



# Welcome

All parents want the best experience for their children and at Eltham College we aim to provide the right environment for that to happen. Our size means that we know all the children well and we are able to value them as individuals. All the pupils get a chance to participate, individual talents are nurtured and developed and everyone, including the parents, enjoys a sense of belonging.

We are committed to academic achievement of the highest standards, but our yardstick is always the individual's potential. Our pupils are encouraged to perform at their highest level both academically and in the breadth of school life. In the range of activities here, from Sport, through Outdoor Pursuits, to our justly celebrated Music, Art and Drama, there is scope for everyone to realize that potential. Our aim is to give our pupils a well-rounded experience so that they can face the next challenge, whatever that might be.

**Eltham College provides  
“a challenging, rounded  
education in a friendly, caring  
and supportive community  
where excellent relationships  
prevail”.**

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2007



We appreciate the trust and confidence parents place in us for their children's future. Professional staff invest energy, knowledge and resources to provide outstanding opportunities, while instilling in each child a sense of purpose and self-confidence. Inspectors identified the pupils' positive attitude to work and their relationship with the staff as major areas of praise.

Having boys only below the Sixth Form, enables us to concentrate on what boys do well, while the co-educational Sixth Form provides the ideal environment to prepare for the next step towards university and life beyond Eltham College.

Only by visiting us will you be able to see our outstanding facilities and to appreciate the ethos of Eltham College at first hand. I hope you will accept my invitation to visit us and judge for yourself.

**Paul Henderson**  
Headmaster



# The Eltham Ethos

Eltham College is the ideal size for each child to be known and valued, giving real meaning to that term much overused in school prospectuses – a caring community. At the same time we provide our pupils with a huge range of opportunities whether it is in the classroom, on the sports field or in the Arts. Teamwork between parents and school is essential for the effective development of every child's education. Regular contact between the teachers and parents is encouraged, and the strength of the PTA, who organise social activities throughout the year, reflects the feeling that everyone is part of a big family.

Our community at the school embraces pupils, former pupils, parents, staff, Governors and friends: by being aware of each other's needs and by helping each other we believe that the community can grow stronger.

**“Large enough to excel  
small enough to care.”**

The Independent Schools Guide

Eltham College is special in that its Christian foundation has created a school with strong values. Personal integrity, a sense of respect for self and the needs of others are essential elements of the ethos here. Community Service is an important part of the Sixth Form Curriculum, with every pupil spending time working with the elderly or handicapped, or assisting in care-homes and local primary schools. Pupils in the Charities Committee organise many fund-raising activities each term for worthy causes with a local, national or international focus.

By encouraging enthusiastic, enquiring and informed minds, we hope to allow each individual pupil to develop their own strengths and talents. The pupils' relationship with their teachers is paramount. The academic staff are committed professionals who care at the personal level: they are the source of wisdom and guidance, and promoters of values and respect. Pupils learn best in an encouraging and stimulating atmosphere, and their respect for staff helps them to grow and develop as adults.

The friendships formed between pupils remain with them well beyond their school days: reunions, formal and informal, abound amongst Old Elthamians and the shared experience of their time at Eltham College provides a common bond which will often stay with them through their lives.



# The School



The school was originally founded in 1842 as the School for the Sons of Missionaries. It began life as a small boarding school catering for children of missionaries serving overseas – in India, China and countries in central and southern Africa. It moved to its present extensive site, 60 acres of playing fields surrounding an elegant 18th century mansion, in Mottingham in 1912. Since the 1950s Eltham College has developed into a day school, primarily for boys with a co-educational Sixth Form.

Eltham College is a medium sized school of about 630 pupils in the Senior School and 200 in the Junior School; it is not too large and impersonal, yet it is big enough to possess excellent facilities. The school is very conscious of its history – many pupils used to benefit from the Government's Direct Grant – and we are eager to ensure that gifted and talented pupils from a wide variety of backgrounds and walks of life can join us each year; a large number of Scholarships and Bursaries providing financial assistance are therefore available at ages 11, 13 and 16.

The school's most famous former pupils, Eric Liddell, the 400 metres Gold Medallist in the 1924 Paris Olympics, and Mervyn Peake, author of the Gormenghast trilogy, were both sons of Missionaries.

Throughout 2012 we are celebrating our Centenary Year in Mottingham.

The link with the missionary background continues through our House system, the names of the four Houses referring to four missionaries who travelled the world: David Livingstone in Africa, William Carey in India, James Chalmers in Papua New Guinea, and Robert Moffat in Southern Africa. The House system provides many opportunities for all members of the school community to take part in intra-mural competitions, and for senior pupils to develop their leadership and organisational skills.

