

# LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

2025-2026



ELTHAM COLLEGE





# Introduction

02

INTRODUCTION

03

ART

04

BIOLOGY

05

CHEMISTRY

06

CLASSICS

07

COMPUTING

08

DESIGN &amp; TECHNOLOGY

09

DRAMA

10

ENGLISH

11

GEOGRAPHY

12

HISTORY

13

MATHEMATICS

14

MODERN LANGUAGES

16

MUSIC

17

PHYSICS

18

RELIGIOUS STUDIES &amp; PHILOSOPHY

From sculpture to algorithms, from the industrial revolution to the reactions of acids, we offer a broad and challenging curriculum throughout the Senior School that seizes the students' attention and propels them to success.

Academic excellence has always been at the heart of the education we offer, and we expect every student at Eltham College to achieve to their potential. Students learn in small classes with specialist teachers who love their subjects and want to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with every student.

## YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 SUBJECTS

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- English
- French
- Latin
- Mandarin
- German
- Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Computing
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Religious Studies

In Year 7 and 8 students study three languages. Latin, which is compulsory, and then students can select from French, German, Mandarin or Spanish for the second and third language they wish to study. In Year 9 students choose two languages from those they are already studying.

More detail about each subject and how it is taught in Years 7-9 is set out on below.





# Art

## Overview

It is the Art Department's aim to inspire each student studying Art to consider their place in the world and to communicate their personal response to it. Studying Art at Eltham College helps students to develop a sense of their own identity as they are given the chance to learn how to work with a range of materials and techniques so that they develop confidence, competence, imagination and creativity.

The Art Department is an exciting place to study; previous exam students have made films, built large-scale installations, used photography, drawn with wire, printed with a variety of objects through the etching press, made sound pieces and projected images over sculptures amongst many other interesting projects. The subject matter is as varied as the students themselves – from composing and realising beauty in everyday objects, mapping the stars, aviation, architecture, political beliefs, politics, ecology, movement, archaeology, reflection, family history, memories, human interaction, pattern, experimental travel... The ideas are inspired by artists relevant to their lives and eclectic interests. Art can bring a welcome balance to other academic subjects.

Studying Art develops transferable skills such as problem-solving, creative thinking, experimentation, critical analysis, research skills, resilience, making and building skills, teamwork and debating.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

Studying Art at Eltham College encompasses creating art, learning about art and, most importantly, learning from art. One of the department's major tasks is to provide learning experiences, which stimulate and encourage investigation to develop personal ideas, feelings and responses to a subject, issue or problem.

There are regular extra sessions set up for the exam groups so that they can keep on top of their studio work. The classrooms are open for students over the Easter holidays to complete coursework. There are also courses offered in the gallery, both evening and holiday courses, that support those studying Art at exam level.

### CURRICULUM

Art is compulsory in Years 7 and 8, and in Year 9, students can then decide to study Art from one of five creative subjects. The students have one double lesson a week in groups of 12 and spend half of the year focusing on a project with one teacher and the other half with another of the teachers working in a different way. There is the chance to work in 2D and 3D in all of the Lower School courses. Homework is used to reinforce and extend what is learnt at school and as a time to prepare and research for the next lesson. Students are set personal projects for homework in Year 8 and 9 to give them an insight into the expectations of GCSE and the opportunity to explore their own ideas using a range of materials and techniques.

### Year 7

- Core skills in observational drawing, colour theory, research, experimentation, development of ideas and using a sketchbook.
- Art from Art: learning that ideas can come from looking at how artists work.

### Year 8

- Nature, Environment, Landscape. Studying the forms and structures found in nature and using the natural landscape as a source for ideas.
- Art and society: looking at world cultures and society as an inspiration for Art work.

### Year 9

- Human Form
- Art and the built environment.

The Year 9 Art course gives students a grounding in the core skills of Art and Design required at GCSE level. This foundation course allows students the opportunity to experiment with a range of materials and techniques, including painting, drawing, sculpting and photography. Students have the chance to explore their own interests and are supported to work creatively and independently. Year 9 Art students will display their work in their own exhibition in Central Hall, as well as having the opportunity to get involved with projects in the Gerald Moore Gallery.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

The Art department organises exhibitions in Central Hall each year for students in Years 7, 8, and 9 and then the work is exhibited around the College. We often invite artists to run workshops with students and all years have the chance to work with the Artist-in-Residence.

There is an Art and Photography Club each Thursday lunchtime which is a chance for students to develop their skills and explore ideas. The department also has a lunchtime session for any student wanting to develop their own work, which is supported by the art staff.

