JXC

MOFFAT



I am so pleased with the engagement from students in Moffat House this year. We have had another year involvement across all year groups in events, competitions, House Families and House assemblies. After a couple of years of settling, House Families has become a staple part of the House system’s morning routine, and students mixing vertically within smaller groups has become a normal part of students’ House experience.

Throughout the Lent and Summer terms we have had an excellent variety of events. I am so impressed with the diversity of activities for students to engage with, run by willing staff championing the co-curricular aspect of the school. Events for the two terms included Science week events, Debates, Golf, Sport afternoons across all sections and more.

Representing Moffat in “University Challenge” included Kaiden Russell, Dylan Liu, Mina Sui, Santi Harrison, Alex Brown and Toby Chick. Our open events this year gave students the opportunity to build new working friendships across age groups.

Our House Drama piece was directed by Lotte Robinson, who worked with our student actor on blocking, delivery of lines, character and costume. She chose a short script of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. Our talented Moffat actors included students from all year groups; Sam Johnson, Andrea Austin, Jayden Madawho, Henry Lines, Tessa Chapman, Florence Billenness, Mina Sui, Emilio Escanero Dingley, Dylan Liu and Jake Austin. The whole cast really put their heart and souls into the performance and were awarded second place.

During a Summer Term House Family session, in groups, student created a surrealist “Exquisite Corpse” drawing. A smaller group then selected one from a selection of winning drawings to turn into a sculpture during the



House Art week-long event in May. This piece was a golden half bird, half octopus and embellished with small rubber ducks. It was bold, characterful and wild. Moffat students were awarded joint first place for this outcome by our judges, Artist in Resident Miriam Austin and Gallery Manager Haf Anuar. Students who created the sculpture were Boden Kelly, Anyka Lin, William Forsdyke, Jasper Sword, Melissa Tan, Tenten Li, Serena McMillan, Aishwarya Janakan, Isabelle Chen, Anikaa Selot, Hugo Maynard and more.

This was the judges’ feedback for Moffat’s entry:
“We really admired the wildly imaginative quality of this figure! We loved the mysterious golden badge surrounded by feathers on the chest. Their face is evocative, and we enjoyed the unusual colour spectrum – from almost fluorescent yellow to silver and golds. The rubber ducks at the end of each limb are a funny addition, and seem to suggest that this figure might have somewhat magical qualities to conjure or hold together a community of strange creatures.”

Another special mention should be made for our House Musical Theatre event, directed by Sam Johnson and assisted by Temi Blaev. The performance of *Money, Money, Money* from the musical *Mamma Mia* was performed with energy, joy and confidence. The students earned a well-deserved first place. Thank you to all those involved; Sam Johnson, Temi Blaev, Jake Austin, Mayra Anand, Mina Sui, Emilio Escanero Dingley, Krishan Vithana, Bela Hall, Boden Kelly, Anyka Lin and Jayden Madawho.

To end the year we had Moffat House Charity Day during the last Wednesday of term. We had students queuing for Sponge the Teacher, Hoop the Duck, and Penalty Shootout, supported by Sixth Formers and staff, who willingly gave up their lunchtime to take part. All those who came had a really good time, thank you to all those involved.

I would like to say thank you to James Mather and Ben Robertson for being our House Captains this year and big thank you to Miss Watts, who became our new Deputy Head of House this year.

This is my final year as Moffat’s Head of House. I have had the best time in this role and have been so touched by all the amazing moments it has presented me with. It has really been a wonderful opportunity to engage with such a vast number of staff and students, and all round an incredibly joyful part of my time at the school so far. Moffat will be in safe hands with Miss Watts stepping in to the Head of House role in September. Mr Morrish will become Deputy Head of Moffat and I have no doubt that they will make an excellent team and lead Moffat House excellently. Boden Kelly and Anyka Lin will be our new house captains, and I am so excited to see all their efforts and successes in 2025-6. **GO MOFFAT! ●**
KMD

The House Competition at the Junior School

BNM

The last twelve months have been a hive of activity for the Junior School House system and as we welcome in a talented new cohort of House captains, we say a huge thank you and wish good luck to the outgoing leaders who have done a splendid job directing and encouraging the younger years to embrace the House system with gusto.

The year began with enthusiasm at our Year 3 and 7 House Induction morning with newcomers to the school welcomed into their House family. As well as a ‘sorting hat’ style ceremony, a giant paperchain competition saw wonderful teamwork and co-operation between the two year groups as each house wrestled with paper, glue and scissors, Moffat subsequently taking an early lead on the scoreboard. House Bake-Off in September showcased creative

constructions from all over the globe with Chalmers’s bakers putting the cherry on top! Chalmers’ talented musicians also shone during the House Music competition this year, snatching first place overall.

There has been somewhat of a pattern to the sporting contests throughout the year. House Rugby and Netball took place on a crisp afternoon in Michaelmas term and Carey claimed victory in both. This

House Rugby winners



House Netball winners

purple (or perhaps it’s blue..) patch continued into Lent term, as their sporting prowess shone in House Chess Cross Country and Football with a final flourish leading to their success in Year 3 House Cricket in Summer term.

House of Games was a wonderful new competition for Year 4 added to the mix this year and this saw a Livingstone victory whilst Moffat won House Wordle, Formula 1 and Fireside in Summer term. In the creative Christmas stamps and 500 Words contests Carey continued to add first place positions to their haul but the Summer term heralded the start of Livingstone’s sporting dominance with comprehensive wins at House Swim Gala and by their athletes in the highly-coveted Sports Day shield. As usual, the Relay races, which

included every child in every House, saw teachers jumping up and down and children running their socks off for their teams!

Each House continues to support a child in Uganda through the charity International Needs and regular letters have been sent and received from Benjamin, Bashiri, Angel and Jovan and our regular House Assemblies have shared their news.

The Junior School Section of the House system saw contests continue up until the penultimate day of the Summer term, but Carey’s place at Number One in the rankings had been secure all year and not even Livingstone could knock them off with their final flourish of victories – congratulations to Carey, the Junior School winners for 2025! ●

From the Development Director

SXO



Saoirse O'Donovan, our Development Director, looks at the recent and forthcoming improvements to the Science Centre, Junior School, Dining Hall, and Bursary provision.

This year has seen many impressive developments across the College with bursary students accepted into top universities and brand new modern science labs becoming springboards for invention and excellence. With much achieved and plenty more to come over the next twelve months, it gives me great pleasure to present this year's development report.

Bursary Impact

This year has been the most successful fundraising year to date, bringing us closer than ever to establishing our bursary endowment. Thanks to the transformative generosity of two lead donors – each contributing seven-figure gifts – and two other significant donations, we have made remarkable strides toward long-term sustainability for bursary students. These contributions reflect a strong endorsement of our mission and a shared commitment to making education accessible to all. With the bursary endowment nearing realization, we are poised to offer lasting, meaningful financial assistance to students for generations to come.

In terms of impact this year, 34 students are currently in receipt of substantial bursaries, including 20 who have been awarded transformative 100% bursaries. These figures highlight the real and immediate effect of combined donor support and school income committed to bursary funding. Eltham College works consciously to ensure we are a place that opens doors to opportunity, reduces financial hardship, and enables students to focus fully on their academic and personal growth. ●

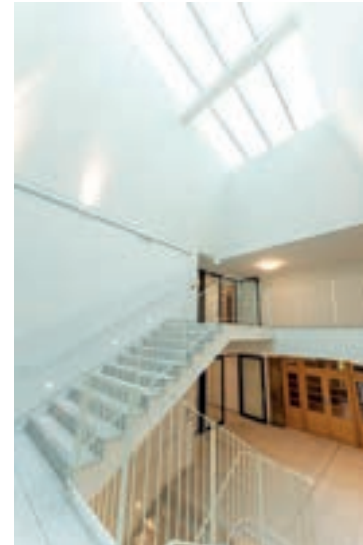
We spoke to one of our sixth form bursary student about his time at Eltham College. Here is what he said:

“

Gaining a Bursary at Eltham College gave me so many opportunities. In my time here, my passion for music was reignited by the school's several ensembles and regular concerts. The sheer amount of extracurricular opportunities made my time at Eltham fly by. On an academic level, I found Eltham encouraging and supportive, with the enthusiasm of the teachers making learning at the school fun. I am very thankful for what the Bursary has allowed me to experience in my two years at Eltham.”

New Science Centre Extension Complete

Our Science Centre continues its journey into the 21st century, with a major milestone achieved in September 2024 through the completion of the most significant phase of our redevelopment plan to date. This brand new extension introduced four brand new laboratories, a series of student-centred learning spaces, and significantly improved access to key facilities including the Drama department, the Eric Liddell Sports Centre, and the Gerald Moore Gallery. At the heart of these developments is a newly-created quad – an open, vibrant space that not only enhances the sense of community but also reflects our commitment to fostering an inspiring and inclusive educational environment. These upgrades are already making a tangible difference in the daily lives of our students, enriching their academic experience and strengthening their connection to the campus. ●



The interior and exterior of the redeveloped Science Centre

Next Steps in Science Redevelopment

Building on the momentum of our recent upgrades, the next phase of the Science Centre redevelopment will begin this summer, marking another key step forward in transforming our learning environment. Planned improvements to the ground floor will include the creation of three new state-of-the-art chemistry laboratories, a dedicated chemistry preparation room, and enhanced toilet facilities for pupils. In addition, we will be developing new office spaces to better support academic and administrative staff. These updates will not only expand our capacity for high-quality science teaching but also ensure that students and staff benefit from a more functional, modern, and inclusive environment. ●

Enhancing Student and Community Spaces

Two major improvements took place this summer, delivered in partnership with Thomas Franks Catering, that significantly enhanced our campus facilities. In the Sixth Form Centre, the café footprint was expanded to create a vibrant, modern space where students can work, socialise, and recharge. Designed as a true destination within the school, this new environment will support both academic focus and student wellbeing.



Simultaneously, King George’s Hall underwent a substantial makeover. The project introduced a contemporary restaurant-style dining facility, upgraded the servery areas, and improved acoustics. These changes will allow us to make far better use of the hall as a multifunctional space – accommodating everything from daily dining to performances, gatherings, and special events – while preserving its historic character and importance to school life. ●



Future Developments at the Junior School

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch a three-year plan to enhance facilities across the Junior School, ensuring that our youngest learners benefit from the same high-quality environment as the rest of the campus. Stage one of this redevelopment begins with significant improvements to the second floor, aimed at creating a more engaging and effective learning space for our Year 3 pupils. This includes redesigned classroom layouts and a thoughtful reconfiguration of existing areas to support modern teaching approaches. Importantly, new girls’ toilet facilities will also be added to this floor – meaning pupils will no longer need to go downstairs – improving convenience, safety, and accessibility for all. ●

Looking Ahead with Gratitude and Purpose

None of the achievements outlined in this report would have been possible without the unwavering support of our entire community. To our Old Elthamians, parents, and staff– thank you for everything you do for the College. Your generosity, belief, and commitment continue to shape the future of Eltham, ensuring that each new chapter is built on a foundation of shared values and ambition. As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and determination. As the Austrian-American management consultant and author Peter Drucker once wisely said, “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” Together, we are creating a future filled with opportunity, inspiration, and excellence. ●



Saoirse O’Donovan,
Development
Director



Russell Joyce,
Development
Manager



Transforming lives through education, opportunity and technology

LOB



OE Dr Earim Chaudry talks to Louise Badelow, Head of Careers and Post 18 Options, about his time at school and remarkable career journey as a doctor and health tech entrepreneur. With Dr Chaudry being an enthusiastic supporter of our invaluable work experience programme, we also hear from Lower Sixth Former Haoran Zhao, who shares his reflections on his week-long placement with Earim during the summer term.

LOB: Earim, you left Eltham College in 2000 and have gone on to forge an incredibly successful career in the medical profession. But I’d like to go back to the start of your career journey. Can you tell us a little bit about your time at Eltham College and how your early education helped shape your future ambitions?

My time at Eltham College was genuinely life-changing. I joined on a full assisted place and still remember being asked about climate change in my interview with the Headmaster at age ten. Coming from a background where my family were bankrupt by the time I was six and no one had been to university, the school opened up a completely new world. It instilled in me discipline, curiosity and ambition. Teachers challenged me to think critically and aim higher, and it was there that I first began to see what might be possible with focus and resilience. ➔

Dr Earim Chaudry

That said, I often felt like an outsider. I couldn't afford the school trips or extracurriculars, and for a long time I felt quite average next to some remarkably bright peers. I was a late bloomer, but that struggle gave me a different kind of strength. I had to fight for everything, and that shaped who I am.

Later in life, I realised I had undiagnosed ADHD, which had made school harder than it needed to be. I often got lost in research rabbit holes and struggled to finish tasks. At times, that led me to take desperate shortcuts to get work in on time, which tarnished my reputation with teachers. It was frustrating then, but now I see it as one of my greatest strengths. It fuels my creativity, energy and problem-solving. I tend to see things differently, and I'm often the one charging ahead into the unknown, trying to carve a new path.

My upbringing also gave me resilience and appreciation for the small things. At the time I felt hard done by, but now I see it as a blessing. It made me determined, grounded and hungry to build something better.

LOB: Do you have a favourite memory of your time at school?

My favourite memories are all about human connection. I didn't go on trips abroad or take extra classes after school, but I still found a sense of belonging through friendships and inspiring teachers. One person who stands out is Paul McCartney, our Chemistry and Geology teacher. He was simply the best teacher you could imagine – passionate, engaging, unforgettable. I doubt he thought I was up to much at the time, but he planted a seed.

There were two real pinnacles during my time at Eltham. The first was getting into the school in the first place, which completely changed the trajectory of my life. The second was opening my A-level results letter and seeing I'd achieved the grades I needed to get into medical school at UCL. From that point on, everything changed. University was where I truly found my tribe.

LOB: Could you tell us about your current role and your career journey since leaving Eltham College?

I'm currently the Chief Medical Officer and Co-founder at MANUAL, soon to be rebranded as Voy, one of Europe's fastest-growing digital health companies. At Voy, we're building a new kind of healthcare platform that combines diagnostics, behavioural

I'm currently the Chief Medical Officer and Co-founder at MANUAL, soon to be rebranded as Voy, one of Europe's fastest-growing digital health companies.

change and clinical care into a single, deeply personalised experience. Our mission is to help people live longer, healthier lives by tackling some of the most underserved areas in consumer health, from metabolic health and obesity to dermatology, hormonal balance and mental wellbeing.

After studying medicine at UCL and briefly considering a career in intensive care, I accelerated into general practice, becoming one of the youngest GP partners in Tonbridge. But despite achieving that milestone, I felt confined. I had a sense that I was built for something broader, something that could reach beyond the four walls of a consultation room. I was curious, restless and increasingly driven to build healthcare at scale. That instinct led me into digital health, medical AI and eventually entrepreneurship, where I co-founded MANUAL alongside the former marketing lead at Deliveroo and Wise.

What began as an idea sketched out in a coffee shop on Regent Street became one of the UK's fastest-growing tech companies. It's now over 500 people strong, operating in both the UK and Brazil, with over £300 million in revenue and well on the way to unicorn status.

This journey has been full of challenges, pivots and uncomfortable growth, but it has been deeply rewarding. I've learned that grit is everything. It is what carries you through the late nights, the setbacks

and the self-doubt. Building something meaningful, especially in healthcare, is never easy. But when you stay focused on the mission – solving real problems with science, creativity and empathy – the impact is worth every ounce of effort. I feel incredibly lucky to work with a team that shares that same drive to reimagine healthcare so it is not just more accessible, but genuinely transformative.

As a side note I still also run and own a General Practice group in West London "in my free time", as I find understanding the problems in the incumbent health system useful when looking to solve them via MANUAL/Voy.

LOB: Every year, we have many students who aspire to become doctors. What advice would you share with them, especially in view of the increasing role of AI in the delivery of healthcare?

Medicine is still one of the most meaningful and fulfilling careers out there, but it's evolving fast. AI is already reshaping how we diagnose, monitor and treat patients. My advice is to embrace this change rather than fear it. Learn the basics of data, technology and digital health early on. The doctors of the future will need to be just as comfortable working alongside AI as they are with patients.

I believe the relationship between doctors and AI is a 1 + 1 = 3 scenario. AI has the potential to supercharge doctors, not replace them, by taking over routine tasks, surfacing insights faster and freeing up time for what truly matters. In many ways, it allows doctors to become more human, not less. Empathy, communication and ethical judgement will only grow in importance as technology advances. So stay curious, stay adaptable, and never lose sight of the values that brought you to medicine in the first place.

Lastly, I hope my story demonstrates the impact of Medicine outside traditional roles is vast, and you can positively improve the lives of millions at the intersection of clinical, commercial and operations.

LOB: We are hugely grateful that you have been an active member of the Elthamians Network, providing advice and support to current students. Most recently, you hosted Lower Sixth Form student Haoran as part of our work experience programme. Could you tell us why you think it is important for students to have opportunities in the workplace?

Opportunities like work experience can be life-changing – especially for students who may not have personal or family connections in certain fields. It demystifies the working world and helps young people see where they might fit in. For me, hosting students like Haoran is a way of giving back and helping to level the playing field. Talent is everywhere, but opportunity isn't. It was a real pleasure to host Haoran at MANUAL. As a fellow Old Elthamian, I was especially proud to support someone who has clearly worked hard to earn their place through a less typical path. His passion for science and healthcare innovation was obvious. It left me feeling very hopeful about the future of Eltham College and its students. ●



If you are interested in supporting our Career Learning Programme, in whatever capacity, please do register or update your profile on www.Elthamians.Network indicating how you are willing to help. Alternatively, you can contact Louise Badelow, Head of Careers and Post 18 Options, at lob@eltham-college.org.uk

Haoran Zhao, in the Lower Sixth, reflects on the work experience he conducted at MANUAL/Voy, the digital health company where Dr Chaudry is Chief Medical Officer.

LOB: Haoran, you are currently in the Lower Sixth. Can you tell us what A-levels you are studying and what pathway you hope to follow beyond school?

I'm currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths. My aspiration is to study Natural Sciences at university and then pursue a career in healthcare innovation, whether that's drug development or even just designing everyday healthcare products like shampoos.

LOB: Earlier this year you completed a week of work experience at MANUAL, one of the country's fastest growing health tech companies. It was a very popular option, with a rigorous selection process. Can you explain what attracted

you to MANUAL in the first instance and how you went about securing this highly competitive placement?

I was particularly interested in MANUAL because it aligned closely with my future aspirations. Their ability to incorporate both AI and professional advice to make personalised treatment at scale is something that will only become more important as society becomes ever more dependent on digital technology. The opportunity to learn a range of transferable skills was also especially important to me. To secure the placement, I made sure my CV was relevant and polished, wrote a tailored cover letter by researching more about the company's background, and lastly recorded a short elevator pitch introducing myself and why I was suitable for the placement. →



Haoran Zhao

LOB: Please tell us about the time you spent at MANUAL – what did you do, what did you learn, and what transferable skills were you able to develop?

During my work experience week, I joined various meetings, helped brainstorm advertising content, shadowed various departments including the clinical and product teams, and also undertook research for upcoming projects. I developed skills in communication, critical thinking and creative problem-solving. I also gained confidence working in a professional environment and appreciated how different departments effectively collaborate to ensure the success of the company.

LOB: Did your placement at MANUAL change or reinforce your ideas about your future career pathway? Do you have any other reflections you'd like to share?

