



The Elthamian

MICHAELMAS TERM 2025



Legally Speaking

Former pupils Stephen Hockman KC (1965) and Daniel Weston (2001) talk about their careers in environmental and patent law, respectively

Musically Speaking

Stephen Farr (OE 1984) tells us about his career as a church and cathedral organist following the organ masterclass he gave at school

International Sporting Success

We celebrate the achievements of four of our current pupils who have gained places in national teams in hockey, netball and athletics

Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the *Elthamian* magazine which covers the life of the school – and its broader community – during the Michaelmas Term of 2025

As usual 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 *A Christmas Carol* staged, and concerts and art exhibitions galore. The Sports departments of both schools have been busy too, as ever; for the senior school we have reports on boys' rugby, girls' hockey, cross country, swimming, water polo and skiing, and we highlight the success of five pupils who have been selected to play for international teams in netball, hockey and athletics; boys and girls in the Junior School, meanwhile, have been developing their rugby and netball skills, respectively. There have been trips abroad too – the Music Department has taken its singers to perform in Disneyland Paris, the physics department has taken its A Level pupils to CERN in Geneva, the art department has let its pupils experience the joys of Vienna and water polo players have enjoyed their sport under the Spanish sun in Barcelona. In addition we have full lists of university destinations and the term's winners of awards and colours recorded for posterity – and, this being the Michaelmas Term, the school has an intake of new staff (as well as pupils): we introduce Rachel Thompson and Sami Michael, the new Head of the Junior School and Deputy Head (Pastoral) at the Senior School

respectively, and as the National Year of Reading gets under way, we hear about the plans for the library from Karen Hans, the new Senior School librarian.

Our interviews with former pupils focus on the fields of Music and Law. Stephen Farr, who left in 1984, recalls his time at the school performing with ECCO in Switzerland – and his musical life after studying at Cambridge which has encompassed senior roles in cathedrals and major churches and a career as an organ recitalist; we spoke to him after he gave a recital and organ masterclass on our new chapel organ last term. Meanwhile Stephen Hockman KC (OE 1965), a former Chair of the Bar Council, and Daniel Weston (OE 2001) talk about their careers in environmental and patent law – both have attended careers events at the school in recent years and in our articles offer advice to those who want to follow the same career path. The final OE to whom we give extensive coverage is Gerald Summers, who left in 1915 and became one of the most significant designers of furniture between the Wars – he is the subject of a recent book by New York art historian Martha Deese, who we asked to write an article about him. Beyond these four articles we hope former pupils will be interested in our pieces on Old Elthamians hockey and on a

photographic record of how the Old Quad has changed over the decades – among others.

As has been the case now since 2022 both parts of the school community are embraced in the *Elthamian* – the present life of the school and the life of its community of former pupils and staff, and we hope this and other editions strengthen further the links between them.

Enjoy! Our next edition will be published towards the end of this calendar year and will cover the life of the school in the current Lent and upcoming Summer terms.



ANDREW BEATTIE
(Editor)

Contacting the Magazine

For editorial matters contact the editor, Andrew Beattie, at adb@eltham-college.org.uk

For matters concerning distribution of printed copies of the magazine to former staff and pupils please contact Russell Joyce, Development Manager, at rlj@eltham-college.org.uk



Contents



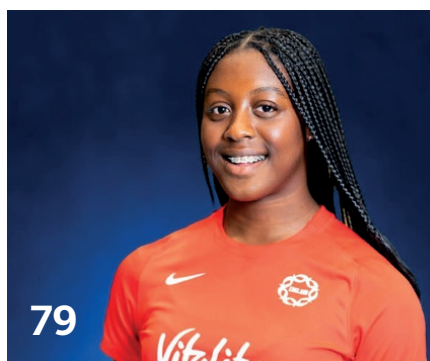
59



63



69



79

Welcome... 03

Welcomes 03

Awards 06

Colours Awarded in the Michaelmas Term 2025 06

Leavers' Destinations 2025 07

News 09

A round-up of school life from the Michaelmas Term 09

OE News 24

House Reports 27

Drama 31

Music 41

Art 47

Features 59

OE Gerald Summers 59

From Christian Schoolboy to Avant-Garde Designer

Musically Speaking... 63

Interview with Stephen Farr (OE 1984) on his career as a concert and cathedral organist

Legally Speaking... 69

An interview with Stephen Hockman KC (OE 1966) on his career in environmental, planning and health and safety law

Beyond Eltham 73

Mentoring and Careers Talks 73

Interview with OE Daniel Weston 75

Sport 79

International Awards 79

Boys' Rugby 81

Girls' Hockey 84

Cross Country 87

Aquatics 89

Ski Racing 92

Junior School Sport 93

Register 95

Times Past and Present 95

The Quad 98

In Memoriam 101

Editor:
Andrew Beattie

Director of Marketing and Communications:
Caroline Ward Vine

Thanks to the Communications Team for supplying photographs and to all those who have contributed to the magazine.

The views expressed by interviewees and contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the school.

Design:
Haime & Butler

Print:
Lavenham Press

Front cover:
Jayden Madawho representing the Under 16A team against Sir Joseph Williamson's School on the London Marathon Fields (credit: Verity McGuire)



Welcome

From the Headmaster



Welcome to this wonderful celebration of the first part of our current academic year, packed with Michaelmas Term memories, autumnal scenes and festive joy.

For those who joined us anew in September, this magazine will be a record of so many 'firsts': taking part in their first House Song competition; their first drama production in the ABT; playing for the school in weekend fixtures, trying new clubs, new sports, learning new instruments, new languages, new skills; meeting, for the first time, those who will be lifelong friends.

For others, the rhythm of the term will have been more familiar, though of course the role they played in it may have changed. Some who watched in the audience the previous year may this time have stepped up to perform; each has progressed, gained in confidence; found themselves capable of something new. I hope all will discover excellent memories within these pages, as well as inspiration for the next stage in their journey, whether in the year group above or joining the throng of former students now at home at fine universities and in apprenticeships across the nation.

Though now in my twelfth year as Head, I count myself as immensely fortunate to be able still to celebrate a slew of school 'firsts', such as our Choral and Orchestral Concert – having outgrown St Alfege Church – moving to the extraordinary surroundings of Sinfonia Smith Square; our Under 14 girls' netball team being crowned Kent Champions; and our Young Voices choir performing at Disneyland Paris.

What is more, I know that, without question, further historic moments lie ahead. That is the joy of being part of the talented, brave, dedicated and determined school community that is at the heart of Eltham College.

I look forward to sharing those milestones with you over months and years to come. In the meantime, I invite you to join me in remembering another fine term celebrated here in this magazine.

Best wishes,

GUY SANDERSON
Headmaster

From the Head of the Junior School



I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of the *Elthamian*, which documents the events of the Michaelmas Term and now serves as a wonderful reminder to me of my own first weeks as Head of the Junior School.

In my first months, I have been struck by the tremendous sense of community spirit I see at the heart of the school and by the confidence, curiosity and determination our pupils bring to every task and challenge.

The enormous benefit they derive from being part of the College is clear, not only in terms of the excellent facilities we share, but also the opportunities our pupils have to engage with, and learn from, older students. Cross-school initiatives such as the Young Voices choir, or indeed our Year 6 transition programme, of course play an important part in this. I have also been fascinated by the strong bond which evidently persists amongst former students, now in Sixth Form, with their Junior School roots. The fondness with which they speak of their time with us is quite charming, and their willingness to give continued support, whether helping at Open Morning or speaking in assembly of their own educational journeys, is deeply impressive.

And the grounds! We truly have the most wonderful surroundings for learning and play in the acres of greenery that surround our school. It is an incredible privilege, and I look forward to working with our team to ensure we make the very most of it over the coming months.

In the meantime, I trust you will find as many warm and wonderful memories within these pages as I.

Best wishes,

RACHEL THOMPSON
Head of Eltham College Junior School

From the Chair of Governors



It is a pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the *Elthamian*, the latest in the long line of magazines into which, for over a century, memories of School life have been etched and preserved for future generations.

This term's magazine includes a look back, by school archivist and *Elthamian* editor Andrew Beattie, at previous issues. Dating from 1926, 1976 and 2001, these provide a fascinating insight into what endures in a school and what, often counter-intuitively, proves ephemeral. While the house system, for example, introduced by former Head George Robertson more than a century ago, remains intact and at the heart of Eltham life and competition today, Eltham's 1960s Jubilee building is now no more than a memory, cleared in 2018 to make way for the fine Turberville block (see page 100).

This issue's interview with Old Elthamian Daniel Weston (page 77) is especially apposite in this context. Having left Eltham in 2001 for the University of Oxford, Daniel has since returned as a parent. One of the greatest changes he noticed, he tells the *Elthamian*, was to the footprint of our buildings, the Rosemary Morgan Hall and Gerald Moore Gallery both being new additions since his day. I was particularly struck by his next words: against this background of development and a 'fast-changing world', the key constant, in his view, is the school's unwavering ethos

and atmosphere. The College remains, he says, 'a place where both academic and sporting excellence are celebrated and high standards are both expected and achieved.' I wholeheartedly agree, and would add that this drive for excellence now extends equally to music, drama and art.

Ensuring we can invest as needed to support this mission is central to the concerns of the College's governing board. The recent regeneration of our Science Centre has utterly transformed students' learning experience, placing the state-of-the-art at their fingertips; I am delighted to see the difference last summer's internal expansion within the Sixth Form Centre has made to our older students, and the refurbishment of the Dining Hall to all.

Our school will continue to evolve over coming years. When, in another hundred years, the archives are again plumbed and this issue of the *Elthamian* is brought to the fore, no doubt 22nd century readers will find our uniform quaint and parts of our site utterly unfamiliar. Some of the student names and faces may well be familiar to them, whether as ancestors of their own or as notable leaders who have made a major mark in society in the interim. I trust that what will be instantly recognisable in these pages, however, is that essence which is distinctly Eltham: a joyful and thriving community, where each is determined – and enabled – to be the

best they can be while never afraid to try; where academic and co-curricular excellence are matched by breadth of opportunity, with a rich seam of thoughtfulness and caring for others at its heart.

I hope you will find the same in the here and now, and that you will enjoy this slice of Eltham College life as much as I have.

Best wishes,

PETER DOYLE (OE 1971)
Chair of Governors

From the President of the Old Elthamians Association



To all Old Elthamians, a warm welcome to our Michaelmas Term edition. As ever, these pages look back on the recent Michaelmas Term and the School in full flow – from house reports and trips to the flourishing of art, sport, music and drama across both the Senior and Junior Schools.

This issue includes several features of particular interest to OEs. We are pleased to publish an article by New York art historian Martha Deese on Gerald Summers (OE 1915), a significant figure in British furniture design between the wars. We also present interviews with Stephen Hockman KC (1965) on environmental law and Daniel Weston (2001) on patent practice and innovation. In music, we speak with Stephen Farr (1984), the internationally renowned recital organist and church musician. Alongside these are updates on OE hockey, the “Elthamentor” careers scheme, a photographic record of the Old Quad’s evolution, and our regular “From our pages” feature revisiting past editions.

This edition also marks a moment of transition. After eight years, I am retiring by rotation from the OEA Presidency as the Committee refreshes its senior roles in line with our governance. I am delighted that Russell Dellar (1987) has been elected to succeed me and will be in post by the time you read this. Russell also serves on the OECT board, ensuring a coordinated approach to our shared priorities. In parallel, our Chairman, Nick Byers, is also retiring by rotation after eight years of service; I will be moving into the Chair. My sincere thanks to Nick for his stewardship and wise counsel throughout his tenure.

It has been a privilege to serve. I am grateful for the generosity, humour and commitment that define this Committee and the wider OE Association. I hope you enjoy the read, and thank you for your continued support of the OEA and the School we share.

With best wishes,

CHRIS BRAIN
President, OEA President

From the Chair, Eltham College Parents' Association



Reading through the *Elthamian* always makes me appreciate the wealth of opportunities available to both our children and us as parents to enjoy life at school. In the Michaelmas Term, these included cheering on sports teams, attending fabulous music concerts and drama productions and of course ending the term with the joyous Carols by Candlelight service.

It is always lovely to start the new academic year by helping at the school Open Morning. It is great to be able to support the school by speaking with prospective parents, answering any questions they may have from a parent’s perspective.

Our first event of the year was the Welcome BBQ for the year 3 and year 7 parents. It was a wonderful opportunity for new parents in year 3 and year 7 to meet, mingle and get to know one another. We’d like to extend a big thank you to Neil Scott and the catering team for showcasing the new facilities in King George’s Hall by providing the option of pulled pork rolls and a salad bar for parents.

October saw the much-anticipated return of the ECPA Quiz. As requested, this time not only was it a general knowledge quiz rather than a pop quiz, but it was written by our own wonderful teachers. They definitely tested us, especially with the Eltham College history section, but a fun time was had by all. A special mention must go to our fabulous quiz master, Mr Michael, who kept us both entertained and all in line (no easy feat when wine is involved); Ms Pokorny for chasing us for our answers sheets and keeping the scores; and Mr Martin and Ms Nutbeem for running the bar and keeping us all lubricated. With such a winning combination we are hoping this will become an annual event!!

As you read this magazine we will have been busy preparing to host another new ECPA event which I hope you will enjoy supporting. The ECPA Comedy night to be held in March promises to me a hilarious night of laughs with an amazing line up of professional comedians alongside a fully-stocked bar to keep the good times flowing. This will be followed by the return of the extremely popular International Food Festival, so be sure to keep an eye out for our notifications!

None of these events could work without the fabulous team who volunteer within the ECPA, who give up their time to plan events and run the second-hand uniform sales, and to whom I am extremely grateful.

Very best wishes,

STELLA BENAVIDES
Chair, Eltham College Parents' Association

Awards

AWARDED AT THE END OF THE MICHAELMAS TERM

DEBATING

FULL COLOURS

Oliver Robinson
Mirianna Upton

HALF COLOURS

Dylan Slee
Jonathan Abbott
Evelyn Griffiths
Ellen Eburah

DRAMA

FULL COLOURS

Freddie Sawyer
Temi Blaev
Mary Sanderson
George Caldwell

HALF COLOURS

Iolo Mottershead
Kitty Adcock
Alexia Karadaglis
Henry Lines

COLLEGE COLOURS

Zoe Biard Blackmore
Ed Thorpe
Max Leek
Andrea Austin

MUSIC

FULL COLOURS

Ben Ashcroft
Michelle Teibo

HALF COLOURS

Austin Chan
Tim Hobbs

COLLEGE COLOURS

Matilda Sandringham
Phoebe Ockendon-Rowe
Dylan Liu
Barney Devon
Kitty Adcock
Max Leek

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

FULL COLOURS

Nathan Bastian-Carter
Jake Christian-Howard

ELTHAM COLLEGE COMMUNITY AWARD

Amy Clement
Arlo Chan
Armani Abadio
Betty McCloud
Chloe Nguyen

Cyrus Buckman

Gabriella Brown

Isobel Gjytetza

Natasha Kieffer

Priscilla Akuffo

Samira Sharipova

Sean Olaley

HOCKEY

FULL COLOURS

Roisin Cartin

HALF COLOURS

Felicity Trust
Tilly Stafford
Kyveli Nolan

COLLEGE COLOURS

Rose Jones
Erin Schilling

RUGBY

FULL COLOURS

Bertie Pullen
Brandon Nathan
Tim Hobbs

HALF COLOURS

Cyrus Buckman
Oscar Helm
Uzo George-Amadi
Hector Mourin-Buckley

COLLEGE COLOURS

Ben Isden
Cathal Nee
Elliot Carter
Henry Lines
Richard Preston
Will Tyler

Destinations of 2025 Leavers

PUPILS ENTERING HIGHER EDUCATION OR
DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
Matthew Alexander	University of Exeter	Business and Management
Rebecca Brady	University of Southampton	Aerospace Electronic Engineering
Alex Brown	New College, Oxford	Chemistry
Hannah Brown	King's College London	Computer Science
Grace Burroughs	University of Edinburgh	History of Art
Edward Castle	University of Exeter	Geography
Toby Chick	Imperial College London	Computing
Daniel Close	University of Exeter	Business and Management
Miles Cobourne	Durham University	History
Austin Colwell	University of Nottingham	History
Adam Cornick	University of Warwick	Economics
Amaia Davies	University of Bath	Psychology with work placement
Zac Devon	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge	Engineering
Hakeem Drammeh	Oxford Brookes	Business and Management
Thomas Duncan	University of Exeter	Economics and Finance
Max Edwards	University of Bath	International Development and Economics
Daniel Egan	University of Bristol	Mechanical Engineering
Harry Fitzgerald	Newcastle University	Geography
Vieshal Gandeepan	University College London	Economics
Noah Gibbons	Loughborough University	Product Design Technology
Peter Goddard	University of Liverpool	Product Design Engineering
Artur Goloshivskyy	City St George's, University of London	Economics
Anita Gordon	Imperial College London	Mathematics
Sam Griffiths	University of Leeds	Geography
Noah Hardy	Durham University	Physics
Ella Hargreaves	Durham University	Psychology
Daniel Heath	University of Exeter	Geography
Mylan Heer	Durham University	Psychology
Harry Honeyman	University of Leeds	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Zach Hopley	Corpus Christi College, Oxford	Physics
Athena Horn	University of Bristol	Medicine
Hugo Jacquemier-Ward	Imperial College London	Design Engineering
Isobella Jarvis-Rogers	Imperial College London	Biological Sciences
Orla Jones	Newcastle University	Psychology
Bishman Karnan	University of Warwick	Mathematics
Wilfred Kirby	University of Leeds	Ancient History and History
Alice Knobel	University College London	Engineering & Architectural Design
Filip Kobakov	Queen Mary, University of London	English and European Law
Freddie Lamb	University of Leeds	Economics and Politics
Edouard Lecuyer	Durham University	Business and Management
Tom Lewis	University of Warwick	Economics
Jack Lockett	University of Nottingham	History
Joshua Lulsegg	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Cameron MacQuarrie	University of Birmingham	Politics and International Relations

NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
Ajmal Malique	University of York	Economics
James Mather	University of Nottingham	Product Design and Manufacture
Kristian McAnallen	University of Exeter	Business
Aaron McEntire	Loughborough University	Economics and Finance
Ollie Murray	Durham University	Aeronautical Engineering
Ava Nguyen	University of Edinburgh	Fine Art
Eddie Nicholls	Hereford College of Arts	Blacksmithing
Tobias Odukomaiya	London School of Economics	Accounting and Finance
Harry O'Hara	University of Exeter	Law
Fola Oluokun	University of Manchester	Computer Science and Mathematics
Maddie O'Mahony	University of Edinburgh	Politics
Max Misquitta	University of Manchester	Civil Engineering
Bleddyn Mottershead	Magdalen College, Oxford	Engineering
Benedict Pagliari	University of Edinburgh	Italian and History
Dylan Pandya	University of Exeter	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Sam Pandya	University of Bristol	Geography
Sienna Patel	University of Bath	Chemical Engineering
Luke Perrett	Durham University	Psychology
Tianna Popoff	Newcastle University	Psychology
Matthew Pownall	University of Southampton	Computer Engineering
Eleanor Roberts	University of Edinburgh	History
Ben Robertson	University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics with Insurance
Lotte Robinson	Rose Bruford College	American Theatre Arts
Dominic Rogers	Durham University	Industrial Chemistry
Oliver Savill	University of Nottingham	Politics and International Relations
Genta Scholl	University of Edinburgh	Architecture
Tristan Sezgin	Imperial College London	Civil Engineering
Eashan Sharma	University of Warwick	Economics and Management
Jarvis Sheehan	University of Southampton	Economics and Finance
Ellen Smith	Newcastle University	Spanish and Portuguese
Ben Stringer	University of Exeter	Business and Management
Thevyan Susilan	Queen Mary, University of London	Economics
Rex Taylor	Durham University	Economics
Joseph Tolaini	University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics with Insurance
Cedric Tseng	University of Nottingham	History
Xavier Turner	Degree Apprenticeship	Leonari/LSBU
Evan Veitch	Imperial College London	Geology
Nikita Vlasiuk	University of Sheffield	Aerospace Engineering
Tom Whatling	Durham University	Geography
Gabby Willis	University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics
Luke Wilson	Arts University Bournemouth	Fashion
Richard Wolfson	Selwyn College, Cambridge	Music
Philip Wong	University of Manchester	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Fredrick Wu	Lancaster University	Engineering
Henry Wygas	Durham University	Natural Sciences
Amy Xie	Imperial College London	Medical Biosciences
Dunming Xu	University College London	Engineering & Architectural Design
Kin Yat Yeung	University of Aberdeen	Medicine



Collaborative artwork produced during drop-in sessions

Black History Month Cultural Celebration

NJB

Mrs Bilby, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, reflects on the weeklong celebration through creative arts of Black culture.

Following the success of our Black History Month celebrations in 2024, we once again recognised Black History Month with a week-long celebration of Black culture explored through the creative arts – Art, Design, Music, Dance, Drama and Literature. This took place from 13th to 17th October and reflected the theme of “Standing Firm in Power and Pride” of the main Black History Month celebrations. Students were able to explore this through

assemblies, lunchtime workshops, activities in Wellbeing lessons, and collaborative team challenges.

Student-led assemblies reflected the influences of Black contributions within Music and Literature. Cyrus Buckman and Gabriella Brown (Upper Sixth) shared with the Sixth Form and Middle School a fascinating “Journey Through Music”, outlining the vast range of musical genres, starting with Blues, Soul and Gospel, through Jazz,

Funk, Soul and Rock, to Rap, Hip-Hop, R&B and Pop, that have all been developed through the significant contributions of celebrated Black artists. A team of Lower Sixth students including Armani Ababio, Priscilla Akuffo, Amy Clement, Isobel Gjytetza, Chloe Nguyen, Sean Olaleye, and Samira Sharipova shared folk tales from Afro-Caribbean culture with the Lower School and Junior School, exploring the meaning behind stories such as “Anase and the pot of wisdom”, “The Tortoise and the Bird”, and “The Cheetah’s tears”. Chapel that week was filled with the sound of Gospel Music as students were encouraged to sing along with Ebanazar Oke and his group.

Students in Years 7 and 8 were also able to explore the power of music and storytelling through workshops led by the brilliant Ikero Theatre Company, who led workshops giving students the opportunity to celebrate pride through performance and dance. Our lunchtime drop-in sessions allowed students to explore art influenced by the work of the American visual artist Gerald Williams

whose work has been influential within the Black Arts Movement. As can be seen in the accompanying photograph, across the week students from across the Senior School engaged in the creation of a piece of collaborative artwork.

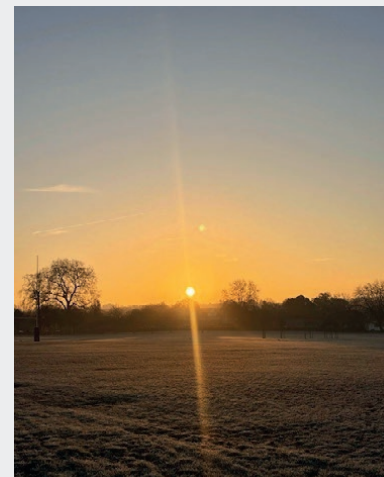
In Wellbeing lessons, students across all year groups took part in our “Race Across Africa and the Caribbean” working together in groups to solve a series of clues to identify the route of a journey encompassing Afro-Caribbean nations, and finding out interesting facts along the way. Year 11 students further extended their knowledge by developing Top Trumps cards that highlighted a range of aspects of Black culture including Cultural Influence, Carnival/Festival Energy, Natural Beauty, and Historical Power.

Overall, our students took part in our Black Culture Week activities with joy and enthusiasm, and were able to develop an understanding of the collective pride and gratitude that we should all have in the contributions of Black culture across the creative arts. ●

Our lunchtime drop-in sessions allowed students to explore art influenced by the work of the American visual artist Gerald Williams whose work has been influential within the Black Arts Movement.



Collaborative artwork produced during drop-in sessions



Winter Sunrise and the Plane Tree

The Michaelmas Term sees the first frosty mornings of the academic year. Halima Lone Crosby, our morning receptionist, who is often one of the first people to arrive on site in the day, took this view of the sun rising above the frosty rugby pitches. The squirrel, meanwhile, is in one of the trees besides the path linking the Senior and Junior Schools. Squirrels also regularly climb the plane tree, which Halima’s vantage point in the school’s reception allows her to keep a close eye on. The tree is one of the oldest and largest planes in England and was planted around the year 1700 or even a few decades earlier – historians of London’s wildlife cannot agree! It is, however, an abiding symbol of the school for current and former generations of Elthamians. ●

Languages Week

Ms Scarantino and Mrs Martin reflect on Languages Week at the Senior and Junior Schools.