There are also opportunities to attend workshops in the Gerald Moore Gallery. There is an optional after-school club in the gallery each week for students in Years 7 to 9 students. The gallery also hosts some exciting one-off workshops, which are well-attended by Eltham students.

### Trips

- There are trips to London Galleries for multiple year groups.

# Biology

## Overview

Biology is the study of living organisms and their environments. During the last century our knowledge of Biology has expanded at a staggering rate, and we now take for granted many of the greatest advances in Biology and medicine, which have improved our health and general lifestyle. The biological sciences are the most diverse of subjects – from molecular Biology to the biosphere.

A qualification in Biology equips you with key skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness, and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

Biology is a strong and popular subject at Eltham College with many students choosing to follow Biology-related degrees.

### The department aims:

- To provide Biology teaching of the highest quality in an environment that encourages a high quality of learning, good relationships and scientific integrity.
- To engage, motivate and challenge all students and to develop an interest in and enjoyment of the study of living organisms.
- To encourage the spirit of enquiry and tolerance of others' views.
- To encourage an attitude of curiosity and scientific enquiry and to give a variety and range of work for learning and understanding biological principles.

We do this by delivering lessons which maintain a balance between biological theory, demonstration and students' experimental work.

### CURRICULUM

#### Year 7 and 8

In Year 7 and 8, students have two lessons per week of Biology and one piece of homework will be set. Students will study a variety of topics including:

#### Year 7

- Cells
- Soil
- Reproduction
- Diet and Digestion
- Variation

#### Year 8

- Movement
- Understanding Experiments
- From Food to Cells
- Blood and Circulation
- Microorganisms

We provide students with a textbook and folders.

Biology is a core subject at GCSE and preparation for this begins in Year 9.

At GCSE, students have three lessons of Biology per week in Year 9. Full details can be found in the specification but topics include:

#### Year 9

- The Nature and Variety of Living Organisms
- Photosynthesis
- Nutrition in Humans
- Food Production
- Ecology and the Environment



# Chemistry

## Overview

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties and its interactions with the things around it. From the molecules from which we are made to the materials in our mobile phones, Chemistry is an integral part of everyday life. Students explore both the theory and applications of Chemistry throughout Years 7 to 11.

We firmly believe that Chemistry is not simply something that is 'learned', it is also something that is 'done'. Practical work is consistently used to illustrate concepts and develop students' ability to analyse and interrogate data. Teachers encourage students to ask questions and to challenge current theories. Students can discover and pursue interests in Chemistry through various research-based projects across Years 7 to 11. Uptake at A Level is strong and many students go on to study Chemistry, Biochemistry or a related subject at university.

The Chemistry Department provides a supportive and nurturing environment in which students can learn about the important role of Chemistry in the modern world and explore the increasing contribution which Chemistry makes to human advancement.

We are committed to developing our practice as educators and to this end we are a Royal Society of Chemistry Learn Partner.

### CURRICULUM

#### Year 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8, students have a double lesson per week of Chemistry and one piece of homework will be set. Students will study a variety of topics which form the foundations of Chemistry; these include:

#### Year 7

- The Periodic Table
- Fuels for the Future
- Acids and Alkalies
- Separating Mixtures

#### Year 8

- The Earth's Resources
- Reactions of Metals
- Food Chemistry
- Fertilizers

We provide students with a text book [Longman Chemistry 11-14] which gives a comprehensive overview of these topics.

#### Year 9

At GCSE, Chemistry is a core subject in the curriculum and all students will begin their GCSE Science courses in Year 9, following the Edexcel International GCSE syllabus for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Students in the Chemistry Department are able to participate in a variety of enrichment activities; these include:

- The Salters' Festivals (Year 8 and 9)

There are a variety of co-curricular clubs which we offer, although changes occur from year to year. In recent years they included a forensics club and a pyrotechnic club.

# Classics

## Overview

At Eltham College, we aim to provide all students with a basic education in Latin and Classics, whether they choose to continue with the subject to GCSE and beyond or not. By studying Latin, students learn about how languages develop, exploring relationships between this ancient language and many modern languages. We also study the history of the Classical world through ancient literature, art and archaeology

### CURRICULUM

All students start Latin as a compulsory subject with the option to continue at the end of Years 7 and 9. Lessons are varied; from basic grammar and vocabulary, to discussions about Vesuvius, Roman Britain and The Trojan War.

#### Year 7

Students are introduced to Latin sentence structure and basic grammar. The stories are set in Pompeii before the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD.

#### Year 8

Students continue with Latin grammar and vocabulary, alongside developing an understanding of Roman Britain and Celtic religion.