Eltham by name but Mottingham by location, the school is conveniently situated in the London Borough of Bromley and adjacent to the boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham and close to Bexley. It is well served by road (A20) and rail links (Mottingham and Grove Park Stations). The school also organises a number of coaches to bring pupils to school from popular catchment areas (Beckenham, Blackheath, Bromley, Chislehurst and Orpington).

**“Great facilities, great teaching staff, great camaraderie within the school and between the boys and the staff.”**

Parent



CHALMERS  
CAREY

ELTHAM COLLEGE  
HOUSE  
CHAMPIONSHIP



LIVINGSTONE  
MOFFAT

# Academic Excellence

The academic success of the pupils at Eltham College is underpinned by the promotion of a positive work ethic, combined with high expectations. We work towards the top two grades at GCSE and at A level; this enables our pupils to read the degree courses they want, at the universities they wish to attend.

The aims of the curriculum are to give each pupil a broad education, especially in the early stages, and to develop the individual's intellectual powers to the best of his or her ability.

The Junior School concentrates on excellent foundations in the key subjects, as well as providing interest and exploration in other areas. Residential trips offer opportunities for personal development and broadened horizons. Boys from the Junior School regularly achieve Scholarships at Senior School transfer.

**“Eltham finds the best in my child and brings it out.”**

Parent

Years 7 to 9 (Lower School) continue with a broad curriculum which enables the boys to choose their GCSE subjects with confidence. The Middle School Years concentrate on the public examinations with the IGCSE being taken in subjects where it is the more rigorous option. Twenty subjects are available at GCSE, and pupils normally take at least ten. The Mervyn Peake Library, complete with state-of-the-art ICT facilities, provides the ideal setting for pupils to study and research at all levels. The Sixth Form, with a choice of 25 academic subjects, looks towards Higher Education, with the majority of pupils aiming for top universities and a good number regularly securing places at Oxford and Cambridge. At all stages we aim to inspire and stretch bright young minds.

The partnership between school and home contributes to the success of all pupils, and central to this is the role of the Form Tutor. Tutors are the first point of contact for parents, and informal communications occur regularly. Written reports reveal that staff really know their pupils, and parents can be confident that their children are being taught by teachers who are interested in them as individuals. We believe that the size of the school does matter: Eltham College remains small enough for every pupil to feel that they have received individual attention.



# Music and the Arts

The Music Department takes centre stage for the majority of pupils at Eltham College with an ambitious programme of concerts for orchestras, jazz groups and choirs. There are opportunities for musicians of every age and talent to shine with regular concerts and performances at school and in local venues, plus professional engagements in London and even in Europe.

A Music Project in Years 3 and 4 of the Junior School provides free instrumental lessons to all pupils, who then continue into the Senior School joining many of the ensembles and choirs. Individual performers are regularly selected for membership of National Youth Orchestras and Choirs. Some also appear in the West End Theatres or go on to be choral scholars at Oxbridge, while CD Recordings and tours, either to Cathedrals in Britain or to foreign venues (Venice, Rome, Estonia, New York and Boston) provide the icing on the cake for many groups. Our trebles are now in regular demand to perform with professional orchestras like the LSO, Mariinsky Theatre, and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

**“An excellent pupils’ choir from Eltham College.”**

The Times Friday 11th July 2008 on the Eltham College Trebles at St Paul’s Cathedral with Valery Gergiev and the London Symphony Orchestra

Drama at Eltham College has a very high reputation: dramatic performances, both large and small, are staged by every age group in the school’s purpose-built Performing Arts Centre (The Antony Barnard Hall) or in various other suitable venues around the school. Technical support in sound and lighting, as well as designs for sets and costumes, are of the highest quality and admirably complement the performances by the pupils. Sixth Form groups regularly take productions to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, while in recent years Musicals (such as Tommy, Chess, and Guys and Dolls) have been performed, involving many pupils not normally associated with the worlds of music or the theatre; these provide a myriad of opportunities for all to enjoy the excitement of a live performance.

The Art Department flourishes in a truly creative manner and all pupils are exposed to art in one shape or form – either through the displays in Central Hall, raku firings of pottery, visiting professional artists (including an Artist-in-Residence), or on trips to galleries in London and abroad.



# Sport and Outdoor Education

Whilst considerable importance is placed on good academic credentials, pupils are encouraged to experience the wealth of sports and physical opportunities on offer. In this way they are able to develop self-confidence, learn the importance of teamwork and explore their own strengths.