Senior School

September wouldn't be complete without Languages Week and once again this year it was great to see such enthusiasm from staff and students from across both Senior and Junior Schools. As ever, it's a timely reminder at the start of the academic year of the importance and enjoyment of learning other languages. They open doors to other cultures and civilisations, create global connections and help our students develop into adaptable, well-rounded individuals.

Our trademark opening event, International Bake-Off, turned Central Hall into the setting for an impressive exhibition of students' culinary creations such as a representation of the Día de los muertos and the Amazon rainforest. The following students were commended for their entries: Aadya Raja (8VIW) and Meredith Mody (7AZM), with Harriet Allen (8FSB) taking third place, Zoe Houghton (7KXH) clinching second place and both Aricia Kasat and Natalia Deligianni (7TMP) crowned winners for their depiction of a Greek beach.

On Tuesday, students had the chance to learn the grace and elegance of Chinese folk-dance, and by mid-week the Houses were vying for points in the Languages House Families Quiz. At lunch time, whilst younger students were competing for their countries in the Handball World Cup representing teams from Denmark, Wales, Italy, India, Romania, Spain, Germany, China, Portugal, Serbia and France, students in the Middle and Upper School attended a fascinating lecture by Dr Rebecca Mitchell of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics at the

University of Cambridge, who spoke about Linguistics and why we need to know about it! Her talk provided a fascinating insight into just how much linguistics, the science of language, underpins every aspect of human communication. Students gained insight into key terminology and what university linguistics courses involve. They also learnt about sociolinguistics, language ecology, neurolinguistics and computational linguistics. Dr Mitchell also highlighted the broad spectrum of careers available to linguistics graduates.

Our University Challenge event gave further opportunity for House points and, of course, Languages Week wouldn't be complete without the hugely popular International Karaoke competition, and we are very grateful to the staff who took part for their enthusiasm, good humour and talent! ●

LUS

Chinese Folk Dancing



Junior School

The Great Languages Bake-Off stole the show on Monday 22nd September, as Languages Week 2025 kicked off in the Junior School. Throngs of children and parents delivered baked-goods with painstaking care to their House tables, some even being couriered by taxi!

Children in Years 5 and 6 were tasked with making an international-themed treat and over 80 entries, such as Goan Beaches, Australian Pinnacles, Sicilian Temples, and an Ikea cake, showcased the creativity and commitment of JS families to the contest. Mr Sanderson had the much-coveted task of choosing the winner and runners up for each House in what proved to be one of the most fiercely fought contests of the year! These great landmarks were carefully dismantled and at lunchtime all Junior School children were able to purchase a piece of cake in our Bake Sale. A record-breaking £321 was raised for our school charity, International Needs, thanks to the generosity and support of our community which will fund sponsorship for children in Uganda.

The week held a variety of exciting and colourful workshops and activities for children across all four year groups. The youngest members of our school were invited to decorate Venetian Carnevale masks on Tuesday lunchtime and Lower Sixth Spanish students assisted a Spanish Fan making workshop for Years 3 and 4. Year 5 learned how to order ice creams in Italian and enjoyed role-plays and interactive fun in a Mandarin through Drama workshop. Years 5 and 6 were delighted by our Guest Speaker, Rob Hunt, who offered a snapshot of the interesting career opportunities that foreign languages can offer, regaling them with stories of his work interpreting for Spanish and French speaking footballers and the UN. Not only was this thought-provoking and interesting but it is valuable in informing their decisions when they make their language options for Year 7. Own Clothes Day was the colourful finale of the week when children had the choice of coming to school in the traditional clothes or sports kit of their family's country of heritage. This really showcased how inclusive our community is, while celebrating its wonderful vibrancy and diversity. ●

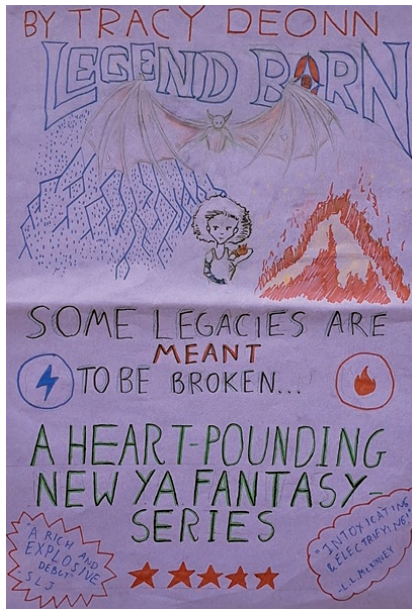
BNM



Library Matters

KZH

Mrs Hans, the new Senior School librarian, reflects on the clubs and other activities she has organised this term – in advance of 2026 being designated the “National Year of Reading”.



Book Promotion Poster developed at the Pupil Library Assistant Training Day

I have worked in libraries for forty years, becoming a School Librarian 26 years ago when I gained my Library and Information Services MA. I know Mrs Roche through the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, being a CILIP Fellow myself; I appreciated her kind help in my transition to Eltham.

Our Library Helpers from last year stayed in post to assist me, Year 7 students soon joined, and we meet monthly after school. I took some to the CILIP Pupil Library Assistant Training Day, where they demonstrated great teamwork and won a prize for the best Book Promotion poster (pictured). Some of the team have helped withdraw books, raising money for charity by selling these at the Christmas Fayre and making room for new titles on the library shelves.

I took two teams of Lower School students to CWIZZ, an annual book quiz at Dulwich College (see pictures). We were not placed but had fun! In the Lent Term I plan to enter Year 8 and 9 teams in the National Literacy Trust UK Book Quiz; some have already been practising with an end of term book quiz. I have enjoyed co-running PageTurners, our book club for Year 6 and 7 students, with Ms Patel. We began with *The Race*, a historical fiction about Eric Liddell, enjoying input from Rev Houghton, archivist Mr Beattie, Sixth Formers who visited China and the author, Roy Peachey, each bringing the book to life in different ways.

2026 is a National Year of Reading and I am looking forward to welcoming Frances Hardinge as our World Book Day author! I'm devising a programme for that week, to include some Junior School students and Sixth Formers as well as the Lower and Middle Schools. We are also starting a staff/Sixth Form Book Club, which will convene every half term. Those not able to meet are still encouraged to read and discuss the titles.



Pupils from the school participating at the CWIZZ quiz

A library has a range of identities: at Eltham it is an academic hub, but also a place to relax and read for pleasure. Part of my role is to balance those purposes. One of the adjustments I have made is to bring Year 7 English lessons into the library. Each tutor group attends once a week for a half term, enabling me to help with their reading journey and choices. Year 9 students visited the library in their Enrichment classes and Year 8 English classes will come once per term after Christmas. At the start of the Michaelmas term, I was able to promote our extensive online and print library resources to new staff, Year 7 and Lower Sixth students. During break and lunch times I have implemented a silent study space upstairs in the library, with downstairs being a more relaxed area for reading, drawing, chess and quiet chatting.

I am contemplating how best to arrange the library furniture and book stock within the practical constraints, and I expect to make some changes over the summer holidays. ●



Pupils from the school participating at the CWIZZ quiz



The Sykes-Farmer Science Society

STM

Mr Marlow explains how a student-led initiative inspires curiosity beyond the classroom

Every Wednesday at 4pm, the Sykes-Farmer Science Society transforms its home of S12 into a hub of intellectual discovery. This student-led initiative invites Sixth Formers to present on topics they have independently researched, venturing far beyond the confines of the curriculum. The result is a dynamic forum where science comes alive in its most fascinating and unexpected forms.

Since its inception, the Society has showcased an extraordinary breadth of subjects. Recent talks have explored sleep and circadian rhythms, delving into the biological clocks that govern our daily lives; CHIP models, an innovative approach to in-vitro testing that mimics real physiological conditions; and the history and biosynthesis of penicillin, a molecule that revolutionized medicine. Physics enthusiasts have tackled relativistic effects in atoms, explaining how particles moving near light speed influence atomic structure and even the colour of gold. Other sessions

have examined the physics of wing design in nature and its implications for aeronautical engineering, the resilience of tardigrades, the ecological importance of fungi, and the role of DNA methylation in gene regulation. For those interested in neuroscience, the Society even explored the efficacy of disconnective brain surgery – literally removing sections of the brain – to help treat seizures.

Each presentation is followed by a lively half-hour Q&A, where students and staff alike probe deeper into the science. These discussions often spark new questions and connections, reinforcing the Society's ethos: science is not just a subject, but a way of thinking.

The success of the Sykes-Farmer Science Society owes much to its dedicated leaders, George Caldwell and Anwen Donaldson-Schach, whose organisational skills and enthusiasm have ensured that every session runs seamlessly. Under their

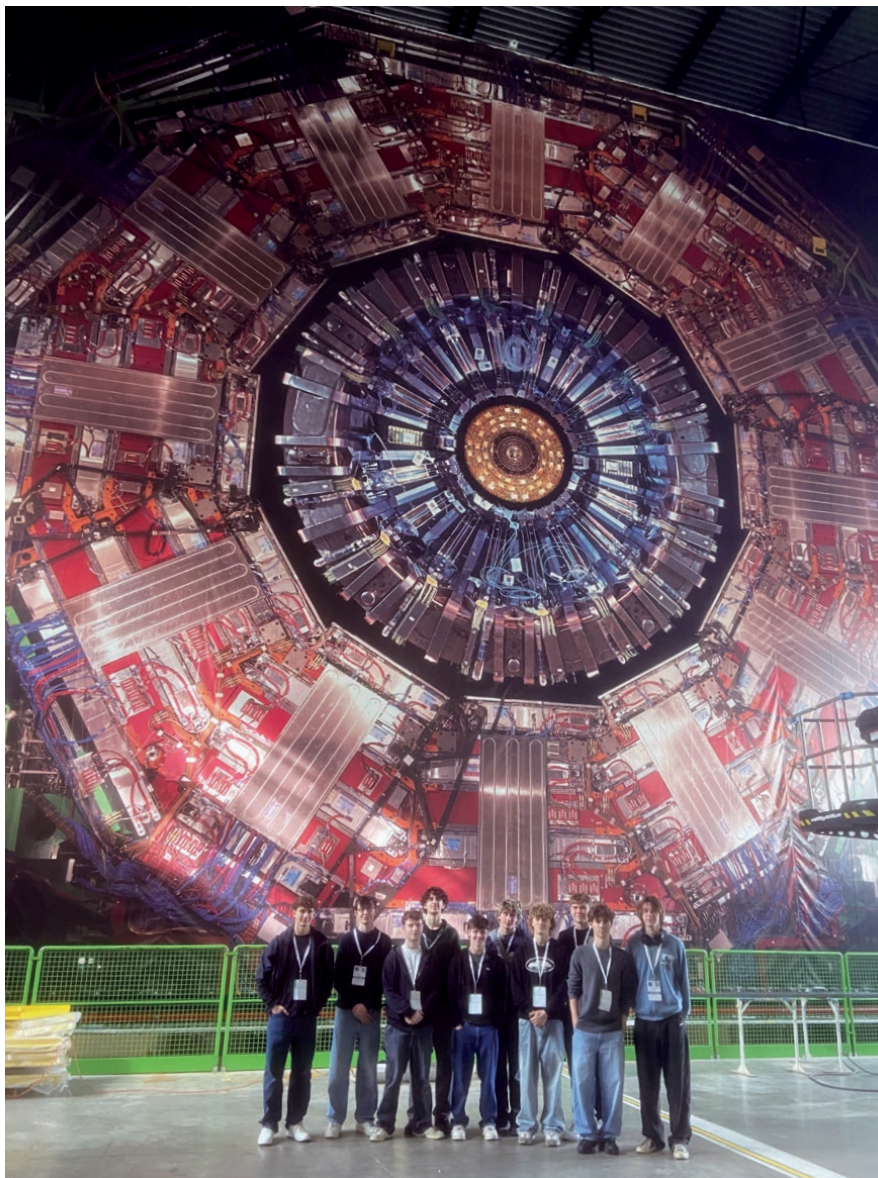
guidance, students have delivered thoroughly researched, articulate, and engaging talks, demonstrating not only mastery of complex ideas but also the confidence to share them with an audience.

For parents, this initiative exemplifies how our Science Department stretches students, nurturing intellectual independence and a genuine love of learning. It is academic, prestigious, and above all, fun. Each week, attendees leave with a renewed sense of wonder at the scientific world and the creativity of our students.

The Sykes-Farmer Science Society is more than a series of talks; it is a celebration of curiosity, collaboration, and the joy of discovery. We look forward to seeing what remarkable topics our Sixth Formers will tackle next. ●

Trips Round-Up

You can read about the trips that were run by the art, music and sport departments, and the chaplaincy, in the relevant sections.



Upper Sixth Physicists at CERN

In October, we took 30 Upper Sixth students to Geneva for an academically enriching visit focused on international relations and cutting-edge science. At the United Nations Office in Geneva, students toured the recently renovated original League of Nations building and gained insight into the history and ongoing work of global diplomacy. As part of the visit, they sat in several impressive conference rooms, including chambers donated by Latvia and Azerbaijan, giving them a tangible sense of how international cooperation operates in practice.

The group also visited CERN, where students were given a guided tour of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. This included the rare opportunity to go underground to the point where the Large Hadron Collider tunnels converge at the detector itself. The visit was complemented by a fascinating lecture in one of CERN's lecture theatres on the Standard Model equation, allowing students to engage directly with the theoretical framework that underpins modern particle physics. ●

LEE





French Trip to Nice

The start of long-awaited October half-term break also signalled the beginning of a trip for a group of Middle and Upper School French students to Nice. The warmth of the south was a welcome start to the trip, alongside the very hospitable host families with whom students were to stay in pairs as part of their immersion in the French way of life.

The balance of structure and independence that such trips offer students is an excellent way for them to develop their language skills as, together, they navigated Nice's tram system and maps of the town centre, as well as conversations with their host families to locate the language school, where we all met the following morning for the start of lessons. After the morning lessons that blended language and contemporary French culture targeting the respective demands of GCSE and A-Level courses, we enjoyed a programme of cultural visits as well as some well-deserved time to relax in beautiful surroundings. After a visit to the Picasso museum in Antibes, students had some free time to explore the picturesque narrow streets of the old town, helped along by some rather good ice cream! Quaint Provençal architecture then made way for the glitz and glamour of Monte Carlo, where students had a tour of the



Musée Océanographique followed by a glimpse of the casino and rather spectacular cars that adorn its entrance.

It was a real pleasure to hear such positive reports on our students from their language school teachers. Many thanks to our students for their enthusiasm and engagement in all the cultural and linguistic opportunities the trip offered. My thanks also to Mr Martin for giving up his time to come along and for his excellent company. ●

LUS





Chapel and Christian Groups

Rev. Houghton, School Chaplain, and Mrs Perrin, Chaplain to the Junior School, reflect on the term in Chapel – including the ECCE weekends away.

Senior School

Proverbs is our theme this academic year: 3000-year-old wisdom that is as relevant now as it has ever been. Many will know that at its heart are two very similar, yet subtly different proverbs: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of...both knowledge (1:7) and wisdom (9:10). Pulling these two apart causes even great scholars like Dr Burling sleepless nights, but I've settled for simply aspiring, as a school

community, to grow in both. My hope is that we have done this as we have journeyed through the landscape of the Christmas term. September began with our first (COVID excepting) warm ECCE weekend away. It was moved to this time of year in order to accommodate more people through the very biblical use of tents. We took just over 60 middle schoolers to Canterbury; half (the male half) camped and the other half enjoyed the indefatigable hospitality of Andrew Neden's barn. Swimming in the sea, barbecues, studying the gospel of John and hearing from recent ex-students such as Austin Colwell, Alice Sanderson and Ollie Simpkin made it an outstanding way to begin the academic year.

This was closely followed by the annual Service of Dedication in the chapel which was wonderfully attended by a host of recent alumni who gave testimony to the work of the Lord in their lives over the past few years. This was a precious evening of celebrating the Lord's faithfulness and abundant provision in so many ways in the recent past of the school.



September gave way, as it often does, to October and with it, the rhythms of the school year begin to fall into place. My team of chapel prefects this year (Sam Johnson, Daisy Dowling and Mirianna Upton) ensured that the chapel, the chapel programme and the chaplain were kept in order with excellent efficiency and a real spiritual clarity beyond their years. I was grateful to Captain J Bryson for speaking at our remembrance service with poignancy about the mindset required to be willing to die for something.

All of which brings us to December, a month that always seem to hurtle by at frenetic pace. We began with the Lower School ECCE weekend away, run by a whole new team of ECCE leaders from the Lower Sixth who took on the mantle with wonderful energy and servant-heartedness. This gave way immediately to a great host of heavenly carol services featuring Year 3s singing *Away in a Manger*, Michelle Teibo filling the chapel with *O Holy Night*, a very generous gift of Frankincense from the pseudo Wise Man Ali Al-Musafir and some wonderful organ playing from Dylan Liu and Mr Johns. All in all, a wonderful term but also one in which it has felt more important than ever to me that we grow in deep-rooted knowledge and wisdom. All the data we have seems to suggest that adolescence is more challenging now than at any point in recent memory, not least because their attention has become a commodity and devices ubiquitous. As such, I feel the weight and the privilege of this role as I, and a wonderful team of staff and ECCE leaders, do our best to point this community towards ancient, life-giving wisdom found, at heart, in the Christmas child.

JHH

A wonderful term but also one in which it has felt more important than ever to me that we grow in deep-rooted knowledge and wisdom

Junior School

At Junior ECCE we love games. On a Tuesday lunchtime you might find us chasing balloons up and down the chapel or sitting in a circle playing our favourite game "hamster". We laugh a lot and cheer each other on.

We also really enjoy looking at the Bible together. This term we have been reading about some of the miracles that Jesus performed. As we've explored the stories we've asked the question "How did Jesus show people that He is the Son of God?" The questions the pupils have asked and the interesting discussions we have as a group always impress Mrs Perrin and Mrs Wilde.

There are exciting plans for Junior ECCE this year and we are looking forward to lots more fun in the chapel on a Tuesday lunchtime.

That's not where the chapel programme ends for the Junior School though, we enjoy weekly chapel assemblies with a wide range of guest speakers and an ongoing theme this year remembering (and counting the words off on our fingers) God's promise from Joshua 5, "I will be with you". Form assemblies are also a highlight for me with a chance to discuss the Christian faith with a form and learn about the Bible and what God has to say to us. And finally, spending time in the playground with the children and hearing their news, joining their games and being available for a chat is also very much a part of the growing chaplaincy work. ●

PJP





Tabletop Gaming Club

STM

Mr Marlow explains how the tabletop gaming club fosters Strategic Thinking and Team Spirit.

Twice a week, after the final bell rings, a different kind of competition begins at Eltham College. Our Tabletop Gaming Club has become a thriving hub for students who enjoy combining creativity, strategy, and camaraderie. At the heart of the club is Blood Bowl, a fast-paced, tactical game that blends the thrill of fantasy football with the depth of strategic planning.

Far from being just entertainment, Blood Bowl challenges players to think critically, anticipate opponents' moves, and manage resources effectively. Every match demands careful planning, adaptability, and teamwork, skills that translate well beyond the tabletop. Students learn

to balance risk and reward, develop long-term strategies, and make quick decisions under pressure, all while enjoying the social aspect of face-to-face gaming in an increasingly digital world.

The club currently runs two leagues: the Eltham College Blood Bowl Club (ECBC), our main competitive league, and the Development League, designed to welcome new players and help them learn the ropes. Both leagues have seen incredible enthusiasm this term, with teams ranging from the agile Wood Elves to the tough Orcs battling for supremacy. The atmosphere is lively yet focused, as students immerse themselves in the tactical depth that makes Blood Bowl such a compelling game.

Looking ahead, the excitement is building for next year's NAF Championships in Nottingham, where our players will compete against



some of the best coaches in the world. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to test their skills on a national stage and represent Eltham College among the global tabletop gaming community.

We are also proud to celebrate an outstanding individual achievement: George Caldwell has been selected for the Under 18 England team, which will compete in the Home Nations Cup this summer. This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the dedication and talent nurtured within our club.

Whether students join for the thrill of competition, the joy of strategic thinking, or simply the fun of rolling dice with friends, the Tabletop Gaming Club offers something unique. It's a space where creativity meets critical thinking, and where every game is an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect. ●



Matters Mathematical

ACM

On Thursday 25th September, four Sixth Form girls entered the UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls (MOG), along with another 15 Sixth Form girls who entered the Maths Competition for Girls (MCG) on the same day.

The results from these fiendishly difficult competitions revealed some fantastic performances. Every Lower Sixth girl who entered the MOG received a merit or distinction certificate, with Roxolana Chaban securing the best in school certificate for an outstanding 33 marks. In the MCG, there were six merit and three distinction certificates with Sophia Pawa earning the strongest distinction with an impressive 27 marks.

In the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, almost 100 Eltham students took part in this national and very difficult competition where candidates have to solve up to 25 increasingly difficult mathematical problems under extreme time-pressure. There were some fantastic performances with a staggering 84% of students achieving either a bronze, silver or gold certificate. The title of the best in school performance was taken by Matthew McLoughlin who achieved a near-perfect score, with Henry Bell taking the best in Lower Sixth prize. Other stunning performances came from Isabelle Chen (Yr 8) and Alex Urban (Yr 9) who achieved Gold certificates despite the competition being aimed at Sixth Form mathematicians!

In the follow-on Kangaroo competition, a stunning 87% of our qualifiers achieved either a gold, silver or bronze certificate. Henry Bell (Lower Sixth) and Matthew McLoughlin (Upper Sixth) qualified for the most challenging British Mathematical Olympiad competition, and both performed superbly well, achieving merit certificates. ●



Roxolana Chaban (left) and Sophia Pawa (right) celebrate their distinction and best in school performances in the Maths Olympiad for Girls and Maths Competition for Girls respectively



Lower and Upper Sixth competitors in the Maths Olympiad for Girls and Maths Competition for Girls celebrate with their certificates



Summer Transformations to the School Site

CSW

The programme of development and investment in the learning environment our schools offer continued across the summer, and we were thrilled to open our doors in September and to see the immediate positive impact of these transformations.

In the Junior School, refurbishment of the second floor has greatly improved the environment for Year 3 pupils – who are also among those enjoying the newly configured and improved King George’s Hall (see photos), creating a brighter, more welcoming dining space for Junior and Senior School students alike.

Elsewhere in the College, transformation of the Science Centre continued, with upgraded laboratories, classrooms and preparation areas revealed in

the autumn, while the Music School gained a state-of-the-art recording studio, enabling students to produce their own original music.

Our Sixth Form facilities have also been enhanced to meet growing demand (see photos). The Study Centre has been expanded with additional workspaces while the downstairs café and social area have been remodelled and extended. ●

Charities

JAW

Over the last term, the Lower School Charity Club at Eltham College, led by Charity Prefects Roisin Cartin and Sam Holloway, made a remarkable impact through its weekly Friday morning meetings, and grew into a powerful force for creativity, teamwork, and generosity.

Their "Grow a £5 Challenge" raised over £500 this summer, where Lower School student teams poured their entrepreneurial energy and determination into transforming a small £5 stake into a remarkable return for Eltham's chosen charities: The Personal Best Foundation, Smile of Hope, and International Needs. Parents also donated generously to Joy This Christmas, providing toys and clothing over 200 local families. Having raised over £10,000 for International Needs ahead of their July 2025 visit to Uganda, to support their efforts in building a new computer lab in a partner school, students continued to fundraise last term. These efforts reflected the students' inspiring commitment to making a difference, fostering a strong sense of community, compassion, and global awareness throughout the school. ●



Head of Facilities Brenda Parara with some of the PTA Selection box donations for the Joy this Christmas Campaign



Welcome to new Senior Staff members

CSW

We were delighted to welcome two senior members of staff to Eltham College in September, as Rachel Thompson took over as Head of the Junior School and Sami Michael joined the College SLT as Deputy Head, Pastoral.



Rachel Thompson
Head, Eltham College Junior School

Rachel joined us from City Junior School, the co-educational feeder school of City of London School and City of London School for Girls, where she had been founding Head.

Educated at Central Newcastle High School for Girls, Rachel read Geography at Durham University before beginning her teaching career in Japan where she taught English for three years. Upon returning to the UK, Rachel undertook her PGCE and worked in maintained sector schools across London.

In 2017 she entered the independent sector, joining City of London School for Girls as Head of Prep before leading the launch of City Junior School as founding Head. Rachel is a trustee of an educational charity, a keen gardener and proud parent to two teenage boys.



Sami Michael
Deputy Head, Pastoral

Sami Michael joined Eltham College as Deputy Head Pastoral, having previously been part of the senior leadership team at Whitgift School, Croydon.