#### Year 9

Students who opt to continue with Latin develop their grammar and vocabulary with more complex translations and comprehensions. We also begin to discuss The Trojan War and classical mythology.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

The Classics Department recognises the importance of seeing Classics 'in action', whether that be by visiting museums and galleries to discuss and handle ancient artefacts or taking trips to ancient sites such as Bath, Hadrian's Wall, Rome and Pompeii.

Recent and future trips include:

- The National Gallery and Museum of London with Year 7
- The Roman Galleries at the British Museum with Year 8
- Hadrian's Wall and Vindolanda with Year 8
- Cambridge Greek Play with Years 11 and 12
- Rome and Pompeii with Years 10 and 11
- The Cambridge Classics Faculty with Years 10, 11 and 12

We also offer Ancient Greek for Beginners as an optional club.



# Computing

## Overview

A high-quality Computing education equips students to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with Mathematics, Science, and Design and Technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems.

The core of Computing is Computer Science, in which students are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, students are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that students become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

### **The department aims that all students can:**

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
- Analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- Evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- Be responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology

### **CURRICULUM**

#### **Year 7 to 9**

In Year 7 students have two lessons of Computing per week and one piece of homework will be set. Students will study a variety of topics including:

- Introduction to Textual Programming using Python
- Data Representation
- Web Design using HTML
- Computer Hardware and Logic Gates
- Office 365 Applications

In Year 8 students have one lesson per week of Computing and one piece of homework per fortnight will be set. Students will study a variety of topics including:

- Further Programming using Python
- Data Representation
- Networks
- Hardware and Software

The Year 9 course in Computer Science will develop students programming skills and prepare them for the study of Computer Science at GCSE Level. During the course students will develop an understanding of the C# programming language, the language of choice for games and desktop application developers, and the Computer Science Department's teaching language at GCSE and A Level. They will also gain a thorough understanding of how data is represented by computing systems, and how the hardware and software components of these systems operate and interact with each other.

Students have two lessons of Computing per week and one piece of homework will be set. The focus of the year will be to prepare students for the study of GCSE Computer Science in Year 10 and to encourage the creative application of computational thought.

### **TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

In addition to our teaching there are a range of opportunities to support the development of Computing knowledge including:

- Lower School Code Club
- Senior School Cyber Security Club
- Weekly Senior School Clinics and Programming Club

# Design & Technology

## Overview

Design and Technology covers a large skill set from the applied art skills of Graphic Design to the applied physics and maths skills of electronics. At Eltham College, we teach all the areas of Design and Technology and specialise in Product Design – Design Technology at GCSE and Design Technology – Product Design at A level.

Design and Technology is one of the youngest of subjects, having been created in 1989. Since then it has developed to reflect the rapidly changing world that we live in. We still teach some of the skills that were taught in the days of CDT or woodwork and metalwork, but the subject has changed considerably since those days.

There are three workshops, all of which are equipped with computer facilities to enable the students to use the subject specific software that enables 2D and 3D drawing. We also have the complete Microsoft Office package that enables the students to use the basic programmes for presenting work alongside the project management software that enables mind maps and project planning to be undertaken.

The workshops are all capable of completing KS3 work as well as being designed for the specialist areas taught at GCSE and A level. The department has a dedicated CAD/CAM suite which includes a laser cutters, vinyl cutter, plasma cutter, combined routing/milling machine and a variety of A3 printers.

### **CURRICULUM**

#### **Year 7**

Students develop some core Product Design skills alongside subject specific knowledge in the two areas of Design and Technology that we specialise in, Resistant Materials and Electronic Systems. The students develop hand skills alongside learning how to use the modern computer operated machines we have within the department.

#### **Year 8**

Students continue to develop their subject specific skills in projects that raise the Design and Technology challenges to a more difficult level.

#### **Year 9**

In Year 9 the students are beginning to get a taste of what Design and Technology is like at GCSE level. Pupils choosing to study Design and Technology in Year 9 are provided with the skills and subject knowledge needed to produce high quality prototypes at GCSE. We develop their creativity and critical thinking, using a range of teaching methods, investigate modern materials and current manufacturing methods which ensure that they are fully prepared for the full GCSE course.

They are given the opportunity to visit leading manufacturers in the automotive industry with our established DT Trip to Italy and Germany, where they are able to understand the relevance of the curriculum they are being taught at Eltham College.

### **TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

It is always possible to find a student working on something when the workshops are open, but we also run specific sessions including:

- Textiles Club – students are introduced to a range manufacturing skills.
- DT Club – students use the facilities to manufacture products they want to make but don't know how to.
- Greenpower – students design, build and race an electronic car as part of a national competition.