It definitely reinforced my passion for science and helped me bridge academic knowledge – particularly in pharmacology and biochemistry – with real world applications. Hearing from Dr Chaudry about his own journey showed me that meaningful healthcare careers don't always follow traditional paths, challenging established norms drives progress, and that's stuck with me.

LOB: For the benefit of younger students, could you summarise what you consider to be the value of time spent in the workplace whilst you are still at school and considering your future.

I would say there are two main benefits. One is that it gives you a chance to experience the setting of the job you are considering instead of just hearing about it online or from friends, which helps you to find out early if this career is right for you. Another benefit is that it allows you to start building your professional network as well as

valuable transferable skills. Both are really important, not only in terms of your post 18 applications, but also when you leave school and enter higher education and the world of work.

LOB: What advice would you give to current Lower Sixth Form students as they seek to secure their own placements for next summer?

I think the number one piece of advice is to be proactive – don't wait for the opportunity to come to you. Research companies you are interested in, even if they don't openly offer work experience placements, and reach out with a strong CV and a tailored cover letter. Persistence is also very important, if the person hasn't replied for a while, make sure you follow up because they may have just forgotten. Even if you haven't secured your desired placement, other placements can still be very helpful – the transferable skills you will acquire are more valuable than the experience itself, so there is no need to stress. Lastly, once you are on the placement, grab every opportunity you can, ask questions and show initiative. In short, the more you put into it, the more you will gain, so make the most of every minute while you are on work experience. ●



From Eltham College To Imperial

AN ENGINEERING STUDENT'S JOURNEY

LOB



Zak at the recent Speed Networking event

OE Zak Leek shares his career journey from school to studying Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, with Louise Badelow, Head of Careers and Post 18 Options – explaining how he has been involved in everything from supersonic rockets to safe-cracking along the way.

OE Zak Leek (2023) returned to school this summer to participate in our annual Speed Networking Event for Lower Sixth Form. Joining over 50 other alumni from a range of sectors and at varying stages in their careers, Zak spent the afternoon engaging with current students, sharing his journey to date and offering helpful advice and insights to those considering their post 18 pathway. There are many aspiring engineers among the current cohort – hence our interview with Zak.



LOB: Zak, what first sparked your interest in STEM subjects in general, and Engineering in particular?

I've always been naturally curious of the world around me, its inner workings, and the concept of inventing new things. My time at Blackheath Prep (now part of the Eltham College Family of Schools) really nurtured this interest, allowing me to present my ideas and research as well as developing my initial interest in 3D printing which I have taken a long way since.

I have remained passionate about all scientific fields, but studying engineering specifically has given me more opportunity than ever to design, innovate, build and create.

LOB: What is your favourite memory of STEM at Eltham College?

There are so many to choose from: building amateur rockets, presenting my research at Science Society and taking part in the international

Weizmann Safecracking Competition were certainly highlights for me.

However, one memory that stands out vividly is learning how to use a machine lathe in DT. I really wanted to learn how to turn precision components, and having identified my enthusiasm, Mr Bacon, the DT Technician, gave me one-to-one tuition until I was able to do so. Starting with wooden test pieces, the skills I developed helped me with numerous projects at school and has developed further at university where I make precision rocket components to launch, supersonic, into the sky. I am eternally grateful for the time spent in the school workshop and machining expertise passed down to me.

LOB: Can you share a little bit about your journey that led you to study Engineering at Imperial?

For A-Level, I studied Maths, Further Maths, Physics and DT; a standard combination for anyone now studying Mechanical Engineering at Imperial. →

Whilst Further Maths was not a specific requirement, it is preferred and has certainly helped me in my studies. At GCSE I chose the additional option module of Astronomy. This definitely taught me a much-needed lesson in time management before A-Levels and University. The subject that shaped who I am today was most probably DT. Having the freedom to create my own projects and practise new skills was a privilege.

Beyond the curriculum, I took part in many student projects (Greenpower racing, Robotics and setting up 3D printers to name a few) throughout my time at the school. I have always struggled to say no to new opportunities, and whilst that led to an increased amount of stress, I'm glad to have taken every one of them. Also important for my own personal development was being involved with other activities that weren't necessarily aligned with my career goals. Playing in bands and orchestras, debating competitively, and doing theatre tech all enriched my school experience and helped me develop into a well-rounded individual.

It's important to note that I didn't do anything specifically for my Personal Statement to give me an edge on university applications. I'm a big believer in doing things for the pure fun and interest they give, not to mention the personal learning they can come with. If you follow your interests and aren't scared to explore new possibilities, your experience will grow naturally; by the time you apply to university you'll have a bank of experience and anecdotes to cite, with real reasons for starting them!

LOB: I know that alongside your university choices, you also applied to the highly competitive Dyson Institute for a degree apprenticeship. Can you tell us a little bit about that experience?

The Dyson degree apprenticeship involves studying in their own engineering university, the Dyson Institute, alongside four years of part time work. On completion of the degree, students can move straight



to a professional role within Dyson. The application process was highly enjoyable for me: I could tell that they valued practical skills and industry knowledge. The process included a written application, a video interview and online psychometric test, multiple in-person interviews and a group assessment day. As a potential future employee I was treated very well; the Dyson Institute want students working for them as much as the students want to be part of the programme; and it was great to meet some of the other candidates too, they were all very interesting people!

Although I secured a place on the degree apprenticeship, I turned it down to study at Imperial. The main reason was that the Dyson Institute only had engineers developing products, and I wanted to be amongst a more diverse group of scientific minds in a wide range of research fields.

LOB: Each year, we have many students who aspire to study Engineering at the UK's most competitive universities. What would be your advice to them?
My best advice would be to choose a university course that aligns to your

interests and your style of work. There are courses that focus heavily on practical work and projects; others that mainly focus on the theory; and most others are at some point on the scale in between! Some universities focus on entrepreneurship and have many industry connections. Other are very research-based and strive for their own innovation. It is important to recognise that engineering degrees in general tend to have a higher workload than other subjects, but the courses at different institutions also have varying intensities; I would recommend asking people at the open days and OEs on the Elthamian Network to find out what it's like.

LOB: You are now in your third year of studying at university, can you share your reflections on your experience of higher education and whether the reality has differed from your expectations.
Being at university has far exceeded my expectations in many ways. There is so much to get involved in, and I've taken up new dance styles, played in new bands and been involved with supporting innovation in fields that I never would have

Zak contributed air, water and soil samples to the school's time capsules, in a container created from the reclaimed materials from the old science lab desks



be answered from people who were in the exact same position as current students.

LOB: What are your future career goals and have these changed since you were at school?

A longstanding career goal of mine has been to develop quantum technology such as sensors and communications devices, as well as design experimental apparatus for particle physics experiments like particle accelerators; this is still one of my goals, although not everything I want to do. From a young age I was obsessed with becoming an "inventor", although this felt like something of a fictional job because everyone seemed to have a specific job role in one particular field. However, since studying at university and being exposed to the community of researchers, designers and entrepreneurs at Imperial, being an inventor is seeming like a more realistic job. I'd love to spend my time building inventions to help people around the world and solve humanitarian problems.

My current work over this summer (whilst working on my own engineering projects) is climbing instructing. I have been passionate about climbing for the last decade and teaching climbing skills and coaching is a lot of fun. At some point in my life, I'd love to have a job involving expeditions in the great outdoors, be it leading recreational groups in the mountains or assisting in large research expeditions to explore new habitats.

In today's age, careers are dynamic and flexible, so choosing one path isn't the only option. I'm happy having many different passions and pathways that I could lead my life through, so for now I'm just going to keep it all up and see what opportunities I can find to develop each aspect of myself even further! ●

Zak (second from right) as a Sixth Former with the school's time capsules in 2022



Old Elthamians

Golf Day

RLJ

It was fantastic to see 25 OEs and former staff turn out for the Old Elthamian Golf Day at Chislehurst Golf Club on Friday 6 June.

OE Golf Day – Livingstone House the winners!



Old Elthamian Golf Day attendees

The competition started over the breakfast rolls in the morning before keen golfers warmed up with a quick round of 9 holes. After lunch on the sun terrace, the real competition began over the full 18.

Livingstone were crowned this year’s winners of the Inter-House Trophy, with Stuart Durham (1996), Andy Durham (1993), Ray Franklin (1972), Greg Lawrie (1993), Ali (nee Gardner) McGuirk (1990), Julian Ramsey (1992), Nikhil Sehmi (2005) and André

Wilkins (1996) bringing it home for the greens. André also took home the Low Handicapper’s Cup, with Andy Durham winning the High Handicapper’s Cup. Nearest the Pin was former staff member Adrian Thomas, but a special mention must go to Gavin Caldwell (1994) who came a close second, having played the entire course with one arm after an operation put the other one out of action! Phil Attreed (1996) won the Longest Drive and you can view photos from the day on the Elthamians Network.

Our thanks go to all those OEs who supported the day, and we look forward to seeing even more OEs at next year’s event!

Save the date for next year’s Golf Day – Friday 5th June 2026 (venue TBC). ●



Old Elthamians

Rugby

We asked Mike O’Connell (President of Old Elthamians rugby) to reflect on the fortunes of the team – and let people know how they can get involved.

There’s not much that can raise the eyebrows of Old Elthamians RFC supporters any more after the rollercoaster ride of their recent history. But as “Take me home, Foxbury Road,” rang out around the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham in May, above a blue and gold sea of outstretched arms and cheering faces, this was a timely reminder of just how far the club has come in the face of some overwhelming odds.

Captain Richie Trew (2019) lifted the Papa Johns Cup – the RFU’s national cup competition – for the second successive season at the home of English rugby as the Blue & Gold overcame Smiths Rugby from Cheltenham 33-19 to continue a remarkable winning run which has seen them lose just once in their last 56 league and cup matches.

It’s an astonishing achievement, coming less than five years after the senior club, to all intents and purposes, was moribund.



The breathless rise and fall of the rugby club has been well documented.

Since the “rebirth” in August 2022, the senior club has risen from the ashes of those ill-fated National League days to secure unprecedented back-to-back league and cup doubles and two Twickenham appearance in the space of five years.

It has been a transformation built on far more sustainable and solid foundations. Long-serving Director of Rugby, Gavin Lach, focused on returning the club to its amateur roots at the heart of the Chislehurst community with a young squad of home-grown talent that had risen through the ranks of the club’s outstanding and successful youth section.

After a tentative first season back in league rugby, the OEs young squad exceeded the expectations of even their most optimistic supporters.

In 2024, they recorded the club’s first perfect season in their 114-year history with 24 successive victories, culminating in the Counties Division Three Kent title and a first ever trip to Twickenham where they beat Wigan 45-22.

OEs continued this season where they left off the last, winning the Counties Two Kent title with four games to spare and securing a second successive appearance at rugby HQ after a thrilling 22-17 semi-final victory at previously undefeated Cornish side Saltash. While the club’s revival has not been without its challenges – they are still

desperately searching for a permanent home – for now focus is firmly on the start of pre-season training at the beginning of July as they prepare for their first season back in Counties Kent One for 20 years and an attempt at a third successive promotion.

The forthcoming season has seen our 2nd XV entered into a Kent League, and we will also be entering into the Kent Vets competition (at this stage more my level!) as we continue to grow. All OEs and friends are very welcome down to play or simply support.

YOUTH TEAMS

Much of the success of the last few years is a result of our strong roots as a community rugby club. Our Youth rugby teams continue to thrive as well, and we have more than 350 registered players from Super 6’s to our under 18 Academy teams. The strong club links were evident in the recent cup success at the Twickenham matchday.

Twenty-three players have played for the club in youth rugby with more supporting throughout the season. The mini and junior teams play out of the College grounds on a Sunday morning taking advantage of some of the best pitches in Kent.

MIKE O’CONNELL (OE 1997)



Contact Details

All contact details can be found on our webpage: www.pitchero.com/clubs/oldelthamians/

“Diamond Anniversary” Reunion

David Stewart-Hunter, Head Boy in 1965, reflects on the reunion in June for the leavers of that year.



If diamond wedding anniversaries are cause for celebration, it seemed to me that the 60th anniversary of leaving Eltham College was equally noteworthy. So with support from Russell Joyce, the school’s Development Manager, I contacted a number of my contemporaries, most of us born in 1946, and organised a modest reunion.

In the event, ten OEs and six wives descended on the school at the end of June. We were taken on a tour of the buildings by Russell and Andrew Beattie, the School Archivist, and walked across the fields to the Grange. After lunch in King George’s Hall, alongside the boys and girls, we moved to the Old Library where James Martin, the acting Headmaster, updated us on the school’s progress.

After sixty years, three areas struck me: what was new, what had gone, and what remained unchanged. The most obviously new element was girls, who are now fully integrated into all years at Eltham – which seems to me an entirely positive development. And, of course, the doubling of the school population to more than 1,100 pupils.

Then there are the new buildings – the Sports Centre, the Antony Barnard Theatre, the Turberville Building, new laboratories and music facilities, the grassed Old Quad with its giant statues, vast acres of playing fields – and a generally smart, modern look to the place.

What’s gone is the Tuck Shop with its murals and trestle tables, the changing rooms and old indoor swimming pool,



the fives courts, the Sanatorium, the 1st XI cricket square in front of the Old Building. And the School Song is no longer sung. But, as I said on the day, nothing really dies as long as you have memories, and we all have those.

What remains unchanged? The 18th century façade, the tower, the chapel, the plane tree, the cloisters, central hall. But, more importantly, it’s obvious from what we saw and heard, and from the school’s academic results and outstanding reviews from both Government inspectors and school guides, that the ethos of the place – principled, thoughtful and compassionate – is the same. Indeed, it’s clear that the school has gone from strength to strength since our time.



David Stewart-Hunter beside the board showing three Head boys at the gathering, himself, John Willis, and Stephen Hockman, along with Gordon Molyneux’ older brother Malcolm

As you might imagine, some of us were hard-pressed to recognise our contemporaries after sixty years. Fortunately, we were issued with name badges which eased the initial contact. To assist those readers of our vintage who are uncertain, the group photograph (left) shows (L to R): Gordon Molyneux, Ian Grant, Michael Gimber, Chris Browne, Stephen Hockman (front), David Stewart-Hunter (rear), John Willis, Peter Luff, Paddy Kirby, and Peter Farrar.

By common consent, our diamond anniversary reunion was a great success, and we owe a great deal of thanks to Russell Joyce and Andrew Beattie for managing the day so well.

I’m now doing my best to preserve my health so I can organise a 65th anniversary in 2030 – wouldn’t that be something?! ●
DAVID STEWART-HUNTER (OE 1965)



Old Elthamians Association Professional Networking Event



We were delighted to welcome nearly 30 Old Elthamians to the offices of Brewin Dolphin in Farringdon in June as part of the Old Elthamians Association’s Professional Networking series.

This event saw OEs of every generation (from the 80s through to recent leavers) enjoy themselves, network and make new connections. Whilst all attendees had Eltham College as the common denominator, they also work in, or are connected to, Financial Services in some way.

We were shown incredible hospitality by Sarah and her Brewin Dolphin colleagues, who were very good company, and everyone I spoke to seemed genuinely pleased to be there. Several connections were made and there was lots of laughter alongside some of the more serious conversations.

We look forward to publicising the next OE professional networking event on the Elthamians network soon. ●
NICK BYERS
(CHAIR, OLD ELTHAMIANS ASSOCIATION)

Drama

Middle School Play

The Hound of the Baskervilles

JSM

This year's Middle School production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was an exciting journey into classic mystery and theatrical invention. Originally adapted for just three actors, the script was expanded to include over 30 talented Year 9 and 10 students. The students embraced the challenge of reimagining roles, scenes, and structure, using improvisation and imagination to breathe new life into the story. The result was a playful yet gripping rendition that was as clever as it was collaborative. →



Rex Edmunds in Year 9 was part of the ensemble

This term I have enjoyed being able to act in the drama production *The Hound of The Baskervilles*. Despite having an interest in drama since I was younger, it was my first ever production, and going into it, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't know what to expect from something like this. Luckily, thanks to my friends, I found it easy to fit in and learn my role, particularly through the guidance and input of Mr Marshall, who helped me get into character perfectly and directed me and the rest of the cast very well. I was tasked with playing the role of Sherlock Holmes in scenes 5, 6 and 23, and the most difficult part of this play was learning my lines, as I had to juggle memorizing my scenes, alongside doing homework and taking part in various co-curricular activities. Overall, I found this an amazing experience, and I will definitely participate in next year's play too.

Vivienne-Leigh Peter in Year 9 was part of the ensemble

Being part of the middle school drama production *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was such a fun and unforgettable experience! From the very first rehearsal where we learnt how to create a realistic fight scene, there was a real sense of excitement and teamwork. It was amazing to see how everyone brought their characters to life – from Sherlock Holmes' clever detective work to the mysterious and spooky atmosphere of the moor. We all worked hard to learn our lines, perfect our timing, and create a performance that would keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

One of the best parts was getting to spend time with friends while doing something creative. We laughed a lot

backstage, helped each other when things didn't go to plan, and celebrated every little success. The costumes, sets, and dramatic scenes made everything feel so real and exciting to perform. Performing in front of an audience was incredibly rewarding, especially since it was a comedy piece. I'll always remember how proud I felt taking that final bow. This production taught me a lot about acting, teamwork, and having confidence – and I'd do it all again in a heartbeat!

Aida Urbani in Year 9 was part of the ensemble

When I first auditioned and found out about the play, I found the concept of having multiple actors play one character quite interesting and new. I have done many plays before, but never a comedy so it was good to try something different. Although there were many long rehearsals, the memories of laughing and spending time with friends made it all worthwhile. With the help of Mr Marshall, I think *The Hound of the Baskervilles* pushed me to really expand my emotions and improve my acting and diction. I think being part of a play is really important because it boosts your confidence and you get closer to the other students who also take part. The best part of the play for me was making the audience laugh and I found the costumes and props fun to use. The most challenging part was remembering all my cues and having clear diction during the fast recap in Act 2. Overall, it was a very satisfying and a rewarding experience. ●





Lower School Play

Treasure Island

KYR

This year, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took audiences on a grand adventure through a world of magic, treasure, and pirates! Performing Bryony Lavery's adaptation of *Treasure Island*, our students brought this swashbuckling adventure to life with music, over-the-top characters, and a lean into the script's Brechtian style, utilising Jim Hawkins' narration. →



Rohan Vyas in Year 8 played Squire Trelawney

When asked to play Squire Trelawney in the Lower School production of *Treasure Island*, I was filled with a mixture of delight and trepidation. Squire's buffoonery, enthusiasm and indiscretions make him such a fun character to play, and being familiar with the novel, I was acutely aware of just how important his ill judgement is in driving the plot. I needn't have worried! Drama is a team activity, and everything from Miss Mavrides' and Mrs Robinson's use of epic theatre and Brechtian techniques, and performances from my fellow cast members, through to the backstage crew, was perfectly planned and executed. The camaraderie throughout was fantastic and I made lots of new friends. Juggling rehearsals with exam revision wasn't easy, but every time I walked into the ABT I felt immersed in a world of buccaneering adventure, and 'blaggardly, bloodletting Pirates' – a fantastic escape from the everyday. I enjoyed every aspect of playing Squire Trelawney, from the costume, to his lines which generated many chuckles from the audience. Being a part of this epic, high energy production has been one of the greatest highlights of my time at Eltham, so, "Crew So Far... follow the Captain" – to the next school production!

Ellie Caldwell in Year 8 played Long John Silver

I thoroughly enjoyed working on *Treasure Island* this year. I think Miss Mavrides really helped encourage students and actors to put all their effort into the performance. Her imaginative approach allowed us to explore a clever use of the stage space, and I particularly enjoyed the star gazing scene featuring my role and Jim who was played by Naomi. What set this play apart from others performed by the lower school was the volume of lines the cast had to learn which we worked very hard on and achieved.