Responsible for the overall pastoral care for all students and staff, Sami leads a team comprising the Designated Safeguarding Lead, School Chaplain, Head of Wellbeing & EDI, Medical Team, School Counsellor and the Heads of Section to ensure outstanding standards of care at the Senior School, as well as fostering collaborative pastoral links across the Eltham Family of Schools. He is one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Born, raised and educated in South London, he went on to read English Literature at the University of York before training in secondary

education. He has over fifteen years' experience in senior pastoral roles in the independent sector, including responsibilities as Head of Year, Head of Section, and Head of Admissions. Married with two children, he is passionate about music, theatre and world cuisine, and has a particular interest in American culture, sports and literature. ●



Blackheath and Elthamians Hockey Club

Paul Whitney surveys the recent fortunes of the club.

2026

The upcoming year is the Year of the Horse, symbolising movement, growth and momentum, linked also with energy, endurance, success and ambition...

Let's couple that with the fact that Blackheath Hockey Club enters its 165th year of existence, and the future is indeed looking bright! BEHC (Blackheath and Elthamians Hockey Club), now so known as to incorporate and celebrate our forged link with Eltham College, poses the question, "would our predecessors be proud?"

Senior Section

The men's first team, under the tactical wizardry of head coach, Jules Halls, and the on-field leadership of EC former pupil James "Morri" Morrison, is truly performing at standards that are setting the bar extremely high for future generations to emulate.

The M1 are unbeaten in the league since the start of January '25, a complete calendar year, and have begun the second half of the season in the winning vein with a very tidy 4-1 away win against Ashford! They sit in second spot in the league behind an also unbeaten Eastbourne team (1x extra draw from BEHC the difference between the two). The sides meet at College Meadow on Jan 17th in what could be the season decider! Pitch side will be buzzing that day with a crowd baying for victory. The M1 team currently includes Blackheath



members who have been at the club for multiple decades; new members; Eltham College old boys; and current Eltham College students, a class mix that is really producing some extraordinary hockey and results. A really important concept for BEHC is to get the youth trained to a very high standard, then to keep engagement with them during their university years, then re-engage and welcome them back to the club when their studying days are over. This does take work and time, but is proving very successful, with students seen supporting the club when they are on holidays from uni, appearing at our social functions and continuing relationships with their old teammates. The M1 gaining a promotion this season to the Southeast Premier Division would encourage even more to return with such a high level of hockey on offer.

Success breeds success. The positive vibes and excitement generated at

the top level has filtered down to the rest of the men's teams. Availability for both training and matches has increased incredibly, with league results actively increasing in the winning ways department! At least two more men's teams are sitting high in their leagues, with promotion in their cross hairs.

The women's section is in a slightly different situation this season. With family commitments and work situations changing, some senior figures in the club have stepped back a bit, meaning a bit of team re-shuffling and re-building is in operation. The plus side of this is that the younger girls now playing in the senior section are being given an earlier opportunity to gain experience and learn. Although making this season tough, it will then have the building blocks in place for a strong season next year and a stronger set up moving forward. →



To get involved at any level, or in any capacity in club life, please contact Paul Whitney or Jenny Seale at chair@blackheath.co.uk

Outreach

What has been hugely noticeable over the last twelve months has been the return to hockey of older, senior players, who have been rediscovering their love for hockey as their sport. These are often parents of children who are joining up to BEHC.

The “Back to Hockey” programme pioneered by England Hockey was fully embraced by BEH, and spearheaded by Women’s club captain Karen Stevenson. It encompassed not only players returning to the sport but also reaches out to people who have never played before and who would like to give it a go! This has been fantastic for the club with at least half a dozen new members in both men’s and women’s sections signing up!

The mixture of BEHC as a club, promoting passion, camaraderie, enjoyment and wellbeing, coupled with the amazing facilities of our partner, Eltham College, the opportunity to play and enjoy hockey can be extended to those not usually exposed to the sport. Whether they

are new to the game, or re-finding their love of the sport, players are joining the Back to Hockey sessions, where they continue just for the enjoyment, or some progress onto the senior training nights and then start to feature in one of the teams on a Saturday. One parent who picked up a stick for the first time 12 years ago is now in the final trials for a spot in the Southeast regional side in the over 60s year group! How incredible is that?! It just goes to show...it is never too late to give it a go!

The youth outreach is taking even bigger strides this year. With the support from England Hockey and allocated funds from our sponsors, we are approaching more state schools within our catchment area, providing lessons on site at the schools and also drop-in sessions on the college pitches. Hockey has always been a sport played in the more affluent schools and universities, so there is a whole wealth of talent and enthusiasm so far untapped. We are hoping to bridge that gap just a little and give a lot more of the youth in the area an opportunity to try, and hopefully fall in love with, our great sport.





Youth Section

Now this is where things do really start to get exciting.

England Hockey have a talent framework in place, where the idea is that talent is recognised, nurtured and developed in a healthy environment, giving the youth exposure to high quality training and advancing their hockey experience. There is a plan in place where after a few years there are a set number of clubs who have become “Talent Academies”, and these clubs serve their surrounding area, encompassing other hockey clubs, to give the youth equal opportunity to progress forward. Once a player with talent is recognised, they are put forward to trial at the academy. The academy will select the best of the players and

these players then receive year-round training and access to tournaments and are progressed along the England Hockey pathway, with the end goal being national representation. The standard set to become a Talent Academy is extremely high, with many protocols needing to be in place, and many classroom modules completed over a two-year period.

After a lengthy and difficult application process, BEHC received the incredible news that we had been selected in the next cohort of ten clubs to start down the path to becoming a Talent Academy. This process began in September alongside the start of the season, and now both the management team and the coaching team are deeply embedded in Module 2: Club Culture, Key Considerations. We seem never to escape being set homework! BEHC are fully committed to see this project to its full fruition, giving us both junior and senior sections playing hockey at the highest possible level. The end goal is to have BEHC playing senior hockey at National League level, and then further to national premier league level, a fitting place for the oldest hockey club in the world to be sitting!

Off Field

BEHC have been renowned throughout the years to be a very friendly, community club. The activities spread further than meeting on field for hockey games.

Many social events are organised throughout the season, such as meals out; bike rides to Brighton; members gathering to do park runs or watching cricket matches; band night at the clubhouse; or just catching up in the bar for a drink. There is always a group doing something and an invitation to go somewhere.

So, back to the original question... Would our predecessors be proud? We think that they certainly would! ●



House Reports

Our four Heads of Houses review the progress of their house so far this academic year.



House singing

CAREY

Carey began this year with a renewed vigour to end our long-suffered drought in the House Competition, spearheaded by our new House Captains Will Tyler and Hector Mourin-Buckley.

Their first task was to choose Journey's *Don't Stop Believin'* as our entry for house singing. Rehearsals began in earnest with Will and Hector doing a great job of recruiting a range of students from all years of the House. Max Leek produced a wonderful arrangement, which was executed brilliantly by all, with an especially impressive debut performance by Year 7 student Adesuwa Giwa-Osagie, resulting in being awarded an excellent second place by the judges. Combined with photography and a languages week challenge, we find ourselves joint 3rd in the Open category with 20 points separating all four houses.

Our Lower School students have continued to impress, finishing no lower than 3rd in every single event this term. This includes a notable performance from our Year 8 girls in house hockey, taking home first place and a captivating chess competition which went down to the wire, with our team of Benno Lindner, Azeem Mohoboob, Aaron Fang, Jacob Factor, Austin Zhu and Atharva Arvind securing second. The consistency shown by our youngest students means they are in a very competitive second position overall going into the Christmas break, well within striking distance of top spot.

In the Middle School, our badminton team of Lukai Geng, Jay Kalakuri, Naomi Jayasinghe, India Bradley, Nishka Argawal and Alex Olifierko put on a dominant display with

our girls' pair not dropping a game. We were equally dominant in the pool for the Years 9 and 10 combined swimming gala, with Matei Moatar, Leo Maros, Jaspar Pace and Thomas Fitton each setting new school records for their particular stroke, as well as setting new records in both boys' relays. Our spelling bee team of Ridhi Sharma, Riva Watkins, Aida Urbani and Holden Mody also walked away victorious. These successes saw Carey leading the way for most of the term before being overhauled somewhat in the core sports at the back end of the term to leave us in 3rd position, a mere five points behind the joint leaders. It is certainly all to play for in this competitive section.

Our Seniors have had outstanding success in badminton, with Phoenix Che-Lai, Max Aslaner, Anastasia Johnson, Armani Ababio, Hesper Holden and Ed Thorpe again sweeping aside all before them, and in debating where a phenomenal display from Alex Armstrong-Denby and Eddie Jenner in front of their peers in Sixth Form assembly secured a huge victory. Other events have not gone our way, leaving us 4th in the standings, but I'm confident this talented group will turn things around after the Christmas break.

As we look forward to next term, we are planning our House Charity Day which as always will fall on so-called "Blue Monday" and this year will be based around the sport of curling... We are also well into planning our third annual Carey House Trip to take on some escape rooms. ●

ADM



Jacob Factor (Y8) playing chess

CHALMERS

Carolling



James Metherell (Y7)



With the rebirth of the fiery phoenix on 4th July, when House Chalmers won the House Cup of 2025, it was clear that we were *making it happen*.

The 2025 Michaelmas Term has seen highs and lows for Chalmers, with highlights including a landslide victory in the House Languages Week University Challenge, where Barney Devon (Year 11), Polina Milko (Year 10), Lucas Lee (Year 8), and Rohan Singh (Year 8) became Chalmers Champions by securing the win.

The House Spelling Bee saw a bimodal distribution of wins, with the Senior team and the Year 7 team both coming away vividly victorious – a massive shout out to Chalmers Champions Mirianna Upton (Upper Sixth), Arthur Wallace (Upper Sixth), Dylan Slee (Lower Sixth), Emily Rushworth (Lower Sixth), Arzoyi Bansal (Year 7), Audrey Xing (Year 7), Amber Li (Year 7), and Jason Cowling (Year 7).

In House Badminton, Chalmers Champion Zoe Ngiam (Year 9) had won all her matches and thusly contributed towards securing a joint first place overall for her year group. In the Seniors division, there was glorious teamwork consistently shown from Timothy Hobbs, Daniel Arrenberg, Sina Naseri and Anwen Donaldson Schach (all Upper Sixth), who won all of their matches. Jessica Shiu and Matilda Sandringham (both Lower Sixth) had also made a strong team for badminton.

House Chess was a mixed board, though massive congratulations are to be given to the Chalmers Champions who had won their respective, high-stakes, head-to-head showdowns, namely Tim Brink (Lower Sixth), Nidaal El Ghazi (Lower Sixth), Jonny Brayford (Year 11), Louka Yiasoumi (Year 10), Elliot Beech (Year 10), James Metherell (Year 7), and Amber Li (Year 7).

Early in the Term we had the biggest turnout of all the Houses for House Singing, have been justly awarded the “Best Props”, and had the biggest turnout, with no fewer

than 21 pupils taking part. Our flawless performance of Queen’s *Don’t Stop Me Now*, while a resounding success with the audience, was nonetheless judged as being third best out of the lot.

Year 7 have delivered a solid victory in House Maths, the team having been composed of Arzoyi Bansal, Chisom Bosah, Jason Cowling, Amber Li, James Metherell, Moyin Olufowobi, Audrey Xing, and Daaniyal Yadav.

House Photography, with a “Sustainability” theme, saw Chalmers earn second place, with notable submissions from Ariana Tyagi (Year 7) and Polina Milko (Year 10).

House Debating was a hotly-contested competition, where Daniel Harrington-Hill (Upper Sixth) and Evelyn Griffiths (Lower Sixth) eloquently proclaimed that “This House would ban short-haul domestic flights where other transport alternatives exist,” and scored one more point than Livingstone to advance to the final. There, Mirianna Upton (Upper Sixth) and Dylan Slee (Lower Sixth) were equally eloquent in their discourse arguing that “influencer culture is a force for good”, against Carey. However, in the eye of the judge, Carey had marginally secured the win, and Chalmers remained at second place.

House Swimming competitors were Aidan West (Year 8), James Finnegan (Year 8), Noah Vardy (Year 8), Matthew Shirley (Year 10), Alex Clarkson (Year 9), James Metherell (Year 7), and Mila Poulton (Year 9), Christian White (Upper Sixth) and Jessica Shiu (Lower Sixth). Jessica has made Chalmers history by setting a House record in 50m breaststroke, at 37:00 seconds. Well done Jessica! ●

RAA

LIVINGSTONE



House singing

With the memories of narrowly missing out on being House Champions by virtue of less event wins, our new house captains, Gabriella Brown and George Caldwell had a plan on how to regain the House Champion title once again.

With the addition of our new enthusiastic Year 7 to our seasoned house participants, the first assembly was about establishing our goals for the year and how to become Champions. There was a new sense of enthusiasm and determination that this will be the year of the Livingstone Lions and Lionesses!

As is tradition at Eltham College the new academic year begins with house singing. Two weeks of lunchtime rehearsals and with the pain of second place last year, Gabriella and George were determined to do one better. Progress was slow but with perseverance and determination we continued! With all the houses ready in the ABT, Livingstone was ready to lay down the gauntlet and show that we were ready to be House Champions. With silence descending Livingstone gave the performance worthy of champions and secured 1st position. With a buzz in the air, it seemed that the House Competition had truly began.

With a busy term, there have been many successes from all the year groups. The Lower School have performed fantastically. Their successes have been in Year 8 Spelling Bee achieving 1st position, with joint 1st in Badminton and a well-earned 2nd place in Maths. With a few students unable to be part of the swimming team, Jad Arharbi, Samarth Jain, James Miller and Rupert Scott for the boys and Freya Ferris, Aricia Kasat, Dulcie Smith and Sophie Wang for the girls secured a well-deserved 2nd position. In the final week of term Year 7 and 8 pushed themselves to the limit to secure impressive wins and securing joint 2nd position overall in the Lower School.

The impressive performances of the Lower School were backed up with equally dedicated and impressive performances from the Middle School, securing many 1st place positions. Our amazing chess team, Joseph Lewis,

Maximilian Tang, Rohan Vyas, Ethan Wu and Mihan Wu, won four of the six games. This was backed up with equally impressive 1st positions in House Maths, Year 10 and 11 football and hockey as well as Year 10 rugby. With the middles continued teamwork and effort they have secured joint 1st position.

Livingstone seniors played their part during the Michaelmas term, having consistently secured 1st and 2nd positions in most of the events taken place this term. Impressive performances in chess, where all five matches were won as well as wins in Maths, Football and 2nd in Hockey and Spelling Bee.

It is always great to see so many students taking part in the various house events that happen throughout the year, hopefully making memories that they will speak about in the future. However, a special mention to Sophie Wang, who has fully embraced the spirit of the House system. Not only has she taken an interest in the other year groups events and positions but volunteered and taken part in every possible house event this term; she is a true Livingstone Lioness.

Livingstone's charity day always happens at a busy period of the year and was themed around Christmas Carnival, consisting of games such as Velcro Axe Throwing, Velcro Target, Magnetic Darts, Sweet Pong and Cornhole, supervised by our amazing Sixth Form. This in addition to Christmas Jumper and lunch – the students had a lovely festive afternoon.

As is tradition the Michaelmas term ended with our Sixth Form Carols, with the quad walls filled with the sounds and tunes of Carols; a lovely way to end an amazing fun filled term.

With a full calendar of events to come in the Lent and Summer Terms, and with Livingstone securing 1st position this term, the first stage of our plan has come together. ●

JXC



House chess

MOFFAT

Moffat House have enjoyed an extremely exciting and rewarding term, growing from strength to strength across a wide range of events.

While there have been many notable successes, what has been most impressive during my first term as Head of House has been the commitment, enthusiasm and collective spirit shown by our Moffateers. Across numerous competitions we have fielded full squads, welcomed eager reserves and seen many pupils represent the house in every possible event. This level of dedication has had a tangible impact on both performance and morale, and it is something of which the whole house can be immensely proud.

Our House Captains, Boden Kelly and Anyka Lin, have set an outstanding example. Both have competed wherever possible while also encouraging participation and supporting others with energy and positivity. I would also like to recognise those who have repeatedly stepped forward for the house across multiple events: Sebastian McBride, Mayra Anand, Raya Fernandes, Bela Hall, Aishwarya Janakan, Ayan Raman, Michelle Teibo, Sam Johnson, Oliver Robinson, Harry Wilde and Jake Austin. Their willingness to give time and effort for Moffat has been invaluable.

The year began, as always, with House Singing. Our performance of *Somebody That I Used to Know* by Gotye showcased excellent participation from all year groups, with standout solos from Zoe Houghton and Sebastian McBride, and superb musical leadership from Michelle Teibo. Although we finished fourth, the commitment and quality on display set a positive tone for the term ahead.

Creative success followed in House Photography, where Moffat were crowned overall winners. Vivienne-Leigh Peter's photographs achieved 1st and 4th place, with Harry Wilde securing 3rd place among the 12 shortlisted images – a fantastic achievement. Academic strength was also evident in the House Languages University Challenge, where Jake



The winning House photography entry



House carol singing

Austin, Roberto Franchi-Pepe, Zoe Houghton, Dylan Liu and Bela Hall worked superbly together to finish second.

Across strategic and sporting events, Moffat showed consistency and depth. Strong results were achieved in House Chess, with Lower School taking first place, while Badminton saw victories for Lower School and Year 9. House Hockey and Rugby produced a number of excellent team performances, including first places for Year 7 Girls Hockey, Sixth Form Hockey and Year 9 Rugby, reflecting strong participation across year groups.

House Swimming was a particular highlight of the term. The atmosphere, enthusiasm and support throughout the galas were exceptional, underlining how powerful participation can be in house competition. Outstanding performances led to records being set by Giuliana Gilkes (50m Breaststroke), Ava Hickey (50m Backstroke), Harry Sword (50m Breaststroke) and Anyka Lin (50m Frontcrawl), alongside relay records for the Lower School Boys Freestyle team and the Sixth Form Mixed Medley team. Lower School and Sixth Form both secured first place overall.

Beyond competition, House Families have been full of energy and purpose, with Sixth Form leaders playing a key role in encouraging contribution and integration across year groups. Activities ranging from quizzes to maths challenges have strengthened house identity. These sessions also fed into strong performances in House Maths and the Spelling Bee, most notably Year 8 House Maths, where maximum points were achieved.

The term concluded beautifully with House Carol Singing. Our rendition of *Once in Royal David's City*, featuring a breathtaking solo from Michelle Teibo, created a memorable and reflective moment as the quad filled with music and festive spirit, earning us second place.

As we head into Christmas sitting second overall, there is a real sense of momentum within Moffat House. With continued dedication, enthusiasm and support for one another, we are well placed to push even further in the terms ahead. ●

VIW

Drama

The Arts



A Christmas Carol

Mr Marshall and Mrs Kendrick reflect on the major production at the end of last term.

“Marley was dead: to begin with.” This topsy-turvy opening line of Dickens’ classic moral tale promises all that is to come.

The world, like the sentence itself, is out of joint. The corporeal and the ethereal intrude upon one another. Time and space will bend backwards on themselves, and the solitary Scrooge will find himself at the thresholds of his life, glimpsing what could have been and what might be.

Nevertheless, this is a tale with an enduring moral core. Scrooge’s flaws – selfishness, misandry, ignorance, avarice – are our flaws, just as his want – redemption – is our want. This production spoke to us then because, despite its literary basis, *A Christmas Carol* makes for an inherently theatrical tale. The spectre of the supernatural is thrilling, and the Christmas atmosphere crackles with joy. →



Fundamentally however it is a tale of connection and collectiveness. Nothing worthwhile is possible in theatre without the effort of an ensemble and the liveness of an audience. The shared fiction of the theatrical experience is something akin to what we call the Christmas Spirit. A rare time, wherein we “by one consent to open our shut-up hearts freely” and join in something beyond ourselves.

There’s no better time of year to stage a production of *A Christmas Carol*! The students rose to every demand laid before them with enormous generosity and huge talent. They were courageous in rehearsal and sensitive in their support of one another. We are so very proud, and we thank them all from the bottom of our heart for the privilege of their studentship and the pleasure of their company.

As Scrooge’s nephew Fred says to his uncle, “I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.”



Reflections from the Cast

The rehearsal process for *A Christmas Carol* has been lots of fun. This was the first year that we introduced rehearsals on a Sunday, which were a definitive moment in the putting together of the show. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the play come together and working with my friends to create a characterful adaptation of Dickens' novel. I am very grateful to Mr Marshall and Mrs Kendrick for this wonderful opportunity and for their hard work that helped us achieve our goals.

Emilio Escanero Dingley (Year 11)

I can confidently say that participating in *A Christmas Carol* has been a fantastic experience! The whole production process has been incredibly rewarding, especially getting to know each and every cast member. What I have most enjoyed was the collaborative way this cast has brought the play to life, with each person bringing their different talents to the table to make a dynamic fusion of drama, music and dance. Additionally, performing Mrs Cratchit gave me the pleasure of being part of the Cratchit family, where being a part of this little team full of spirit and teamwork made every rehearsal supportive and enabled us to deliver these intimate familial scenes with the connection and ease those scenes truly needed.

Alexia Karadgliis (Lower Sixth)



Reflection from the Stage Manager

The production of *A Christmas Carol* was different to most productions this time of year, as for the first time in a while it was not a musical. Nonetheless it still brought its fair share of challenges, with the vast variety of set and props being brought on and off stage being the most significant challenge we faced. Despite this, it was as ever great fun; to be involved in what was by all accounts a fantastic production gave me a great deal of pride. With this being my last production and the last one for so many of my peers it was made extra special; to help put on such a wonderful show for all and to sign off from my backstage career with such an enjoyable production was a delight and I leave the drama department on a real high note.

The aforementioned challenges were created by such a high number of both set and props, meaning that we were constantly on our toes and making sure we knew where everything was at all times, with there being a fair few frantic moments. This challenge was furthered by the need for a full-size coffin being used and being housed backstage, something that certainly posed a challenge and numerous headaches, but regardless it is a memory that I shall not forget in a hurry!

A huge thank you and well done must go to all those who helped backstage, as without them the production really would not be as good as it was, and I hope they enjoyed it as much as we all did. Of course, a massive thank you and well done must go to all the actors and the directors Mr Marshall and Mrs Kendrick for putting on a fabulous play that many enjoyed and will live long in the memory. ●

Freddie Sawyer (Upper Sixth)





Shakespeare Shorts project

A Midsummer Night's Dream



LEC

Reflection from the Director (and Director in Residence), Miss Carter.

On the first day of term, auditions were held for Eltham College's Lower School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This was to be my first project as the school's Director in Residence and so I was excited to meet the pupils and gauge their interest in Drama. Over 80 pupils attended the audition – which was an incredibly encouraging outcome, communicating to me that there's a real enthusiasm for Drama here at Eltham College.

I selected *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for its comedy, chaos and playfulness. I wanted to give the students an opportunity to play, be silly and make bold choices – all while working with such beautiful, classical text.

The students thoroughly impressed me with their understanding of the classical language, all diving straight in and asking thoughtful questions whenever something was unclear. From the start, I wanted this to be a collaborative process, welcoming ideas from everyone in the room. The whole cast jumped at this, throwing in thoughtful suggestions and eagerly presented various ideas they had for staging. Their enthusiasm was infectious; I hope they carry this level of focus and energy into every project going forward.

Both cast and crew should be proud of the production they created. Everyone rose to the occasion, acting with professionalism, resourcefulness and taking responsibility for their entrances, lines and props. I was particularly impressed by the cast's vocal ability – their voices successfully projecting and filling the space.

This project has been a wonderful introduction to the students, the school and its theatre and I can't wait to begin the process for the Lower School production in Lent term. →

Reflections from the Cast

I have really enjoyed taking part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as it has been fun to be able to work on key drama skills and with the other members of the cast. I feel like this role has also helped my confidence which is why I am very grateful to be part of the play.

George Lazarov (Year 8)

Being in the play was great fun. I enjoyed the rehearsals, making new friends and the general positive attitude towards the performance. I would say that this opportunity has given and enhanced many of the skills needed in performing for everyone.

Sebastian McBride (Year 7)

I really enjoyed being able to develop the skill of being able to act using my body more than my voice; I've liked rehearsing and having fun with the rest of the cast and I hope that I can do it again soon!

Mayra Anand (Year 8)

I've really enjoyed playing the role of Helena and exploring the interactions I get with other actors. Helena is a really emotional and dramatic character, which I love because it means I get to portray so many feelings... such as friendship, jealousy, love and betrayal (all in one role!).

Helena Cao (Year 8)

The Lower School Production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was an amazing play and one of my favourite experiences at Eltham College. It was so fun to pick our own costumes and to work with our amazing director and tech crew! The actual performance went swiftly thanks to the hard work of the cast and the amazing drama department. Overall, it was an amazing experience, and I would highly recommend taking part in future performances!