The Design and Technology Department run regular trips to various places around the UK including the Design Museum and the New Designers Show.



# Drama

## Overview

Drama works on many levels: our emphasis is the aesthetic but we do not ignore the social aspects of our discipline and it is through this that we can foster the atmosphere from which great creativity can flourish.

We aim to offer a wide ranging and stimulating syllabus that encourages performance and an understanding of Drama. All students work solo, in pairs and in larger groups and are encouraged to realise the academic side of the subject, not just in a written sense, but also in a practical sense. We aim to ensure that every student that studies the subject has the opportunity to think of themselves as an accomplished practitioner of the dramatic art.

The department aims to create, understand and appreciate a variety of theatrical genres, alongside developing social and communication skills. Students will explore the history of theatre from the Greek's to contemporary performance practice through text and improvisation work. Whilst working on dramatic projects they will learn to work together imaginatively and cordially. This will enhance their negotiation skills and those associated with presenting an argument or an idea to their peers. Showing these performances to the rest of the class will improve their self-presentation and increase their confidence in this most necessary aspect of personal development. Working like this, students will also develop their voices for everyday and theatrical use, and learn to make the most of their capacities for physical expression.

Drama is based in the Antony Barnard Theatre, a 230 seat theatre with a green room, workshop and prop and costume store.

## CURRICULUM

### All students will develop skills in the following areas of drama techniques:

- Concentration
- Performance
- Discussion
- Pair-work
- Small group work
- Whole group work
- Spontaneous and prepared improvisation skills
- Status
- Dramatic shape/structure
- Character
- Dialogue
- Self discipline
- Audience awareness
- Independent learning
- Trust
- Creativity
- Teamwork
- Relationship between the individual and the group

## AREAS STUDIED

Drama is a lively, active and practical subject taught to all students in the first two years of the Senior School. Drama gives the chance to explore, in a dynamic way, complex social, personal and artistic issues as well as the emotions and ideas of the individual. It provides time and space to step into the other man's shoes and see things from his point of view. In Year 9, students can choose Drama as one of their creative options and the course begins to focus more on the sort of work undertaken at GCSE, building towards two performances and the opportunity to explore design elements. In addition to the course, we aim to provide at least one opportunity per year for students in each year group to perform in a major production. Hundreds do and many more become involved in set-building, prop-making, lighting and sound as members of the Stage Crew.

### Year 7

- Storytelling
- Greek Theatre
- Elizabethan Theatre
- Commedia Dell Arte

### Year 8

- Naturalism
- Political Theatre
- Physical Theatre
- Theatre in the 21st Century

### Year 9

The Year 9 course in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. It promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Students will investigate different theatrical practitioners and genres of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques. During the course they will produce and realise a piece of original theatre as well as study different texts practically as a performer, designer and director. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

- Creating Characters
- Performing Text to an Audience
- Devising
- Introduction to Technical Theatre

Co-curricular work in Drama is seen as essential to the success of the department providing opportunities for all of our students to take part in performances if they wish to. Every lunch time and each night after school there is a rehearsal of some kind taking place in the Antony Barnard Theatre and frequently the dance studio too. Each year there will be a range of opportunities for students to be involved in including:

- A Senior School musical
- A Lower School play
- A Middle School play
- The House Drama competition

# English

## Overview

## CURRICULUM

### Years 7, 8 and 9

In Years 7 and 8, students have five lessons per week and are set two pieces of homework. In Year 9, students have four lessons of English per week. Here too, they are set two pieces of homework.

Students are set a variety of topics, including creative writing and exploration of Shakespeare, to ensure they are well prepared for the GCSE years. We follow the King's College, University of London 'Let's Think in English' programme in Year 7 and 8. We also employ units of the 'Grammar for Writing' approach, developed by the University of Exeter.

## TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

There are opportunities for students to be involved in the following activities:

1. Writing for, and editing, the school magazine;
2. Taking part in the Lecture Competition for Years 7 to 9;
3. Weekly Scrabble Club;
4. Weekly Debating Club;
5. Lunchtime assistance for those who find certain aspects of English challenging;
6. Creative Writing group – a group that meets weekly to produce an anthology of writing and is open to all years;
7. Reading clubs, across all year groups.

We also regularly run trips to London theatres.



# Geography

## Overview

The Geography Department aims to stimulate within students an interest in their surroundings and to develop further their awe and wonder of the natural and human environment.

Geography trips covered aim to explore the variety of landscapes on the Earth's surface and discuss with the students the opportunities and constraints for human beings. We want to make students aware of the quality of the environment in which they live and the positive and negative consequences of a wide variety of human actions upon it.