The rehearsal process was organised, exciting and fun. This production was one of my favourites I have taken part in at Eltham, mostly because of the professionalism of it. This included the costumes and of course the set! When it came to the performance, I believe that we were prepared and able to perform well which therefore ended happily with a well-received performance and hopefully the audience enjoyed it just as much as I did. This would not have been possible without the help from Miss Mavrides, the tech crew and of course the amazing cast. We are so lucky to have these opportunities at our fingertips.

Naomi Perrin in Year 7 played Jim Hawkins

Being part of the Lower School *Treasure Island* production was a great experience. I played Act 1 Jim Hawkins, which meant I got to open the show by singing – it was an exciting way to start the performance.

Rehearsals were loads of fun. It was exciting to watch the story come to life bit by bit, and each time we ran through the scenes, it felt more real. I loved interacting with the ensemble on stage and blocking the smaller scenes in rehearsals was also really fun.

One of the best things was making new friends. As I was only Jim Hawkins in Act 1, I made good friends with the other Jim and enjoyed working with her.

On performance night, the lights, costumes, and audience made all of our hard work feel so worthwhile. I'll never forget the cheers at the end and how proud we all felt. *Treasure Island* was an amazing show, and I'm so glad I was part of it. I can't wait for the next school production! ●

Sixth Form Play

The Comedy of Errors

SJK

This year, Sixth Form and Year 11 students performed *The Comedy of Errors* in a lively and contemporary staging of Shakespeare's farcical classic. First performed in 1594 as part of Christmas festivities for the legal profession, the play has long been celebrated for its light-hearted tone and fast-paced humour. Often compared to a pantomime, it is affectionately known as Shakespeare's most comedic work.

This production set the story on a modern Greek tourist island. The timeless theme of mistaken identity and chaotic misunderstandings is brought to life through vibrant language, physical comedy and bold characterisation. The cast did an incredible job interpreting the characters and the text, bringing the play hurtling into 2025 and proving that Shakespeare is accessible for all. ➔



Austin Colwell in the Upper Sixth played Dromio of Syracuse

Playing the part of Dromio of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors* as Wilf's twin on stage was an unforgettable experience. At first, I was a little nervous of the production because learning Shakespeare was like learning a whole new language; you had to remember the lines but also their rhythm and meaning if you were to act them out convincingly. Still, with lots of help I got there in the end!

I really liked how Mrs Kendrick retained the Shakespearian language yet gave the set design, music and costumes a modern twist, even if it left Wilf and I with a rather colourful look. What I loved most about *The Comedy of Errors* was that I could make people laugh. I love to make people smile and to be given a whole stage to do that was a fantastic opportunity.

I have been given many experiences like this during my time at Eltham College Sixth Form and I am so grateful to the Drama Department for giving me some great memories which I will carry with me into my next stages in life!

Temi Blaev in the Lower Sixth played Antipholus of Syracuse

Taking part in *The Comedy of Errors* has been one of my favourite highlights of my time at Eltham College. From the very first audition to the final bow, I enjoyed every single moment, and I wish we could've performed the show again and again!

Throughout the rehearsal process, the entire cast, crew and our amazing director Mrs Kendrick worked extremely hard together to bring the streets of Greece to life inside our wonderful ABT. *The Comedy of Errors* provided me with the opportunity to make many new friends and create many memories that will last with me my whole life. One thing I am very grateful for, is being surrounded by people on stage that share the same

passion and dedication for performing, as it really helps you to step into the shoes of your character and not worry about anything going wrong. When the entire cast is concentrating and working hard, that is when the best performances are delivered. This show taught me the importance of teamwork and organisation, and I developed many new skills which I will definitely incorporate in all future shows. I would like to thank Mrs Kendrick for providing me with this amazing opportunity, and I am so proud of everyone who took part!

Sam Johnson in the Lower Sixth played Pinch

The Comedy of Errors was a culmination of many tireless nights and lunchtimes, as Pinch, the eccentric exorcist, a puppeteer, and a member of the ensemble. Having not used puppets before, I encountered a challenge; however, following the insightful direction from Mrs Kendrick, I was able to overcome this challenge by placing importance on the idea of breath and intention in the puppets as I controlled them with Hesper. I particularly enjoyed my time in the ensemble, as it allowed me to develop my Shakespearean reactions as the townspeople reacted to the unfolding chaos of the narrative. Mrs Kendrick's creative process was especially exciting as we were sent off to develop small characters, relationships and interactions to place in the background of each scene. Embracing physical comedy and bold character choices both physically and vocally, performing as Pinch was the highlight of the show. This contrasted the drama I have performed in the past, and pushed me out of my comfort zone, but gave me more freedom to experiment with voice, movement and timing. Overall, *The Comedy of Errors* was a rewarding experience that helped me to develop dramatic techniques I have not utilised in the past. ●



Drama News

KYR

We’ve had some incredible achievements recently, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students.

Helena Cao and Elena Khoo (Year 7) triumphed over more than 2,000 entries to reach the finals of the English Speaking Union Performing Shakespeare competition held at the iconic Globe Theatre. They had the unique opportunity to spend a day working alongside professional actors and performed on the prestigious Sam Wanamaker Stage. Truly a remarkable achievement!

Congratulations to Milo Kirby, Seren Booth, Emilio Escanero Dingley (Year 10), and Mary Sanderson (Lower Sixth) for securing places in the National Youth Theatre this summer! With over 5,000 auditions for just 500 spots, this is no small feat.

Finally, Lotte Robinson (Upper Sixth) and Lucas Fonseka Koon (OE 2024) have been offered places at the esteemed Rose Bruford College. Known for producing outstanding actors, including the legendary Gary Oldman, Rose Bruford is a leader in performing arts education with a stellar reputation for excellence. ●



Helena Cao and Elena Khoo (Year 7) at the finals of the English Speaking Union Performing Shakespeare competition at the Globe Theatre



Year 5 – *The Winter's Tale*



Year 4 – *Dr Seuss*



Year 6 – *Animal Farm*

Junior School

A Show- Stopping Year for the Drama Department

HJT

Mr Timbrell reviews the drama on display this year at the Junior School.



Year 3 – *Anansi The Spider*

It has been a truly spectacular year for the Drama Department at Eltham College Junior School, with every year group taking to the stage and bringing stories to life with passion, talent, and creativity. From Shakespeare to Dr Seuss, students embraced performance with confidence, showcasing not only their acting skills but also their teamwork and commitment.

The dramatic year began with a flourish in the Michaelmas Term, as Year 5 explored the works of William Shakespeare. Three of the Bard’s classics – *A Winter’s Tale*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* – were brought to life in a series of vibrant and ambitious productions. With lively costumes, clear and expressive delivery, and a touch of comedy and magic, the pupils made these complex texts accessible and enjoyable for all.

Moving into the Lent Term, the spotlight shifted to Year 6, who took on a bold adaptation of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*. With mature performances and a strong sense of ensemble, the cast tackled the political themes of the story with

sensitivity and power, creating a thought-provoking piece that impressed staff and families alike. Meanwhile, Year 3 delighted audiences with their charming retelling of *Anansi The Spider*, a traditional West African tale. With colourful storytelling, rhythmic narration, and joyful energy, the youngest performers in the department brought a lively cultural story to the stage, winning hearts with their enthusiasm.

The school year concluded in the Summer Term with a dazzling Year 4 showcase of Dr Seuss classics: *Horton Hatches The Egg*, *The Cat in the Hat*, and *Horton Hears a Who*. With whimsical sets, rhyming scripts, and plenty of laughter, the pupils captured the playful spirit of Seuss’s world, ending the drama calendar on a high note.

From Shakespearean verse to animal allegory and fantastical rhymes, this year’s drama productions have highlighted the immense creativity and talent of Eltham College Junior School’s young performers. Bravo to all involved! ●

Music Notes

SAJ

June's Scholars Concert



February's Scholars Concert

Director of Music Mr Johns reviews the year in music

Whilst my maths is pretty poor, I'm led to believe that there are roughly 31,536,000 seconds in a year. That actually doesn't feel like very many when you think about it, and doing a very quick and slightly rosey calculation about the number of school weeks per calendar year, I think there are something like 19,550,000 seconds in a school year. Considering that ECCO alone lasted for almost 25,200 seconds, it all feels pretty crazy that we have managed to fit in as much into this musical year as we have. Our music calendar for this year lists 60 events/concerts, and that's just in the Senior School; add in the Junior School music calendar and we're probably approaching 100, which would be something silly like one music event to every 1.6 school days!

A number of our staple concerts have stayed, including Scholars' Concerts, Informal Concerts, Concerto Competitions and our large-scale internal and external ensembles concerts, but we've had a number of exciting additions, such as our first ever opera and an increasing number of choral services in our chapel. A huge

number of pupils have performed on our stages this year, both as soloists and in ensembles, from those making their solo debut in an Informal Concert to those performing solo concerto movements at Blackheath Halls.

Concerts aside, we will have a number of new staff joining the Department in September, and we have officially become one of the first ever ABRSM Partner Schools. The school chapel is now decked out with a wonderful extended and upgraded organ, and both of our academic classrooms have brand new iMacs; there'll also be a shiny new recording studio awaiting the pupils in September.

The number of pupils learning instruments, and playing in our ensembles, somehow continues to rise, and so we have hired a second Music Administrator to keep up with this demand. An increasing number of our pupils are entering, and winning, national and international competitions; a particular highlight was our Under 14 String Quartet winning two international competitions and placing second in a third. ➔

We hit 55 ensembles rehearsing every week, and this looks set to rise further next year with the continued development of our Chamber Music programme. Next year will see the addition of two exciting new external concert venues in Sinfonia Smith Square and the Royal Overseas League, and the official rebranding of ECCO into something that recognises quite what that event has become in recent years.

It’s pretty hard to narrow down such a busy, vibrant, wide-ranging musical year into just a few hundred words, but suffice to say that it has been a truly wonderful year. Our pupils are doing amazing things, and it is such a joy to be part of a Department that sees so many of them getting involved, at whatever level, and enjoying their music-making. I look forward to the challenge of trying to sum up a year that looks set to be even busier this time next year; bring on 2025/26 (but first, a bit of a rest...). ●



Young Musician Final 2025



Dido and Aeneas

In March, the Music Department joined with the Drama Department to stage an ambitious project; Eltham College’s first ever opera. Mr Johns, Mrs Robinson and Mr Hopwood chose Henry Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, combining Baroque musical writing with a modern American High School stage setting. The cast of singers really enjoyed getting to grips with music that felt very different to anything they’d sung before (and also involved learning 60 minutes of four-part harmony off by heart!), and the on-stage string orchestra was made up entirely of pupils. The production was also an opportunity to showcase the Music Department’s new harpsichord, bought specially for this venture. The production was a great success, and lays the groundwork for further operatic productions in the years to come. ●

MICHELLE TEIBO (YEAR 11)

Jazz Night

The first day of March saw one of the most popular events of the musical year – Jazz Night. Once again, the ABT was converted into our very own Eltham College jazz club, with round table seating and full sound and lighting. Our school jazz bands sounded great, and created a really professional feel, but what was particularly pleasing was to see so many pupil-led jazz ensembles taking to the stage; it took the total number of jazz ensembles performing to nine, which speaks to the strength of jazz music here. Another highlight was a performance from the Alice Jinks Quintet, including three OEs, who were there to promote the upcoming release of their new album; it’s great to see that this ensemble has stayed together! The table seats were completely full, and we also had a number of audience members in the tiered seating at the back of the ABT, and it’s wonderful to have such great attendance. All in all, it was a great evening, and we look forward to next year’s event. ●

RICHARD WOLFSON (UPPER SIXTH)



New album release: The Alice Jinks Quintet

Keep your eyes out for a new album release from the Music Department, going live on all major streaming platforms this summer! Recorded in July 2024, *The Alice Jinks Quintet – The Album* showcases a jazz quintet formed here at Eltham last year, headlined by Alice Jinks OE (now studying Fine Art at Chelsea College of Arts). The album features five tracks, including jazz standards such as *Autumn Leaves* and *I Put a Spell on You*. It is perfect for a relaxed afternoon/evening listening session, so do head to your favourite music streaming service to have a listen! ●

SAJ



The new album, released summer of 2025, includes five tracks.





Choral and Orchestral Concert at the Blackheath Halls

Recent years have seen our annual Choral and Orchestral Concert cement itself as perhaps the flagship event for high-level large-ensemble performance at Eltham. Our Symphony Orchestra performs the entire concert, with the school’s Choral Society and College Choir joining for a number of large-scale choral and orchestral works, as well as a number of concerto movements performed by the winners of October’s Concerto Competition. This year’s programme was extraordinary, featuring two piano concerto movements (Grieg’s *Piano Concerto in A minor*, performed by Aaron Tian [Year 9] and Saint-Saëns’ *Piano Concerto in G minor*, performed

by Phoenix Che-Lai [Lower Sixth]), Mendelssohn’s *Hear My Prayer* (performed by Michelle Teibo [Year 11] alongside the Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society), Dvořák’s 8th Symphony, Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs*, and a new arrangement of Bruckner’s *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* for choir and full orchestra by Director of Music Mr Johns. The standard of playing was far beyond what would be expected of a school ensemble, and the concert was a real showcase of why Eltham’s Music Department is increasingly known for its orchestral output and for the strength of its choral tradition. ● **ZAC DEVON** (UPPER SIXTH)

Investments in Music Technology

The 2024-25 academic year has seen significant investment in music technology at Eltham, and pupils will arrive in September 2025 with a very different array of technology to that which greeted them at the same time the year before. A major part of this was the purchase, and installation, of two full classrooms of iMacs; this is a major investment, and transforms the academic music programme by enabling our pupils to learn, and compose, using the latest technology, and the highest level professional programmes. These were installed in February, and it has been wonderful to see the excitement amongst the pupils in the months since, and the work that they have come up with as a result. In addition, over the summer holiday the current locker room will undergo a complete transformation, becoming a fully kitted out recording studio. This will transform our contemporary music offering, offering a significantly improved space for bands to rehearse, but also the ability for them to record and write. It will also enable the teaching of A-level Music Technology, which will be offered for the first time here at Eltham from September. ●

SAJ



ECCO

If other concerts at Eltham showcase the music here is high-level, ECCO showcases that it is fun. This event has grown hugely in the last few years, with the sole aim of doing one thing – celebrating the amazing, wide-ranging, vibrant musical tradition that flourishes here. The whole remit of music at Eltham was on show in an event that lasted nearly seven hours. A chamber music recital in the Quad kicked off the day, followed by performances by a number of pupil-led rock bands on the Rock Stage, a full hour of jazz on the Jazz Stage, and then the marquee was officially opened ahead of the Marquee Concert. The theme of the evening concert this year was “A Night at the Movies”, and so all music performed was from films, with Eltham Brass, Sinfonia, Young Voices, College Choir (+ on stage band), Concert Band and the Eltham College Community Orchestra taking to the stage. ECCO itself numbered almost 70, with our Symphony Orchestra joined by a large number of parents, staff and former pupils; the combined sound was quite something. The evening finished, as is tradition, with *Jerusalem* and *I Vow to Thee my*



Country. To have seven hours of music across four stages is quite something, and that’s not even mentioning the ice cream van, popcorn machine, or table decoration competition (now in its third year). Bring on next year’s event (and watch this space for the new name...). ●

SAJ



New appointments in the Music Department

In addition to the investments in Music Technology, there have been a number of new appointments in recognition of the continued expansion and development of music here. Firstly, Jessica O’Leary has been appointed has Head of Chamber Music, a new role that she takes on in addition to her Head of Strings position; she will be supported by an Assistant Head of Chamber Music, Sabrina Pullen, and between them they will oversee the continued expansion of chamber music at Eltham, including, but not limited to, the Elite Chamber Music Programme.

In September, we will also be joined by two new members of staff. Yuyao Qu will join the school as Associate Accompanist and Performance Coach, working with our music scholars in preparation for, and during, recitals, concerts, recordings and auditions. In addition, the Junior School will have its own Junior School Music Administrator, working alongside Mr Alexander (Head of Junior School Music) and Mrs Lewis (Senior School Music Administrator) to oversee the day-to-day running of the Junior School’s music programme (now including nearly 350 music lessons per week just in Years 3-6!). ●

SAJ



Summer Concert in the Great Hall at Goldsmiths College

Music at the Junior School

MKA

Mr Alexander reviews the highlights of the Junior School’s musical calendar

Congratulations to all of the pupils who took part in this year’s Inter House Music Competition. There were a record 273 performances across all Houses and Year Groups this year, with over a third of pupils gaining the maximum marks for their performance on a wide range of instruments at all levels up to and including Grade 8. The final totals this year were:

Chalmers	344.5
Carey	298
Moffat	272
Livingstone	262.5

On Friday 7 February, we had a concert for the Junior School with a selection of instruments and Houses, along with each Form group having representation, to showcase the many talents from this year’s Competition. On the final Monday of Lent term, the Junior School gathered in The Great Hall at Goldsmiths College for their Orchestral Ensembles Concert. This was the first outing for our newly

structured String Ensembles, now with 3 String Ensembles in the Junior School, based on ability and not age. We were particularly thrilled to welcome a former pupil and now Year 9 Music Scholar, Aaron Tiaan, back to conduct one of these groups. The standard of music making continues to rise in the Junior School as the breadth of styles performed is as broad as ever.

Throughout the second half of the year, we have continued to host numerous Informal Concerts in both the Junior School Music Room and Rosemary Morgan Hall. More pupils than ever are taking exams with both ABRSM and Trinity at ever increasing standards too.

We returned to Goldsmiths College for our end of year ensembles concert as we bade farewell to our Year 6 cohort who have championed music to new heights throughout this year and wish them well for their future musical endeavours. ●



Left: Informal Concert in the Junior School Hall

Below: Inter House Music Competition – the finalists’ concert



First Piano Recital

Second Piano Recital



Inter House Music Competition the winning Chalmers musicians



Informal Strings concert in the Junior School Hall



Isabella Totty (Upper Sixth)

Art
SLH

**Director of Art
Mrs Heraghty celebrates
another vibrant year of
creativity, growth, and
achievement.**

A highlight in January was Jakub Zontek’s impressive presentation at the London heats of the prestigious *ARTiculation* public speaking competition. His talk on The Pixel Building impressed the judges with its confidence, clarity, and thoughtful balance of personal response and technical knowledge.

We were fortunate to work closely with our incredible Artist in Residence, Miriam Austin, whose use of wax, silicone, and casting inspired students across year groups. Students visited her exhibition and took part in a workshop based on her practice. These experiences encouraged risk-taking and introduced exciting new ways of working.

Our co-curricular programme thrived, with Art Club, Ceramics Club, and Architecture Club giving students space to develop personal projects in

a collaborative environment. These clubs encouraged experimentation, independence, and self-expression.

Students also enjoyed visiting exhibitions in the Gerald Moore Gallery throughout the year, deepening their understanding of contemporary art. It was fantastic to see so many younger students attending the GCSE and A-level exhibitions – their enthusiasm and curiosity was a joy to witness, and we hope it inspires them for their own future shows.

This has been a year of bold ideas, new skills, and artistic ambition. We are proud of our students’ achievements and grateful to our staff, visiting artists, and the wider school community for their continued support. We look forward to another exciting year ahead. ●



George Reeves (GCSE)

**GCSE and A-level
Exhibitions**

Each year, we are amazed by the creativity and quality of work produced by our art students – but this year, they truly surpassed all expectations.