Rugby, Hockey and Cricket are Eltham College's major sports, played by boys of all ages. The number of boys we have allows not only for a good proportion of them from each year to represent the school (at A and B team level) but also to compete successfully against other schools from both home and abroad. International tours (recently North America, Australia, South Africa and the West Indies) are organized every year to extend the opportunities and challenges of our best players in these sports. Our Cricket, Rugby, Hockey, Tennis and Golf teams regularly become Kent Champions and achieve top levels nationally. We also offer Swimming, Cross-Country and Athletics. Netball is the major sport for Girls: A and B teams compete regularly against local schools and they too have enjoyed success at overseas competitions in Spain and South Africa.

**“I really enjoyed all the sport at Eltham, and I received a great deal of encouragement from staff to aim high.”**

James Harris, OE,  
Wales Rugby U21 (2008)

Over 60 acres of extensive playing fields, which include a full size all-weather AstroTurf hockey pitch, are complemented by the Eric Liddell Sports Centre which commemorates our most famous Old Elthamian. As well as being a Centre of Excellence for Cricket, the Sports Centre, with its Swimming Pool, Dance Studio and Fitness Room, provides outstanding facilities for a wide range of sports, both for the school and the local community.

Outdoor education is primarily about developing character and community spirit. Most pupils rise to personal challenges, while others will enjoy just being out in the countryside. Pupils are given many opportunities to test themselves in the natural world. Year 7 pupils enjoy a camping weekend in Ashdown Forest during their first few weeks of Senior School, while Dartmoor provides the backdrop for the Year 8 pupils' Adventure Course and Year 11 pupils' Leadership Training Courses. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is pursued by many and expeditions are undertaken in the Brecon Beacons and Scottish Highlands.



**training venue**

We are proud to have been chosen as a Training Venue for the 2012 London Olympic Football Tournament.





# The Junior School

The Junior School celebrates the individuality and characters that boys have and it is an exciting and dynamic place for them to enjoy learning a wide range of skills and to develop broad interests. A short walk away from the Senior School and set in its own playing fields, it has been able to maintain its own unique and distinctive environment, while at the same time benefiting from sharing many of the excellent Senior School facilities.

Respect, trust and care are the cornerstones of our community. In our secure and stimulating environment boys meet new challenges, are encouraged to excel and enjoy productive relationships with each other and staff, allowing them to become well-rounded personalities. A very strong partnership exists between home and school and plays a vital part in establishing the right principles for all children to understand. Pleasingly, pupils find time to organize many charity fund-raising activities as part of their commitment to help others less fortunate than themselves.

The Junior School was praised for the “high quality of education for its pupils which takes place in a stimulating learning environment”.

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2007



The Junior School is normally made up of eight classes with two forms in each year group. Form Tutors are the core of the pastoral care system. Teachers' specialist skills are used to deliver a dynamic and stimulating curriculum. There are dedicated Science, Music, IT and Art and Design Classrooms.

Whilst the curriculum comprises a broad range of academic subjects and sport it is unique in its recent introduction of Mandarin - as the modern language studied by all. Beginning the study of this language at the earliest possible age overcomes many of the inhibitions that pupils face at a later stage, and our links with schools in China help promote a greater mutual understanding and allow us to challenge the perceptions of a Euro-centric world.

Edmund Cavendish  
Master of the Junior School

# The Junior School

Extra-curricular activity is wide-ranging; as well as team sports in cricket, chess, football, fencing, rugby, tennis and swimming, pupils are given opportunities via clubs to enjoy hockey, basketball, judo, cookery, gardening, drama and elocution.

We are extremely proud of the Junior School Chess Team which became the 2010 National Chess Champions. The Music Project in Years 3 and 4 provides free lessons to all pupils on a wide range of instruments, resulting in over two-thirds of the school participating in different ensembles. The Choir is also very well supported and appears regularly in local music festivals. Drama is equally popular with the boys, who develop talents perhaps not recognized in the classroom and gain confidence to perform, not least in the annual school play.

Visits to museums, theatres and places of educational interest are arranged for all pupils as an integral part of their learning. All year groups have residential trips to broaden horizons and develop personal qualities.

“A high level of academic success mixed with great sports and other activities in a relaxed yet demanding environment.”

JS Parent





# Lower and Middle School

The Curriculum of the Lower School (Years 7 – 9) is designed to expose all pupils to a wide range of subjects before making their GCSE choices by the end of Year 9. The Modern Languages French, German, Mandarin and Spanish are introduced over the first three years and are complemented by the study of Latin and Roman Civilisation.