We endeavour to develop in each student an awareness of how their actions can impact upon both the environment and other human beings around them. We aim to develop their understanding of their responsibilities for the management of the planet, without seeking to make any student feel 'guilty' for global inequalities.

### CURRICULUM

#### Year 7 to 9

Geography is a compulsory subject in Years 7, 8 and 9 where we teach both skills and specific content broadly in line with the National Curriculum. We also teach additional key skills and content which may be relevant preparation for GCSE and A level exams in later years. Year 7 sees a study of where we live followed by weather and climate. Conflict in geography is then followed by a snapshot of glaciation. Year 8 sees a study of population, rocks and resources, followed by the new geography and crime. Year 9 looks at hazardous environments, globalisation, migration and fragile environments.

A significant proportion of the year group go on to study GCSE Geography in Years 10 and 11.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Fieldwork forms an integral part of the Geography taught at Eltham College:

- Providing opportunities to learn through direct experiences
- Increasing interest through interaction with the environment
- Encouraging students to be responsible for their own learning

Destinations include:

- Lower School – students conduct fieldwork in the school grounds as well as visiting London Docklands, Stratford and the Dorset Jurassic Coast.
- GCSE – the department has led a number of overseas trips. Students have visited Southern Spain and Sicily to study tourism and environmental issues.
- The department aims to offer an awe and wonder opportunity each year to a variety of combined year groups. In recent years trips to Iceland, Sicily, Iceland/New York combined have all been successfully undertaken.
- The Geography Society meets each week and is chaired by prominent enthusiastic Sixth Form geographers. This is an opportunity to debate, present and discover a range of geographical issues and topics.
- The Meteorological Society meets once a week to collect data and look at weather patterns.

# History

## Overview

History is best seen as an ongoing debate about what happened, and what mattered, in the past. The History Department at Eltham College encourages all students to take a critical approach to both contemporary sources and the work of historians, so they can reach their own considered judgements on important historical questions. Ultimately, we encourage students to see that 'what happened' and 'what mattered' are issues of interpretation.

All students study History in their forms in Years 7 to 9 before it becomes an optional subject in Year 10 and 11. We offer a broad History curriculum in Years 7 to 9, to provide students with a secure understanding of some of the major transformations in English and European history, across the medieval, early modern, and modern periods. We also expose students to different types of history – political, cultural, military, social and economic – to offer a number of 'lenses' through which the past can be viewed.

### History Department aims:

- To stimulate all students' innate passion for studying the past, by using our teachers' specialist knowledge to deliver a range of engaging and challenging learning episodes.
- To develop students' precise knowledge of different periods, regions, approaches, and debates between historians.
- To cultivate students' broader skills as scholars. Through their History lessons, we hope students will become:
  - 'Critical consumers' of sources and interpretations. Students will learn to take a judicious approach when investigating how the 'traces' of the past can be used as evidence for claims. They will also become increasingly comfortable evaluating the claims of other historians.
  - 'Persuasive producers' of historical writing. Our lesson activities provide regular opportunities for students to practise constructing a logical argument, whether orally or on paper.

### CURRICULUM

#### Years 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8, students have two lessons a week of History and one piece of homework. The structure of the course is broadly chronological, and comprises the following topics:

#### Year 7

- The impact of the Norman Conquest
- Medieval religious change
- Monarchical power and political change
- Social change: the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt

#### Year 8

- The early Tudor Monarchs and the English Reformation
- Elizabeth's reign and the development of the English 'empire'
- The causes, course, and consequences of the English Civil War

Students explore the past mainly through analysing primary documents, reading the work of historians, and debating with their peers in lessons. Group activities, creative writing, the use of e-resources, and independent research in the Library, are also used to support students' exploration of the past.

#### Year 9

In Year 9, students have three lessons of History each week. In the first term, students explore the complexities of the British Empire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, engaging with recent debate and scholarship on imperialism's profound impact on Britain and the world. This leads into an in-depth study of the origins, key events, and global aftermath of the First World War, during the Michaelmas and Lent terms. This lays the groundwork for the beginning of the IGCSE course, the first part of which is taught in the Summer term.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Year 9 students visit Ypres and the Somme battlefield region as part of Field Week in the Summer Term.



# Mathematics

## Overview

To ensure breadth and depth of understanding in Mathematics, teaching in the department is supported by a detailed programme of study linked to comprehensive textbook schemes at all levels.

### CURRICULUM

#### Year 7

Year 7 students are taught in tutor groups. During the year, in addition to ensuring a sound basis of mathematical understanding, students will be assessed in order to identify the most appropriate set for them to be placed in for Year 8.