Jonty Irvine (Year 8)

I've really enjoyed taking part in this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It has been lots of fun and it has really helped me better my drama skills. Also, I feel it has helped me build more confidence in acting.

Yohan Parmessur-Hurhangee (Year 8)

I've really enjoyed doing a Shakespearean play, and discovering Hermia's personality throughout rehearsals. It's been so much fun working with everyone and learning how to bring the story to life on stage!

Anikaa Selot (Year 8)

I have really enjoyed being in the Lower School Shakespeare production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this year. I think my favourite part has to be when I was directing the splat game within the scene, and it was all just going wrong. I have picked up many skills from this, including showing status with my body language, and exaggerating emotions. I would definitely like to thank Miss Carter for putting it all together, and Mr Marshall and Ms Chapman for helping out with scenes.

Oliver Hester (Year 8)

Reflection from the Technical Team

Over the Michaelmas term, I had the opportunity to help lead the technical crew for our Lower School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The show allowed us to integrate a range of technical elements. One highlight was operating a flown lighting bar for the "play within a play" scene; we lowered it mid-performance, complete with working theatre lights, producing a striking effect. Seeing the visiting primary schools' pupil reactions to the bar coming in from the flies was particularly rewarding.

I also contributed to the design of the lighting and sound effects used throughout the production. As part of the process, we were able to give a small group of Year 8 pupils their first experience running sound and lighting for a live show – an invaluable chance for them to develop their technical skills. ●

Iolo Mottershead (Lower Sixth)



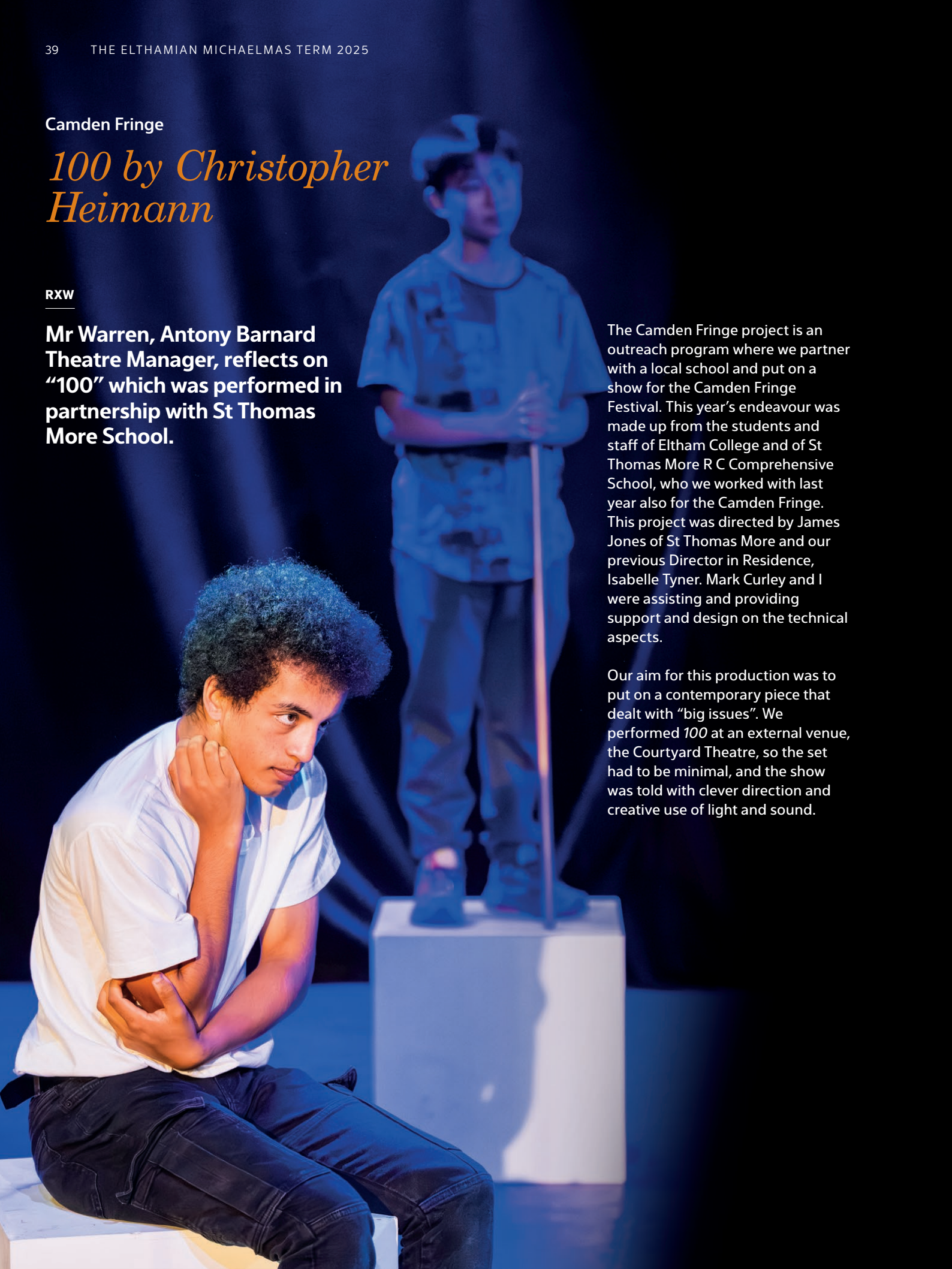


Camden Fringe

100 by Christopher Heimann

RXW

Mr Warren, Antony Barnard Theatre Manager, reflects on “100” which was performed in partnership with St Thomas More School.



The Camden Fringe project is an outreach program where we partner with a local school and put on a show for the Camden Fringe Festival. This year's endeavour was made up from the students and staff of Eltham College and of St Thomas More R C Comprehensive School, who we worked with last year also for the Camden Fringe. This project was directed by James Jones of St Thomas More and our previous Director in Residence, Isabelle Tyner. Mark Curley and I were assisting and providing support and design on the technical aspects.

Our aim for this production was to put on a contemporary piece that dealt with “big issues”. We performed *100* at an external venue, the Courtyard Theatre, so the set had to be minimal, and the show was told with clever direction and creative use of light and sound.



100 centres on the afterlives of four characters who, finding themselves in a mysterious “Void”, are informed by the equally enigmatic Guide that they must choose one memory from their lives in which to spend eternity. The remainder of the play follows their individual memories and searches for self-knowledge.

This project is always a highlight as we get to work with new students, with their own process and styles, and see them both learn and enrich the immense talent here at Eltham College and form strong bonds through theatre.

Reflection from the Co-Directors

100 is a wonderful play that explores morality, identity and what defines our finite time on earth. Having a collaborative project between Eltham College and St Thomas More students reminds us how drama can bring people together and the importance of telling stories from a range of perspectives. Being able to work with this cast of young people is an honour, as they continue to surprise me with their passion, commitment and contributions to the work. ●

James Jones (St Thomas More School) and Isabelle Tyner (Eltham College)

Junior School

HJT

The dramatic year opened in spectacular fashion during the Michaelmas Term, when Year 5 immersed themselves in the world of William Shakespeare. They brought three of his beloved works – *Hamlet*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and *As You Like It* – to life through bold, spirited productions. Filled with striking costumes, articulate and engaging delivery, and delightful moments of humour and enchantment, the pupils transformed these complex plays into performances that charmed and captivated their audiences. ●



5LG's production of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*



5ND's production of *As You Like It*



5IW's production of *Hamlet*



Music

Year 7 ShowStoppers

The annual ShowStoppers concert was superb this year, and the Year 7s shone in their first Eltham College Senior School performance.

Each form sang a song that reflected one stage in the transition from Junior School to Senior School, all taken from well-known musicals. These included *Surface Pressure*, *Getcha Head in the Game*, *A Whole New World*, *Seasons of Love* and *Friend Like Me*, before the year group closed the concert by singing together (as a choir of 120 pupils),

performing *We Go Together* from the musical *Grease*. The songs were accompanied by a live band of A level musicians and Music Scholars, and the ABT tech team provided magnificent lighting throughout. The pupils performed to a packed ABT, and the concert marked the end of the first half-term together as a cohort. This concert is always a wonderful introduction to the musical life of Eltham's senior school, showcasing both the welcoming nature of the Department, but also the high-level music on offer. ●

EPH



Concert at Sinfonia Smith Square

For many years, Eltham's November Choral and Orchestral Concert has taken place at St Alfege Church, Greenwich.

With the continued expansion of music at Eltham, this venue is simply not big enough to accommodate our wonderful large ensembles, and so it was with great pleasure that we found ourselves in the position of needing to look for a bigger venue.

Sinfonia Smith Square has long been a renowned concert venue, hosting many professional orchestras and ensembles, right in the heart of London; indeed in the days that the venue was known as St John's Smith Square it was used on a fairly regular basis as a concert venue by the school, with the most recent concert hosted there in 2018. It was, therefore, quite something to be able to take 176 of our instrumental and choral musicians to perform in this amazing concert hall. Even more excitingly, the concert took place on a Friday evening, and so these pupils had the afternoon off school, heading into London via three different methods

of transport, to rehearse and present a concert with music written entirely by female composers.

Our choral and instrumental ensembles have been going from strength to strength in recent years, but the surroundings of Sinfonia Smith Square inspired some truly remarkable performances from our pupils; they performed over two hours of genuinely complex and refined music to a sold-out audience, with real quality and excitement.

The programme included a performance, from memory, of a 'backwards' Latvian folksong, as well as orchestral music by Lili Boulanger and Dame Ethel Smyth. It was also recorded by our two AS Music Technicians pupils, a first for the Department, and the videos of the concert will be released on the school's YouTube channel in early 2026.

We very much look forward to returning to Sinfonia Smith Square in the future, and for more of our musicians to perform on this famous stage. ●

SAJ



Christmas in the Music Department

Christmas is always a busy time for school Music Departments up and down the country, and Eltham is perhaps as busy as it can get. Our musical Christmas programme begins as soon as our Choral and Orchestral Concert is finished, with the Chamber Choir and Young Voices heading straight into rehearsals for our multiple carol services.

The first of these are our two services of Carols by Candlelight; these are traditional carol services, with choral items alongside congregational carols. The services this year began with a solo quartet as an alternative to the traditional solo treble, and what followed were two lovely services, with the Chamber Choir on top form, Young Voices and the balcony brass players providing spirited support in the descants, and completely full chapel pews. Both of these services were recorded, and the Music Department will be releasing a 'live album' of *Carols by Candlelight* in November 2026.

The final week of term started with a bang, with our annual Christmas Cracker concert. This was the biggest internal ensembles concert in Eltham's history, featuring a mighty 20 ensembles and 199 pupils; there were so many performances that even the interval was the backdrop for wonderful musical performances. Particularly notable this year were the four student-led rock bands; this is a huge increase on previous years, and reflects the growing drive from pupils to run their ensembles, as well as the growth of contemporary music at Eltham (all of these bands rehearse in our new recording studio, and will feature in next year's Battle of the Bands).

The Chamber Choir weren't finished yet, singing three further carol services for the pupils in the final week of term, and a number of our saxophonists



performed right at the end of term in final assembly. And, to top it all off, 26 pupils from Young Voices set off bright and early on the final Wednesday morning, heading to Disneyland Paris; there, they performed two shows on the Videopolis stage, before enjoying two days in the park. This all rounded off a wonderful term, and perhaps our busiest Michaelmas term yet! ●

SAJ and EPH





Young Voices trip to perform at Disneyland Paris

In a new venture for the Music Department, we ended the term by taking 26 pupils from Young Voices, our auditioned choir for Years 6 to 8, to perform two shows at Disneyland Paris. The pupils had been learning the music for these shows alongside their other performances in the term, and arrived at Disneyland ahead of two shows in the Videopolis theatre, which seats over 1,000 people.

On the morning of the show, the pupils had a two hour workshop with one of Disney's vocal coaches, who put them through their paces vocally, as well as teaching them the choreography for the two shows. After a quick lunch, they made their way backstage, before getting show-ready and costumed, sound-checking with four professional Disney singers, and meeting a number of the "special guests" who would be joining them on stage. Singing as "magical Christmas sprites", they were the on-stage choir singing alongside Mickey, Minnie and friends, with the two shows completely full.

Following the shows, and with the Disney songs ringing in their ears, the pupils then had the rest of the day, as well as the following day, to explore the magic of Disneyland at Christmas, before heading back home in time for the start of the holidays. It was a wonderful few days, and we look forward to a return visit in the future. ●

EPH and ASB



Christmas Cracker Concert



Christmas Cracker Concert





New Christmas Single

Over the past few years, the Music Department has recorded, and released, a number of albums and singles, including *A Night in Tunisia* (a studio jazz album), *The Lark Ascending* (a recording of Vaughan Williams' famous piece for violin and organ) and *The Alice Jinks Quintet – The Album* (a second jazz album with a student-led ensemble).

This year, we released the Department's second Christmas Single, which featured our close-harmony ensemble Voce as well as a number of student instrumentalists. Recorded in our new recording studio, this single captures the magic of the Christmas season, with a beautiful jazz arrangement of *Away in a Manger*. The single was recorded over a number of days, with the singers multi-tracking in pairs, and our keyboard, bass, and drum players recording with headphones over the top, giving the pupils an insight into the world of professional music recording. The single (as well as our other album releases) is available to listen on all major streaming platforms including Spotify and Apple Music; do have a listen! ● SAJ



This single and other releases are available on all major streaming platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music



Junior School

At the start of the year we were delighted to welcome Joanna Francois Axtell as our Junior School Music Administrator. This new role highlights the ever-growing presence of music in the Junior School and all of the work generated in the background by having so many events and concert throughout the year.

Our first concert of the year was for soloists and a good mix of instruments and levels. Beyond this point, a new structure of Informal Concerts, for beginners up to Grade 2/3 standard, and Formal Concerts, for Grade 3+ takes place. For those at the top of their game, the St. Cecilia Concerts will be for Grade 5+ soloists.

Our thanks to Jess O'Leary, Head of Strings, Head of Chamber Music and an ABRSM examiner, who gave a very practical and informative talk on Sharing Effective Practice Skills for use at home followed by Preparing Effectively for Music Exams. This was highly informative and beneficial for all in attendance.

Take up from Year 4s for their Woodwind and Brass Music Alive programme was fantastic with another cohort taking up new instrumental studies.

Our Concert for St. Cecilia, for pupils who have gone beyond Grade 5, was a joint event with pupils from Blackheath Prep this term and took place in the College Chapel. As ever, the quality of playing was excellent and this was a super opportunity for both Schools to perform alongside each other.



*Top: Concert for St Cecilia in November
Middle: Informal Piano Concert Bottom: Formal Concert*



*Top: Concert in September Middle: Year 5 and 6 Choir
Bottom: Informal Strings Concert*

The Orchestral Ensembles Concert was the culmination of a term’s work for our groups who meet weekly throughout the term. This performance, in the surroundings of St. George’s Church, Beckenham, was the first outing of the year for many pupils. The standard of playing was one of the highest we have ever had at the start of the academic year and was testament to the dedication of pupils week in week out. Whilst most of our pieces didn’t have a specific theme, the occasional Christmas tune slipped into the programme much to the delight of our audience even though it was only November!

After their trial period of lessons on violin, viola, cello, double bass and harp, Year 3 Music Alive Strings pupils took to the stage in their End of Project performance to show off how much they have achieved in just a month. This follows on from their debut a week before at the Ensembles Concert, something which many will continue to do as they carry on with lessons, having had their appetite for learning a Stringed instrument whetted.

This year’s Year 3 and 4 Advent Celebration focussed on the theme of Joy to the World. Year 5 and 6’s Carol Service was based around the idea of Gifts; the gifts of the Magi and the gift of Jesus. Year 5 and 6 Choir sang Chilcott’s *Gifts* and the premier of *A Boy was Born in Bethlehem*, composed for the choir by Mr Alexander and based on a sixteenth century Latin text. ●

MKA



Art



SLH

Art and DT trip to Vienna

A group of Sixth Form Art and Design Technology students enjoyed an inspiring trip to Vienna over the Autumn half term, exploring the city's rich artistic heritage to support their coursework projects. During their visit, they toured several renowned galleries and museums, including the Belvedere Palace, the famous Albertina Museum, and the Museum of Applied Arts. A highlight of the trip was seeing Gustav Klimt's iconic *The Kiss* in person, along with works by Egon Schiele and a range of exciting contemporary artists from around the world. It was an unforgettable experience that gave everyone a fresh wave of creativity and a real appreciation for Vienna's vibrant cultural scene. ●



An Evening of Art and Music

This term saw the third annual evening of collaborative performance from the Art and Music departments. Hosted by the Gerald Moore Gallery, An Evening of Art and Music showcased a range of remarkable performances by our talented musicians, set against the backdrop of a live sculptural response. Throughout the evening, Art students worked with colourful yarn to create a three-dimensional form that evolved in response to the rhythms and tones of the music. It was wonderful to see students involved from across all year groups, and we look forward to many future collaborations. ●



Sovereign Art Prize

Building on past successes in this prestigious competition, an impressive three Eltham Art students were among the 20 finalists selected in the London region for this year's Sovereign Art Prize. Established in Hong Kong in 2012, the annual awards programme celebrates the importance of art in the education system and recognises the quality of artworks produced by secondary school students across the world. Chosen by a team of esteemed judges, including art market columnist for the Financial Times, Melanie Gerlis, and artist Nick Hornby, Mary Sanderson, George Reeves, and Anya McNair's exceptional artworks were displayed at Phillips Auction House in London. Following the exhibition, Mary and George sold their works, with half of the profits going to charity. ●



Anya McNair



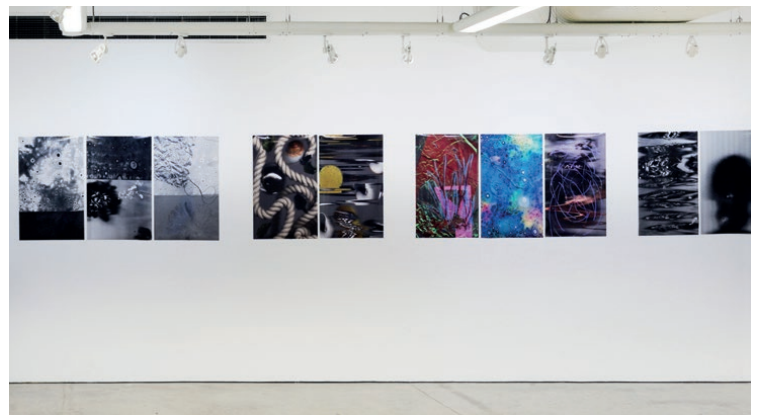
George Reeves



Mary Sanderson

Art Scholars Exhibition

This term, Art Scholars have been responding to the theme of 'Reflection' in both their independent work and a series of workshops with our Artist in Residence, Rob Lye. During these workshops, students experimented with generating images using a scanner, distorting and layering objects to create a sense of ambiguity and movement. Pieces from these workshops came together in a collaborative installation at the Gerald Moore Gallery, displayed alongside the students' independent work. It was inspiring to see such a wide range of media on display, including painting, sculpture, photography, and film. ●



Articulation Internal Heats

This marked the fifth year of our participation in Articulation, a national public speaking competition focused on Art History. Sixth Form students prepared a range of presentations on a variety of artworks spanning painting, film and installation, inspired by themes such as law, medicine, and economics. The standard was exceptionally high this year, with eleven informative and well-researched talks. After much deliberation, the judges selected Ellen Eburah and her presentation, "Perceiving the Infinite: Ryoji Ikeda's Data Cosm no 1" as the winner. Ellen will repeat her talk at the Regional Finals in Folkestone in February. ●



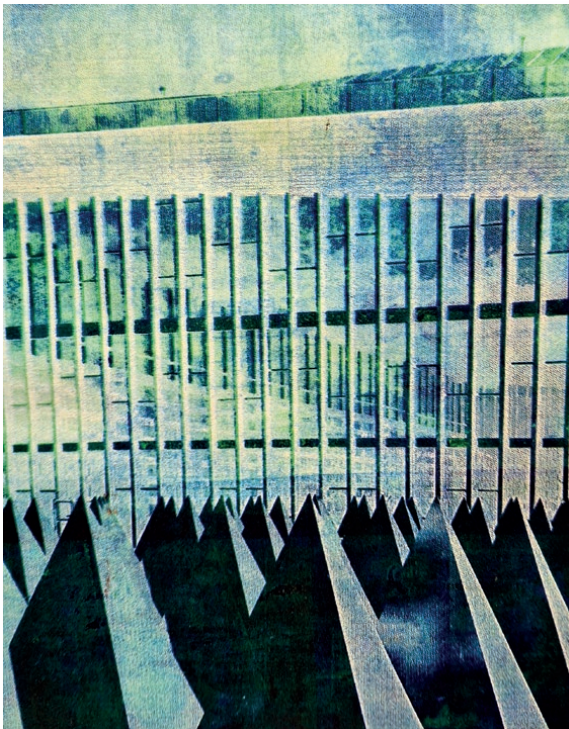
Pupil artwork



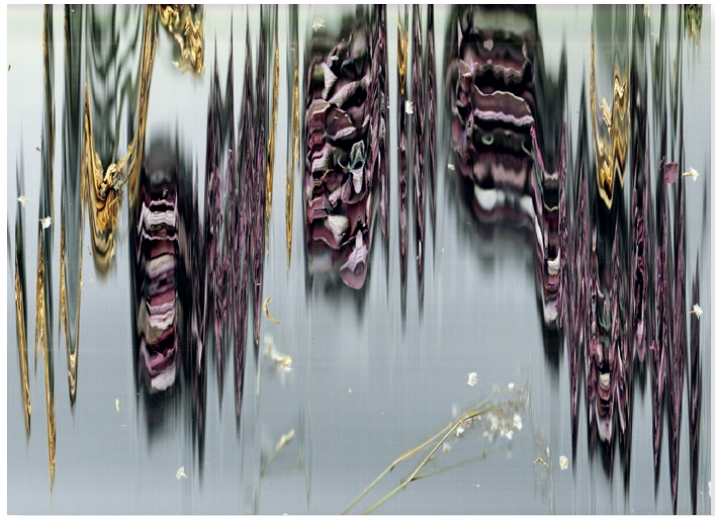
Anya McNair L6th



Antonia Jayasinghe L6th



Henry Richards Y11



Aiden Corcoran Y11



June Stainsby Y11



Samuel Lulsegged Y11



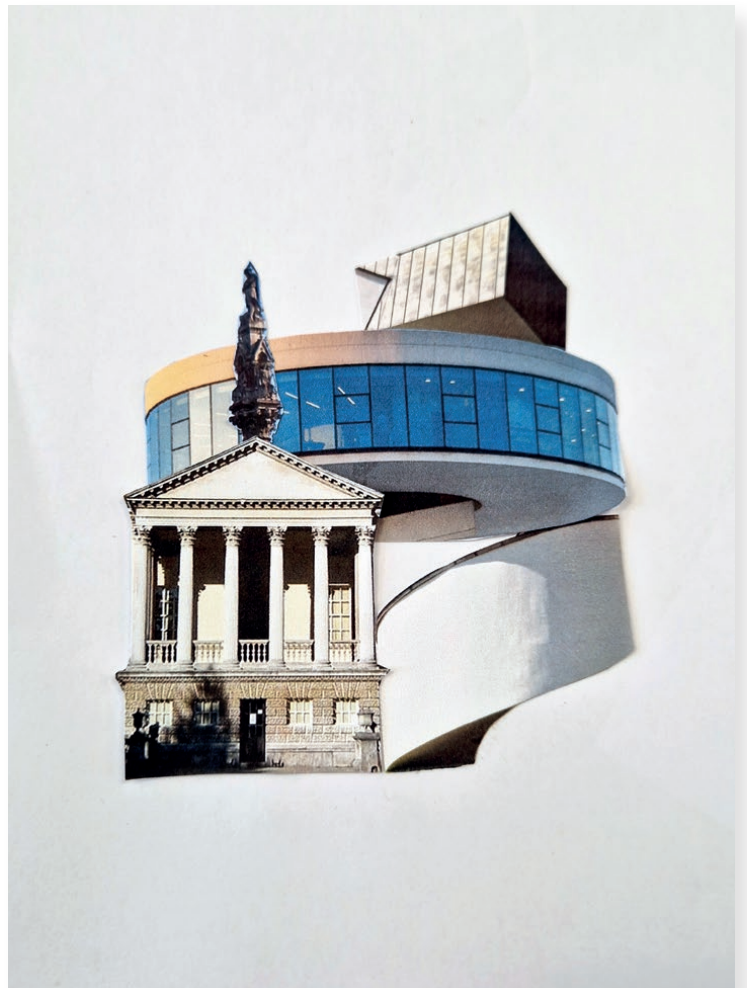
Freya Sezgin Y10



Thea Corcoran Y9



Eliza Brown Y7



Aine Antonioli Y8



Gerald Moore Gallery

HFA

Gerald Moore Gallery Manager Haf Anuar reviews the exhibitions and activities the gallery has staged this term – including one dedicated to Gerald Moore himself.