Our GCSE cohort was an especially talented and supportive group. Their end-of-year exhibition showcased a wide range of imaginative work, from latex and glass pieces to bold mixed media installations. Every piece reflected the individuality and ambition of its creator, making for a truly memorable show.

Following this, our Upper Sixth students presented an equally inspiring exhibition. The ambition and scale of their work were exceptional, featuring everything from 3D-printed heads to sculptural staircases and even glowing neon slime. The diversity of ideas and materials made the show dynamic and exciting – something for everyone to enjoy.

Many of these students are now heading to art and design courses at university, and we have no doubt they’ll continue to thrive creatively in the years ahead.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the exhibitions in the Gerald Moore Gallery – your support means a great deal to the students and the department. We’re proud of what our young artists have achieved and look forward to seeing where their talent takes them next. ●



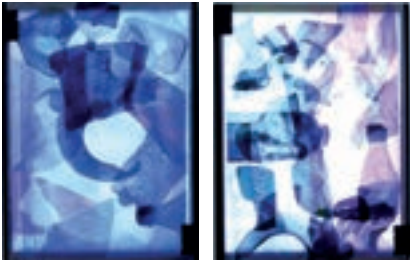
Anya McNair (GCSE)



Roz Hunter (GCSE)

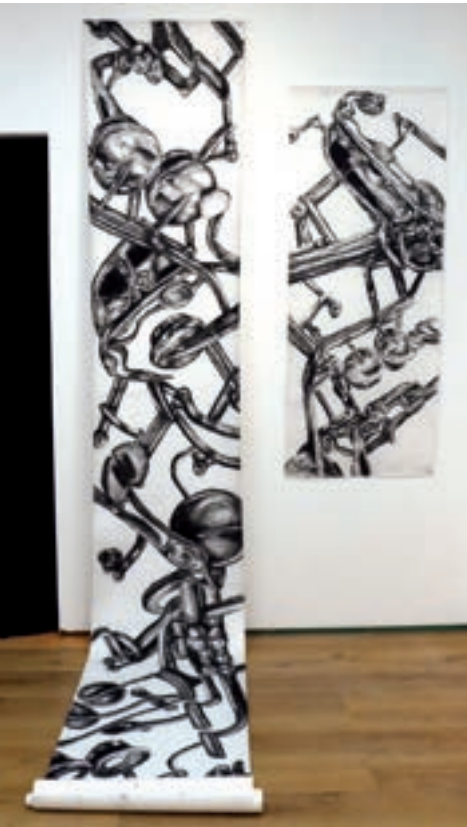


Earl Bodemeh (GCSE)



Zoe Biard-Blackmore (GCSE)

GCSE and A-level Exhibitions
continued...



Ben Hunter (GCSE)



Aryian Saran (GCSE)



Mira Karthikeyan (GCSE)



Isobel Gytetza (GCSE)



Dina Ashworth (GCSE)



Genta Scholl (A-level)



Ava Nyugen (A-level)



Grace Burroughs (A-level)



Isabella Totty (A-level)



Ellen Smith (A-level)

Year 10



Lyra Pugh (Yr 10)



India Bradley (Yr 10)

Year 9



Hugo Simcock (Yr 9)



Yuvan Raman (Yr 10)



Aaron Crossan (Yr 9)



Vivienne-Leigh Peter (Yr 9)



Matthew Shirley (Yr 9)



Ralph Murphy (Yr 9)

Year 8



Isabelle Healey (Yr 8)



Sebastien Holowaty (Yr 8)



Zahra Saggars (Yr 8)



Krishan Vithana and Anoush Somaiya (Yr 8)

Year 7



Felix Waite Perez (Yr 7)

Henry Baker (Yr 7)



Isabelle Chen (Yr 7)



Alice Slack (Yr 7)

‘Tell Me Where It Hurts’:
Lower Sixth Exhibition

This year, Lower Sixth students took full creative control as they curated their own exhibition, *Tell Me Where It Hurts*, in the Gerald Moore Gallery. Responding to the theme of repair, students studying A-level Art collaborated with those on the enrichment programme to produce a thought-provoking and eclectic body of work.

The exhibition featured a rich variety of media, including painting, printmaking, and ceramics, all exploring personal and conceptual interpretations of mending, healing, and transformation. From delicate surface work to bold compositions, each piece contributed to a powerful collective narrative.

Students worked closely with Gallery Manager, Haf Anuar, who guided them through the curatorial process. Under Haf’s mentorship, they developed key skills in exhibition planning – learning how to select, arrange, and present work in a professional gallery setting. Everything from the exhibition title and poster design to the layout of the space was student-led, giving them valuable real-world experience and a strong sense of ownership over the project.

The result was an engaging, emotionally resonant show that demonstrated not only artistic talent but also thoughtful collaboration and curatorial insight. ●



James Phillips (Lower Sixth)



Mary Sanderson (Lower Sixth)



Art Trip to St Ives

In the Easter holidays, a small group of Year 10 art students departed on the long 7-hour journey to St Ives, Cornwall. However, we kept ourselves busy by drawing and sketching for contests. When we arrived, we went to the beach for our first photography session. The next morning, we went on a walk to photograph the landscape. A highlight was our sand sculpture workshop, where we learnt sculpture techniques and working with different materials. On the final day, we completed our trip with an invigorating visit to the Barbara Hepworth museum, where we created our own sculptures. However, no lunch in Cornwall is complete without a Cornish pasty and fudge! After lunch we visited the Tate St Ives, where we interpreted abstract art and how it related to our theme, inside. ●

LARA SOUTH (YEAR 10)

Art in the Junior School

The Lent term started when the Year 4s undertook a day-long workshop with the artist Alison Kusner. Alison designed a bespoke abstract art workshop. Using a range of mixed medias, pupils produced a striking piece of artwork on canvas, showcasing their creativity.

The term then saw the Year 6s attending their transition lesson in the Senior School. Inspired by the African-British artist Yinka Shonibare, they created their own clay sculptures that depict billowing pieces of fabric caught in the wind.

In February, the Year 3s experienced firstly, their transition lesson; building on their classwork exploring Australian pointillism, they had the opportunity to try poly printing to create their own prints inspired by the work of Alick Tipoti. Secondly, they undertook a workshop at the Gerald Moore Gallery. Taking inspiration from Lydia Wood’s exhibition in the gallery, the pupils sketched their own imaginative buildings, incorporating a range of architectural features seen in Lydia’s work. They then brought their designs to life by constructing their buildings in clay.

Towards the end of May, the Year 6s enjoyed a workshop with the artist in residence, Miriam Austin. The pupils were inspired by the exhibition’s theme of human relationship with nature and created their own personal amulets.

Concluding the Summer term, the Junior School welcomed back Alison Kusner. Alison led a tailored day-long workshop on surrealist art for the Year 5s. Inspired by the work of Salvador Dali and their own dreamlike imaginations, the students created artwork using inks, charcoal, and collage. ●

AMD



Year 5 Art Workshop



Year 4 Abstract workshop

Year 3 Gerald Moore Gallery workshop



Above: Year 3 Gerald Moore Gallery workshop

Left: Year 3 Senior School Transition

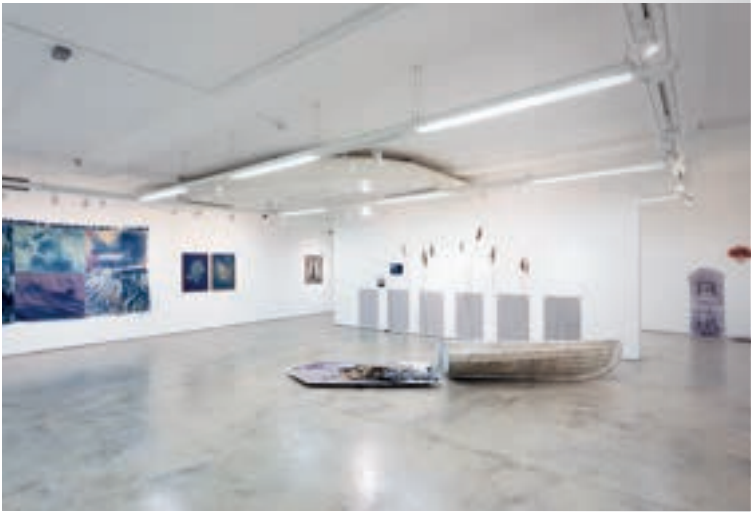
Below: Year 6 Gerald Moore Gallery workshop



Gerald Moore Gallery



Locals by Lydia Wood.
Photo: Josef Konczak



Installation view of *Alaria* with artworks by Miriam Austin and Esther Teichmann.
Photo: Josef Konczak

HFA

Gallery Manager Haf Anuar reflects on the exhibitions and workshops the gallery has staged over the past two terms.

We’ve had productive and inspiring Lent and Summer terms at the Gerald Moore Gallery (GMG), hosting a diverse programme of exhibitions, workshops, and adult art classes benefiting students, staff, and our local community. Across these two terms, we welcomed over 3000 visitors.

The Lent term kicked off with *Locals* by Lydia Wood, featuring a captivating selection from her ongoing Pub Project, an ambitious mission to draw every pub in London. The exhibition showcased over a hundred architectural pencil drawings of London pubs alongside immersive installations. Widely well-received, *Locals* attracted coverage in *The Times*, *Guardian Art Weekend*, and ITV among others. Year 3 students visited and participated in a messy but engaging clay carving workshop inspired by Wood’s detailed façades, translating 2-D images into 3-D reliefs.

Also in January, Amy Powell presented *Still Life*, a body of mixed-media sculptural paintings displayed in the Paul Henderson Gallery.

In February, Lower Sixth art students curated their own exhibition following a workshop led by artist and curator Haffendi Anuar. This collaborative project provided practical experience in exhibition planning, layout, and presentation, culminating in a private view celebrating their achievements.

During the Easter break, we hosted a series of creative workshops for younger students, including drypoint etching and acrylic painting. Our popular free “Crafternoon” session for local families on April 6th was fully booked, encouraging participants to create their own artwork using gallery resources.

Spring

In April and May, *Nice to See You!*, an open-call portraiture exhibition, filled the Ground Floor Gallery with 35 artists selected from 120 submissions, each exhibiting a single portrait. The lively launch event drew over 100 attendees. Complementing the exhibition, the Paul Henderson Gallery presented painted portraits by the late Dr Gerald Moore, exploring

Year 6 class visiting *Alaria* with Artist-in-Residence Miriam Austin introducing the exhibition.
Photo: GMG



Private view of *Nice To See You!* celebrating the launch of our annual open call exhibition.
Photo: GMG

spiritual and existential themes that provided a reflective counterpoint.

Continuing from last year’s collaboration, GMG also hosted workshops for Sixth Form students from Darrick Wood School, including drypoint etching and life drawing.

Summer Term Highlights

May saw the opening of *Alaria*, featuring new work by Eiko Soga, Esther Teichmann, and Artist-in-Residence Miriam Austin (2024–25). Each artist explored the emotional and ecological resonance of watery landscapes, islands, swamps, and fens, with themes touching on the passage of seasons, fetal development, light on water, and human/nonhuman tensions. Austin led exhibition tours and workshops for Eltham College students, while Year 6 pupils participated in amulet-making workshops after guided tours. A public amulet-making session was also offered as a free weekend activity and was fully subscribed.

Year 3 clay carving workshop in January.
Photo: GMG



Felt collage workshop with Year 4 students from St. Vincent’s Catholic Primary School as part of the project *Joy from Creating and Sharing*.
Photo: GMG

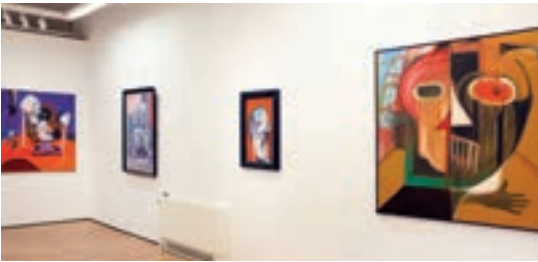
In June, GMG proudly hosted the annual GCSE and A-Level Art Exhibitions, showcasing a wide range of work, from painting and drawing to experimental mixed-media sculpture, installation, and video. Standout pieces included Aryian Saran’s miniature greenhouse on a soil island and Ava Nguyen’s mixed-media textile work.

We also welcomed senior citizens from the Yog Foundation for a miniature painting workshop led by artist Jacqueline Synnott. The session offered a creative boost to participants’ hand-eye coordination and overall wellbeing.

Summer Holiday

At the start of the summer break, *Joy from Creating and Sharing* opened at the gallery, showcasing artworks by Year 4-6 students from St Vincent’s Catholic Primary School. These pieces were developed during outreach workshops led by GMG artists. The exhibition launch on 5th July was well attended and featured live music performed by students from Eltham College. Feedback from the students

Nice To See You! installation view.
Photo: GMG



Portraits by Gerald Moore in the Paul Henderson Gallery.
Photo: GMG

was overwhelmingly positive, and the project was generously supported by the Heather McKissick Charity. This marks the first time the gallery has hosted an exhibition for students from a neighbouring school, and we hope to continue the project in partnership with other local schools.

Later in the summer, GMG hosted *Walls and Floors*, the end-of-year exhibition by students from the City Lit Fine Art course, showcasing an exciting mix of drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, printmaking, and moving image works.

Creative workshops continued through the summer holiday, offering sessions in clay sculpting, kite-making, acrylic painting and fashion design for young participants and adult learners alike. The summer programme concluded with another popular “Crafternoon” session on July 26th. ●

Barnaby Lenon



Talking Education with Barnaby Lenon CBE

Interview by Andrew Beattie, The Elthamian Editor

Barnaby Lenon was a pupil at Eltham College from 1965 to 1973. After reading geography at Oxford and studying for a PGCE at Cambridge he embarked on a career in education that saw him appointed Head at two very different independent schools (Harrow School and Trinity School Croydon); serve as Chair of the Independent Schools Council for 14 years; found a state Sixth Form academy in east London; write several geography text books, and other books about education; and be awarded a CBE for services to education in 2019. We caught up with him to talk about his life in education – including how he wrote the geography syllabus studied by most pupils today in England and Wales – at Eltham College and beyond.



Barnaby Lenon aged 18



What did you like about your time at Eltham?

I was at Eltham College from the age of 9 to 18. I liked the fact that I was taught by some good teachers and was working alongside clever boys from whom I learnt a great deal. I was poor at Latin – and French – because no teacher really taught me how to learn vocab. When I was 15 my father went to see Mr Porteous and asked that I be moved down from the A to B stream – a good move. I gave up Latin and found that I was top of the B stream as opposed to being bottom of the A stream. Quite motivating. I began to learn how to study and by the age of 16 I was much improved. Too late for my French, which I failed. I played rugby and was in the athletics team – two sports that I was to coach for many years when I became a schoolmaster.

In my day the Oxbridge exams took place in November after the Upper Sixth (so-called “Seventh Term Entrance”) so those of us with good A-level results had to stay on for an extra term. I had to prepare for several papers: Geography Human and Physical (no syllabus), a tough précis, two general papers, and a French to English translation paper!

You can still see our results (1972) on the boards in Central Hall. Eltham gets great exam results today and in 1972 – four years before the abolition of the Direct Grant – Eltham was in the top ten in the country for A-level grades.

I was awarded a scholarship to Oxford conditional on passing French O-level. I had four weeks before the next sitting of the O-level so I did what I had failed to do when I was 16 – I learnt 2,000 words in French and mastered a bit of grammar. I was still pretty poor at the subject but I passed the O-level with a reasonable grade.

You were a boarder at school – a member of School House. Why did you board and what are your memories of that time?

My father was a vicar in Sidcup and I started as a day pupil. When he moved parish to Sussex I either had to change schools or become a boarder at Eltham. In those days Eltham was a Direct Grant school – all pupils who could not afford the fees got a grant from their local authority (the Direct Grant scheme was abolished by the Labour government in 1976). In my case the local authority agreed to pay the cost of boarding as well as tuition, so I was able to stay. →



Barnaby Lenon on his Gap Year in 1973



Barnaby Lenon at the school's Speech Day in 2012

So the thing to remember is that before 1976 children from low income homes could come to Eltham College and all the other Direct Grant schools. These were the best schools, the ladders to social mobility for many children living in cities like London, Birmingham and Manchester. Back in 1970 quite a few of the other boarders were the sons of missionaries and they rarely saw their parents.

We took O-levels, not GCSEs. O-levels were much harder than GCSEs, which anyone can see by comparing past papers. So these days we teach 16-year-olds to a lower level than used to be the case.

You were a committee member of the Geography Society when you were at school – what do you remember of studying the subject at A-level, and why did you choose to study it at university?

It was well-taught and I enjoyed the subject. One of the reasons I became a teacher was that I could carry on studying my subject, which I did.

In 1973, just after you left school, you travelled with

three other former pupils from London to Kabul by Land Rover – that sounds an extraordinary journey! What are your standout memories from that time?

In those days it was common for young people to drive from London to Afghanistan and for Australians to drive the other way, from India to London. It was impossible to ring home and very hard to send or receive letters, so we were completely dependent on our own resources. We were sponsored by a company who provided us with packets of dried food, so a typical meal was beef stroganoff (out of a packet) with rice and yogurt bought locally. We spent most time in countries which are hard to visit these days – Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. All three have incredible landscapes and historic buildings so it is sad that in many ways they have gone backwards since 1973.

You've written a number of geography textbooks, from *Techniques and Fieldwork in Geography* in 1983 to textbooks accompanying the Cambridge A-level course which our pupils

at the school currently use. Why did you decide to write these books and what dictated the areas and academic levels of geography you wrote about?

In the case of *Techniques and Fieldwork* this was a simple decision – there was no available textbook so we wrote one and it was a best-seller for many years. Other textbooks were commissioned by publishers and I always enjoyed writing them.

You were vice president of the Royal Geographical Society for a while – you've obviously made a deliberate decision to keep up your involvement in the subject you studied at university. What did this role entail?

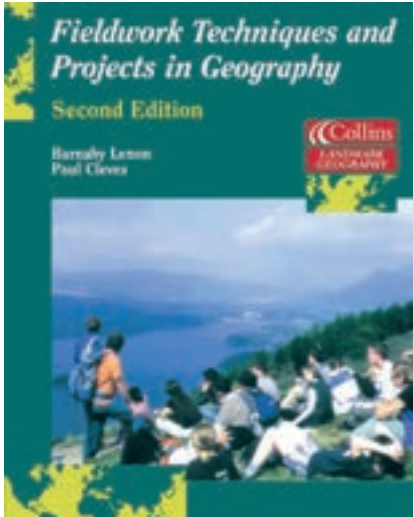
I was chair of the RGS young person's committee, then the education committee. The fact is that I ran the largest geography department in any school – over 100 taking the A-level every year. So I felt qualified to advise the RGS when needed. One achievement was writing the current Geography National Curriculum and GCSE syllabus in 2012 for the Department for Education – a chance to create a course that was attractive, modern and demanding. That is the syllabus studied by most 5-16-year-olds in the country to this day.

You taught at Eton for twelve years at the start of your teaching career – what were your impressions of this famous school in the 1970s and was it anything like Eltham College?

Eton is a bigger school – 1,300 pupils – and they are all boarders. But in many other ways it was similar to Eltham – good teaching and a rich variety of extra-curricular activities. The pupils were not so different.

You also taught at Holland Park School, a comprehensive in West London – What were your impressions of this very different school?