#### Years 8 and 9

Students in Years 8 and 9 are taught in sets, determined by their performance in regular internal assessments.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

- In addition to our teaching, there are a range of opportunities to support the development of mathematical knowledge including:
- Junior Maths Club – Maths Masters – This weekly club is for students in Year 7 and 8 who are interested in exploring interesting and challenging mathematical activities and problems. There are opportunities to engage in mathematical games, trails, and use of ICT to extend an interest in mathematics.
- Middle School Maths Society (MS)<sup>2</sup> – This weekly club is for students in Year 9 who are ready for the challenge of Mathematical Olympiad style questions and who enjoy taking part in the UKMT Maths Challenges.
- Maths Clinic – provides the opportunity for all students to seek individual help and support with the development of mathematical understanding. Students may choose to attend on a regular or occasional basis, or their attendance may be recommended by their mathematics teacher. Whilst the Maths Clinic will be supervised by members of the department, it will be led by members of Sixth Form Mathematics groups as part of their contribution to community service.
- UKMT Mathematics Challenges – we enter every student in Year 7 and 8, the top sets in Year 9 to 11, and Sixth Form mathematicians into these national competitions.
- Hans Woyda Competition – the team for this competition comprises just four mathematicians, chosen from the best in the school – one each from Year 9, 11 and the Lower and Upper Sixths.

# Modern Languages

## Overview

The Modern Languages department at Eltham College is vibrant and flourishing. The Lower School Curriculum is based on the principle of offering choice and exposing students to as wide a range of different languages as possible. GCSE choices are made at the end of Year 9, enabling students to choose the language(s) to which they are most suited.

### CURRICULUM

#### Year 7 and Year 8

In Year 7, all students learn Latin in their forms. Additionally, students choose two more languages to study from French, German, Mandarin or Spanish. There are parallel Mandarin sets for beginners and for students who have already learnt Mandarin at Eltham College Junior School.

#### Year 9

In Year 9, students choose any two of the three languages they have studied in Year 7 and 8. They are expected to study two languages from **French, German, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish**.

#### French

As students progress to Year 9, French will probably be the language they have studied the longest and therefore the one they may feel the most familiar with. They will already feel confident in talking about themselves and in the basics of grammar. They may also have realised that the differences between spelling and pronunciation aren't as tricky to grasp as they first thought. The French Department is a vibrant department within the Senior School and the vast majority of pupils continue with French throughout the Lower School.

Many also continue at GCSE and A Level with great success. Just two hours on Eurostar will take you to one of Europe's most dynamic, fun and fascinating capitals – Paris. The French are exceptionally good at all that we enjoy in life: food, fashion, film and music. You will undoubtedly share our love of French food; we also want to you to be equipped to discover much more, not just about France, but the larger francophone world. The department runs a range of trips and we are very proud of our results at GCSE, A Level. A good number of pupils go on to read French at university having enjoyed their course with us, and some have developed such a passion for French that they have opted to spend extended lengths of time in France too.

#### German

Many people like German because it is from the same linguistic family as English, it is easy to spell and many of our words are similar. German is the main language in continental Europe and the German economy is the main one in Europe and fourth worldwide.

There is a long tradition of German in the Senior School and looking much further ahead, the Department has an unrivalled record of sending Germanists to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Germany has the best cars, footballers, sausages, scientists, engineers, philosophers and musicians in the world!

#### Mandarin

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely-spoken language in the world. By learning Chinese, students gain unique insights into the culture of one of the world's oldest and richest civilisations. In recent years there has also been an increased demand for bilingual Mandarin Chinese speakers in the workplace.

In Year 9, pupils study a wider range of topics. They will not only have the opportunity to learn to read and write more Chinese characters from memory but also develop their listening and speaking skill in Mandarin Chinese. This lays a good foundation for future study of Chinese GCSE. Pupils with native speakers' background are also encouraged to take the time-tabled lessons in order to develop all four skills in balance. We run a study trip to China every two years and it is open to pupils who study Mandarin Chinese in Year 9.

#### Spanish

Spanish is one of very few languages in the world spoken by a huge socioeconomic variety of people; from a top executive in Madrid to a peasant in the Amazon rainforest. It is the language of revolution! As well as getting to know and appreciate the Iberian Peninsula, students will grapple with and enjoy the post-colonial development of South and Central America.