The Michaelmas term at the Gerald Moore Gallery opened with two outstanding exhibitions, *On the Calculation of Volume* in the Ground Floor Gallery and *Gerald Moore: Works on Paper* upstairs in the Paul Henderson Gallery. Together, they offered an engaging start to the term, inviting students and visitors to explore different approaches to abstraction and figuration.

Curated by David Cyrus Smith, *On the Calculation of Volume* brought together thirteen abstract artists whose practices examine different modes of image-making. Each work presented a distinct way of inhabiting reality, in visual interpretations that emerge from a deep attentiveness to the world.

Installation view of *NOW 2025* group exhibition with Nell Castor's hanging sculpture *Core Chandelier*.
Photo: GMG

The exhibition highlighted how abstraction can be both meditative and materially grounded, encouraging viewers to consider the elusive relationships between form, perception, and presence.

Gerald Moore: Works on Paper provided a fresh perspective on Gerald Moore's artistic practice by focusing on his mixed media works from 1990 to 2000. These pieces were notably more visually abstract than his better-known paintings, revealing the greater spontaneity and intuitive play that characterises his work on paper. The exhibition offered a rare glimpse into Moore's exploratory process, showcasing the evolution of his style across a decade of creative experimentation.

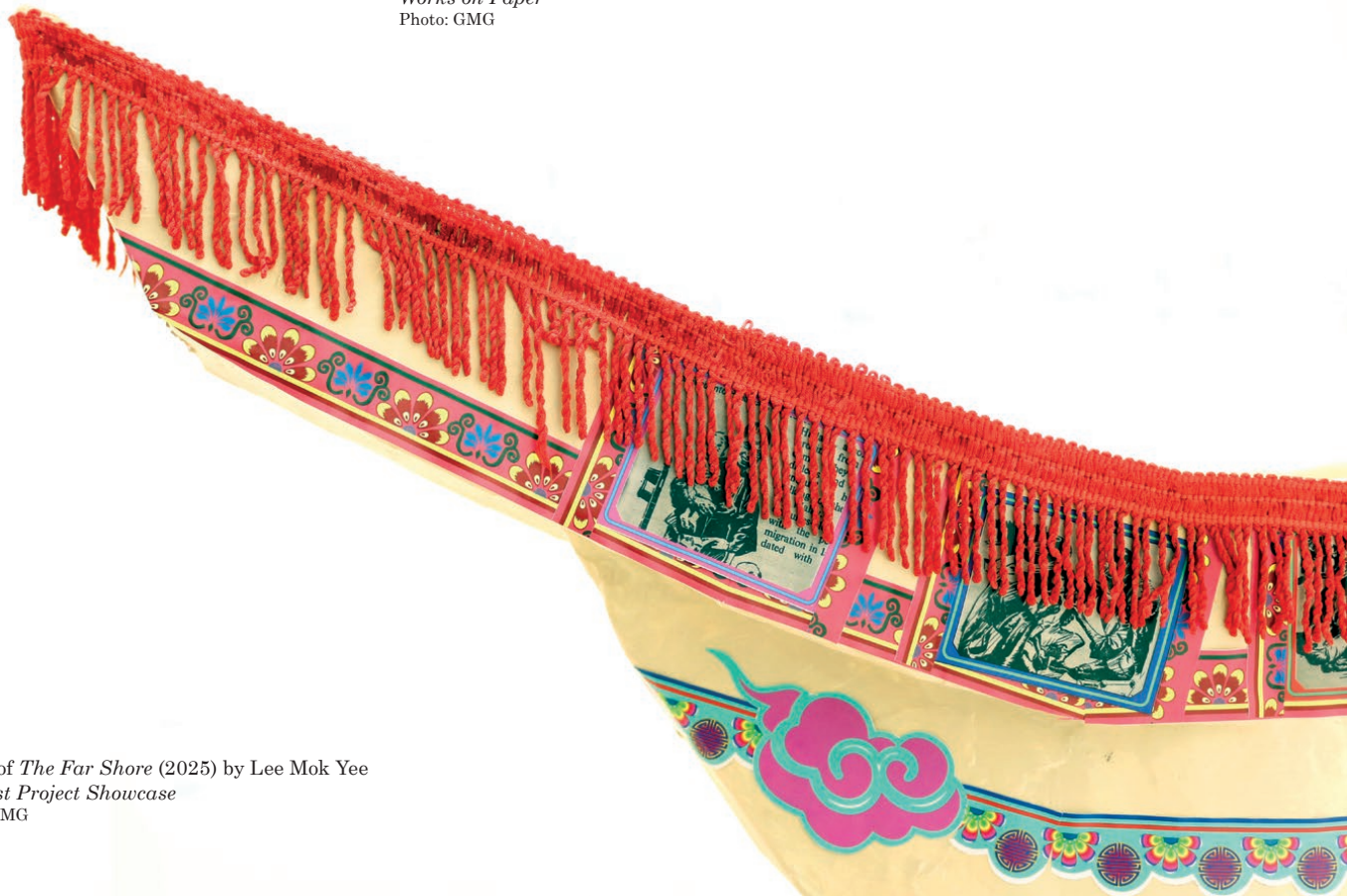


Installation view of
On the Calculation of Volume
Photo: Josef Konczak



Installation view of *Gerald Moore:*
Works on Paper
Photo: GMG

Following these exhibitions, we presented *NOW 2025*, our annual showcase celebrating exceptional recent graduates from leading London art schools. This year's iteration featured six emerging artists: Alex Beattie (Royal College of Art, Print MA), Nell Castor (Central Saint Martins, BA Fine Art), Alejandro Reiriz Pouseu (Goldsmiths, MA Art & Ecology), Nikita Savostyanov (Chelsea College of Arts, MA Fine Art), Sofia Serpa Arango (Goldsmiths, BA Fine Art), and Mengyi Zhang (Royal College of Art, Arts and Humanities MFA). Their diverse works reflected contemporary concerns ranging from ecology and materiality to identity and spatial perception, offering visitors a preview of the next generation of artists. →



Detail of *The Far Shore* (2025) by Lee Mok Yee
in *Artist Project Showcase*
Photo: GMG



As part of the *NOW 2025* programme, several participating artists led creative workshops for the Art Department and wider community. Zhang facilitated a floating lacquer fan-making workshop for families and children, while Beattie and Reiriz Pouseu led lively sessions in the Art Room, engaging students with innovative approaches to print and sculpture.

This term also saw the launch of our first Artist Project Showcase, featuring newly-created works by Lee Mok Yee and Amar Shahid in the Paul Henderson Gallery. Both artists completed residencies at Acme Fire Station in East London through the Khazanah Associate Artist Residency Programme (KAAR). Drawing on archival materials related to British colonial histories, their works explored the intersection of memory, heritage, and contemporary identity. As part of the programme, Mok Yee led a well-attended cardboard boat-making workshop in which families learned simple sculptural techniques while exploring traditional Chinese boat-making culture.

Our seasonal programme continued during the October Half Term with a series of Halloween-themed workshops for children and a family Crafternoon session. Popular activities included pumpkin carving and costume making.

In early November, we hosted Year 4 students from the Junior School for three learning visits. Students were given a guided tour of *NOW 2025*, followed by a hands-on sculpture workshop that encouraged them to explore floral forms in paper inspired by Castor's sculpture, *Core Chandelier*.

On Thursday 6 November, we held the third edition of our Evening of Art and Music. Parents, students, and gallery visitors were treated to a wonderful programme of artistic and musical performances by Eltham College students, set against the backdrop of the *NOW 2025* exhibition. A highlight of the evening



Exhibition tour of *NOW 2025* by Gallery Assistant, Sara Dobbs
Photo: Junior School

Cardboard boat-making workshop led by Lee Mok Yee
Photo: Lee Mok Yee



Floating lacquer fan workshop for families led by Mengyi Zhang
Photo: Mengyi Zhang

was the live creation of a thread-based installation inspired by the work of Chiharu Shiota.

Throughout November, we also ran life drawing sessions for Sixth Form Art students, offering them the opportunity to work with new materials and develop their figure-drawing skills. Later in the month, adults joined our popular annual wreath-making workshops, creating beautiful all-natural wreaths to welcome the festive season.

In December, we opened *Reflection*, an exhibition featuring works by our talented Art Scholars. The show, thoughtfully put together by the Art Department, brought together considered responses to the theme of Reflection, alongside abstract images created in experimental scanning workshops led by our Artist-in-Residence, Rob Lye. The year concluded with our Christmas workshops for children, where young participants made festive decorations in preparation for the holidays. ●



Rob Lye's studio at Eltham College
Photo: GMG

Artist in Residence Rob Lye

HFA

Taking a short break from his busy schedule, working with students in the Art Department, leading the Painting and Drawing after-school club at the Gerald Moore Gallery, and tinkering in his studio, Artist-in-Residence Rob Lye answers questions about his experiences so far at Eltham College.

What is your favourite part of being at Eltham College?

The studio is a real highlight, but equally the generosity of colleagues. I had an incredibly productive time over half-term using some of the Music Department's facilities – music is a large part of my practice, so being able to experiment with the timpani drum was a dream come true.

How has the studio supported the development of your recent work?

Having access to equipment such as the large printing trays has been transformative, allowing me to scale up ideas and develop new methods of experimentation.

What are you currently working on in the studio?

A wide range of things: laser etchings into rock, a film using spatial sound, a growing series of salt-encrusted paintings, and a lot of music.

What do you hope to achieve by the end of your residency?

I will be travelling to Svalbard, in the Arctic Circle, in May to make a new film, and I hope to return and begin editing it straight away. The residency is giving me the time and space to develop both the conceptual framework and the material processes for that project. ●

Art in the Junior School

MSJ

The Art Department at the Junior School has been a hive of creativity as pupils begin preparing work for the Summer Art Exhibition.

Year 3 pupils started the year by experimenting with colour mixing while developing their cutting and construction skills. These techniques were then applied to create 3D paper cube sculptures inspired by the work of Mondrian. This project also provided valuable cross-curricular links with mathematics, as pupils designed and constructed their own nets.

In Year 4, photography played a key role in the first project. Pupils explored the school grounds to collect natural materials and created their own

pieces of 'land art', inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. They also had the opportunity to experiment with a range of photography apps to capture their work. In addition, a visit from the Gerald Moore Gallery for an exhibition by Nell Castor included a workshop, during which pupils created paper sculptures inspired by Core Chandelier.

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a hands-on and wonderfully messy project, creating Day of the Dead masks using Modroc. They studied the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and used watercolour

techniques to develop ideas and designs for their masks, producing some fantastic results.

Year 6 began the year with a vibrant Pop Art project. Pupils explored artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, creating bold 3D paper artworks and striking acrylic paintings.

We are all looking forward to more workshops and creative, hands-on sculpture work as the year continues. ●



Self portrait by Inaya Khan (Yr 3)



Land Art project by 4NT inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy



Land art project by 4RJ inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy



Land art project by 4RM inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy



Death Mask (5ND)



Project by 6AW inspired by Pop Art



Death Mask (5IW)



Features

Gerald Summers

*From Christian Schoolboy to
Avant-Garde Designer*

Martha Deese

Gerald Summers (OE 1915) was one of the most distinguished furniture designers in Britain during the first part of the twentieth century and has been the subject of a recent book by art historian Martha Deese – who we asked to tell us about him.



Gerald Summers

While the 1924 Olympic champion sprinter Eric Liddell is certainly Eltham College's most famous alumnus, other Old Boys from his era achieved greatness. One was Gerald Marcus Summers (1899–1967), who emerged as a leading designer of furniture in Britain between the two world wars. From 1931 to 1940, the London firm – Makers of Simple Furniture – which he founded with his partner, Marjorie Butcher, produced a wide range of furnishings whose simplicity, utility, and beauty helped define the modern interior.

At Eltham College

Gerald did not set out to be a furniture designer. In 1907, at the age of eight, he and his elder brother Alec were sent to the School for the Sons of Missionaries (now Eltham College) in Blackheath, southeast London. They joined eldest brother, Glen, who had entered in 1904. Gerald's father, who served as agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) in Spain and North Africa, hoped that his sons would embrace a life of service to the church. Both Alec and Glen became Anglican ministers, yet Gerald felt no such calling. He had trouble adjusting to life at school, and his holidays, which should have provided respite, were spent with guardians whom he disliked. He rarely saw his Madrid-based father, whose constant travel for the BFBS made visits impractical.

Gerald was an average student at the school. In 1912, he achieved a pass in the Cambridge Preliminary Local Examination. Two years later, he received a certificate of proficiency from the Société Nationale des Professeurs de Français en Angleterre, thanks largely to one brilliant teacher, Mr. Sydney Moore, who built Eltham's reputation for its French instruction.

Gerald fared similarly in sports. In June 1908, he and nine other students performed a dumbbell drill set to music at the great missionary exhibition The Orient in London held at Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington.

In his last year at school (1914–15), he played for the First XV rugby team, as had his brothers before him. Captained by Leslie Gracie (who later led Scotland's national team), the squad finished the season 10–2. Gerald scored once in a match against St. Dunstan's College. The school magazine described him as "A steady-going forward who, though not conspicuous, has worked well. Might have obtained his colours if he had turned up more punctually for practices." At the 1915 Sports Day, Gerald came in fourth place in the shot put. Gracie took first.

Gerald received one accolade at Eltham that foreshadowed his career as a furniture designer. In the 1913–14 school year, he won a prize for carpentry. At least four other boys won carpentry prizes that year, including Liddell. Classes were taught by Mr. G. Allworth, a visiting teacher from Goldsmiths College in New Cross. It is tempting to see in this training the seeds of Gerald's future

vocation, but he downplayed the experience, noting only that he had made a pipe rack.

Engineering Apprenticeship and War Service

Gerald left school in May 1915 at the age of sixteen and immediately began a five-year engineering apprenticeship arranged by his father at Ruston, Proctor and Company, an industrial equipment manufacturer based in Lincoln in the East Midlands. A capable and industrious trainee, he readily absorbed the rational mindset of the company's engineers – the emphasis on function, materials, and methods of manufacture as the chief determinants of design. Years later, this approach became the basis of his design philosophy.

After the sudden death of his father in November 1916, Gerald quit his apprenticeship to fight in the First World War. Although he had no plans to abandon his chosen profession, his experience in the trenches upset his view of the future. Faced with the destruction wrought by advances in weaponry developed by engineers, he began to imagine making things with wood.

The Birth of a Company: Makers of Simple Furniture

After the war, Gerald set aside this dream and returned to the engineering industry, settling ultimately at Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company in London. He remained with the company from 1923 to 1933. The turning point came in 1930, when Gerald designed and built some furniture for his mews flat near London's Hyde Park. The project rekindled his interest in woodworking, and he decided to start a company to manufacture and sell his designs. His girlfriend, Marjorie Butcher (1909–1996), a member of Marconi's secretarial pool, vowed to share in the venture. It was the beginning of a lifelong partnership.

In 1931, Makers of Simple Furniture opened for business in the basement of a terraced house on Fitzroy Street in the heart of bohemian London.

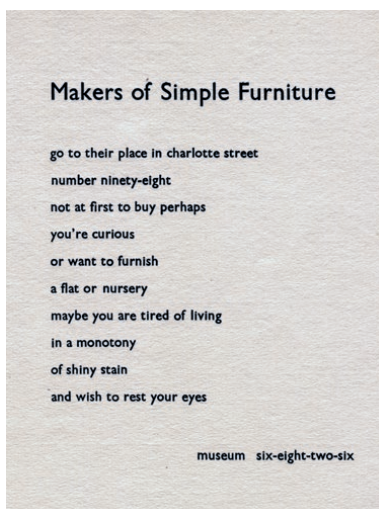
The firm's name captured the aim →



Eltham College First XV rugby team 1914–15; Gerald Summers fourth from left, back row

of its proprietors. “It was simple furniture, you see, and we were makers of it,” Marjorie explained in a 1986 interview. Inside the showroom they set out samples – functional pieces of painted or polished plywood, shaped for purpose, devoid of ornament, and tailored to the needs of modern life. Gerald dubbed the designs “furniture for the concrete age,” an allusion to the reinforced concrete houses and apartment blocks created by Britain’s architects, who were defining a new way of living.

At the outset, it was a hand-to-mouth existence. Gerald held onto his job at Marconi’s, while Marjorie managed the firm’s showroom. Evenings and weekends they built furniture. “We were making it with the idea of selling it,” Marjorie noted, “but we didn’t sell any for, you know, a bit.” Unwilling to pay for advertising, they relied on passersby and word of mouth to attract customers. In late 1932, their fortunes took a sudden turn for the better when the firm received its first sizeable commission. The money enabled them to move the showroom to a larger basement space on nearby Charlotte Street and to set up a separate workshop a few blocks west on Clipstone Street. There they installed machinery, additional woodworkers, and a foreman to supervise production. With the firm on a stronger footing, Gerald resigned from Marconi’s in June 1933 and turned his full attention to furniture.



Page from Makers of Simple Furniture brochure

Fame as a Furniture Designer – the 1930s

The effect was immediate. Over the course of 1934, Gerald created some of his finest pieces in plywood and flexible plywood – his materials of choice – including the bent plywood armchair. Made from a stack of thin, pliable plywood sheets sandwiched with glue and set overnight in a mold, the chair’s fluid, one-piece form astonished Gerald’s contemporaries and secured his place in design history. His ability to generate beauty from the elements of necessity emerged in other works from this year, such as the high back chair. The subtle curvature of its flexible, reed-thin back cushions the sitter and eliminates the need for upholstery.

The years 1935–37 were the high point of Gerald’s career. During this three-year span, he created scores of new designs, including bedsteads, cabinets, chairs, chests, desks, sideboards, tables, and wardrobes. Each one addressed the problems of the modern home – notably the lack of space and natural light – with sensitivity and ingenuity. Each one stayed true to his vision of furniture reduced to simple terms. Works such as the Z table, with its sinuous molded-plywood pedestal and handy offset tiers, and the sideboard CDC, with its finely proportioned cupboards and graduated drawers, reveal the fullness of his powers.

The enlargement of Simple Furniture’s inventory at mid-decade coincided with an upsurge in coverage by the British press. Design magazines promoted the firm’s work in pictorial surveys of well-made objects. Women’s magazines admired the furniture’s modern spirit. Trade journals reported on its novel forms and methods of construction. Newspapers published images of pieces in articles on home decor. Organizers of design exhibitions followed suit, choosing pieces by the firm for display. The Royal Institute of British Architects’ exhaustive Everyday Things Exhibition staged in 1936, at its London headquarters on Portland Place, featured five of the firm’s products. The quality and quantity of

High back chairs. Credit: Rago/Wright



Bent plywood armchair.
Courtesy William Summers



Z table. Credit: The Collection of the Kirkland at the Denver Art Museum



Dinner wagon, sideboard CDC, high back chair.
Courtesy William Summers

*It was simple furniture,
you see, and we were
makers of it.*

this publicity shaped public perception of Gerald's furniture, and both affected and reflected his standing in Britain's design community.

Simple Furniture's sales also peaked in the mid-thirties. Private individuals were the principal source of income. They represented a cross-section of British society from the trendsetting Prince of Wales to the firm's own staff. Department stores and furnishing shops in London became valuable wholesale customers, ordering substantial numbers of pieces to augment their own stock. Foremost among them were Harrods, Heal's, and John Lewis. These new outlets extended Simple Furniture's reach, even though they marketed the firm's designs under their own names. The firm profited as well from its association with Britain's modern architects, who found Gerald's designs complementary to the streamlined style of the houses, flats, and showrooms they created for their forward-thinking clients. Among the luminaries were Serge Chermayeff, Oliver Hill, and F. R. S. Yorke.

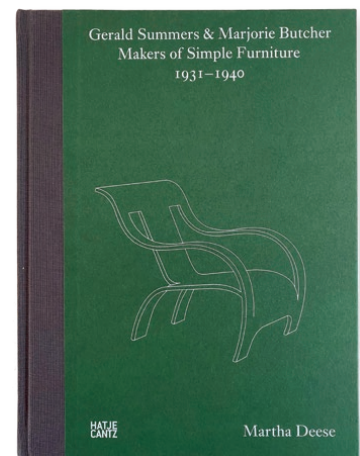
The Second World War and after

The final years of Simple Furniture, from 1938 to 1940, were overshadowed by the spectre of the Second World War. As wartime exigencies began to cripple the furniture trade, Gerald and Marjorie remained wary but hopeful. In November 1938, they registered the firm as a limited company to protect themselves from liability for its debts. In September 1939, they closed the showroom and consolidated operations at the workshop. In June 1940, they applied for government work. These efforts were all in vain. By early July, the firm's debenture holder took control, and Makers of Simple Furniture ceased to exist.

Gerald and Marjorie moved on with their lives. In 1943, they started Gerald Summers Ltd., supplying tools and machine parts to the engineering trade. It remained in the family until 2010. "He had regrets about this change," Marjorie recalled. "His great love was designing furniture that was simple and functional."

In 1964, Gerald and his brother Glen returned to Blackheath and Eltham College for a visit. The Old Boys section of the school magazine offered an update: "Gerald (1915) lives at Barnet and has a business in Clerkenwell." Nothing, of course, was said about his furniture business, which had closed nearly a quarter century earlier.

Three years after his visit, Gerald died unexpectedly at the age of sixty-eight. There was no obituary, no formal recounting of his life and accomplishments. "Gerald did not like anything like that at all," Marjorie stated. "He actually said he would like to be buried in the garden with no fuss." In keeping with his wishes, Gerald's career as a maker of simple furniture passed unnoticed. Since his death, awareness of Gerald's work has steadily grown. But it is only now, with the magnitude of his accomplishment made public that the importance of this former Eltham schoolboy to the history of twentieth-century design can be appreciated fully. ●



i

Martha Deese is the former senior administrator for exhibitions and international affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; her book "Gerald Summers & Marjorie Butcher: Makers of Simple Furniture, 1931-1940" is published by Hatje Cantz.

Musically Speaking...

ADB





After Stephen Farr (OE 1984) visited the school in September to give a recital on the new organ in the chapel, we thought we'd catch up with him to ask him about his career as a concert and cathedral organist – and to see whether he had any advice for the “organists of tomorrow.”

How did you come to join Eltham College in 1977?

I was ten years old when I joined the school – I left primary school a year early to come to Eltham. My parents had a difficult decision to make. My older brother had a truly miserable time at the local comprehensive, and they knew I would too, so they were desperate to find another option. We were staunch Nonconformists back then (this amazes those who know me now) and they must have heard about the school and its Christian ethos on some sort of grapevine, I suppose. We certainly weren't a family with a tradition of sending children into private education; I went to the state primary over the road from our house. I remember going to do the EC entrance exam (a year ahead of the other boys attempting it) having had no extra preparation for it whatsoever, and I didn't know how much was at stake. That was in retrospect a good thing. An interview with Mr Porteous, who lent me some LPs from his private record collection with instructions to return them on my first day, sealed the deal. I did well enough to get a scholarship, but my parents had to make huge sacrifices to pay part of the fees until the school took over after a year or two. I was very lucky, and have never forgotten that.

What do you remember of music at the school during the time you were a pupil? Tell us, for instance, about the ensembles and concerts you may remember.

Music wasn't really a major element in the decision to go to Eltham, and I think it's not unfair to say that the school wasn't exactly musically vibrant during much of my time. That said, there was a core group of keen musicians and a general sense of support and encouragement (in my case expressed by various special dispensations to miss some lessons so that I could practise, and to attend private lessons outside school). There were certainly a few small chamber ensembles, a choir of sorts, carol services, concerts for special occasions (like the Silver Jubilee in 1977 – there is a photo of me in the choir, surrounded by disgruntled-looking Sixth Formers). The House Music Competition usually attracted general interest, and there was always music for school plays and drama presentations. So it certainly wasn't a hostile environment for musicians, and I never experienced anything other than friendly interest and active support. Things began to change when Nick Robinson arrived in 1981 and founded ECCO; I played a couple →



of Mozart piano concertos (one with Ted Heath conducting, in Eltham Palace) and also an organ concerto in Fairfield Halls, directed by Philip Ledger (who was then in charge of the choir at King's College, Cambridge). I played piano pieces in chapel assemblies a few times, to the general dismay of everyone present, I expect.

What do you remember of the 1983 ECCO tour to Switzerland – where you played a Mozart piano concerto in St Moritz?