Holland Park was a large comprehensive school with a very diverse group of pupils. Some (not



Second edition of *Fieldwork Techniques in Physical Geography* (co-authored with Paul Cleves), published 2001

Barnaby Lenon receiving his CBE for services to education



many) from prosperous homes, most from the council estates of Notting Hill and North Kensington. I was very happy working there.

You were Headmaster of two very different schools, Trinity School Croydon and Harrow School. What were the different challenges you faced being the Head at a day school compared to a boarding school?

Running a day school is more intense than running a boarding school. In a boarding school you might have sport three afternoons a week and, in my case, when I worked in a boarding school, I always had school accommodation – so no need to commute. But of course the hours worked in a boarding school were much longer, not least because of lessons on Saturdays.

How did the job of being a Headmaster change during your time at the two schools – and how has it changed since then?

Well, over time there was increasing emphasis on staff appraisal and on communicating with parents (I did not speak to a single parent in the twelve years I taught at Eton). There was and is growing concern about compliance and doing well in inspections. Over the years there has been much more activity in terms of independent-state school partnerships. In the boarding sector there has been a growth in the number of pupils from overseas and in day schools a dramatic change in pupil ethnicity in line with the demography of the country as a whole.

Another big change was the arrival of emails in about 2000. Before then a headmaster might get five or so letters a day. Pretty soon that became 100 emails. It was quicker for the head to answer his own emails so the days of dictating letters to a secretary were over.

Finally, there is a much greater emphasis on mental health – a subject rarely even mentioned before 2000. →

What do you think were your standout achievements as Head at both schools?

My main aim was to increase the number of good applicants, which I managed to do by finding people who could market the schools well. If you make a school popular then most of the other things you want, like good results, are easier to achieve.

You are also the author of a book *Other People’s Children*, an account of what happens to those in England’s bottom 50% academically and the state of vocational education in the country – could you tell us about what conclusions your book drew?

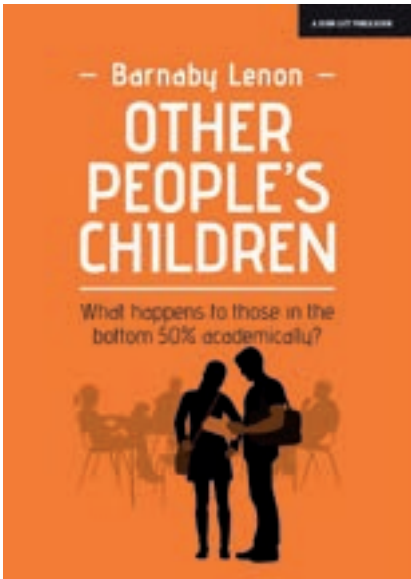
My conclusions were that most people who work in schools know nothing about Further Education colleges, which is in fact where many pupils go after they have taken GCSEs; that the funding of FE is poor and the quality of vocational education in the UK is weak compared to other countries in Europe; and that this is a pity because we badly need those young people who found academic school education a struggle to be prepared for good jobs in areas where the UK has a skills shortage.

You’ve recently stood down as Chair of the Independent Schools Council – what does this body do and what was your role as Chair?

The ISC protects the interests of 1,300 independent schools (80% of pupils in private schools) and we do the things the individual head teachers’ associations would not wish to do such as speaking to government ministers, negotiating with inspectors, collecting data and, above all, briefing the press. Right now we are challenging in court the government’s imposition of VAT on fees.

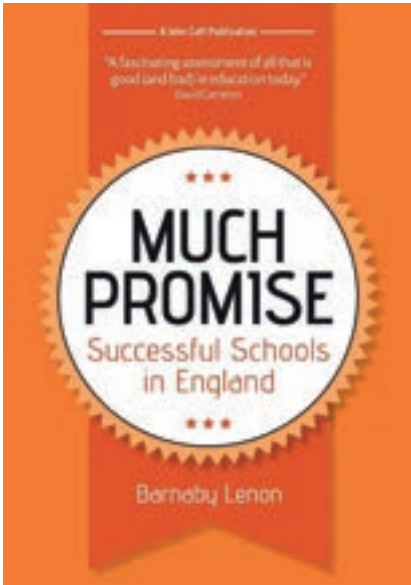
What are/will be the main challenges facing independent schools and their leaders now, and over the next ten years?

The main challenge is to get the VAT removed by the next government,



Other People’s Children – What Happens to those in the bottom 50% academically, published in 2018

Much Promise – Successful Schools in England, Published in 2017



whenever that might be, and for all schools to cut their costs in order to hold fees down. Most independent schools have become much too expensive for the vast majority of parents. The other challenge is to lift the quality of teaching to a higher level still. GCSEs are quite easy and our schools should be demanding more of our pupils. Keep an eye on the standards reached in much of East Asia!

You were also active in establishing a free school in Stratford, the London Academy of Excellence. What inspired you to do this and what were the main challenges involved?

This was a new free school, a policy started by Michael Gove in 2010. Free schools were set up with government funding in places where there a demand for better or additional schools. We discovered that in Newham, east London, there were too few schools that got good A-level results, so we set up a Sixth Form only school with the aim of getting the best results in the borough, which we did. In this way thousands of our pupils from low income backgrounds have been able to go onto top universities and good careers.

Could you tell us about your roles at Ofqual and at the University of Buckingham?

I was one of two teachers on the board of Ofqual. Ofqual looks after all public exams in England and the main job in my time was the implementation of the Gove reforms – more demanding GCSEs, especially maths; a greater emphasis on phonics as the basis for teaching reading; putting in place measures which made all exam boards very similar; stopping grade inflation; and cutting back boring coursework.

I am Dean of Education at the University of Buckingham which is one of the larger teacher training organisations in the UK. We have 1,400 students this year, many at independent schools. We are much the largest provider of the apprenticeship route to teacher

training, which is free of charge to schools. All our trainee teachers work in schools and do my courses part-time. Some lead to Qualified Teacher Status, some to the PGCE, many to both. In addition we have large numbers of experienced teachers doing MAs and doctorates.

Teacher training is another world. You have to do two things. First, you have to work out what good teachers look like and then you have to find the most effective ways of training new teachers to adopt good practices. Of course there is no one model for a good teacher – the best teachers I had at Eltham were very different from each other. But research does help us to understand why some teachers are better than others and why.

You’ve said in the past that the “wrong steps” have been taken by some independent schools in recent years....what exactly are these?

Some independent schools have made what I believe to be wrong steps. I may well be wrong myself but these are my opinions...Firstly, there has been too much dumbing down by making the content of what we teach easier; secondly, thinking that end-of-course exams are stressful and should be replaced by coursework. Exams have always been stressful but they happen to be the fairest system of assessment and fairness matters a lot. Coursework has often been dull and is unfair because of help from teachers, parents and AI. Thirdly, over 40% of pupils at independent schools get extra time in GCSEs and A-levels because they are thought to have a problem. This is too high a figure and reminds us that too many teenagers are being diagnosed as having a ‘problem’ when in fact they are just normal teenagers.

Finally, we also read that you made an appearance on the BBC’s *Celebrity Masterchef* – tell us about this.

When I was Head of Harrow three contestants came to the school and

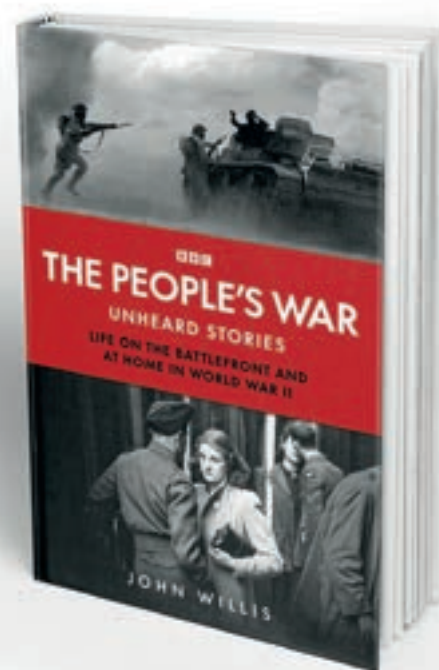
made two meals. The first was lunch for 1,000 people, which was much criticised by my catering staff, and the second was a three-course dinner for twelve people which I had to judge. There were tears when a soufflé failed to rise. There was derision when Christine Hamilton produced a ghastly fruit cocktail. She said she “had always loved being ticked-off by headmasters”.

The great thing about doing *Masterchef* was having the opportunity to thrust my catering staff into the limelight. They do an important job which is too rarely appreciated. Now they were on national TV! ●

“Exams have always been stressful but they happen to be the fairest system of assessment and fairness matters a lot. Coursework has often been dull and is unfair because of help from teachers, parents and AI.”

Speech Day 2012: Left to Right David Robins (Chair of Governors), Griff Rhys Jones and Barnaby Lenon (Speakers) and Paul Henderson (Headmaster)





John Willis (OE 1965) had a long career in television before becoming an author, winning a BAFTA award in 1976 for his documentary *Johnny Go Home* and introducing documentary strands such as “Cutting Edge” to Channel Four when he became its Director of Programmes in 1988. Other high-profile roles include Managing Director of LWT and United Productions, Vice President of National Programmes at WGBH Boston and the BBC’s Director of Factual and Learning. From 2012 to 2014 he was Chair of BAFTA. He is currently Chair of Governors at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.



The People’s War

The latest book by John Willis OE looks at the effects of the Second World War on ordinary people – a “street-level view of the war” as he describes it. The book is based on testimonies of those who lived through the conflict, which were collected by the BBC to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the war.



John Willis photographed in the school’s library during the Class of 1965 Reunion in July

Twenty years ago, the BBC marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Second World War by capturing the memories of those who lived through the conflict. Working with libraries and charities the “People’s War” team built a giant war archive, an astonishing 47,000 testimonies. As the final centenarian survivors pass on, present memories turn into history. So, now is the right moment for me to curate the most compelling stories from this huge, unexplored, archive into a book.

The People’s War is the story of 1939–45 told not by politicians and commanders, but by ordinary British men and women; a “street level” view of the war. These are unvarnished

stories of those who fought, grieved, loved, and survived the war.

On 3rd September 1939 every life changed. From now death, grief, loss, and dislocation were constant companions for everyone, and no community was immune. Eltham College lost seventy-nine former pupils and staff, including rugby international and Olympic Gold medallist Eric Liddell, who died in a Japanese internment camp. Eltham and the surrounding areas sat on the German bomber pathway to the London docks. So, the school’s boarders were scattered away from the dangers of South London to Somerset and South Wales.

In 1939 Pauline Edmondson’s family in Sidcup readied themselves for war.



Children creating allotments amid the bomb damage

Our front room was turned into a ‘safe room’ – the chimney and every crack were stuffed with paper and the windows sealed... sand and sandbags were delivered to all the houses, and we spent all day filling the bags. They were then stacked round the front of the house, so the windows were barricaded about halfway up. I don’t remember that any were put round the back, so I presume we must have expected Hitler to come in the front door if he came calling.

Much of *The People’s War* is about the mechanics of survival. Training, comradeship, and physical and mental toughness all helped, but sometimes it was just sheer luck. Take Dunkirk, where 338,000 trapped men were desperate to escape in ships big and small.

The officer shouted, “*Right, Thirteen, take cover in the town.*” *We ran like the wind and took cover down a side street, rounded the corner and hid, shaking like leaves, under some*

collapsed railings. There was a sickening roar and thunderous bang, and stones and bricks came hurtling through the air where the bomb had struck a nearby house.

We got to our feet, dazed and sick, and started to trudge our way back to our place on the beach. Shaking from shock we almost tumbled the last few yards onto the beach...to find that our places we had guarded for so long had been stolen. But at what a cost! Everywhere we had stood only minutes before were dead men. There were bodies everywhere. Exactly where I had stood only a short time before, lay a man of approximately the same age – dead!

The People’s War benefits from recollections gathered sixty years after the end of the war; childhood memories, many indelible, now shaped by adult skills and experiences. Take this schoolgirl’s description of the relentless London Blitz when the Nazis bombed the capital for 57 days and nights.

Every time a bomb falls, everything shakes...we emerge, to see a scene that, even now, I recall as vividly as when it happened. The entire street is choked with emergency vehicles – ambulances, fire engines-all clanging their bells. The gutters and pavements are full of writhing hoses like giant snakes, and above...the sky.

The sky to the south still a deep, beautiful blue, but to the north a vision of hell. It is red, it is orange, it is luminous yellow. It writhes in billows. It is threaded through with wisps and clouds of grey smoke and steam. All around there are shouts and occasional screams, whistles blow and bells clang...the gutters run with water, soot, and oily rainbows and the reflections of the fiery sky.

Children were plunged into this frightening adult world of war, but they also enjoyed unimaginable freedom.

After an air raid 8-year-old Ray Scott from Welling and his brothers would search for unexploded incendiary bombs. They extracted the explosive and mixed it with potassium permanganate which they told the local chemist was for their mother’s hair dye.→

We found that we could make a self-igniting bomb by ramming this mixture into lengths of copper piping which we retrieved from bombed buildings...we developed the idea further by wiring up a piece of dad's fuse wire inside the copper tube. We were then able to bury our 'bomb' in a hole in our garden and with a length of electric cable wire it up to a fuse box in dad's shed. We waited until it was dark and then turned on the power from the safety of the house. There was a great thump from the bomb exploding under the ground, followed by lots of earth crashing down on the shed roof and against our high garden fence.

The lives of women changed dramatically. No longer trapped by the dispiriting expectations placed on them by society, they replaced fighting troops in wartime factories, and 80,000 women, known as Land Girls, worked on farms.

Mitzi Edeson was dispatched to rural Herefordshire.

Some of the farmers weren't keen to have us, but we were cheap labour, and it was wartime. I expect their thoughts were mixed when they saw us town girls, most of us were around five feet two inches and weighed about eight stone. They must have thought they'll not last; they were wrong, we tackled all the jobs.

Spud picking in the rain was a hated job, struggling to pull our feet out of that mud, sometimes leaving our wellies behind, dragging our buckets along.

When we were working in the fields there were no toilet facilities, so to answer a call of nature, we would go behind a hedge; spending a penny was OK after we had undone the dungaree straps, but to have a two penny one was more of a problem, we rarely had any paper so a good strong dock leaf had to do. There was always the peril of nettles; many a nettled bum was had.

The testimonies in *The People's War* Archive are visceral and shorn of any pretence of glory. Polish soldier Romuald Lipinski described the aftermath of the brutal Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.

The Dunkirk expedition



Above: Taking shelter from the Blitz by sleeping in the Underground
Right: Celebrating on VE day



The area was a living testimony to what war was all about. There was not one tree that had its branches green with leaves. There were only naked limbs, stumps sticking out here and there. There was the testimony of what happened in the past: dead bodies. Some were half decomposed, some were half covered with whatever dirt could be scraped from the surface...the entire history of the battle could be read from these corpses. There were the corpses of the Americans, Germans, Ghurkhas, British soldiers, some with their faces half eaten by mice, or other animals, darkened by time, empty eyes, with only teeth shining... I looked at these dead men, who at one time were young, vigorous, full of life and hopes for the future. And look at them now.

Down below was a beautiful valley of red poppies. I thought, how can these two worlds co-exist side by side? But that was how it was.

War leaves thousands of loose ends. Some were not tied up for decades.

Fifty years after the war Roy Weaver's sister told him that his real father was an American airman who had returned home. After months of desperate searching Roy eventually tracked down a likely candidate to California.

I looked at the number that was straight in front of me and I swear to God that my blood reached boiling point. This was the closest I had ever been. This must be him, it had to be him.

I heard an older man's voice, 'Hello, this is Ken Weaver.'...I began by asking if he was based in Parham, Suffolk during the war. 'Yeah, sure I was,' he said... 'Do you remember a lady, her name was Lou, Lou Ellis?' 'I remember her very well', came his reply... 'from what my sister tells me, I think there is a strong possibility that we could be father and son.' I stopped talking. I had dried up. I waited with my heart thumping like a sledgehammer.

After just a few seconds, Ken slowly replied, 'It's more than a strong possibility. I don't know how long you have been searching, partner, but it's over now. You've found the man you are looking for.'

Roy Weaver's story is just one of hundreds in *The People's War*, all tiny pieces in a giant jigsaw puzzle of memories. But I hope that together they shape a picture for readers of war, not seen from behind a desk, but how it really was; raw, brutal, chaotic, sometimes funny, often sad, but above all, human. ●



The People's War by John Willis is published by BBC Books.



A photo taken of Tony for an interview in 1994's *Elthamian* magazine



Grounds for Reflection

An Interview with Tony Timms

ADB

Estates Manager Tony Timms retires from the school this year after a remarkable 46 years as steward of the school's grounds and sports fields. We talked to him about the nature and challenges of a groundsman's job and the changes he's seen over the decades – in everything from the equipment he and his team use to Southeast London's varying climate.

What were your impressions of the school when you joined in April 1979?

When I joined the school I lived in Lee Green and I had never heard of Mottingham or Eltham College. My first job in Mottingham was working for the YMCA sports ground which in those days was adjacent to the school (it's now known as the Marathon ground) but entirely separate. I walked past the school on my way to the interview and I thought, what a very grand place, with an imposing main building and teachers walking around in gowns! Later on I moved from the YMCA ground to work here. The school was much smaller then than it is now, and in particular, boarders were still an important part of its makeup. There was a small swimming pool (where the Maths department is now) and the new swimming pool

was being built just as I arrived; and where the ABT is there were tennis courts. Since then the school's buildings have undergone substantial change, with new facilities such as the Sports Centre and new classroom areas such as the Turberville building.

What were your impressions of Mottingham Village?

There was a different feel about the village in those days. There was a traditional greengrocer's. The garage was a BP garage but they employed mechanics and it was a place you took your car to be fixed, rather than to buy a sandwich. The Lidl was a pub, the Porcupine, and next door there was a United Dairies, complete with milk floats that did deliveries every morning, which later became the motorbike showroom. Opposite, on the corner, where the physiotherapist is



Tony Timms

As Estates Manager and Head Groundsman Tony has been responsible for looking after the plane tree in front of the school



now, there was a Barclays – the only bank in the village. I was told on good authority that the only reason why it was there was because of the school's accounts; many people were paid in cash in those days, in old-fashioned brown-envelope pay packets, and the school's bursar made use of the bank in preparing those.

Why did you take a job here?

When I was working at the YMCA I got to know the school's groundsman at the time, Terry Carr, and I played on his cricket team; basically, he talked me in to working here – you could say in fact I was poached! When Terry moved on I took over from him.

Did you anticipate staying 46 years?

No. The main reason why I stayed was that the job I did was gradually built up around me, so it kept developing. I was also given far more responsibilities as the size of our grounds grew. Over time, in fact, I moved from being Head Groundsman to Estates Manager, and although I still enjoy preparing the pitches a lot of my work these days is office-based.

What particular interests does someone with your job need to enjoy their work?

I think you need two things – a love of the science behind maintaining and developing grounds, such as which grasses would thrive in which conditions, and secondly a love and a passion for sport; I play most sports and I try to prepare the grounds I would like to play on.

What equipment do you use?

Ride-on machines, called Toros, have replaced hand-held machines of old; we even have a robot that operates using GPS that draws the white lines on the fields for the running track and so on.

How have the school's grounds changed over your time?

The main change has been the huge expansion. We took over the City Polytechnic (COLPOSA) grounds, now College Meadow, in 2003, and seven years later we took over the YMCA grounds, including the changing rooms. Our grounds are now three times the size they were at the turn of the millennium. →

What types of soil comprise the grounds?