In the Middle School (Years 10 – 11) a balance of subjects chosen from the Arts, Humanities and Creative Subjects complements a Core Curriculum of English, Mathematics, the three separate Sciences and a Modern Language to provide a rigorous and stimulating learning experience for all. The International GCSE is studied in subjects where we believe that this more traditional examination provides a better preparation for further study in the Sixth Form.

**“You will receive a very good rounded education in a very stimulating and caring environment.”**

Parent

Year Groups normally comprise three Forms, each with a Form Tutor providing the pastoral support and guidance together with a Form Prefect who assists in these matters. Furthermore, Heads of Lower and Middle School oversee all pastoral matters. The integration of pupils in Year 7 from Eltham College Junior School, primary schools and prep schools is achieved quickly, particularly through the Weekend Camps to Broadstone Warren in Ashdown Forest at the start of the academic year.

School life in the Lower and Middle School also extends to more distant destinations through the large number of trips organised by staff. Annual skiing and snowboarding trips to the Alps are very popular as are the many subject-inspired visits, for example to Italy by the Classics department, the World War One battlefields of France and Belgium by History, the Yorkshire Dales by Geography and of course the Language and Cultural trips to France, Germany, and an increasingly large number of Spanish speaking countries, by the Modern Languages department.



# Sixth Form

Academic achievement is the main focus of pupils in the Sixth Form, and we are proud of the success that they attain across the curriculum. Around 30 to 35 pupils, mostly girls, join the school at this stage to make a Sixth Form of approximately 220. A co-educational Sixth Form adds an extra dimension to our pupils' lives, and the atmosphere rapidly becomes an excellent preparation for the world of Higher Education. We aim to guide these young adults through this important stage in their lives as they acquire both freedom and responsibility.

Twenty five different subjects are offered in the Sixth Form with pupils taking four AS levels during their Lower Sixth year, normally reducing to three A2s in the Upper Sixth - although as many as a third continue with all four. As part of their development, pupils are encouraged to master as many skills as possible in addition to their academic disciplines. Community Service in the Lower Sixth, Liberal Studies in the Upper Sixth and Games in both years are all an integral part of a pupil's life at Eltham College, and provide many extra opportunities. In these areas skills such as leadership,

working within a team, public speaking and debating, organizing societies and showing initiative, can all contribute to a pupil's overall development and success. We are confident that those who throw themselves wholeheartedly into life at Eltham College will develop into well-rounded, enthusiastic and confident young adults.

The Sixth Form Gallery complements the Library as an area for relaxation during a break from academic studies as well as being the base for information on Higher Education and Careers. In both these areas we guide our pupils, from a reasonable distance, as they learn to develop their own self-discipline and responsibilities within the Sixth Form community. A purposeful approach to study remains paramount, and as a pupil matures so the relationship with staff becomes less formal.

**The non-examinable subjects and very diverse extra-curricular programme contribute to “an outstanding educational experience”.**

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2007



# The World Beyond

Education is not limited to the classroom and there are opportunities for pupils of all ages to explore the world beyond the school. Not only are there many trips organized within and beyond the curriculum, but there are plentiful opportunities for young people at Eltham College to discover more about themselves by involvement in activities within the local community of South East London.

The Eltham College Travel Club has been in existence for this very purpose for over 80 years, overseeing the increasingly diverse range of trips which staff have organised for pupils. Recent (ad)ventures have included major expeditions to Iceland, Nepal, Greenland, the Galapagos Islands and China, as well as sports tours to Australia, South Africa, the West Indies and North America. The Art Department has taken its Sixth Form pupils to the major Art Galleries in New York, Venice, Florence and Amsterdam, while the Music Department has led Choir and Orchestral Tours to Venice, Boston and New York, Eastern Europe and Rome. Laval in France and Minden in Germany are long established language exchange destinations and more recently Cordoba in Spain has been the venue for our Spanish exchange. Long weekend trips to Paris, Brussels and Berlin and exchanges in Nuremberg and Monaco for Sixth Formers have also enriched the modern linguists' appreciation of European culture.

As well as there being a long tradition of pupils travelling to distant shores, pupils are also encouraged to spend time in the local community. The Community Service Programme is a compulsory element in every Sixth Former's career; they are placed in local Primary and Nursery Schools or with charities and 'pop-in' groups for the sick and elderly. Not only do they learn a lot about themselves and the world outside the 'cloistered walls' of Eltham College, but they also discover the joy of being able to help others. Over half of our pupils follow The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which requires them to complete a camping expedition, as well as a physical activity, a hobby and work in the community.