I think this must have been my first time abroad, and I remember that I struggled a bit – I flew out some days after everyone else did, and I remember being very homesick. The leader of the orchestra was a lovely man called Alex Cowdell (I think he was a school parent), and he and his wife took me under their wing on the trip and made sure I was OK. That was very generous of them, as I think I must have been quite hard work. In retrospect it was hugely enjoyable and exotic – being off the leash, and all that – although I'm not sure my performances of Mozart K488 will trouble posterity. The ferry crossing back was horrendous – Force 9 all the way, and I was one of only a handful of people not to succumb to the inevitable. This was surprising, as a group of us went to a bistro and had cheese omelettes, frites, and chocolate mousse before boarding. This turned out to be an unwise decision for most of the party. I think we arrived home at about 3am, instead of the scheduled 10pm.

According to the *Elthamian* you also excelled on the cricket field – do you have any memories of cricket at Eltham College?

Excelled is a very generous way of putting

Left: The 1977 Silver Jubilee Concert in the Chapel; Stephen is the boy with dark hair, whose blazer and tie is visible, standing to the immediate right of Mr Davies (left)

Right: Stephen Farr giving a masterclass on the new chapel organ before his recital

it....I played in the Under 12 team, I think, and was astonished not only to be selected but also to be put in to bat at no.3. I did pretty well in my first match, scoring 43, but then my performance tailed off quite dramatically; 21, 1, 0, 0, dropped. Probably a good thing, as by that stage I was getting serious about music and hand injuries were a constant worry. But I enjoyed it a lot while it lasted, and my own son (now almost 11 at the time of writing) has inherited my interest in the game. He's much better at it than I was, though.

What age were you when you began to learn the organ – and where did you learn?

I was 9, and had been playing the piano since I was 5. That fact in itself was the result of pure chance. It happened that my class teacher (the lovely Mrs Stray) played the piano for hymns in assembly, and as she was our teacher we sat next to her. I recall hanging around one day after assembly and trying a few notes – she encouraged me to sit down and play for a while, and I went home and asked if I could have piano lessons. This surprised my parents – no one else in our family, before or since, has had the least inclination towards music. They found me a reliable local teacher from an ad in the newsagent's window, who got me started. So that was keyboard stage one. The organ got onto the radar when the local church organist broke the world record for continuous organ playing – 100 hours, or something. My parents took me in to hear him on a rainy afternoon, and that was that. A search in the phone directory under 'Music' (this was 1976, remember) produced the number of an adult education music conservatoire in Blackheath, whose Principal was a very distinguished organist called Robert Munns. I studied with

him until I was 14, and learnt a huge amount from him – not only about organ playing but about music in general. It must all have cost my parents a fortune, but they never complained about that, or the hours spent sitting in freezing cold churches.

What is your advice to those beginning to learn to play the organ? Is there an ideal age to start?

Finding a good teacher is the essential thing – the Royal College of Organists is a good place to start your search. Be prepared for the possibility of some early frustrations – the organ has its challenges – but take your time and be methodical and this will pass. Practising little and often is a good strategy, as is having a clear goal for each session at the keys. There’s a much greater sense of community now among young organists than there used to be, and there are some really wonderful courses and educational opportunities – explore those to the full. When to start? I don’t think there’s a hard and fast rule, but remember you need to be able to reach the pedals comfortably (although there is a lot of wonderful music which doesn’t need pedals, which you can explore until you attain the necessary dimensions). And you don’t have to attain international internet stardom or a professional recital career to enjoy playing.

Did you ever play the old pipe organ in the chapel when you were a pupil – and in which contexts?

Unfortunately, yes. It was one of the worst organs I’ve ever played, with no redeeming features of any kind. I played for carol services, and occasionally a flashy solo piece in assemblies, probably when some form of collective punishment was felt to be necessary. It did sterling service I’m sure, but that’s where my respect for it begins and ends.

What has been your association with the school since you left? Have you played at any services for instance?

Not as frequently as I would have hoped, although I hope that will change in the next few years. I was very happy indeed at Eltham, have always been grateful to have been a pupil there, and have many fond memories of it. I was back a few weeks ago (as you know) but before that the last time was in 2000, for a Millennium Service. Life just rushes on, especially with a family on the scene, but various connections with

“Be prepared for the possibility of some early frustrations – the organ has its challenges – but take your time and be methodical and this will pass.”

“My sole act of rebellion at Eltham was to announce that I wanted to apply to Durham...”

professional colleagues in recent years have led back to Eltham, in various ways, which has been very welcome.

You read music at Cambridge. Did the school encourage you to apply, and what appealed to you about Cambridge compared to Oxford?

Yes, I was very firmly directed towards Cambridge. I never really considered Oxford, I think because Robert Munns (see above) always had Cambridge in mind for me, and this idea took root very early on. My organ tutor during the years before I went up to university taught a lot of Cambridge organ scholars and knew the set up well; it was his idea that I apply to Clare College. I think too that Cambridge (certainly in the 1980s) was a much more vibrant musical environment, with a far higher standard of student music-making. My sole act of rebellion at Eltham was to announce that I wanted to apply to Durham instead, but I was called in for what you might describe as a meeting without biscuits with Tony Earl (who advised the Oxbridge applicants) and I soon changed my mind. It got quite acrimonious, but he had my best interests at heart. I think we were both right: I did make the connections at Cambridge that he said I would, and they’ve led to some wonderful opportunities, but I also work frequently with superb musical colleagues who left school before A levels.

You were organ scholar at Clare College. What were your duties, in this role?

To accompany choral services, tours, recordings, broadcasts etc and generally to perform any musical function in College required by the Director of Music. Clare was both a wonderful and a very difficult experience, a real baptism of fire. It was a hugely formative period in my life, and the choir was matchless, but I didn’t always enjoy my time there, and more than once came quite close to packing it all in. I’m glad I didn’t, but it sometimes felt like a very costly experience in personal terms. But back then you just got on with it, really – no one was all that bothered about how it made you feel. I’ve been teaching organ scholars at both Oxford and Cambridge for about 30 years now, and I can say that things have improved a lot in that regard, which is a good thing. Some of the treatment that was dished out to organ scholars in that era by various Directors of Music was pretty reprehensible, I think. →

You also did a Ph.D. in music at the University of Surrey, writing a thesis on the work of Judith Bingham. Tell us a little about her, and your thesis.

Judith is one of the most significant British composers of the last 50 years; she has a particular reputation as a choral and organ composer, but has written really wonderful music in all sorts of genres. I first met her when I was Assistant Master of Music at Winchester, and we performed a commission by her, by which I was intrigued. Quite a few years later, our paths crossed again when she was teaching composition to one of my oldest friends, who had written a big piece for solo organ. I went to hear it, and Judith and I got talking. This conversation led to a really wonderful association over quite a few years; Judith wrote major solo pieces for me which I did at the Proms and the Royal Festival Hall, along with some shorter pieces, and I've recorded two discs of her music. The thesis happened by accident, really. After I graduated from Clare I started a PhD on J S Bach; I completed the first (MPhil) stage in 1988, but then my supervisor left for a job in the USA and there was no one who could quite replace him. So I shelved it, and went off to a cathedral job in Oxford. In 2011, round about the time I was preparing the Proms commission from Judith, I mentioned the project to a friend who was a Professor at Surrey University. He suggested that it could be part of a PhD submission, why didn't I come in for a chat, and that was that. I finished it in 2014, and it's a study of her music for solo organ and harpsichord. She's written a lot more since, but I think it's still the only major study of this part of her output.

You've held positions as organist at Winchester and Guildford Cathedrals and now at All Saints, Margaret Street in Westminster. What were your duties in these roles?

At Winchester I was Assistant Master of Music, and my main duty was accompanying choral services – eight a week – and participating in broadcasts, recordings and so on. I also helped with the training and rehearsal of the boy choristers and directed the cathedral choir in the absence of the Master of Music, David Hill. It was one of the finest choirs of its type anywhere in the world, and the building is of course sublime. So they were very happy and rewarding years. Guildford was a more complicated experience. I went there from Winchester as

“Judith is one of the most significant British composers of the last 50 years; she has a particular reputation as a choral and organ composer, but has written really wonderful music in all sorts of genres.”

“The new organ system is like listening to a high-quality recording.”

a strategic career move. As is standard when you move from no 2 to no 1 chairs in cathedral music, I was entirely responsible for recruiting and training the choristers, for directing the full choir and for a whole load of ancillary administrative and managerial aspects which sat on a continuum from mind-numbing to soul-destroying. Hardly any organ playing, and a lot of nettles to be grasped. It wasn't the job I thought I was getting, and I found it very difficult and often demoralising musically. But I had some wonderful colleagues who kept me going, and I think I left it in better shape than it was when I arrived. I left after eight years to follow the freelance path, and to run the music at St Paul's Knightsbridge, a famous London society church with a professional adult choir who could do pretty much anything – it was a relief after the challenges of Guildford. I had a great time there, but after 13 years moved up the road to All Saints: another professional adult choir, this time of 11 singers, and wonderful Anglo-Catholic liturgy, in one of the most glorious churches in the country. It's probably my perfect job, and I don't think I'll be looking for another one now. I feel very fortunate to have it.

You were also a lecturer in music at Oxford during the time you held a position at Christ Church Cathedral. Did you enjoy your academic role at the university?

Yes, although it was a pretty modest one as far as teaching duties went. It was an interesting challenge teaching members of the cathedral choir with whom I'd been sinking pints the previous evening. But I think they all got their degrees OK.

Tell us something about the new organ in the school chapel, on which you gave a recital in September.

It's a very good fit for the building, I think, and is very versatile musically. It uses a relatively new technology which samples the sounds of real pipe organs and stores them in a database which is loaded into the organs hard drive. Older electronic/digital organs used circuitry to generate the sound internally, with inevitably unconvincing results, but the new system is like listening to a high-quality recording of whatever instrument has been sampled. It's possible to buy samples of hundreds of organs from all over the world, but

the Eltham organ has a very judiciously chosen single sample set of a 19th century British organ.

How did you choose the pieces you performed at that recital?

Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor for entertainment value! The other pieces were works I was keen to learn when I was at Eltham, plus some things to show off all the colours available on the organ. Some fell into more than one category, Venn diagram style.

Do you have a 'favourite' piece of organ music to play? Why is it your favourite?

I think it has to be Bach, a truly remarkable work based on a chorale – *Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist*, BWV 671. It's from a collection of organ works he published in 1739, which was probably beyond the grasp of the great majority of his contemporaries. It's quite esoteric and certainly not a popular hit – a lot of organists don't play it – but it represents for me Bach's ability to combine extraordinary finesse of compositional technique with overwhelming emotional content. I think it's the piece I'd take to the mythical desert island.

Tell us about your role as an occasional presenter for BBC Radio 3.

It's very occasional indeed now, but in the past I've done quite a few record review features and one or two special individual programmes (about various aspects of Bach's organ works). These things are cyclical – new faces are always coming along and replacing others – but they were fun to do. The hardest was a record review on complete Bach organ works recordings. That was a lot of listening – I think I got through about seven or eight complete boxed sets.

You have a commitment to contemporary music – what are some of the most striking recent compositions for organ?

There's such a wide range of idioms and approaches to organ composition that it's hard to choose one work. And although I play a fair amount there are other players who make a real specialism of it. Recently I've heard works by a French composer, Jean-Louis Florentz, which seem to me to have a really individual sound world. But there's so much to choose from.



You have performed recitals all round the world – which of these have you been most proud of?

I'd have to say the solo Proms recital and the Festival Hall; these were concerts I dreamed of doing when I was a boy and were both special experiences. And not quite a recital, but playing the James Macmillan Organ Concerto in the Edinburgh Festival in 2019 was a great experience, not least because the composer was there. It's a real rarity – I think only three people in the world play it – so it was a special occasion.

You are currently chief examiner at the Royal College of organists – tell us about this role.

I'm one of a team of three people, and collectively we're responsible for the planning and delivery of all the College's exams. My particular role in the team is to advise on composition of exam panels, to oversee the content of the syllabus and exam papers, and to ensure the process of examination and marking is consistently delivered to the highest possible standards. Sometimes I'll set and mark papers myself as part of this process, but generally my role is to ensure that the examiners we appoint discharge their role as required. It's very much a team effort and my colleagues are at least as essential to it as I am!

Finally, could you tell us something about the CD recordings you have made?

I've been at it quite a while now – I think the first solo one I did was in 1991, at Clare College. Since then I must have clocked up about 50 altogether, some as accompanist (mostly at Winchester and Christ Church, Oxford), some as an instrumental ensemble player (including some substantial Monteverdi, Handel and Bach projects), and some solo. Since about 2015 I've recorded a lot for a very enterprising label, Resonus Classics, and I'm quite proud of these projects. We've done three Bach discs, the complete organ works of Kenneth Leighton and James Macmillan, lots of music by Byrd, Gibbons and other English 17th century composers, two discs of Judith Bingham, and quite a few others. There's one in the can from last August awaiting editing too, of British contemporary music. I hope to get one more Bach disc down, maybe two, but it's an expensive business and assembling the funds for a project is increasingly challenging. ●

Stephen Hockman KC was a pupil at Eltham College between 1955 and 1966. He finished his school career as Head Boy and then read Law at Jesus College, Cambridge. We spoke to him about his long career in environmental, planning and health and safety law – which has encompassed being Chair of the Bar Council, writing legal textbooks and serving as a deputy High Court judge.



Stephen Hockman

Legally Speaking...

An Interview with Stephen Hockman KC

ADB



You were born in January 1947 and grew up in the 1950s and 1960s. How different was life then for a child growing up compared to now?

I'm someone who tends to think that the important things in life don't change quite as much as some suppose. Superficially things have changed a lot – I'm thinking television, social media and the Internet – but what a child fundamentally needs hasn't changed very much. My brother and I enjoyed a very good education and had a loving and supportive family – our father was a GP on the Downham Estate – and our own children have likewise benefitted from a good education and loving family.

You were a pupil at Eltham College from 1955 to 1966. What are some of your memories of the school from that time?

I started at the Grange, when the Headmaster was Mr Hughes – whose initials were "GG" so he was known as "horsey" – but he was a typically

dedicated schoolmaster, and there were a number of those in the senior school too, including Geoffrey Turberville the Headmaster. My predominant memories are of these very loyal schoolmasters and mistresses, and an ethos within the school that tried to ensure that pupils had objectives in life that were not purely selfish, but were in some way altruistic; this was an ethos that stemmed, I believe, from the school's nonconformist origins.

In 2017 you were speaker at Speech Day – when you visited the school then, and on other occasions, what had changed and what remained the same from your days as a pupil?

Superficially things have changed but the underlying ethos remains – I hope and believe – the same. There has, of course, been a huge amount of new building work, especially around the New Quad. And of course the school is now co-ed!



Stephen Hockman as Guest of Honour at Speech Day in 2017

You won the school lecture prizes in 1959 and 1960 – can you remember what your lectures were about?

I have long had a personal belief and interest in public speaking so my involvement in these competitions is perhaps not surprising. My first lecture was I think about Lord Nelson. When I grew up in Bromley we were in easy driving distance of Greenwich and the Maritime Museum – which had on display the coat Nelson was wearing at the Battle of Trafalgar. There was interest in Nelson too at the time from the film *Lady Hamilton*. The other lecture was about the moon and astronomy. It’s good to hear that similar lecture competitions are still held today!

This interview is being published in the *Elthamian* magazine – as a pupil you were a subeditor of the magazine; what can you remember of this role?

We were involved in trying to generate and commission articles. The editor in those days was

Mr Barnard, whose drama productions I remember very well – they were staged in the old gym, long before the days of the Antony Barnard Theatre, which was of course named after him.

“The rain poured down incessantly; the thick mist only allowed a visibility of a few yards; we had been walking non-stop for nearly an hour and a half, and I was footsore, weary and soaked through.” You wrote this in the *Elthamian* of the school’s 1962 trip to Snowdonia – what else do you remember of the trip, and also the trip to Italy the following year, which you also wrote about?

This was another very significant feature of the school – that pupils had the chance to go on fantastic trips, with various teachers giving up their time to lead them. I remember climbing both Ben Nevis and Snowdon, organised by Mr Champion, Head of Maths, who was a serious climber who had all the correct kit. We day boys benefitted a lot from going away with our contemporaries and being away from parents – even if we had to put up with schoolboy pranks such as an “apple pie bed”. In terms of the Italy trip, that was led by Mr Thorpe, who taught Classics – indeed I stayed in touch with him after he left and until he died two or three years ago. We travelled to Florence, Rome and Naples – I think we must have flown to Italy though I have no recollection of this. In each city there were tours of the main highlights and we went to Pompeii too. I also remember Mr Thorpe’s General Studies lessons, in which he explained the difference between statements of fact and tautologies (logical statements that aren’t fact-based) – all a vital part of my education that taught me how to think.

In 1965 you wrote a piece in the *Elthamian* in favour of comprehensive schools – “The introduction of a national comprehensive system would →



The 1965-6 Prefects; Stephen, as Head Boy, is seated next to Headmaster Mr Porteous

be the most radical social reform ever passed by Parliament. It would be supported by all whose belief in justice and social harmony outweighed their class prejudice.” Why did you write this piece and are these views that you still hold?

In part I wrote the piece to see if I could provoke a reaction from staff or pupils – unfortunately the piece aroused no comments at all, much to my disappointment! I think I believed this at the time and still do, and it fits with my generally social democratic outlook; however I have to acknowledge that the comprehensive system has not achieved many of the wonderful outcomes that it was meant to, so perhaps these sentiments were a little idealistic and unrealistic.

You also wrote a piece on the importance of speaking skills and debating – suggesting that “emphasis on written and not spoken self-expression [should be] changed in public examinations, [however] examiners naturally find it easier to mark scripts than Speeches.” Sixty years on, do you think this is still an important skill schools need to impart?

Most definitely and unambiguously! Speaking skills for most people in the country are rather underdeveloped. My own job of course involves public speaking so it’s obvious I would believe this. However I believe everyone should become more vocally articulate.

Can you remember what you studied for A Level?

I studied Latin, English and History. These were the days of the author C.P. Snow’s complaints of “two cultures” – saying that those involved in sciences and humanities were insufficiently in touch with each other, and that British society suffered from the lack of overlap between the two. He said that those who had opted for the humanities had no interest in science so were holding the country back. I think he had a point, and as someone on the humanities side I have always tried to keep up with sciences, particularly in regard to environmental issues which I have dealt with in my legal life.

You were “called to the Bar” in 1970 and “took silk” in 1990 – could you tell us what these terms mean?

I decided during my first year at Cambridge to become a barrister – and that was when I joined the Middle Temple, one of the “inns of court”. Being “called to the Bar” involves joining one of the inns of court and then passing some exams; there’s a ceremony, which in my case took place in Middle Temple Hall in 1970. After six months of pupillage I was able to practise as a barrister and had my wig and gown to prove it! I became a Queen’s Counsel (QC) in 1990 – a process known colloquially as “taking silk” – simply because that’s what the QC gown was made from. QCs were selected each year by the Lord Chancellor of the day, who in 1990 was Lord MacKay. There was a ceremony in the Royal Gallery in parliament in the spring of 1990 when I and all the other new QCs were officially confirmed as such. The system for appointing QCs was later changed by Tony Blair, and today KCs (as they now are), though still formally appointed by the monarch, are chosen by a committee of solicitors and barristers.

Why did you choose to concentrate on regulatory, environmental and planning law?

You don’t really choose your own work as a barrister – it tends to choose you. I joined a set of chambers which did a lot of work in Kent – which was down to the fact that I lived in Bromley at the time. After about five years I ended up doing a small court case in Canterbury when the barrister instructed by the solicitor for the Kent County Council was delayed on a train! That was the beginning of my career in environmental law.

What are some of the most memorable cases you have worked on?

I’ve been involved in a wide variety of cases over the years! A year or two ago I was involved in a case at the UK Supreme Court involving the current problem of river pollution. The Court had to decide whether ordinary people could sue the water/sewerage companies if waterways were polluted – and decided that they could. I was pleased to be involved in that



Stephen Hockman’s Coat of Arms, awarded when he became Treasurer (Honorary President) of Middle Temple in 2015; the crossed torches are an explicit reference to Eltham College – they were part of the school’s crest during the time he was a pupil

“You don’t really choose your own work as a barrister – it tends to choose you.”

case, particularly as it involved the Manchester Ship Canal and I was born in Manchester! I’ve done cases in Court One at the Old Bailey, but I can’t say I’ve been in as many dramatic cases as John Mortimer’s famous barrister creation, Horace Rumpole.

You have worked on both civil and criminal cases – which do you prefer?

I have no preference – for me the charm of the bar is the ability to be involved in public speaking, on one side or the other. These days I don’t do so much criminal work but I’m at home with both. Over my career I’ve appeared regularly in courts of all kinds, from local magistrates courts to the Supreme Court.

Do you prefer to defend or prosecute cases? How as a lawyer do you approach defending and prosecuting differently?

Again I have no preference – I don’t approach them differently and the applicable ethical standards are the same.

We often hear that Britain’s planning and environmental laws are an impediment to (for example) necessary housing and infrastructure developments – what are your thoughts on this?

I think that there is something in this, and that the current Labour government have gone some way to improving the system, ensuring a better balance between valid environmental concerns and necessary development. One issue now though is that many developers and builders lack the cash, the incentive and/or the workers to build the houses that are allowed – which is not a fault of the planning system!

You have also served as a Recorder and Deputy High Court Judge – could you tell us something about these roles.

Originally these positions were appointed by the Lord Chancellor; nowadays this is done by the Judicial

Appointments Commission. The two roles were essentially part-time roles as a judge which I did for three or four weeks per year – though eventually I decided I didn’t want to become a full-time High Court Judge, and did not apply.

In 2006 you were elected to Chair of the Bar Council – what is this organisation, and what was your role as Chair?

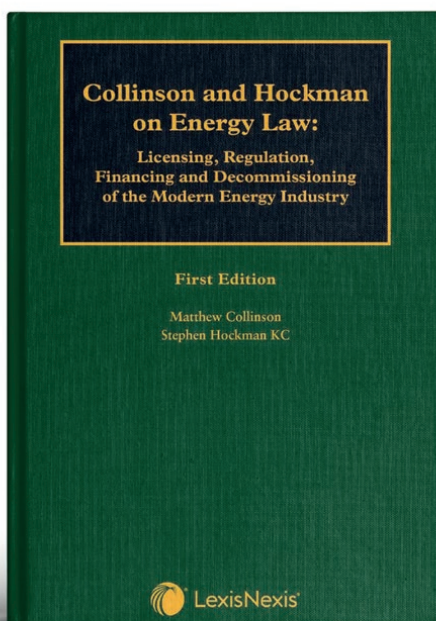
The Bar Council is the barristers’ professional body, rather like the BMA for doctors. There are now nearly 20,000 practising barristers, who elect the Council, whose members then elect the Chair for the year – an interesting year as far as I was concerned, which involved lots of international travel, including to China.

You have just published a legal textbook on UK energy regulation law – tell us a little about this, and about your book on planning law from the late 1990s.

Writing the textbooks has been an extension of my practice – the new one is not going to be a bestseller (and retails at around £200 per hard copy) but it is available in digital form too. It’s certainly been an interesting project to be involved in.

Finally, what advice would you give to today’s pupils who would like a career in law?

My advice is “go for it” – I think the law is a fascinating profession and I’ve never regretted joining it! It also allows you to contribute to people in society having access to justice, which is something I’ve always believed in. ●



↑ BEYOND ELTHAM COLLEGE



Mentoring and Careers Talks

LOB

Louise Badelow, our Head of Careers and Post 18 Options, looks at how our alumni community continue to support our students' future ambitions – through mentoring and careers talks.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our alumni community, the school's ambitious Career Learning and Excellence Programmes remain as strong as ever. The beginning of the Michaelmas Term signals a key time for Upper Sixth Form students applying to Oxbridge or for courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, and we are highly appreciative of the invaluable guidance they receive from OEs during this final stage of the selection process.

Can You Help?

If you'd like to support our Career Learning Programme, whether that's by delivering a talk in school, becoming a mentor, offering work experience, reviewing a CV or providing a mock interview, please sign up to, or revisit your profile at www.Elthamians.Network and indicate how you are willing to help.





Tayo Bero (2021 leaver) talking about his developing career in architecture

ELTHAMENTOR VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated team of Elthamentor volunteers support students across a broad spectrum of academic interests, offering help with university and college choices, suggestions for wider reading, admissions test preparation, and feedback on Personal Statements. Once applications are submitted in October, attention turns to interview preparation. Our mock-interview programme provides candidates with online practice sessions that are recorded, enabling students to reflect on their interviews while staff offer tailored advice on how to strengthen performance. As part of our commitment to widening participation, we are also pleased to extend this support to students from local state schools. This work is only possible thanks to the commitment of our outstanding OEs, so we warmly encourage anyone interested to contact our Head of Careers and Post-18 Options, Louise Badelow.