The pitches are Blackheath Beds and are stony-sandy, so they dry out reasonably quickly; College Meadow is more clayey and we have to compensate for that by adding sand to the soil.

The year must have “rhythms” in terms of what grounds staff do.

We are very mindful of intensive rugby play throughout the winter. It’s liable to be wet and freezing during that time and that’s when the damage to the grass is done. In March-April we seed to replace that damage. Summer is usually the busiest time, and the cricket squares obviously need a huge amount of work.

Have you noticed the climate changing?

There were summer droughts in the 1990s and we don’t seem to get those any more. However, we don’t seem to have good springs any more. A “good” spring for grounds is damp and warm, but springs nowadays are now colder and dryer. However, the summers carry on for longer, often into October.

What do you remember of the “Great Storm” of October 1987?

I can remember waking up on that morning and being annoyed that a couple of tiles had come off my roof. Then I came into school and saw the damage to the site! We had 44 trees down; some of them actually uplifted tarmac. We had to cut the trees up and burn them – you can’t do that nowadays. Norman Edwards, the Chair of Governors, encouraged a campaign to raise money for replanting. The event changed the landscape of the school hugely.

You and the school’s grounds also played a role in the London Olympics in 2012.

Yes. The grounds were used for football training. The Olympic committee wanted a main training pitch for when teams were playing at Wembley. They needed a pitch that

was the same size as the Wembley pitch. It had to be flat and near a pavilion. Well, we are not a football school, but I worked closely with STRI, a design, engineering and management consultancy that specialises in the design of sports surfaces, and the Olympic Committee, and we agreed to make a pitch down in College Meadow; we did draining and levelling work and managed to get it done in time for the Olympics. The cricket square had to be moved and then moved back. Our pitch was eventually voted the best for Olympic football training!

And as groundsman you are in charge of the school’s most famous asset – the plane tree.

Yes, it’s the focal point of the school! It has a preservation order on it and I have to work with tree surgeons and

the local council to manage it. We need to preserve it and look after it, but we also need to be mindful that it’s at the heart of a working environment – we can’t have school buses brushing the underside of branches, as we did a few years ago, but any alterations that are made have to be done enormously sensitively.

What about the future?

Many schools in the country have reduced or even got rid of their playing fields. This has meant that in terms of younger staff, lots are more interested in managing golf courses rather than playing pitches. That said we’ve done fantastically well in terms of recruiting new staff, and the grounds are in good hands with Sam Pope who takes over from me as Head Groundsman for both Eltham College and Blackheath Prep School. ●

Damage to the school’s grounds after the Great Storm of October 1987



Staff Soccer team, 1988 – Tony Timms back row, second from left



Katie Takes the Lead

A new children’s book with dyslexia in mind by Richard Skinner

Richard Skinner, OE 1954–1961, has just had his fourth children’s book published. This book continues the exploits of Ben Baxter and his detective pals, including his sister Katie, who in this chronicle takes over matters whilst they are on holiday in the New Forest.



Without wanting to give too much away...Whilst on holiday, the young detectives see a police notice which asks people to look out for a missing girl. She ran away from home a week earlier at the start of the summer holidays. Katie decides this is something she should look into. The missing girl’s parents explain to her that their daughter dislikes school and is not happy that her dad has arranged a two week stint at summer school for her. She has had a very poor end of term report from her school concerning her English and maths.

In many ways she mirrors my own skill in English in particular, when I started at Eltham College. My spelling was poor and still is not good. My writing was untidy and I tended to do mirror writing. Dyslexia was not understood back in those days. Nowadays children are given extra time for exam papers. I would have loved that as I rarely answered all the questions posed when I took exams.

But as I tell people, most children, however poor they may be in many subjects, have some subject they are interested in and can do well in them. In my book, the missing girl loves gardening and learning all about plants. She tends to sit in class drawing plants and writes their names correctly under them. In my case I liked science subjects and went on to gain a degree in Agricultural Chemistry at Newcastle University and a master’s degree in plant physiology at Imperial College London. So the Katie book has something of myself within its pages.

On the third attempt I did manage to pass O Level English at Eltham thanks to help from the Rev. Sutton Smith and Mr Antony Barnard, who gave me extra tuition.

My earlier books including *The Diary of a Junior Detective* are held in Eltham College Library and this fourth book will Join them in due course. Best wishes to all those who struggle in class. ●

Richard Skinner (OE 1961)

BOYS' HOCKEY

JBA

This year's 1st XI played some superb hockey across the season and picked up some impressive results on one of the most challenging circuits. The team were quarter finalists in the Frank Mason Kent Cup and reached the last 16 of the Independent Schools National Plate.



Captain Cam MacQuarrie, Hakeem Drammeh, Louis Howard Bond, Raf Dekkers and Zach Hopley were standout performers. It was also great to see the 2nd XI develop throughout the year, with Cyrus Buckman particularly impressive, making the step up to the 1st XI at the end of the year. The season finished for the 1st XI with a quality victory over Sutton Valence, serving as a nice moment for our Upper Sixth leavers who we thank for their 7 years of service to the programme.

This season saw the school enter the Under 16 Boys Tier 1 National Championship for the first time. The Under 16As played some superb hockey, winning every single game of the group phase to finish top of the East pool. Zach Perrott and Aiden Woodland formed a formidable full back pairing in defence, with Raf Dekkers and Ethan Brown constant

threats in the final third. This earned them a last 16 tie at home against Reed's School, with the match finishing in a 3-3 draw. Unfortunately, Reed's progressed after penalties, but the squad showed the quality coming through the middle school.

Some of this team also featured in the Under 15As Kent Cup winning squad. This was the first time in the school's history that the Under 15A have won the Peter Firminger tournament, winning every game on their way to the final, where they secured the title after penalty shuffles. The squad also won the Under 15 Stickwise League, with consistently excellent performances from Barney Cox, Benjamin McLoughlin, Aadit Parikh and Seb Lapena Murray. This age group has phenomenal depth and the Under 15B illustrated this with some fine high scoring performances.

The Under 14 squads enjoyed their first 11-a-side action and progressed nicely across the season to playing on a full-size pitch. There were some statement performances and victories, mixed across block fixtures and in their Tier 1 Plate run to the quarter finals. Cassius Perrott's distribution and penalty corner threat often helped decide close matches, whilst Ralph Murphy and Joseph Lewis' tackling and tenacity gave the team a strong spine. The team showed they can play some exciting patterns of play as evidenced by the team move that led to Tom Forsdyke's goal of the season. The Under 14B team performed excellently in the London Tier two tournament to reach the semi-finals, only to miss out on a chance to play for gold after penalties.

The Under 13As developed well throughout the year and found themselves peaking at the right time of the season. There were mixed performances through the first couple of months, which saw lots of boys gaining valuable A team experience. This progress led to the squad playing some excellent hockey and finishing second in the John Maylam Kent Cup. The team also qualified for the Independent Schools National Plate final, losing a closely contested match with Kingston Grammar. Leo Dekkers was a devastating goal scorer throughout the season and was complemented by the excellent Frank Tinsley in goal the other end of the pitch.

It was also really pleasing to see the progress from the Under 13 B,C and D teams, who improved on their results in block fixtures from a season ago and sets the year group up well ahead of the shift to 11-a-side hockey.

It was great to see the number of students representing the school across the season

and the progress made by the respective Year 7 squads this year. The Under 12A had an impressive season, with a 100% winning record in block fixtures on their way to securing the Under 12 Stickwise League. They built on this with a great showing at the London Regional Finals, again going undefeated and finishing with the silver medal on goal difference. Rupert Scott and Wilbur Gladstone were exceptional throughout. The Under 12B demonstrated the depth at this age group, finishing the season with a winning record and performing well at the season closing SJWMS tournament. Meanwhile the Under 12C and D teams enjoyed their first season on the circuit, and we were delighted to be able to field nine teams on the same day to ensure every pupil had a chance to represent the school.

ISHC FINALS IN NOTTINGHAM

The Under 13 Boys travelled to Nottingham in late March for ISHC finals days. A strong run in the plate competition earned them a semi-finals appearance against The Grange School. An overnight stay in Loughborough saw the team arrive fresh for their morning fixture, and whilst they dominated the ball, found themselves 1-0 down at half time. A stunning second half, including four goals from Leo Dekkers, saw Eltham overrun their opponents to secure a 6-2 win a place in the final against Kingston Grammar. The final was a tight affair, with lots of quality on show from both teams. Eltham worked hard defensively with Wilbur Gladstone, Rupert Scott, Frank Tinsley and Toby Smith impressing, whilst Leo Dekkers and Thomas Isden were exciting attacking threats. Kingston managed to secure a 3-1 victory, but Eltham can be very pleased with a National silver to cap a great season of development. ●



Trip to Disneyland Paris



LJ

It has been another fantastic season of Netball – this year even more so, with it being the first year that there have been girls in every year of the school, thus allowing girls to represent the school in all age groups.

From county tournaments to international competitions to local friendly games our students have showcased determination, teamwork, and their very best netball at every stage. Although we have recorded wins over a number of competitive schools, I have been more impressed with the dedication of our students to their training sessions and commitment to their teams; whether that is in an A team or an F team, it has been inspiring to see.

KENT SCHOOLS' COMPETITION

Our A teams competed in their respective Kent Schools tournaments this year, with three of them achieving a Top 5 placing in the County; Under 14A finishing 5th, Under 16A finishing 3rd just two points away from Regional Finals qualification, and our Under 12A team finishing second in a nail-biting one goal final after going unbeaten the entire day. To fill the void of the Under 15 Kent Schools competition, Eltham College hosted an equivalent tournament this Lent Term for Under 15

teams around the County, with 12 schools competing. Our Under 15A did fantastically well to remain unbeaten the entire tournament and be crowned Eltham Netball Festival champions. It has been fantastic to see Eltham College's reputation grow within Kent and we look forward to continuing to grow this as the years go on.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

This season has also brought significant individual success. Special congratulations go to Christine Kadiri (Under 16), who earned a place in the prestigious England Roses Academy for the 24/25 season. Christine's incredible achievement didn't stop there as she was selected to represent the Under 17 England Roses team at Netball Europe, where the squad went on to win the competition and take home gold. Competing at an international level and contributing to such a historic win is a remarkable milestone, and Christine continues to be a role model for aspiring players across the school.

TO HAVE SUCH A STRONG REPRESENTATION IN THESE PATHWAYS SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE DEPTH OF TALENT WE HAVE WITHIN OUR SCHOOL NETBALL PROGRAMME

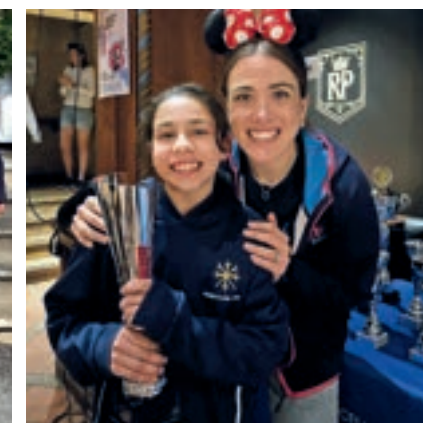
In addition, we're proud to celebrate the achievements of six of our students who were selected into the Under 13 and Under 15 Kent Netball Academies. These development programmes are designed to nurture top young talent in the County, and selection into them is highly competitive. Their inclusion is a reflection of the skill, attitude, and potential they have – and continue to demonstrate.

Moreover, an incredible fifteen of our students also secured places in the London Pulse Hubs this season. These hubs provide high-level training and opportunities for future progression in the sport. To have such a strong representation in these pathways speaks volumes about the depth of talent we have within our school netball programme. Excitingly, London Pulse have just announced their partnership with Eltham College for the 25/26 Season. We cannot wait to work closely with the Super League Club next year and witness the opportunities this will bring to the school and our students.

Top: Players selected for the London Pulse Hubs

Bottom left: Players selected for the Kent Netball Academies

Bottom right: Bela Hall with Nat Panagarry (Super League Player) in Paris

**SUCCESS AT DISNEYLAND PARIS**

Our Under 12 and Under 13 girls had the exciting opportunity to compete in Disneyland Paris on our Lower School Netball tour back in April. Three teams worth of girls had the unique opportunity to play against other schools and, impressively, netball clubs from across Europe, whilst spending time bonding off the court in the Disneyland Parks. Impressively, our Under 13A team placed third in the tournament whilst playing an age category above (Under 14), which is testament to their skill and tenacity on the court. They competed in a two-day tournament, received a 4-hour masterclass from Elite Netball Academy (ENA), met Super League players and England Roses Paige Reed and Nat Panagarry, and, of course, spent a full day exploring the Disneyland Parks.

We had three teams competing at the tournament, two of which were Under 13 competing in an Under 14 age category. Our teams went up against netball clubs, as well as other schools, with our Under 13A team finishing 4th out of 31 teams in the Under 14 Cup, the Under 13B team placing 7th in the Under 14 Bowl, and our Under 12 team placed 3rd in the U12 Cup. We then attended an Awards Ceremony which was held in Disney Village.

In addition to the team placings, ENA awarded three additional individual awards, nominated by their coaches and umpires, across the two days: Under 12 Spirit of the Game, Under 14 Spirit of the Game, and Player of the Tournament. We are very proud of Bela Hall (Under 12) who was awarded the Under 12 Spirit of the Game, and Beulah Kadiri (Under 13) who was awarded the overall Player of the Tournament.

A huge well done to all students on a fantastic tour, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we close out this season, it’s impossible not to be excited about what the future holds. With so much talent coming through the ranks, strong team spirit across all age groups, and a culture of hard work and positivity, I am confident that Eltham College’s netball success will only continue to grow. Next year promises to bring even more opportunities, challenges, and moments of triumph, and I am excited to see how our students will rise to them.

A massive thank you goes to our dedicated coaching staff, whose guidance, passion, and encouragement have played a vital role in the success of every team. Thanks also to the parents and wider school community for their continued support.

Congratulations to all students for another exciting season – your hard work, resilience and love for the game have made 2024–25 a standout year. Here’s to another! ●

Under 15A at the Eltham Netball Festival



Under 12 A Players



Under 16A Players



Paris Trip

RUGBY SEVENS



The 2025 Rugby Vlls season at Eltham College has been a strong showcase of the talent we have across all age groups, with plenty of positives across regional and national competitions.

BJK

The Under 12s set the tone early, winning all their matches at the Eltham Festival, demonstrating outstanding progress during their first year in the Senior School. Their impressive campaign continued at the Reigate Grammar School National 7s, where they advanced to the Bowl final, ultimately finishing as runners-up in a closely contested tournament.

The Under 13s built on this momentum, delivering a flawless performance at the Kent Festival, where they remained undefeated. Their consistency and attacking flair throughout the competition highlighted the strength of the age group.

At the Under 14 level, the squad showcased resilience and flair, reaching the Plate Final at the Reigate Grammar School National 7s and earning praise for their performance at the prestigious Rosslyn Park 7s. Their displays reflected a growing tactical awareness and the ability to compete at a high level.

Meanwhile, the Under 15s enjoyed an outstanding run at the Eltham Festival, winning all of their matches. They followed this with a strong showing at the Kent 7s, advancing to the Cup semi-finals in a highly competitive field, underlining the depth and quality of the squad.

Overall, this season has demonstrated the strength of the Rugby 7s programme at Eltham College, with each team achieving commendable success and setting a strong foundation for the years ahead. ●



JFK

Mr Kelly reviews the fortunes of the boys' and girls' season, and the team that toured the United Arab Emirates in April

Preparations for the Summer Term began in the Michaelmas Term, with academy training beginning at the start of the year. These sessions allowed students to make early progress, particularly those trialling for County Age Group or Regional sides. Four students, Sebastian Lapena-Murray, Hunter Caldwell (Kent Under 16), Cassius Perrott (Kent Under 14) and Ammaar Arafat (Surrey Under 12) were selected for County Squads and a further 14 boys were selected for Kent Regional Squads.

Summer was just around the corner, but before that, all students got the opportunity for pre-season training in the Lent Term. Sessions were available for all students to train and prepare for summer matches. Our first block against Trinity provided good tests for all age groups and with the two-innings format, plenty of early season opportunities for all. Saturday block fixtures against Emanuel, Alleyn's and

Colfe's allowed good success for students, with individual scores and wickets coming aplenty.

Each age group had varying degrees of success in the Kent Cups. The Under 15s got to the semi-final, while the Under 13s reached the quarter-final. The Under 14s were runners-up in the plate and the Under 12s made it all the way to the Kent Cup final, and while putting on a good display, finished runners-up as well. Particular highlights along the way were 100s for Leo Dekkers, Harvey Allen and Joseph Lewis, and 5-wicket hauls for Vipushan Karnan and Toby Buck.

The Under 15s entered the London Ingham Cup for the first time this year, progressing through the competition to the final, where they beat Norlington. A terrific achievement by a talented side, ably lead by Hunter Caldwell.

This year included a good number of fixtures for our age group B, C and D sides. Students at Eltham College love playing cricket and it was excellent to see so many boys taking part. The competition for places is high, with several students progressing through the teams through development of their skills.

The 1st XI had a successful season in their block fixtures and cup competitions, led well by Edward Castle. The team progressed to the third round of the National Cup and making the semi-final of the Kent Cup, there were many positive results, particularly against Langley Park, Colfe's and Emanuel. We travelled to St Joseph's College in Ipswich for the annual two-day fixture where the game ended in a close draw. As well as this, competitive games were played against the MCC and Brighton Grammar who were touring from Victoria, Australia. We hosted our Hundred Festival again, beating Trinity School in the 3rd/4th playoff in a great game.

This summer marked an incredible personal achievement for Sebastian Lapena Murray (Year 10). Seb scored 1,038 runs across the season in 25 innings for both the 1st XI and U15As. No Eltham batter has accomplished this feat in this century, and this was a quite brilliant success for a student that has worked very hard at his game. ●



SEB SCORED 1,038 RUNS ACROSS THE SEASON IN 25 INNINGS FOR BOTH THE 1ST XI AND U15AS. NO ELTHAM BATTER HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS FEAT IN THIS CENTURY.



JFK

Cricket Tour to the United Arab Emirates

Over the Easter holidays, twenty students headed to the UAE for a nine day cricket tour. In hot conditions, the boys took part in two training sessions to prepare them for four matches. Before these took place, a trip to the Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa water show was an exciting excursion for all. Once the cricket began, it was a test for all boys against strong opposition. Success was had for both teams across the trip, with a lot of learning along the way, particularly playing in different conditions. Amongst the matches was a morning trip to the beach and an afternoon on Desert Safari, where the views of the desert were incredible. The boys will come back to school excited and prepared for the summer cricket term! ●



JFK

Summer term preparations began with the first year of our girls’ academy in the Michaelmas Term. These sessions allow girls to develop and improve over the winter phase before beginning their preseason sessions.

Two students, Anya Coutinho (Year 10) and Raya Fernandes (Year 7) were selected for Kent Regional Squads, showing the development the girls’ programme has made over the past five years. ➔



GIRLS’ CRICKET



Prior to the Summer Term coming around, all girls were afforded the opportunity to train in the Lent Term to best prepare. Once cricket term hit, early fixtures against Emanuel and Alleyn’s proved tough tests for all sides, however, there were excellent wins for the Under 16A, Under 15A and Under 12A teams against Alleyn’s. There was success across the board for all age groups against Colfe’s the weekend after, with A and B teams showing good technical skills as well as great competitive cricket.