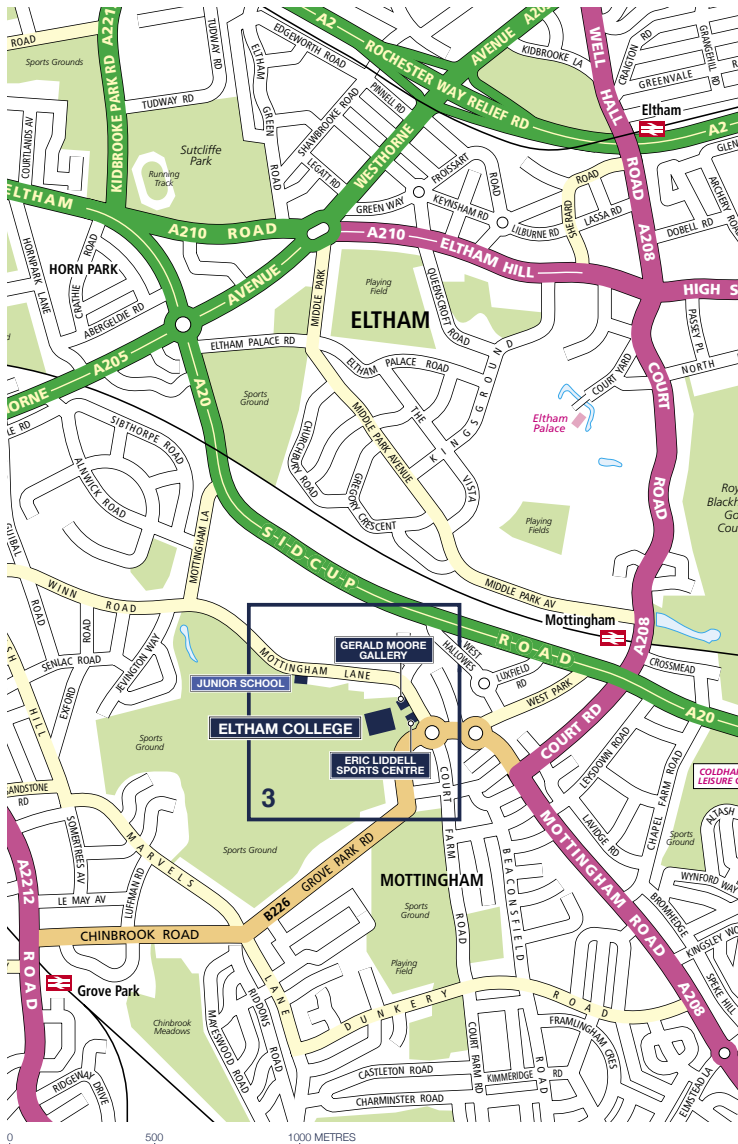
Many also use this as a springboard for a gap year, working within communities in Britain or travelling to remoter parts of the world, before commencing their degree courses; greater experience of the world often helps them approach the next stage of their career with greater maturity.

**“The strong emphasis on service and the support for charities is an important aspect of school life.”**

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2007



# Travelling to Eltham College



**By Rail:** The nearest main line stations are Mottingham (10 minutes walk) on the Central London to Crayford/Gravesend line via Sidcup and Grove Park (8 minutes by taxi) on the Central London to Orpington/Sevenoaks line via Orpington. Both have regular service connections to London and the South East.

**From the M25 & A20:** Leave the M25 at Junction 3 and join the A20 (signposted Swanley, London). Travel for approximately 9 miles and then leave the A20 by turning left onto the A208, Court Road (signposted Mottingham).

Travel to the T junction and turn right onto the B226 which leads into Grove Park Road. Travel straight across two roundabouts and the entrance to Eltham College will be seen immediately on the right-hand side.

**By Road: From the M25 & A2:** Leave the M25 at Junction 2 and join the A2 (signposted Dartford, London). Travel for approximately 10 miles and then leave the A2 via the slip road to join the A205 South Circular westwards (signposted Eltham). Continue straight across at the first roundabout and, at the second, turn left to join the A20, Sidcup Road. After approximately 1 mile at the traffic lights turn right onto the A208, Court Road (signposted Mottingham) then follow directions as above.

**From the A205 South Circular:** Once on the South Circular follow signs towards Woolwich and the A20. Leave the South Circular, at Eltham via the roundabout, and join the A20, Sidcup Road (signposted Sidcup, Swanley). After approximately 1 mile turn right onto the A208, Court Road (signposted Mottingham) then follow directions as above.

**On Arrival:** Please use the car park to the left of the main entrance gates.

# Eltham College Site Plan