CAREERS TALKS

This term has also seen the continuation of our popular 'Beyond Eltham College' careers talks. We were delighted to welcome OEs Andrew Hughes, Kees van der Sande and Tayo Bero back to school. Andrew, who left in 2017, visited in

October to discuss his path from Eltham College to Thales Alenia Space, via an aeronautical engineering degree at the University of Cambridge. Speaking to a packed audience spanning multiple year groups, he offered an engaging overview of the space sector and emphasised the importance of participating in super-curricular activities while at school to fulfil future ambitions.

In November, Kees van der Sande (1990) and Tayo Bero (2021) met with Year 8 pupils currently exploring architecture in their art lessons, helping them connect their classroom studies with the world of work. During lunchtime they spoke further with students from across the school who were eager to learn more about architectural education and the profession from two practitioners at different career stages. Students and staff alike were intrigued to hear about the impressive projects undertaken by Kees and his firm, Formation Architects. Tayo shared examples of his artistic development while at school and offered insight into architectural study at the University of Bath. Both also reflected on the mentoring relationship they formed during Tayo's time at Eltham College through the Elthamentor scheme. ●

Andrew Hughes (2017 leaver) talking about his work in the space industry



Kees van der Sande (1990 leaver) talking about his architecture projects



Daniel Weston

Where Science Meets Law

OE Daniel Weston (2001) talks about his career journey from Eltham College to European Patent Attorney

LOB

OE Daniel Weston talks to Louise Badelow, Head of Careers and Post 18 Options, about his time at school, career journey since leaving and current role as a patent attorney and Senior Partner at Boulton Wade Tennant, the leading European patent, design and trademark firm. An active member of the Elthamians Network, particularly when it comes to supporting current students, Daniel also shares his thoughts on the importance of work experience and how best to tackle university and job interviews.

LOB: Daniel, you left Eltham College in 2001 and since graduating from the University of Oxford with a degree in Chemistry, you have gone on to forge a highly successful career as a patent attorney. This is a really interesting and unusual role. Could you tell us what it involves?

A patent attorney is an intellectual property expert who advises clients, usually companies, on how to protect their ideas and innovations. It is a job that sits at the interface between law and technology (in my case, Chemistry). In practice that means I don't have to be the best scientist or the most seasoned legal professional in the room; what matters is that I have the knowledge and skills to connect these two worlds. The job is incredibly varied, and it helps to be a versatile generalist, ready to take on whatever each day brings.

In its simplest terms, we talk with inventors to understand their (hopefully novel and non-obvious) ideas and distil them into a written description of an innovation. This comes with a set of claims that outline what could become a 20-year monopoly. We then negotiate with Patent Examiners over the scope of those claims until something is allowed. We do this before the UK and European Patent offices, but also by instructing local agents around the world. After a patent is granted, it can be opposed (at least in Europe), so patent attorneys also have to defend (or attack) patents in written and oral proceedings before a panel of Examiners. We also get involved in court matters, supporting solicitors – anything where you need a technical and legal expert.

LOB: What skills and interests are needed in the role?

A patent attorney needs to be able to read quickly and write accurately and persuasively. You need to have good personable skills to interact with clients, and you need to be a capable, confident orator to argue your cases when needed. On top of that, since the profession is still quite small, you quickly end up with training and then management responsibilities.

Learning to run a business is a big step forwards from enjoying science.

The career attracts those who like playing games (understanding and applying rules), enjoy exams (qualifying as an attorney; and the day job of sending work off to clients and examiners for approval) and have a good eye for detail. On top of that, you have to have a maths or science degree. If all this sounds interesting, but you don't want to pursue a STEM degree then I would suggest looking at being a trademark attorney – there are also intellectual property experts, but they focus on branding and marketing.

I think intellectual property is a fascinating area, but the jobs within it are relatively unknown. I have given several careers talks at Eltham College over the years to spread the word, but the job of a patent attorney never quite fits the topic. On a law evening, the audience had few members interested in a core STEM subject. On the science evenings, most of the



Daniel playing rugby as a Junior School pupil

audience thought that law would be dry, boring and lack the excitement of research. I also ended up at one on accountancy, but I think that was just to fill an empty slot! A career in intellectual property is not really something you need to do anything about when you are at school – if you love science, study it at university, but if you find out that you don't like the practical side, remember that the career option exists.

LOB: A Chemistry degree to a patent attorney is an interesting pathway. Could you tell us about your career journey since leaving Eltham College?

Entering the profession was a much shorter step than you think. Approaching the end of my degree, I considered doing a PhD or a law conversion course. I had done an inorganic chemistry project in my final year and that had pretty much cured me of wanting to do lab work, but I was also keen to stay on at university, rather than enter the real world.

My sister arranged for me to do a work experience placement with one of her friends at a firm of patent and trademark attorneys. It was a smart office job, the tasks they gave me were stimulating and challenging (mostly past exam paper questions – did I mention there's at least four years of qualifying exams?), and the people were all very bright and capable. You learn on the job while being paid as a trainee. I could see myself doing the job and so I sent off speculative CVs and cover letters to all the 25 larger private practice firms in the UK (see IPCareers.co.uk).

I had one positive response, seven hours of interviews (!), and finally a job offer. I loved the job, but I was not a great fit with my boss. A year later, I sent off another set of speculative CVs and landed a handful of interviews. I was then recruited at Boulton Wade Tennant and found that, indeed, the grass was much greener on the other side. I qualified in 2010, became a partner in 2013 and a senior partner in 2019. Subject-matter wise, through the work of my clients I have become a particular expert in food science

and freedom-to-operate (helping clients navigate other people's patents).

LOB: Are you able to tell us about any particularly interesting patents in which you have been involved?

It's very difficult to make specific cases sound interesting. A lot of the "exciting" bits relate to rigorous technical details, semantic arguments, or complex legal nuance. However, there are plenty of cases where the work interfaces with the real world – I have drafted applications to protect all sorts of commercialised products, including Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Belvita biscuits and Grenade Bars. A lot of the other products sound a lot less exciting, but are no less key, such as innovations for catalytic converters, carbon-capture, freeze-dried coffee, and graphene bio-medical chips. At the same time, some of my fondest cases are those where I have picked apart someone else's carefully drafted work so that my client's product-launch can proceed unhindered.

One of my favourite cases was from my early days in the profession – there was a French court case where my client was being sued under a competitor's patent. I spent days and days trawling the internet, and visiting book shops and libraries (including the private library of the International Cocoa Organisation), until I happened upon a recipe for panning cocoa nibs in a book from 1820. This prior article won the case and saved my client several million.

LOB: I'd now like to go back to the start of your career journey. Can you tell us about your time at Eltham College?

In terms of my career journey, I don't really consider myself to have been that ambitious – at least not when I was at school. I never had a plan for where I would end up or what I wanted to do. My choice of subjects focused on what I enjoyed and those subjects at which I excelled. There was no particular plan to follow, just taking the opportunities as they arose.

I attended Eltham College all the way from the Grange through to the Sixth Form. I have many fond →

memories of inspiring teachers along the way – in the Junior School, the initially scary Mrs Neuf who thought I'd be a mathematician, and Mr Hood with his captivating stories of Vikings and Romans; in the senior school, swashbuckling Mr Wallace-Woodruff (I still have notes from an impromptu lesson on CV and cover-letters) and Dr Morgan (an inspiring chemistry teacher). It was these teachers, and so very many more, that instilled a love of learning and challenges that have stayed with me.

LOB: How did Eltham College help shape your future ambitions?

I think for me, Eltham provided both opportunities and expectations. The opportunities took many forms: lessons, clubs, trips, fixtures and responsibilities. There was always something to do, and there was an expectation that everything you did would be done properly. It was expected that you would do your best and it was expected that you would achieve what you set out to do. I see this now with my children who are in Year 3 at the Junior School. There is a clear focus on doing things because you should – and when you do not stop to question this, it's amazing what you can achieve.

LOB: Could you tell us about your favourite memories of your time at school?

I have many memories of my time at Eltham, and my closest friends are those that I met at school.

I remember playing marbles in the old Junior School hall (where the Rosemary Morgan Hall now stands), and the shock when a teacher toe-punted my toy mascot down the playground (in good humour!). I remember the embarrassment of the Chaplain in chapel commending my first try in a rugby fixture (many years of not scoring), but also the great enjoyment of various foreign exchanges, school debating society, cycling to school, and camping in the Headmaster's garden. There are a lot of memories to pick from!

One that seems more relevant here – I was helping out at an open-day,



The School's First XV from the 2000–01 academic year; Daniel is back row, sixth from left

waiting just off Central Hall to be paired with a prospective family for a tour around the school. While I was gutted to have just missed being paired with the chef, Gary Rhodes, I was paired with a gentleman claiming to have a boy joining the school at Year 7 and a daughter in the Lower Sixth. There followed a very thorough tour around every possible part of the school – often with long conversations with teachers, some of whom seemed to recognise him. It was only afterwards I was told that this was Mr Henderson, soon to be the new headmaster – clearly I did not put him off!

LOB: I know you now have children of your own at the school. Given your involvement as a parent, I wonder if you could share your reflections on how the school has changed over the years?

A huge amount has changed since I left in 2001. It is both strange to be back, but also nice and reassuring that many things remain the same. It is great to know exactly where I am going for events or club pick-ups. There are very few teachers from my day that remain, but at least Mr Beattie remains unchanged, and I saw Mr Cheshire the other day looking, if anything, younger than 25 years ago!

The school is now much bigger – there are new buildings, such as the Rosemary Morgan Hall, the Gerald Moore Gallery, and the somewhat severe-looking Turberville building. Many of the old buildings have changed as well (farewell to the Media Resources Centre and the Latin

Portacabins) – The King George's lunch-hall is a very different shape and size, and the quad outside has sadly lost its willow trees (though it does look better). In the Junior School there is now a new wing built on the playground – the so-called “naughty stairs” that the children are not allowed to use was the only way up to my Year 3 classroom!

The other thing that has strikingly changed is the level of organisation. Gone is the little yellow homework book and the carefully scribed timetable. Instead, there's a laminated, colour-coded timetable and an App for everything. Every event has an associated email and permission form, and there is a lot more parental involvement. The school pick-up has changed a lot, with a bewildering number of coaches lined up to whisk everyone home at the end of the day. I think this is because there are so many more students, but it is now an impressive feat just to get everyone off-site.

Overall, my impression is that the school has managed that tricky balance of maintaining its ethos and atmosphere in a fast-changing world. It remains a place where both academic and sporting excellence are celebrated and high standards are both expected and achieved.

LOB: Every year, several Eltham College Sixth Form students aspire to study at Oxbridge, and you have successfully supported many of them, acting as a mentor and mock interviewer as part of our Excellence Programme. What advice

do you share with these students regarding interviews?

University interviewers are looking for self-motivated students that they can teach. They have lots of students with excellent CVs to interview and they are picking a small handful that they think show promise. In the STEM sector at least, they're looking for students with clear logical thought processes, and who can take a nudge onto the right track and run with it. It is not a problem to get an answer wrong, so long as you explain your assumptions and reasoning, and take into account the feedback they provide along the way.

When I am interviewing for trainee patent attorneys, I am looking for the same things. Someone who can logically structure an explanation of something technical, someone who is flexible enough to change their mind when presented with new facts, and someone that I can work with going forwards.

“I think that experiencing a workplace in general is a key part of your education ... There are lots of different types of career pathways and lots of different working environments.”

University interviews are often the first formal interviews that a student encounters. As a new experience, I think there can be a lot of nerves and I think that there can be a lot of pressure to perform. This can lead students to jump to answers without explanations, or to stubbornly refuse to change their mind – confusing bullheadedness with conviction. If you can't adapt at an interview, teaching you may be challenging.

The other related thing that I think students forget amid the pressure is that interviews are two-way processes. The interviewer is just a person and it is best in an interview to be largely yourself. The person interviewing is going to be teaching you for years –

if there is a clear personality clash then that should be a red flag and it doesn't mean it's your fault.

LOB: And what advice do you share regarding Oxbridge, especially in view of the increasingly competitive nature of securing a place at Oxford and Cambridge, particularly for those young people who attend independent school?

As regards Oxbridge, if you want to go then the most important thing is to get in (of course!). I frequently encounter students that have gone to open days at Oxford, spent a few hours walking through some of the colleges near the science department and decide that they want to apply to the fancy college (New) with the short walk (Keble) or fancy grounds (Magdalen). These are, in fact, among the most popular and over-subscribed colleges at Oxford. If you apply to the less popular colleges (e.g. St Hugh's, St Hilda's) you have a higher chance of getting in, and getting in is all that really matters – no one that didn't go to Oxford themselves has ever asked which college I went to. I am forever indebted to Mr Earl who pointed me in the direction of Pembroke, at least in part because they had the lowest applicant to place ratio for chemistry the previous year.

LOB: We are hugely grateful that you have been an active member of the Elthamians Network, providing advice and support to current students, including attending our annual Speed Networking Event. Additionally, each year you generously provide one of our Lower Sixth Form students a work experience placement at your company. Could you tell us why you think it is important for students to have opportunities in the workplace?

I think that experiencing a workplace in general is a key part of your education (albeit that my own work-experience at school was play-testing computer games). There are lots of different types of career pathways and lots of different working environments. Until you have a chance to experience any of these,

it is really difficult to know what suits you best. Even when you visit a workplace which is quite mundane (I work in an office with a computer and a small pile of papers), it highlights those parts of a job that matter to you and which you should look for when applying. Not all office environments are the same, even for the same career, and it is very different from the familiar Eltham College experience.

As well as supporting the Eltham work placement, I run Boulton Wade Tennant Voluntary Vacation Scheme each year. That gives university students four days to learn a little bit about intellectual property and to see what the job involves. Every year we have at least as many students that love the work as we do as students who realise it is not for them – for all of those students, either way, it is a valuable lesson. It does not take a lot of effort to find similar schemes for any given career, or at least find someone that will give you an hour of their time to answer some questions.

I think that the work-experience offered by Eltham is definitely valuable and should be taken seriously by students. More than that though, I think the school has an amazing resource through the Old Elthamians network and I would encourage students to make the most of it – particularly once you are at University and starting to think about careers – why not use the school careers service then? Any of the OEs that have engaged with the Elthamian website would be more than happy to meet up for a coffee to discuss their experiences, or they know someone else even better placed to help. Even if the jobs market seems difficult and out-facing, there is plenty of help and advice available if you only ask. ●



All current Sixth Form students have access to our incredible alumni via www.Elthamians.Network

INTERNATIONAL:

FOUR STUDENTS SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TEAMS

Four of our talented Eltham College students have achieved remarkable success by earning places on prestigious international squads, showcasing extraordinary dedication and excellence in their respective sports.



Christine Kadiri (Lower Sixth) has been selected for the England Under 19 Netball Roses, a testament to her skill and leadership on the court. Her achievement follows on from an impressive year with the Under 17 Netball Roses.

Sport

In hockey, **Raf Dekkers** (Year 11) joins the England Under 18 team, after impressing for England Under 16 last season, while **Hattie Stafford** secures a spot as Goalkeeper with the England Under 16 squad. Both players have demonstrated outstanding technical ability and resilience, making them standout performers in national trials.

Raf Dekkers



Hattie Stafford

Emily Cadman



Finally, in athletics, **Emily Cadman** has been selected into the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme, an elite pathway designed to nurture future stars of track and field. Her continued national and international success in 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay has been incredible over the last four years.

These achievements underline the strength of our sports programme and the determination of our students to excel. We congratulate Christine, Raf, Hattie, Matias, and Emily on these incredible milestones and look forward to following their journeys on the international stage. ●

BJK

This term has been an outstanding one for rugby across the school, with all age groups demonstrating skill, resilience, and a genuine passion for the sport. From historic achievements to strong cup runs and festival appearances, it has been a season full of progress and memorable performances.

BOYS' RUGBY

1st XV Try Celebrations v SJWMS



The 1st XV led the way with their most successful season since 2013 in terms of victories in full fixtures. Their hard-earned success was highlighted by notable wins against Maidstone Grammar and Sutton Valence School, both achieved through committed defence, sharp attacking play, and impressive leadership on the field. The squad set a strong example for the rest of the school, showing what can be achieved through discipline, teamwork, and belief.

The Under 16A team also enjoyed a fantastic year, winning the majority of their games and consistently performing with maturity and confidence. A particular highlight was their representation of the school at the St Albans Festival, where they competed against high-calibre opposition and displayed the strength and depth of their squad.

The Under 15A side showed tremendous resilience throughout the term, progressing effectively in both national and county cup competitions. Their ability to respond to challenges and raise their performance when it mattered most was a defining

feature of their season. The team's determination has laid strong foundations for their future rugby journey as they prepare to move towards senior rugby.

The Under 14A team achieved something truly remarkable by reaching the Kent Cup final – an accomplishment no Eltham side had managed since 2017. Although they fell short against a strong Judd team, reaching the final remains a significant milestone and reflects the talent and commitment within the squad. They also proudly represented the school at the Bedford Festival, further building their experience against top-level opposition.

For the younger squads, the progress was equally impressive. The Under 13A and Under 12A teams both enjoyed excellent seasons, showing rapid development in their skills and understanding of the game. Their willingness to learn, compete, and play with enthusiasm resulted in numerous victories and a noticeable uplift in confidence. These teams have demonstrated that the future of rugby at the school is in very good hands. →



THE UNDER 12S INVOLVEMENT NOT ONLY SHOWCASED THEIR ENERGY AND TEAMWORK BUT ALSO HELPED INTRODUCE MANY YOUNGER PUPILS TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF RUGBY

Danyal Motiwala – Under 12 Training

Top: Under 12 Touch Team
Bottom: Under 13 Rugby Team

A special mention must also go to the Under 12 Touch Rugby side, who participated in a wide range of festivals and fixtures throughout the term. Their involvement not only showcased their energy and teamwork but also helped introduce many younger pupils to the foundations of rugby in an accessible and enjoyable format.

Across all age groups, this term has highlighted the strength of the school's rugby programme, the commitment of the coaching staff, and the positive attitude of every player involved. Whether through historic achievements, strong cup runs, or consistent weekly improvement, rugby has been a major source of pride within the school community this term.

With solid progress made and exciting young talent emerging, the future looks extremely promising. The school can look forward to building on this success in the months and seasons ahead. ●





The Mel Clewlow Tournament (the Kent County Cup for the 1st XI Girls) where the girls finished with a silver medal

JBA

The Michaelmas term saw another enjoyable girls' Hockey term, with a record number of fixtures and girls representing the school as we continue to build and develop the programme. The season has seen teams involved in new competitions, making deeper progress and coming up against more challenging opposition.

This is the first season that we have had girls in the Sixth Form that have come through the school programme, meaning that this is the maiden season of having Senior matches as part of our weekly blocks. It has been brilliant to field both 1st XI and 2nd XI at weekends, with both teams putting in some impressive performances.

The 1st XI in particular have had a fantastic year, performing brilliantly on their way to the final of the Mel Clewlow tournament (Kent Cup) and coming away with a silver medal. Similarly, they progressed nicely out of the England Hockey Tier 3 group phases to reach regional finals and performed well against several quality outfits on finals

day. Kyveli Nolan has performed brilliantly throughout the season, with a highlight reel of saves, whilst Tilly Stafford and Roisin Cartin have been excellent attacking threats. A brilliant come from behind victory over Kent College in December means that the girls remain in the National Plate as we enter 2026 and move towards the business end of the competitions.

The Under 16A and Under 15A squads were also involved in a year of firsts, with the teams entering the England Hockey Tier 2 and Under 15 ISHC National Cup for the first time in the school's history. Challenging cup draws saw both squads up against some of the best players in the region, and it →



Under 14A team

was great to see the girls rise to the occasion and showcase what they are capable of. Roxani Delaney and Cleo Davis have both been consistently superb for their respective age groups, demonstrating a blend of technical excellent and tactical maturity.

WE WERE ALSO DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT HATTIE STAFFORD HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR ENGLAND UNDER 16 GIRLS AND ARE EXCITED TO FOLLOW HER PROGRESS THIS SEASON

It has been really pleasing to be able to field three teams on a weekly basis across Year 9 and 10 with all three teams continuing to develop well. The Under 15As hit goalscoring form early in the season looking fluent on the counterattack and dominating block fixtures in the early part of the year. Chloe Shiu has had a brilliant season at right forward, linking up well with Eloise and Lucy Fatani to be a constant threat. The Under 15B

have had a great season, reaching half term undefeated and keeping plenty of clean sheets.

The Under 14A have developed well as they made the transition from minis hockey to full pitch. Ellie Caldwell and Eliana Stewart have both had fantastic seasons at opposite ends of the pitch, and setting a great example for their teammates. With the shift to 11-a-side hockey, a number of girls have had their first experience of A team hockey and have responded to the challenge brilliantly, developing technically and tactically.

Following in the 1st XI's footsteps, the Under 13A also have plenty of competitive hockey to look forward to entering 2026 after another good season. A clutch display in the London Hockey qualifiers saw the team progress to the Tier 1 Regional Finals in March, and the squad will be competing on two fronts, as they continue to progress through the ISHC National Plate competition. Uma Abhyankar's excellent range of passing and distribution has been a key feature this season, coupled with Olive Mallin's defensive tenacity and

instincts. The Under 13B put together a tremendous unbeaten run for a large part of the season and finished the year having scored 92 goals, with a goal difference of +75. Isabelle Montrasio finished top scorer in the school with a remarkable 42 goals!

The Under 12 Girls squads made excellent progress across the season, and it has been a pleasure seeing the technical and tactical development across their respective squads. Phoebe Zheng enjoyed a tremendous year in goal for the Under 12As, with consistently excellent performances from Sophia Ng, Melis Karagoz and Emelia Brown. The Under 12Bs finished the season on 12 match unbeaten run, with lots of pupils contributing towards the success of this team. ●



Under 15A team at ISHC

Games played	18
Won	8
Lost	9
Draw	1

HOCKEY TOUR TO THE MIDLANDS

The Midlands Hockey tour saw 54 students from years seven and eight head to Nottingham, Birmingham and Leicester to take on three different clubs across the Midlands region.

Over the three days 18 games were played by the six teams on the trip, securing eight victories, one draw and nine defeats against Beeston HC, Belper HC, Repton HC and Sutton Coldfield HC as well as two lengthy training sessions at Loughborough University.

The boys and girls enjoyed nights out at bowling, laser quest and a midday tour of Aston Villa football ground. As always we were hosted brilliantly by the four clubs at some wonderful facilities and a great deal of individual and collective development took place on what has become a vital trip for our hockey programme.

Key plans were put in place for the remainder of the girls' season up to Christmas and looking ahead to the boys' season in the Lent term. ●

ETT



CROSS COUNTRY



Senior Boys Cross Country Cup Nationals Team

DZB

It has been a busy Michaelmas for Cross Country. And a new start for myself as head of Cross Country! The first round of the Cross Country cup was held here at Eltham College with ten schools attending.

Eltham entered five teams, Junior Girls and Boys, Intermediate Girls and Boys and Senior Boys. After some fantastic performances, all three boys teams qualified in first place for regionals. Notable runs came from Olly Buck (Upper Sixth), James Metherell, the only Year 7 to be running in the Junior Boys team, and Odette Atkins, who placed in the top 10 for the Year 8 Girls' race.

Next in the Cross Country calendar was the Greenwich Schools Championship, where over 30 runners from Years 7-11 took to Avery hill in Greenwich. The Year 7 boys placed second overall (James Metherell, Leo Rodrigue, Danyal Motiwala, Joshua Wadley and Luke Hiller). The Year 8 boys came an astounding first overall, bringing home the shield (Rafael Rosoga, Isaac Thompson, Noah Vardy, Rory McCann, Rupert Scott and Freddie

Fitzgerald). Rafael Rosoga performed especially well, placing second in the race. Meanwhile, the Year 8 girls were fantastic and were placed third overall (team: Zoe Houghton, Odette Atkins, Aishwarya Janakan, Elan Potter, Bella Priest, Alice Slack, Julia Schlueter). Toby Buck finished fourth in the Year 9 race, and the Year 10 and 11 boys finished in first place, bringing the shield back to Eltham after winning it previously the year before. This team consisted of Alex Lewis, Joseph Lewis, Aaron Crossan, Nathan Crossan, Luke Roderick, Daniel Horgan, Matt Caceres Camiloaga and Alex Berbec. Special mention goes to Luke Roderick who placed first on the day. Alex Boughen placed 3rd overall in the girls' Year 10 and 11 race, and a number of our students were also asked to represent Greenwich at the London Youth Games. Congratulations to all!