2025 was the first year Eltham has entered the School Sports Magazine’s

National Cup at Under 13 and Under 15 levels. Both had tough first rounds, but it proved valuable experience for the girls involved, and ones that will put them in better positions for next year. Both sides faired better in their Kent Cup, narrowly missing out on Finals Day. The Under 13s had an excellent win against Tunbridge Wells while the Under 15s won a last ball thriller against Kent College.

Individual highlights across the term included Ellie Caldwell hitting an excellent 50 not out against Thomas’s Clapham, while Thea Hopley took two 4-wicket hauls over the season. Anya

ably captained the Under 15s to their best season so far in the school, taking two 3-wicket hauls herself in the process. Emmeline Cox and Lowri Potter were both regular run scorers for the Under 12s and Under 13s, while Raya Fernandes took three 3-wicket hauls and scored a 50 too, all whilst captaining both the Under 12 and Under 13As.

I am looking forward to seeing the further development of students as they progress through the school, as their enjoyment of the game continues. ●

TENNIS



Alex, Tom, Matt & Ivan representing Eltham in the U19 Youll Cup at Eton

MPM

It was an exceptional weekend of tennis at the Eton Independent Schools National Championships, with impressive performances across all age groups. Ben McLoughlin and Noah Mesquita shone in the plate competition, finishing as runners-up after strong wins against schools including Sherborne and Haberdashers’ – an outstanding achievement.

Ben & Noah with their runners up medals from the U15 plate competition at Eton



The Under 19 team narrowly missed out on a quarter-final spot, losing a thrilling deciding tiebreak to sixth seeds Haberdashers’. Standout performances came from Ivan Zubac, Matt McLoughlin, Will Forsdyke, and notably Alex Olifierko, who competed three age groups above his own. Meanwhile, Seb Burtenshaw and Aidar Toigonbaev reached the plate quarter-finals in the Under 13 category.

Congratulations also go to Tom Forsdyke, Will Zhu, Rory McCann and Andy Giachino, who fought hard and gained valuable experience throughout the tournament.

Adding to their success, Ivan Zubac and Matt McLoughlin also claimed victory at the Kent Doubles Cup, with Noah Mesquita and Ben McLoughlin finishing as runners-up. The Under 15 team delivered a strong performance as well, finishing runners-up in the County Team event.

A huge well done to all involved for their dedication and hard work throughout the term. ●



ETT

This academic year has seen Eltham College Athletics reach new heights, with students delivering exceptional performances across local, regional, and national competitions. From Year 7 through to Year 10, athletes demonstrated determination, talent, and teamwork – securing podium finishes and breaking new ground for the school.

The Cambridge Cup kicked off the season with strong performances from all year groups. Year 9 boys and girls both secured 3rd place overall in the district, thanks to standout wins from Luke Roderick (1500m), Monty Brown and Dara Litvilis (800m), and Hayden Lam (Javelin). Year 8 mirrored this success, with 15 students reaching the podium. The team placed second overall, led by first-place finishes from Alex Clarkson (Hurdles), Beulah Kadiri (100m), Dylan Mitchell (Long Jump), Peninah Osemwegie (200m) and Izzy Healy (300m), and strong performances in the 800m from Toby Buck and Johnny Ravenscroft.

Year 7 set a new standard with a dominant display, especially from the girls, who won the district championship by an impressive 30-point margin. The boys narrowly missed out on victory, finishing 2nd by just two points. Top performances included gold medals from Olive Malin and Odette Atkins (Hurdles), Isabella Montrasio (100m), Giuliana Gilkes and Aaria Jaywant (200m), Oscar Tienzo (100m), Rupert Scott (Long Jump), Rafael Rosoga (800m), and the girls’ 4x100m relay team.

In the National Track and Field Cup’s first round, 54 students competed in over 100 events against 12 South

London schools. After a gruelling day of track and field competition, three of our four teams – Junior Boys, Junior Girls, and Intermediate Girls – secured places in the Regional Finals. Following this strong showing, Eltham College made history by qualifying all four teams for the Regional Finals for the first time ever.

At the Regional Finals, hosted at Sutcliffe Park, Eltham was one of only two schools with all four teams competing. Outstanding performances included wins for Alex Johnson (Year 10, 200m), Daniel Horgan and Luke Roderick (1500m), Joe O’Hare and James Rushworth (300m), Leo Dekkers (Javelin), India Bradley (Discus), Matt Caceres-Camiloaga and Dara Litvilis (800m), and Beulah Kadiri (100m). Remarkably, all four Eltham 4x100m relay teams won their events – a rare and impressive achievement. Final team standings were: Junior Girls – 3rd, Junior Boys – 5th, Intermediate Girls – 8th, and Intermediate Boys – 5th.

Building on this success, eleven athletes were selected to represent London Schools, including Emily Cadman, who qualified for English Schools with an outstanding 200m time of 24.5 seconds.

The final event of the year, the Greenwich Schools Girls’ Competition, featured 18 competing schools. Eltham’s girls were outstanding, with first-place finishes from Tessa Chapman (100m), Beulah Kadiri (100m), Giuliana Gilkes (300m), Dara Litvilis (800m), Alex Boughen (1500m), and India Bradley (Discus). Year group team results were equally impressive: Year 7 – 2nd, Year 8 – 3rd, Year 9 – 4th, and Year 10 – 3rd.

Eltham College Athletics continues to go from strength to strength, and with such depth and talent across all year groups, 2025/26 promises to be another stellar year. ●

FOLLOWING THIS STRONG SHOWING, ELTHAM COLLEGE MADE HISTORY BY QUALIFYING ALL FOUR TEAMS FOR THE REGIONAL FINALS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.





Wengen, Switzerland

MPM

In the individual races, Oscar Jones came 2nd overall, and Henry Baker followed closely behind in 3rd place. Both skiers performed brilliantly against tough competition and showed great skill and determination.

In the team event, Oscar was joined by Harry Edward and George Baker. The three of them worked together to win the overall team race. But the success didn't stop there — all three Eltham College teams finished on the podium, coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall. It was a clean sweep and a fantastic result for the school!

Eltham also did very well in the exciting slalom relay event. This fast and fun race saw George Baker, Mingxuan Zhang and

Paddy Lynam help their teams win medals. Their quick skiing and great teamwork made a big difference and helped secure even more success for Eltham.

These brilliant performances show just how strong our ski team is this year. The effort and energy from every skier were clear to see, and their results are something they should all be proud of.

In June, Eltham students raced at the ESSKIA Indoor Championships at Hemel Hempstead. Oliver Hester, Henry Baker, Mingxuan Zhang and Hugo Maynard came 3rd overall in the team event. Oscar Jones came 3rd overall and Boden Kelly 2nd overall in their individual events.

Kent Schools Championships medal winners



Medal Winners at the English Schools' Ski Association in Hemel Hempstead in June



Even before the school year began, there was more good news for Eltham skiing. Over the summer, Boden Kelly won the All-England Championships. It was an incredible achievement for Boden, who has been a dedicated and hardworking member of the ski team throughout his time at Eltham. Winning this title is a great reward for all the training and focus he has put into the sport.

Overall, it has been a brilliant time for skiing at Eltham College. The results from both the Kent Schools Championship and the All-England Championships show how talented and committed our skiers are.

Well done to all the students who took part and represented the school so well. You've done Eltham proud, and we're excited to see what's next for the team!

THE BRITISH DOWNHILL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WENGEN

In February eleven members of Eltham College's ski team travelled to Wengen in the Swiss Alps to compete in the British Downhill Championships, held on the prestigious Lauberhorn Downhill course. The team faced some of the country's top skiers, testing their skills on one of the most challenging slopes in the world. Whilst results didn't go our way the students showed great resilience and determination throughout the week and look forward to going into next year's event with more experience under their belts. ●



The Ski Team at Wengen



Boden Kelly, winner of the All England National Under 18 Championships at Chatham Ski Slope



ETT

Mr Thorogood reviews the fortunes of the fencing teams this year.

The 2024/25 season marked a milestone for Eltham College Fencing. For the first time in many years, our students qualified for the British Youth Championships (BYC) and took part in the England Youth Championships (EYC), alongside a growing calendar of regional and national competitions. This reflects the rapid growth and development of fencing at Eltham College.

KENT UNDER 16 COMPETITION

This year saw a record number of Eltham College students competing in the Kent Under 16 Fencing Championships. Participants included Vivienne-Leigh Peter (épée and sabre), Polina Milko (épée), Mihir Sood-Nichols and Lukai Geng (foil and sabre), Hunter Hinde (épée and sabre), and Gabriel Pieri and Zayd Khan (épée). Our fencers delivered outstanding results, particularly in sabre, where Vivienne-Leigh took silver and Mihir claimed gold after a thrilling final against Lukai – a reversal of last year's outcome. Vivienne also reached the top 8 in épée and continues to shine with her consistent dedication since Year 7.

BYC QUALIFIER & CAMBRIDGE COMPETITION

At the London Region Youth Championship and BYC Qualifiers in March, Zayd Khan (3rd place) and Hunter Hinde (9th) both qualified in the Under 14 épée, marking a first for Eltham's presence at this level. Alisa Lugova also had a strong year, consistently finishing in the top 16 and top 8 across competitions; she will be a key member of the senior team next season.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ENGLAND YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eltham had a strong showing at the Public Schools Competition, with Zayd Khan placing 7th and Hunter Hinde, Peter Chirikhin, and Vivienne-Leigh Peter all finishing in the top 16. At the EYC, Eltham returned after many years with a solid squad. Vivienne finished 10th in a fiercely competitive field, narrowly missing the top 8 after a close 15–14 elimination. The experience inspired the rest of the team to raise their standards for the year ahead.

KENT CHAMPIONSHIPS (JUNIOR CATEGORIES)

Hosted again at the Eric Liddell Sports Centre, the Kent Championships proved a major success with Eltham winning nine medals. In Under 10 boys, Tsz Fan Kwok took gold and Dhruv Guttikonda silver – an outstanding result, especially given it was Tsz Fan's first-ever competition. Among Under 10 girls, Sophie Scharl (5th), Connie Greenhalgh (6th), and Annie Chauhan (7th) all performed exceptionally well, showing strong progress from beginner level.

In the Under 12 boys' category, Sasha Patimov Heredeia claimed bronze, with Henry Wu (6th) and Zhirui Lu (9th) also performing well. The Under 12 girls dominated: Harriet Allen (1st), Alisa Lugova (2nd), and Zara Chand (3rd), with Livia Macri Lupo (8th) in her first event. Harriet and Zara will move to Under 14 next season, while Alisa joins the senior squad.

Under 14 boys saw Zayd Khan win silver, Ali Guney bronze, and Hunter Hinde 5th after a close semi-final bout with Zayd Khan. In Under 14 girls, Vivienne-Leigh Peter earned bronze after a hard-fought match against a strong Latvian opponent, while Polina Milko finished 7th.

The future of Eltham College Fencing looks bright with strong performances across all age groups and growing participation at every level. ●



Roberto Franchi-Pepe, London League Champion

WATER POLO

Mixed Under 14 Team:

London League – 4th Place

We participated in round one in perfect fashion with three wins from three with lots of new players being included. Next round was a lot tougher against National finalists from 2024 but the team played well and won 1 out of 3 games to place 4th overall in the league, our highest ever London League finish.

Mixed Under 13 Team:

National Plate Finals – 6th Place

This was our only team to qualify for National Finals this year, following on from last year's success where both our Under 13 and Under 15 Girls teams qualified, so we were excited to see what this newly put together team could do. National finals proved a tough test and despite losing our three games it was nice to be crowned the 6th best team in the competition and a valuable debut appearance for this team. The team consisted of: Rafe Langman-Heath, Alex Clarkson, Toby Smith, Arkin Murden, Roberto Franchi-Pepe, Stefan Crozet, Rupert Scott, Aidan West, Isabelle Healy, Alexa Van Schalkwyk and Chloe Cully.

Individual Success

Once again Matei Moatar has been selected for the London Regional Squad. As well as this he was invited to trial for the National Performance Squad for the Under 15/Under 16 team. He is now on the reserve list for that squad and with another year to go he will be looking to break through next season and become a regular player for the GBR team.

In Year 7, Roberto Franchi-Pepe's club team were crowned Under 12 London League Champions; Roberto has featured for the Under 14s, Under 13s and Under 12s this season. We look forward to seeing Roberto's progression next season.

SWIMMING

London League B Final 2025 (Under 12/13s) – 2nd Place

Our best mixed gender Year 7s and Year 8s competed in this year's London League B Final – the team was left just two points short of claiming the title, but a lot of fun was had and it was great to see such

improvements throughout the two rounds. The team consisted of: Alex Clarkson (Captain), Isabelle Healy (Captain), Arkin Murden, Adam Poulin, Chloe Cully, Maria Lvova, Toby Smith, Mila Poulton, Uma Abhyankar, Isabelle Chen, Giuliana Gilkes, Helena Cao, Stefan Crozet, Daniel Kadykov, Callum White, Aidan West, Bela Hall, James Finnegan.

National Bath Cup 2025 at the London Aquatics Centre

Girls came 4th in the medley relay final with a team that consisted of Jessica Shiu, Veronique Crozet, Isabelle Healy and Ava Hickey. The girls' Freestyle team that finished in 13th had three of the same girls plus Anyka Lin as a replacement for Ava. The girls will be looking to go one step further next year and hopefully be able to bring back some medals.

The boys' team consisted of Hayden Sanders, Leo Maros, Edouard Lecuyer and Jasper Sword. Some outstanding swimming on display from all the boys but just fell short of the finals by a few seconds in both relays; they'll be looking to reach the finals next year. ➔

National Bath Cup Teams



AQUATICS

Kent County Championships:
Medal Haul: 8 Golds, 5 Silvers & 7 Bronze
Top 10 Finishes – 28 total finals
Hayden Sanders won Gold in 7 events – 800m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke & 200m Individual Medley.

Veronique Crozet won Gold in the 200m Breaststroke and Bronze in the 100m Breaststroke.

Isabelle Healy won Silver in the 100m Butterfly & 50m Backstroke and a Bronze in the 100m Breaststroke.

Leo Maros picked up 3 Silvers in the 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly & 100m Freestyle whilst he claimed Bronze in the 100m Butterfly final.

Jessica Shiu, Chloe Shiu and Stefan Crozet all picked up Bronze in the 50m Breaststroke, while Stefan also picked up a Bronze in the 100m Breaststroke.

Helena Cao, Arkin Murden and Alice Li all made finals along with all of the others who took medals.

Well done to all those who qualified for their incredible achievement.

London Regional Championships:
Medal Haul: 9 Golds, 3 Silvers & 3 Bronze
Top 8 Finishes – 22
Hayden Sanders won Gold in the 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke, 200m Individual Medley, 100m Backstroke, 200m Backstroke, 400m Freestyle and 400m Individual Medley. He also picked up a Senior Men’s Silver in the 400m Individual Medley at just 14 years of age.

Leo Maros won Silver in the 50m Butterfly & 100m Butterfly and Bronze in the 50m Freestyle and 100m Freestyle.

Stefan Crozet won Bronze in the 200m Breaststroke.

Isabelle Healy, Mila Poulton, Jessica Shiu and Veronique Crozet all made multiple

finals in their respective events as well as the above medallists making more of their own finals.

Well done to all that qualified for the next level of competitive swimming a wonderful achievement.

British and English National Finals:
We had four students take part in this year’s National Finals. Hayden had eight races at the British Championships whilst Leo had just the 100m Butterfly. Both Jessica and Veronique had multiple events at the English Championships and Leo had qualified for the 100m Freestyle at the English Championships too.

Summary of the races:
Hayden: British Champion in the 200m Individual Medley and 100m Backstroke; 3 Silver Medals in the 400m Individual Medley, 200m Freestyle & 100m Freestyle; a single Bronze in the 400m Freestyle. Hayden also finished 4th and 6th in the 100m and 200m Breaststroke.

Leo: Obtained a brand new PB in the 100m Freestyle at English finishing as the 7th fastest 14-year-old at that competition, whilst at British he finished 16th in the country for boys aged 14.

Jessica: Competed in just the 50m Breaststroke where she was only a second outside of her PB and ended up coming in 12th Place.

Veronique: 50m, 100m & 200m Breaststroke events for Veronique and all of them were PBs and a place in the evening finals! Veronique placed 7th, 8th and 6th respectively. ●

SMP

THERE WERE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS FROM ALL OUR ELTHAM COLLEGE SWIMMERS THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO COMPETED AT ANY OF THE MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS. THEY ALL DESERVE A BIG BREAK IN THE SUMMER BUT MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK READY TO HAVE AN EVEN BIGGER YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER!



Veronique Crozet at the National Finals



Hayden Sanders with National Medals

SPORTS TRIPS



Year 7 and 8 Rugby tour to Cardiff

BJK

During the February half-term, Year 7 and 8 students embarked on an exciting rugby tour to Cardiff. Over the course of three action-packed days, they toured the iconic Principality Stadium, competed in matches against Ysgol Glantaf, and had the thrill of watching Ireland triumph over Wales in the Men’s Six Nations. The tour provided a fantastic mix of sport, sightseeing, and unforgettable memories, making it an experience that the students will cherish. We look forward to touring again in two years’ time. ●



Under 15 Cross Country Team at the National Schools Cup Final in Leeds

MAE

The boys Under 15 cross-country team travelled to Leeds Grammar School on Saturday 1st March for the National Schools Cup Final (the original date was in December but was unfortunately postponed due to severe weather). The team consisted of Matias Caceres-Camiloaga (Year 10), Joe Lewis (Year 9), Luke Roderick (Year 9), Daniel Horgan (Year10) and Monty Brown (Year 9) who qualified for the finals by finishing 3rd in the London qualifier. It was a fantastic experience for the team who ended up finishing 26th in the final team standings and a special mention to Matias who was 25th overall as an individual in a time of 13:42. ●



Under 11 Girls' Hockey Team

MOD

As I'm currently looking out of my office window, onto the bone-dry fields at Eltham as we sit in the midst of a heatwave, it's time to reflect on a year of sport at Eltham College Junior School.

MICHAELMAS TERM

The year started with all the boys playing rugby, and the girls netball. There was a fair amount of success for the rugby teams ranging from the new year 3s playing what for many was a brand-new sport to the Year 6s rounding off their Junior School rugby career with a full and busy fixture schedule. The year 5 and 6 boys continued their rugby into the Lent Term with them playing the sevens version of the sport. The Under 11s represented themselves well at South of England tournaments with special mention to Gabe Fitzgerald and Freddie Keelan who as Under 10s played up a year.

In netball, as well as having many block fixtures we again hosted our own netball tournaments which were well attended by many of our friends from local schools. Impressively our Under 9, Under 10 & Under 11 teams were successful with all three A teams making it a clean sweep for the girls in our home tournaments.

EASTER TERM

The following term we were kept busy with a diary full of football and hockey tournaments. We hosted all the London Hockey Championships with again a run of trophies coming our way. The Under 10 & Under 11 boys were winners in both their respective



tournaments with both going undefeated on their way to winning the title. Particular mention should be made of the Under 11 boys who beat Whitgift, Trinity and Alleyn's on their way to being crowned champions. Both girls' teams also played some excellent hockey amongst a competitive field of schools with both the Under 10 & Under 11 teams finishing third in their tournaments.

SUMMER TERM

In the Summer Term the Under 11 boys qualified for the semi-final of the Kent Cricket Summer's Cup. Despite battling valiantly, they fell at the final hurdle losing to an excellent New Beacon team. Girls' cricket also went from strength to strength with more players taking up the hardball game than ever before which bodes well for the future of girls' cricket in the school.