The personality of the language reflects the cultures of those countries in which it is spoken: laid-back, passionate, loud, vibrant and at times chaotic. That said, of all the languages commonly studied (that use Roman script), Spanish is the closest to being a 'phonetic' language. The written language adheres almost faultlessly to what is currently spoken. Studying Spanish at Eltham College will allow students to access the growing Spanish culture in London (huge increase in Spanish immigration to London over the last few years) and in the world (it is the second most-spoken language in the world by number of native speakers). It also gives students access to ground-breaking literature, sensational poetry and sublime film. We will, of course, run a number of exciting and exhilarating trips during your time studying Spanish but we hope that you will take the initiative, once equipped, to explore the Spanish-speaking world for yourself.

#### HOW ARE LANGUAGES TAUGHT?

- Teachers make full use of international journalism and European broadcasts, webcasts and podcasts to keep their lessons topical, stimulating and accessible.
- We incorporate IT into the curriculum to make language learning more interactive, creative, engaging and fun.



## Overview

The study of Music at Eltham College goes way beyond simply listening to some core repertoire, or playing on classroom instruments. We encourage students to think like musicians, constantly asking questions of themselves, developing their

ability to listen, to appreciate a wide variety of music from cultures from all around the world. Students regularly work in groups on creative tasks, as well as developing the confidence as individual musicians to explore parts of musical worlds previously unfamiliar to them.



# Music

## CURRICULUM

### Year 7 to 9

All students in Years 7-8 have weekly Music lessons as part of their core timetable, and it is an option in Year 9. Singing and instrumental music-making are a fundamental part of our lessons, and each term students will study one practical scheme of work, and one composition scheme where they write their own music using our computer software.

Our curriculum is largely skills-based, and aims to introduce students to a range of composers, artists and performers from a range of backgrounds, countries and genders. For example, we do not just study 'The Blues' in Year 8, but study the skill of improvisation, through which we encounter music from jazz, blues, Indian classical music and Scottish folk music. We aim to widen students' experiences and excite them about new music.

Listening and appraising work starts in Year 7, with the aim of developing the skills necessary for musical analysis at GCSE. We introduce analytical terminology associated with the elements of music from Year 7, building a vocabulary which will assist students who choose to take the subject at GCSE and/or A-Level.

Topics studied include:

- Year 7: Showstoppers! (singing), Baroque music, Film Music, Music from Africa
- Year 8: Improvisation, Holst's Planets Suite, Music for Animation, Musicals, and Protest Music.

All students in Year 7 perform in a College Concert during the course of the year, and curriculum trips to hear professional concerts in a London venue are organised for students; our latest trip being to see Don Giovanni at the Royal Opera House.

All our Key Stage 3 students make use of the department's suite of 26 computers with the latest versions of Sibelius and Cubase Artist software, enabling them to compose in a variety of styles and genres. We also have a subscription to MusicFirst Classroom, which includes Focus on Sound and sequencing programme Soundtrap. Students are given a personalised log-in for the duration of their time studying Music, and this enables them to compose using this software on any device (even a phone) anywhere there is an internet connection.

In Year 9, Music is focused on developing skills in performance, composition and analysis and provides a firm grounding for the Edexcel GCSE course, should you choose to take it. Pupils will enjoy performing and learning at least one musical instrument/voice would be an advantage.

In addition to performance, pupils will explore a wide range of compositional techniques; they will encounter new technology and software, including the basics of recording and composing and editing in Cubase Artist 10. They will also study a diverse selection of music, from 20th century classical music, music for film, popular songs and world music, and will begin to develop analytical skills which will be useful for GCSE. Students will also be offered the opportunity to attend a performance of a concert

or opera and take part in a practical workshop.

## TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

There are a range of trips for our students to extend their knowledge of the set work composers and works.

The music calendar is extremely active with over 30 performances taking place every academic year, ranging from small intimate performances within the College, to large scale concerts in external venues such as Cadogan Hall, Blackheath Halls and the Royal Naval Chapel, Greenwich.

Eltham College is one of the few schools to have access to Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club on a Saturday lunch time slot, which is testament to the quality and ability of our musicians.



# Physics

## Overview

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles, quarks, to the vast distances between galaxies.

Physics is the natural science that involves the study of matter and its motion through space and time, along with related concepts such as energy and force. Many students who take Physics at A-Level go on to study Engineering, Architecture, Astronomy and Physics related courses at university.

The Physics department is committed to providing a supportive and purposeful environment in which students are well supported and encouraged to pursue opportunities to beyond the taught syllabus. All lessons are taught by subject specialists and in dedicated teaching laboratories. Lessons and topics have been developed with an emphasis on a student centred approach to learning, with lessons usually built around investigative practical work.

The Physics department is also committed to developing our practice as educators and are a member of the Institute of Physics.

### CURRICULUM

#### Years 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8, students have one double lesson per week and one piece of homework. The course has been designed to enable students to develop an understanding of underlying concepts as well as cultivate practical skills.