Alex Boughen at the Greenwich Schools Tournament

CROSS COUNTRY CUP NATIONAL FINALS DAY IN WARWICKSHIRE

After school on Friday 5th December, the Senior Boys team travelled up to Warwick for the Cross Country Cup National Finals, to ensure that the team was fully rested before the big race. The next day we arrived at the Cross Country National Cup Finals at Princethorpe College in Rugby. With the ground muddier than the regional rounds and the heavens ready to open, the boys took to the starting line. The team battled hard with Olly Buck finishing in the top 20 out of 141

students, with an astounding time of 17 minutes and 6 seconds. The team was competing the country's fastest students. This is also an incredible achievement as it is the first time the senior boys have got to the National Final of the ESAA Cross Country Cup.

Well done to all the runners this term, for your strong performances, grit and determination. We are looking forward to what next near brings for Eltham's Cross Country teams. ●



Year 10 and 11 Boys at the Greenwich schools tournament

Year 8 Girls at the Greenwich Schools tournament

An extremely wet and muddy day at Dulwich College brought about the regional rounds of the Cross Country Cup, with Eltham entering our three boys' teams. The Junior Boys fought hard, and qualified in 9th place. The Intermediate Boys were also strong, finishing in 6th place where they narrowly missed out on qualifying for the National Finals. After an outstanding run from all of our Senior Boys, the team showed grit and determination to finish in 3rd place, which meant that they successfully qualified for Nationals. These runners include Olly Buck, Matt Caceres Camiloaga, Daniel Horgan and Liam Foley. Notably, both Daniel and Matt have now qualified and represented Eltham in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior National Finals over a four year period. This in itself is an exceptional achievement.



Veronique Crozet (Lower Sixth), the Swim England Winter National 200m Breaststroke Open Age-Group Finalist



SWIMMING

SMP

It was fantastic to see once again our Aquatics programme going from strength to strength, with many more individual accolades and team achievements to celebrate.

Firstly, in Swimming, we had six pupils qualify and compete at the London Regional Short Course Championships at the Olympic pool in Stratford: Isabelle Healy, Mila Poulton, Leo Maros, Veronique Crozet, Jessica Shiu and James Belton. Numerous PBs were achieved and special mention to Veronique who picked up two Senior Medals in the 100m and 200m Breaststroke.

Following on from this the Under 13 Boys and Under 13 Girls teams qualified for the English Schools Team Championships meaning they were ranked as one of the top 25 schools in the country. The Under 13 Girls team on the day consisted of Alice Jarvis, Giuliana Gilkes, Helena Cao and Freya Ferris who finished in a creditable 23rd position in both the Freestyle and Medley Relays. The Under 13 Boys team of Stefan Crozet, Aidan West, Jack Millar and Alex Lvov qualified for the finals meaning they were top 10 throughout the heats

and finished the finals in 7th and 9th position for the Freestyle and Medley relays, this is Eltham College's most successful English Schools performance in recent years.

Our Under 13, Under 15 and Under 18 Boys and Girls also competed in the Kent Schools Relays for the first time ever and we as a school came away with the following results: Under 13 Boys won both Medley and Freestyle Relays, Under 13 Girls came 3rd and 4th, Under 15 Boys finished in 4th and 3rd, Under 15 Girls came in 4th position in both, Under 18 Boys finished 3rd in both and the Under 18 Girls finished 6th in both.

Our Under 13 Mixed London League team have also qualified for the A-Final which is due to take place in the Lent Term.

The 1st Edition of the ESSA Super League was launched this year and Eltham College won their opening round away at

AQUATICS



ESSA National Finalists

Alleyn's against the hosts themselves, Colfe's and St. Dunstan's. Round 2 is taking place at Eltham also in the Lent Term.

Individually, Leo Maros in Year 10 had such a successful campaign last year he has earned a spot on the Swim England National Talent Pathway. A huge congratulations for this wonderful achievement.

Finally, a huge congratulations goes to Veronique Crozet who in December competed at the Swim England Winter Nationals held at the Ponds Forge Leisure Centre in Sheffield. Veronique competed in the 200m Breaststroke where she qualified for the Women's Open B-Final; this was a 1st Senior Final for Veronique, an incredible achievement.



Under 18 Boys Kent Team

WATER POLO

Water Polo has been an ever-growing sport at Eltham College with three National Finals in the last two years and more pupils taking part than ever before. This term has seen more evidence of this because the Under 18 Boys have successfully qualified for the National Bowl Semi-Finals which is due to take place in the Lent Term.

Our Under 15 Boys/Mixed Team have qualified for the National Plate Semi-Finals and had to do so the hard way by playing against Brighton College, Millfield, Whitgift and Trinity in the qualifying round. Our National Qualifying fixtures for the Under 18 Girls, Under 15 Girls, Under 13 Boys/Mixed and Under 13 Girls are due to take place next term.

Furthermore, the Under 16 Mixed London League team have successfully won all six games across two rounds to qualify for the London League B-Final where they will travel to Bishop Stortford to play against the host school as well as Colfe's and Highgate.

Individually we have more to celebrate: Roberto Franchi-Pepe represented the Under 14 London Sharks team at the Inter-Regional Championships in December where his team won Bronze, beating the South East team 13-2 in the Bronze Medal match. Roberto's team narrowly missed out on the final by one goal, losing to eventual winners the North West Tigers.

Also in Year 10 Matei Moatar has earned himself a place in the National Talent Centre for the Boys' Under 16 Team. Matei has been working hard on his craft having picked up the sport in Year 7 and has made it into the National Talent programme just three years later.

Finally, we took 19 pupils to Barcelona for the bi-annual Water Polo Tour and what a huge success this was, playing against some of the best Junior Teams in the World and having a chance to meet former and current international players; a great learning experience and a fun tour to be apart of looking forward to the next one already. →

Alex Clarkson (Year 9)



AQUATICS TRIP TO BARCELONA

During the October half term, 18 students travelled to Barcelona as part of the Middle School Aquatics Trip.

Over the course of the five-day trip, our two teams competed against CN Sabadell, CN Barcelona and Club Sant Adria, completed two training sessions at CN Barcelona, and enjoyed some downtime which included guided tours of La Sagrada Familia and the Gothic Quarter of Maribel, travelling in cable cars to Moutjunic Hill, padel surfing at the beach and having fun at Port Aventura Theme Park.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their time overseas and learnt a lot from competing against high level teams, bringing lots of experience back to Eltham College to continue with the Water Polo season. ●

TBU



MAE/MPM

It's been a fantastic Michaelmas Term for the Eltham College Ski Racing Club, with a wave of new members joining and bringing fresh energy to the team.

Training sessions at both Chatham and Brentwood ski slopes have been extremely productive, and it's been inspiring to see such rapid improvement from all our skiers. From technique to confidence, every athlete has made impressive progress over the season so far.

This hard work truly paid off, with our Under 13 Team (Henry Baker, Mingxuan Zhang, Hugo Maynard and Callum White) crowned National ESSKIA Champions, marking our first National Team Title since 2021; an incredible achievement. Our Under 18 Team (Boden Kelly, Oscar Jones, Harry Edwarde and George Baker) also delivered an outstanding performance, securing third place overall. Special congratulations go to Boden (Upper Sixth), who was crowned Under 18 British Open Qualifier Champion; this is an incredible result and a proud moment for both

Boden and the entire Eltham College skiing community. At the British Finals in Swadlincote the Under 18 team finished 10th overall.

We're also delighted to celebrate a number of individual honours this season. Oscar Jones was selected to compete in the prestigious Super 7s Team Competition, recognising his strong performances and commitment. In addition, Harry Edwarde and Callum White earned selection for the ESSKIA Alpine Training Camp, a fantastic opportunity for further development at the highest level.

With so much momentum behind us, the team is now turning its focus to the British Schools Ski Race in Wengen this January, preparing with excitement and determination for what promises to be another unforgettable event. ●

Henry Baker looking very happy after recording a blisteringly quick time in Norwich



George Baker launching out of the start gate at the British Dry Slope Championships in Swadlincote



SKI RACING

JUNIOR SCHOOL



MKO

It has been a busy sporting term in the Junior School with all our pupils representing the school in fixtures with local opponents.

YEAR 3

The Year 3s have been introduced to both netball and touch rugby with some real and noticeable progress being made with both their understanding of the concepts of the game and in developing some of the key skills for each sport. There has been much excitement for their fixtures with St. Christopher's and Colfe's. In their PE Swim programme, they have worked on developing their ball skills, their gymnastics and their swimming.

YEAR 4

The Year 4s have continued their journey with rugby and netball – the rugby being particularly exciting as it's the boys' first year of playing contact rugby which most of them have taken to with gusto. Similarly to the Year 3s the boys enjoyed some great match-ups with St Christopher's and Colfe's, with some great team play and stand-out individual performances in all teams. The highlight for the girls

was playing in our own Under 9 Netball Tournament. With six schools all playing each other in a round-robin tournament our A team (Eltham Navy) ended the tournament undefeated, and with no goals scored against them, to be crowned this year's winners.

YEAR 5

The Year 5s followed a similar pattern of sports to their younger peers with both sports becoming slightly more complex in term of team sizes, rules followed and tactics played. The boys played rugby fixtures against St Dunstan's, Bishop Stortford, St. Christopher's and Colfe's. It is pleasing to how this group of players have improved after three years of coaching with them all starting to recognise the importance of the team over the individual. The strength across the board with the boys is particularly pleasing and I hope that some that played in the Cs this year might be pushing for higher teams in



The photos show the house netball and rugby competitions, which took place in the last week of term. As always these were fiercely fought affairs with all the boys and girls in the Junior School giving their all for their respective houses. In the Netball competition Livingstone were the winners, with Chalmers second, Carey third and Moffat fourth. In the Rugby competition Carey were the winners, Livingstone were second, Moffat were third and Chalmers fourth.

Year 6. The highlight again for the girls was our own netball tournament. Eight teams competed to be crowned the winner. The Eltham A team again performed strongly in their group games, eventually making their way through to the final where they were just pipped at the post by a very strong Alleyn's team. The girls though should still be very proud of how they performed.

YEAR 6

The Year 6s had a tough fixture card with the boys playing fixtures against Trinity, Bishop Stortford, Whitgift and Colfe's. We were unfortunate to lose a couple of key players mid-season to injury which meant that others had to step up to the plate. Results were mixed for the A team, but performances were the focus and from that point of view the boys couldn't be faulted. They always played a better style of expansive running rugby than their opponents but were occasionally undone in defence by faster bigger players. The spirit and determination remained

high though and we always finished matches strongly. The girls again were involved in an eight-team netball tournament that we hosted. The girls were second in their group and so faced St. Dunstan's in the semi-final (who won their group). Eltham played fantastically well in this game winning 4-1. In the final they played Croydon High who romped through their games en-route to the final where they again proved too strong for the Eltham girls.

SWIMMING AND HOCKEY

Early in the year pupils from Year 3,4,5 and 6 swam in the preliminary round of the London League against a number of local schools. We are yet to find out if we have qualified for the next round and so keep our fingers crossed. We also had our first hockey fixture of the term with our Under 11 A Boys and Under 11 A Girls playing fixtures against Dulwich College. Both the boys and girls displayed a high level of technical ability and game understanding to both win their matches. ●



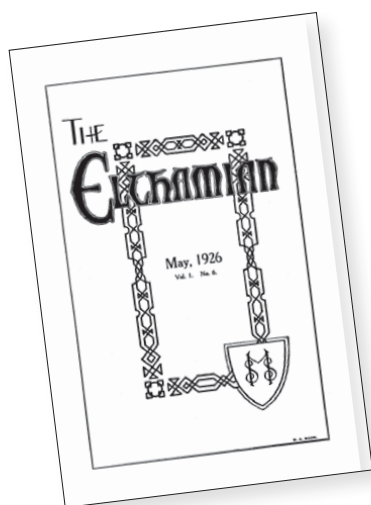
From Our Pages

*One hundred, fifty, twenty-five
and ten years ago*



ADB

The School's archivist, Andrew Beattie, looks back at past editions of this magazine.



1926

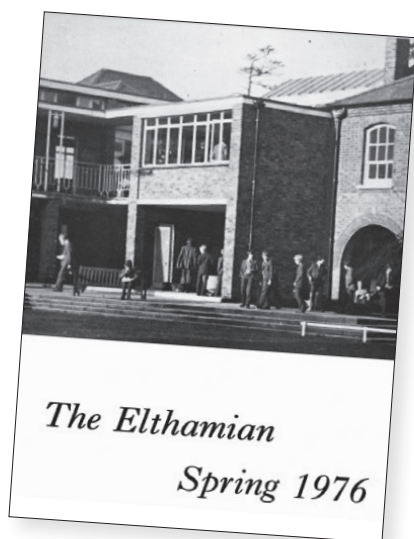
A hundred years ago there were two editions of the *Elthamian* published each year – as there are today. Back in 1926, however, the editions were published in May and October, rather than today's arrangement which sees publication in March and November.

The May 1926 edition opened with an appreciation of George Robertson, who had been Head since 1914 and was leaving to take up the headship of his old school, George Watson's College in Edinburgh. "Mr. Robertson now leaves us with the satisfaction of seeing confidence and stability in the school and a future full of promise," the appreciation noted. "The present House System, the growth of New Buildings, the inauguration of a Parents' Day, the encouragement of School Journeys abroad, are the types of activity with which his Headmastership will be associated."

Did he ever imagine that the present house system, that he introduced in 1923, would still be around 103 years later? "He will be remembered for his kindly disposition and sense of fairness; by the Staff, his name will be linked with a courteous and generous disposition," the appreciation continued. He and his wife were presented with (respectively) a clock and a gold wrist watch as a token of the school's appreciation – and "at the beginning of the proceedings a young member of the Preparatory Form handed [Mrs Robertson] a bouquet of pink tulips."

As for the Parents' Day that he inaugurated – this consisted of plays and sketches (including scenes from *Treasure Island* and *The Pickwick Papers*), exhibits of work and a grand tea in King George's Hall. Unfortunately there was less to celebrate elsewhere in the pages of the magazine – the rugby season was described as "one of the most unsuccessful seasons in the history of the School" – though the report on the "School Journey" (there was only one per year in those days) to the Loire Valley, with stays in Paris, Angers and Tours, was much cheerier; it was announced that the 1927 Journey would be to the Austrian Tyrol.

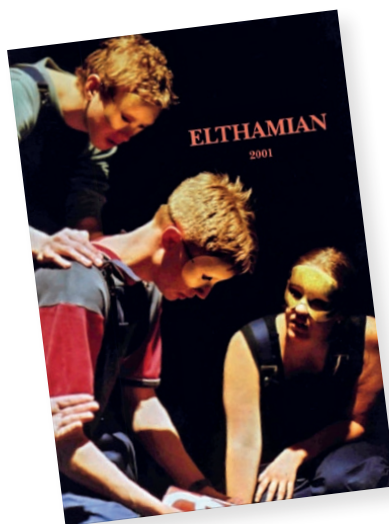
Register



1976

In 1976 there were again two editions of the magazine – “Spring” and “Summer”. The Spring edition included an appreciation of George Higgins, who had joined the staff in 1932 and retired in December 1975. “He was enthusiastically involved in the teaching of mathematics (and middle school chemistry),” noted the magazine’s leading article, “in running a successful scout troop and school camps, in school plays, and in the administration of the newly founded Tuck Shop. During the war he played a vital role in the practical work of maintaining the safety and welfare of the members of the school in Mottingham, and afterwards in re-establishing the unity of the school community and its high academic standards. He became Head of the Mathematics Department in 1957, and was appointed Second Master in 1969.” New staff arriving in September had included Mrs Edmonds (German), the Rev. Wells (Chaplain) and Mr B. Withecombe (Maths).

Elsewhere in the magazine there was a Development Report – as there is in our summer editions today – which described how the old changing rooms on the north side of the Quad had been converted into classrooms and how, looking



forwards, there was a plan to improve the facilities for teaching of biology, “although it will be a little time before the cash is readily available.” The major trip report was an account of a journey to Rome that was accompanied by the Headmaster along with Mr Somerville-Meikle (Head of Classics) and Mr Earl (Head of Languages) and which began with a flight from Gatwick on Laker Airways. Amidst the city’s churches and art the writer of the *Elthamian* article, pupil Jeremy Wright, was struck by the “frequent Communist gatherings near the Central Station. Everywhere the situation is tense.”

2001

By 2001 *Elthamian* had moved to an annual edition, published in September and covering the previous academic year. One of the main articles in the magazine that year was an interview with the new Headmaster, Paul Henderson. He spoke in glowing terms of his new school – “there’s an atmosphere here, which means that you’re not just trying to succeed for yourself, you’re interested in other people as well, and have concerns for other people. I expect that’s to do with the heritage of the school as well” – and spoke of wanting to “develop the school as a real cultural centre”

with “facilities for the music side improved” (which indeed came to pass four years later when the Music School was opened). He also spoke of wanting to improve the school’s IT and introducing hockey, which twenty-five years later continues to thrive. New staff that year interviewed in the magazine included Mr Johnson, Director of Music, and Mr Sutton, Head of English, while those departing included Economics teacher Mr McQueen, who returned to his native Canada, and Mr and Mrs Wallace-Woodroffe, who took up new positions at Sedbergh School in Cumbria.

There were of course many more trips than there had been fifty years previously – including a Middle School French Exchange to Tours, which had also been on the agenda on the 1926 “School Journey”. Acting also featured heavily in the magazine, with Year 9 pupil Ben Ridgeway writing about his role in the Hugh Grant film *About a Boy* and Nick Audsley, who had left the school in 2000, and who had already bagged TV roles in *The Cazalets* and *Midsomer Murders*. Like this Spring 2026 edition of the magazine there was a “Matters Mathematical” section – the team that year progressed well in the Hans Woyda Mathematics Quiz but unfortunately lost in the final to KCS Wimbledon. →



2016

Ten years later *Elthamian* was still an annual publication – featuring everything from charity cake sales (pictured), which raised £800 for BBC Children in Need and were part of the school's broader charity programme, to reports on Organic Chemistry Club (also pictured), who "have synthesised aspirin, paracetamol and benzocaine and had their products analysed (by courtesy of The University of Leeds) with techniques such as High Performance Liquid Chromatography, Infra-red Spectroscopy and proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy."

The 1976 edition of the magazine had included a thorough appreciation of the career of George Higgins – and a number of long-serving members of staff also recorded their thoughts on leaving the school in the pages of the magazine forty years later. Mr Mackenzie, who left after ten years as Head of Physics, spoke of the "annual pilgrimage to CERN with the Upper Sixth, almost a spiritual experience for a Physicist" as being among his highlights; Mrs Green left after eleven years in the English department, and championed reading by saying that it teaches you "how to dream and how to make dreams come true: being able to empathise with people and different

situations is one of the best life skills you can own"; Mrs Oldfield left after nine years in the Music department and spoke of the "St Alfege concerts every year, because they're so wonderful, seeing so many...perform in that beautiful space. The audience is always so appreciative – and it feels really special, it's always just before Christmas"; while Mr Hotham left after a remarkable 35 years teaching Latin – and recalled trips to Pompeii, which "gives you an idea of what life in a Roman town was really like." ●

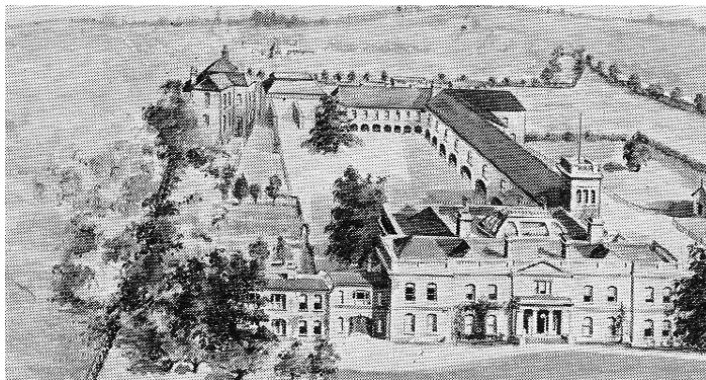
"Mr Mackenzie, who left after ten years as Head of Physics, spoke of the 'annual pilgrimage to CERN with the Upper Sixth', almost a spiritual experience for a Physicist."



From the Archives

The Evolution of the Old Quad

1910s



A century ago it was a paved-surface space open on one side and with five courts in one corner; since then an entire building (the Jubilee Block) has come and gone, the Turberville Building has been constructed in its place, and the centre of the quad has been transformed into a grassy square graced by two historic statues. School archivist Andrew Beattie traces the history of the Old Quad through photographs.

01 ◀ A drawing of the school made shortly after it occupied the Nottingham site in 1912; the west side of the quad was open until the construction of the Jubilee Block in the 1960s

1940s



02 ▲ The quad around the time of the Second World War; a completely paved surface



1950s

03 ▲ The quad in the 1950s, with the Fives courts and the sanatorium (later known as the "White House") clearly visible in the background



04 ◀ The Jubilee (or "Arts") block under construction in the early 1960s

1960s

The Evolution of the Old Quad

05 ▼ The Jubilee Block in the 1960s



1960s



06 ◀ 1977: pupils watching a Royal Naval helicopter as it places a new flagpole in position on the school tower

1970s

07 ▶ A view through the archway in the 1980s



1980s



08 ▲ An open-air performance of *The Tempest* took place in the Old Quad in 1981



09 ▲ The quad in summer

2010s



10 ▲ The demolition of the Jubilee Block in 2018

11 ▼ Part of the Jubilee Block, and the White House, during the 2018 demolition



12 ▲ Head Prefects Sebastiano Zane and Millie Richardson with the foundation stone for the new Turberville Building, June 2018

14 ▼ “Power” and “Speed”, the two statues originally fashioned for the English Electric Headquarters in the Aldwych in the 1950s; they were later acquired by former pupil Gerald Moore and donated by him to the school



13 ▲ The opening of the new Turberville Building in March 2019



15 ◀ The statue of Mendelssohn which faces the music school; originally fashioned in the nineteenth century for the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, it was also acquired by Gerald Moore and donated to the school.

In Memoriam



HARRIS, Brian R. (Pupil, 1949-54) Passed away in December aged 87

KENYON, Anthony C. (Pupil, 1963-1971) Passed away on 19th September aged 72

MORRIS, Owen S. (Pupil, 1987-89) Passed away on 30th November aged 54

MOSS, Maurice O. (Pupil, 1948-55) Passed away on 15th October, aged 88

ORMELL, Sheila (known as Sheila Richards when on JS staff 1982-95) Passed away on 15th September

STEVENS, Graham R. (Pupil, 1959-68) Passed away on 29th October



To inform us of the sad passing of former pupils and staff, so that they can be included in this list in future editions, please contact our Development Manager Russell Joyce on rlj@eltham-college.org.uk

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

ACM	Andrew Mowll, Head of Mathematics
ADB	School Archivist and editor, Elthamian magazine
ADM	Antony Merrett, Head of Carey
ASB	Abigail Bryans, Music Department
BJK	Ben King, Head of Rugby
BNM	Beth Martin, Head of Modern Languages, ECJS
CSW	Caroline Ward Vine, Director of Communications
DZB	Drew Barrett, PE Department
EPH	Elizabeth Potter-Hicks, Head of Academic Music
ETT	Ed Thorogood, Head of High Performance Athletics Programme
HFA	Haf Anuar, Gerald Moore Gallery Manager
HJT	Hugo Timbrell, Head of Drama, ECJS
JAW	James Willatt, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Partnerships)
JBA	Jamie Batten, Head of Hockey
JHH	Revd. Jim Houghton, Chaplain
JXC	Jeremy Crowley, Head of Livingstone
KZH	Karen Hans, Senior School Librarian
LEC	Lauren Carter, Director in Residence
LEE	Louie Evans, Head of Physics
LOB	Louise Badelow, Head of Careers and Post 18 Options
LUS	Lucia Scarantino, Head of Modern Languages
MAE	Marc Edwards, Director of Sport
MKA	Mark Alexander, Head of Music, ECJS
MKO	Mark O'Dwyer, Head of Games, ECJS
MPM	Matthew Morrish, PE Department
MSJ	Michelle Johnson, Head of DT, ECJS
NJB	Nicola Bilsby, Head of Wellbeing and EDI
PJP	Pip Perrin, Junior School Chaplain
RAA	Richard Avadanutei, Head of Chalmers
RXW	Richard Warren, Technical Manager, Antony Barnard Theatre
SAJ	Sebastian Johns, Director of Music
SLH	Siobhan Heraghty, Director of Art
SMP	Sean Perfect, Head of Aquatics
STM	Steven Marlow, Chemistry and Biology Departments
TBU	Temba Bungane, Mathematics and Economic Departments
VIW	Victoria Watts, Head of Moffat



ELTHAM COLLEGE

Eltham College
Grove Park Road
London SE9 4QF

eltham-college.org.uk
elthamians.network