Tennis also featured during the summer term with 24 of our students

representing the school at the Kent Schools Doubles Tennis championships. Two pairs, one boy and one girl, qualified for finals day. The boys' pair of Oran McCann and Karamveer Bal came third whilst the girls' pair of Niamh Lyons and Sara Alimbayeva did brilliantly well to come first.

TABLE TENNIS, SWIMMING, SKI RACING AND FENCING

On the subject of rackets mention should be made of Yueci Li and Niamh again who both qualified for the London Table Tennis finals. Niamh eventually came fifth whilst Yueci came second.

Our swimmers dedicated training this year also paid off. The Year 3-6 mixed team came second in the London League B final. Mention should also be made of Alice Li and Freddie Keelan who both qualified and competed at the Kent County Championships. →

Over the course of the year our fencers competed at several tournaments in and around the London area with many of our fencers placing in the top 10 of their respective age groups. Special mention should be made of Alisa Lugova who recently finished third in the Under 12 section at the Newham tournament.

As I'm writing this report news of our skiers competing at the ESSKIA National championships is filtering through to me. Congratulations to Niamh Lyons, William Walker and Phoebe Zheng who finished 48th, 53rd and 56th in the country.

SPORT IN THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The sporting programme, as it always does, has also played a pivotal role in the House Competition this year.

House Netball overall winners were Carey, with Moffat winning Year 3, Chalmers winning year 4, Livingstone winning Year 5 and Carey winning Year 6.

House Rugby was less evenly distributed amongst the houses with Carey winning all four year groups and being crowned the overall champions.

House Football was also won by Carey with Moffat boys and girls winning Year 3, Chalmers boys and girls winning Year 4, Carey boys and girls winning Year 5 and Moffat boys and girls winning Year 6. Despite Moffat winning two year groups, it was Carey's consistent performance over the four year groups that elevated them to the top of the table when all four years were combined.

The House Cross Country was an exceptionally close affair this year with the winning house doing so by a tiny percentage over the second place house when all scores were collated and average finishing positions reckoned. Carey was again first, Livingstone second, Moffat third and Chalmers fourth.

House Swimming saw some fantastic swims whether in width races, lengths, individually or as part of a relay term. With Livingstone winning all four year groups they were crowned Swim Champions for this year.

Sports Day happened on the penultimate day of term. The sun shone for us but thankfully it was not as hot as the original day on which it had been planned. There were some great performances in the sprints and in the field events with everyone giving their all. The day culminated with the relays which saw every single child in the school participating in their house's year group race. When all the scores were collated, this year's Sports Day Champions were Livingstone.

OVERALL...

Overall, we have had a fantastically busy year with a balance achieved between excellence and mass participation. I have loved the enthusiasm that the pupils have brought and the sportsmanship that they have shown towards each other. It has also been another year of Junior School pupils representing the school playing up a year or two for the Senior School. Special mention should be made of Tom Isden who was a regular member of the Under 13 boys hockey team. ●



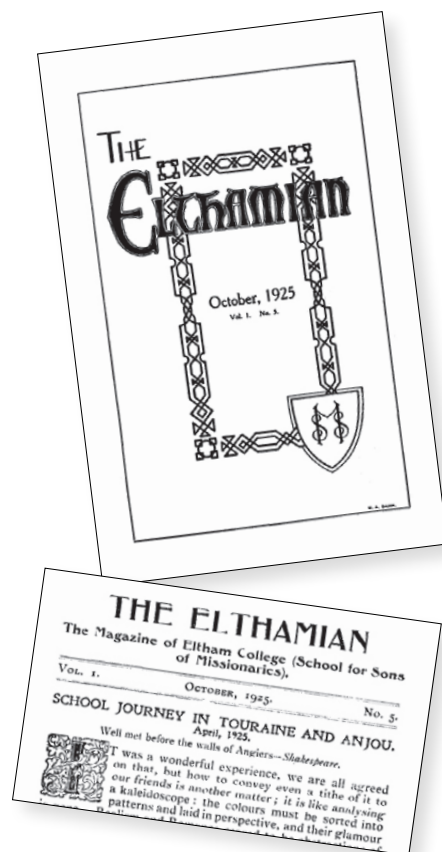
Times Past and Present

From Our Pages... 100, 50, 25 and 10 years ago



ADB

Our archivist Andrew Beattie reviews the pages of this magazine 100, 50, 25 and 10 years ago.



The Elthamian October 1925

1925

The opening article in the October 1925 issue of the *Elthamian* is a lengthy piece (spread over five pages) recounting the school trip to Tours and Angers – the author not knowing that some fifty years later the school would establish formal links with a school in the former town. Paris, Blois, Le Mans and Chartres were all on the itineraries for the journeys there and back. “Realism and Romance ceased to be abstractions of the classroom, and took hands in a continuous performance of sound and sight and smell,” wrote the accompanying master, E.S.Drake. “It was the pageant of life; we played with the centuries; we made strange sounds with our mouths when we wanted familiar things; we gesticulated, and ate marvellous foods; we sweated and hungered and thirsted, or we walked on air; and always the queenly river accompanied us [the Loire], ‘reflecting half the light of the sky’.” Tours itself was a town of “sparkling streets and shuttered abodes standing neat against the blue sky.” In those days there was only one school trip a year. These days we have to limit the words of *Elthamian* articles on school trips – writers of them are always very enthusiastic, like ES Drake, but we have to keep the magazine to a reasonable length!

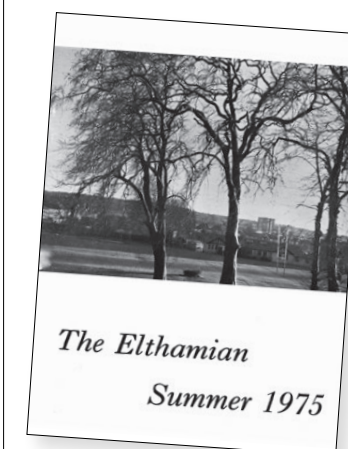
Elsewhere in the magazine Carey celebrated their victory in the house competition while the Housemaster of Moffat wrote his report “with mixed feelings of admiration and dejection” after they came last; and the newly-constructed stage in the Dining Hall played host to a lower school production of *The Winter’s Tale*: “The acting maintained, on the average, a very high standard,” reflected the *Elthamian* write-up (also very lengthy), “this fact no doubt contributing very largely to the success of the play, for every actor seemed especially suited to his part, and each one obviously enjoyed interpreting it.” The only two photographs in the magazine are stills from the play.

The Midsummer Fair was most successful both in providing a good afternoon’s entertainment with stalls, side-shows and displays for a large crowd of visitors and especially for again raising considerable funds which will be of value to the school.

1975

In its opening “School Notes” section, the magazine covering the spring and summer terms of 1975 announced that conversion of classrooms on the north side of the quad from changing rooms had been completed; the Parents Association had contributed valuably to the conversion, and also organized a Midsummer Fair which was “most successful both in providing a good afternoon’s entertainment with stalls, side-shows and displays for a large crowd of visitors and especially for again raising considerable funds which will be of value to the school.”

At Speech Day reference “was made to the school’s future in the light of the Government’s withdrawal of the



The Elthamian Summer 1975

Boarders’ trip to the South Downs – photo from the *Elthamian* magazine, Summer 1975



grants from Direct Grant Schools, and it created considerable interest that a few weeks earlier Eltham College had been the subject of a short BBC film, shown on the evening Television news, in which a few aspects of a typical day – chapel, classes, games – were seen, together with a short statement about the school from the Headmaster. The camera crew spent a full morning filming at the school and the edited extracts that were shown certainly conveyed a favourable impression of a Direct Grant school at work.”

A group of teachers from the school’s partner school in Burghausen, Bavaria, visited the school and one of them, Gerd Weideneder, gave his impressions: “I was rather surprised at finding such a huge area of school buildings, sometimes hidden behind big old trees – because German schools are mostly in small newly-built modern buildings, where the only worthwhile activity is the pursuit of lessons...You have also got more specialized hobby courses, like astronomy, photography and theatre. We have only a good choir and a school orchestra...At our Gymnasium, there is no Tuck Shop, and pupils haven’t got so much time to enjoy themselves. By the way: your Tuck Shop – I was very impressed with it!” →

Boarders Paul Forrester (left) and Chris Tod, who wrote about his experiences as a boarding in an article in that year’s magazine



Boarders Robert Trachsel (left) and Hugh de la Bédoyère at the summer barbecue

I remember when I first moved into the boarding house just after Christmas in my Lower Sixth year. The realisation that I was there to stay for the rest of my school career, and that I would at times come to call it home, did not strike me until I spent my first night there.

2000
The school still had boarders at the turn of the millennium – though boarding was to end four years later. One of the boarders, Christopher Tod, reflected on his experiences in the Boarding House (then known as Turberville) in that year’s *Elthamian*. “I remember when I first moved into the boarding house just after Christmas in my Lower Sixth year. The realisation that I was there to stay for the rest of my school career, and that I would at times come to call it home, did not strike me until I spent my first night there. I found the atmosphere amazingly friendly: everyone at the time helped me to fit in and work out where everything was. I also picked up quite a few tips and tricks along the way, such as when was the best time to get the breakfast cereal which is laid out for

us every night by Tam the cook – generally in the evening beforehand, for any prospective boarders around! What was most important for me, though, was the fact that no-one felt any resentment of any kind when I had to ask where something was. All the boarders who had been there for a while were very helpful, perhaps more so than they will know. In such a small boarding house as Turberville, it is essential that everyone should try to get on, it has to be very much a give and take process, or else tempers are all too easily frayed. In this respect Turberville House strikes just the right balance.” Chris Tod is shown in a photo we have reproduced from the magazine, one of a number taken that year during boarders’ trips (to Stonehenge and Canterbury) and the summer barbecue and Christmas Dinner.



While in Tianjin we also visited the arena where Eric Liddell liked to train, and it was there that we engaged in many conversations with the locals about another great sporting hero, David Beckham!

China trip



2015
As usual the *Elthamian* carries reports of numerous trips, from the Year Eight Adventure Course and Year Eleven Leadership Courses on Dartmoor through art trips to Brussels, Tuscany and Dorset and a music tour to Dubrovnik to more exotic trips to Nepal (trekking in the Himalayas) and Tanzania (mainly with pupils helping out at Kisasa Primary and Secondary Schools in Dodoma). There was also a plethora of languages trips, to Berlin, Nuremberg, Monaco, Laval, Seville and Salamanca. One of the most far-flung trips was to China – the pupils “visited Tianjin No.90 Secondary School which had close links to Eric Liddell. It was fascinating to see how they view Eric Liddell in China..While in Tianjin we also visited the arena where Eric Liddell liked to

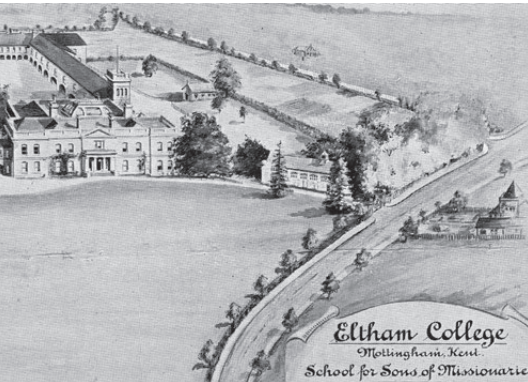
train, and it was there that we engaged in many conversations with the locals about another great sporting hero, David Beckham!” (Ten years later, a group of pupils also visited Tianjin on the “trail” of Eric Liddell – you can read about their trip elsewhere in this edition of the magazine.) Pupils also looked round the Forbidden City, visited the school’s Partner School in Beijing, experienced an overnight train journey, and visited the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army in Xian. “Many of us were taken aback by the sheer volume and amount of the warriors and the unique details of each one. One particular highlight of Xian for many of the boys on the trip was the bike ride around the city walls where some even tried to ride a tandem bike.” ●

From the Archives

The New Quad through the Ages

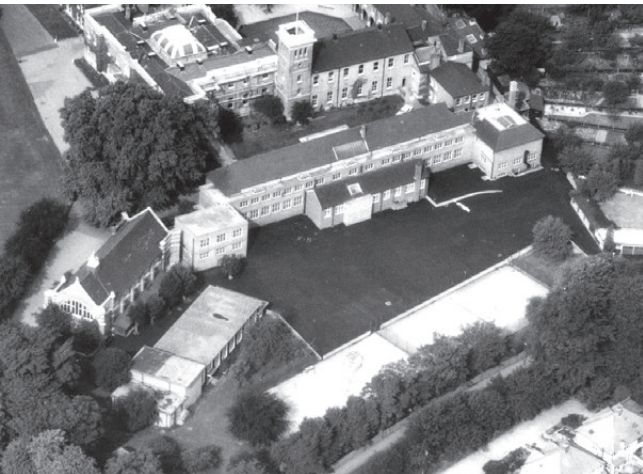
When former pupils visit the school the area that they often find has changed the most is the New Quad. Over the decades it has been transformed from an area consisting of a playground and tennis courts, with a gym at the southern end, to the present-day paved area with benches surrounded by the Antony Barnard Theatre, the Gerald Moore Gallery and the Eric Liddell Sports Centre. The latest transformation has come about as a result of the extension of the Science Centre, which opened to pupils last September and can be seen on our photographs – alongside earlier views of the New Quad.

1910s



01 ◀ This drawing was made soon after the School for the Sons of Missionaries moved to Mottingham in 1912. The area of the New Quad, the Science Centre (built in the 1930s) and the gym are shown as empty space, stretching to Mottingham Lane. A small building is shown situated where the foyer of the Science Centre is now located.

1970s

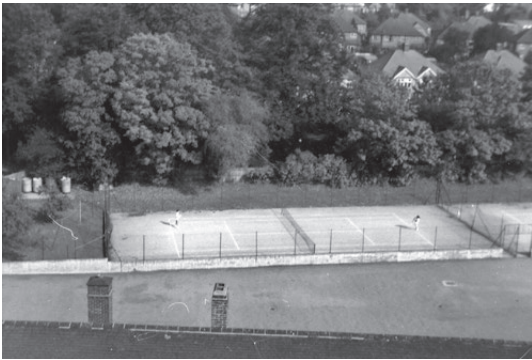


02 ▲ This photo was taken in the early 1970s. The gym (with the stage at the Grove Park end) was built in the 1930s and the New Quad is left free as a playground. The Antony Barnard Hall and the Gerald Moore Gallery later occupied the site of the tennis courts that line Mottingham Lane. As yet there are no changing rooms or swimming pool – the latter was built in the late 1970s on the wooded area beside Grove Park Road.

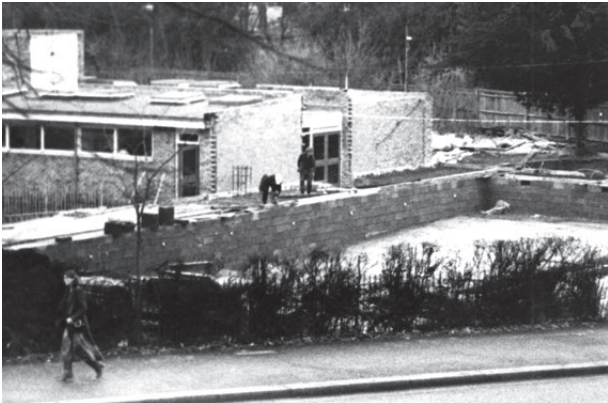


03 ▼ This photo was taken between the construction of the changing rooms, which were built beside the gym in 1974, and the swimming pool, which was built beyond them in 1979.

1970s



04 ▲ This photo, taken from the school tower, with the science centre roof at the bottom of the photo, clearly shows the old tennis courts that became the site of the Antony Barnard Theatre.



06 ▲ The construction of the swimming pool in the late 1970s, taken from Grove Park Road and clearly showing the changing rooms built a few years before.



08 ▲ Another view of the Antony Barnard Theatre under construction. This photo was again taken from the school tower.



05 ◀ The tennis courts and the adjacent playground in the mid 1970s.

1980s



07 ▲ 1986: the steel frame of the Antony Barnard Hall (now the Antony Barnard Theatre) is already in place. Beyond, the gym and changing rooms.



09 ▲ The Antony Barnard Hall, later on during its construction.

1990s



10 ◀ Demolition of the old gym in 1995. The roof has come off the stage area and the rail for the stage curtains can be clearly seen. Beyond is the completed Antony Barnard Hall (the workshop and costume areas behind it were built later).

11 ▼ The sports hall under construction in the summer of 1995.



2010s



12 ▲ The Sports Hall in 2011; a badminton lesson is underway, supervised by Mr Fermor-Dunmanb.



14 ▲ Headmaster Paul Henderson (left) and Gerald Moore (with spade) ceremonially starting the construction of the Gerald Moore Gallery in 2011.

13 ▼ The New Quad in 2010, before the construction of the Gerald Moore Gallery. The workshop and costumes area behind the ABH can be clearly seen.



15 ▼ Construction work on the Gerald Moore Gallery.



2020s



16 ◀▲ The New Quad photographed in June 2025, with the extension of the Science Block (and new entrance from the Science Block into the Quad) clearly visible.

In Memoriam



BIRT, Thomas A.	(OE 1946–1954) Passed away on 3rd May aged 87
ELLISTON, Robert V.	(OE 1947–1956) Passed away on 27th January aged 86
FORD, James A.F.	(OE 1961–1968) Passed away on 5th July aged 75
HARLEY, John	(OE 1941–1946) Passed away on 12th August aged 97
HEAD, Ronald C.A.	(OE 1940–1948) Passed away on 31st July aged 92
O’LEARY, Sally A.	(OE 2019–2021) Passed away on 19th April aged 21
RICHARDSON, Brian W.	(OE 1943–1951) Passed away on 19th May aged 90
RODMELL, Graham A.	(OE 1945–1954) Passed away on 25th April aged 87
STANDRING, Ian M.	(OE 1963–1969) Passed away on 16th January aged 72
WARREN, Anthony J.	(OE 1945–1955) Passed away on 9th March aged 88
WATKINS, David	(OE 1941–1946) Passed away on 12th June aged 95
YATES, Christopher P.	(OE 1954–1962) Passed away on 21st January aged 82

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

ADB	Andrew Beattie, Editor <i>Elthamian</i> magazine and School Archivist
ADM	Antony Merrett, Biology Department and Head of Carey House
AMD	Andrea Duncan, Head of Art, ECJS
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BNM	Beth Martin, Head of Modern Languages, ECJS
CJC	Christopher Cook, Head of English
CMR	Caroline Roche, School Librarian
CSW	Caroline Ward Vine, Director of Communications
EKM	Kia Michalopoulou, Head of Classics
ERC	Edmund Cavendish, Head of the Scholarship Programme
HFA	Haf Anuar, Gerald Moore Gallery Manager
HJT	Hugo Timbrell, Head of Drama, ECJS
ETT	Ed Thorogood, Head of Athletics
JAW	James Willatt, Deputy Head, Co-curricular and Partnerships
JBA	Jamie Batten, Head of Hockey
JFK	Josh Kelly, Head of Cricket
JHH	Rev Jim Houghton, School Chaplain
JPC	James Chesterton, Geography Department and Head of Lower School
JSM	James Marshall, Head of Academic Drama
JXC	Jeremy Crowley, Head of Livingstone House
KAH	Kirsty Harding, Head of Chalmers House
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MOD	Mark O’Dwyer, Head of Sport, ECJS
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SPT	Satyam Patel, Head of D of E
STM	Steven Marlow, Head of Biology
SXO	Saoirse O’Donovan, Development Director



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