The topics which students will study are:

#### Year 7

- Energy transfers and resources
- Forces
- Light

#### Year 8

- Moments
- Electricity
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Motion

We provide students with a core textbook and topic checklists in the Lower School.

Students have one double and one single lesson in Year 9 and typically set one piece of homework per week. Further details can be found in the specification, but topics studied include:

- Energy Transfers,
- Waves 1
- Motion
- Forces 1
- Energy Resources

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

In addition to our teaching there are a range of opportunities to support the development of Physics knowledge including:

- Faraday Day Challenge (Year 8)
- Lego Robotics League (Year 7 and 8)
- UKSDC Galactic Challenge (Year 9)

# Philosophy & Theology

## Overview

The Philosophy & Theology Department teaches in a way that invites all learners to form an identity as a creative, critical human, and that encourages a lifelong love of wisdom. All students study Philosophy & Theology in Year 7 to 9 before it becomes optional in Year 10 and 11. Philosophy is the love of wisdom, and our 11-14 curriculum aims to cultivate a love of learning about the world, understanding it, and acting for well-considered reasons, through the systematic study of philosophical debates about the nature of reality and the good life. Theology is knowledge about (or the study of views about) God, and our 11-14 curriculum aims to acquaint students with a foundational overview of "revealed" narratives and sources with which billions of humans throughout four millennia have engaged, hoping to understand God better.

Philosophy & Theology lessons create a space where students can ask the most difficult questions and be guided in seeking out answers. In turn, that study should equip them with:

- an ability and desire to ask better questions and consider deeper answers,
- the critical thinking skills to discern between the answers they encounter and create,
- and an open mind that seeks to understand others.

### CURRICULUM

In Years 8 and 9, students have two periods per week of Philosophy & Theology, and usually one piece of homework to take 40 minutes per fortnight. Every Michaelmas term, students will study debates about the nature of reality and how we can know it; every Lent, they will study debates about how to live well; and every Summer, they will study 'revealed theology': narratives about God's interactions with the world and how humans have interpreted and contested those narratives.

#### Year 7

- Ultimate Reality: how ancient Greek philosophers tried to explain the existence and nature of the universe.
- Finding Happiness: theories of happiness and approaches to achieving it in ancient Greek philosophy.
- Revelation and Prophecy: ancient narratives from the Near East about human encounters with God.

#### Year 8

- Mind & World: how Early Modern European, and ancient Indian, philosophers debated what we can know, and how our minds fit into the universe we know.
- Love & Responsibility: 20th Century debates about the nature of love, justice, and the demands they place on us.

- Covenant & Sacrifice: tools and practices for responding to God in ancient Israel, the Church, and other cultures worldwide.

#### Year 9 (this course will begin in September 2025)

- Human Nature: philosophical debates about what makes humans unique and especially valuable (and whether they are), and how rival views have been communicated in ancient and modern myth.
- Human Rights: the deep history of human rights legislation in the West, and a group-based project debating a student-choice case study of a group of humans whose right to life is legally contested.
- Human God?: ancient narratives from 1st Century Israel about Jesus of Nazareth, and a group-based project debating a student-choice controversy about how to understand Jesus' nature or teaching.

Each half-term, students are provided with a booklet containing lesson handouts and revision resources. Each term, students are provided with a textbook. All resources are available electronically.

#### Year 9 2024-25 topics

- Good & Evil: a depth study of the Problem of Evil, and philosophical responses to it.
- Medical Ethics: debates about how to treat vulnerable people in clinical contexts, and the true purpose and limits on technological control over our bodies..
- Crime & Punishment: debates about how to treat criminals, and the true purpose and limits on government coercion in peacetime.

Each half-term, Year 9 students are provided with a booklet containing lesson handouts, extension or homework readings, and revision resources, all of which are available electronically.

### TRIPS, ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

The Department provides lunchtime clubs to support students in challenging their preconceptions and our culture, and pursuing the truth about contested issues of their choice:

- Junior Philosophy Society one lunch every week, in which students debate each other's answers to a Tricky Question
- Middle School Philosophy Society one lunch every week, in which students read and discuss a Big Idea
- Writing Workshop for Years 8-12, where students can get feedback on drafts for public essay competitions
- Annual conference trip for Sixth Formers
- Annual day trip for Year 7 or 8; in 2024 Year 7 visited a Jewish synagogue and Hindu mandir to explore the theme of divinity as "Visible & Invisible".

Gloria Filiorum Patres



**Eltham College**  
Grove Park Road  
London SE9 4QF

+44 (0)20 8857 1455

**[www.elthamcollege.london](http://www.elthamcollege.london)**