



## Royal Naval College Concert a spectacular success

Eltham College singers performed some of the greatest music ever composed on Thursday 11th March in the impressive surroundings of the Old Royal Naval College Chapel in Greenwich. The College Choir performed selected choruses from J.S. Bach's masterpiece St Matthew Passion while the Chamber Choir performed the chorales with Bach's sublime harmonisations. A number of pupils also performed solo arias and some recitatives from the Passion Oratorio which they had been preparing during the course of the term, accompanied by a professional orchestra. The performance re-told the story of Christ's Passion through words and music and was a tremendous achievement for all the pupils involved. Their efforts and talents made for a truly inspiring, reflective and uplifting experience for all those who had the opportunity to hear it.



**The Naval College concert was one of many presented by the school's musicians this term. Five leading Upper Sixth musicians (Emma Burgess, Julian Issa, Gregory Liddington, Becky Nall and Matthew Stokes) performed Concerto movements by Weber, Mozart, Beethoven and Vivaldi with the Symphony Orchestra, First String Orchestra and Concert Band in March, and GCSE, AS and A2 musicians presented a series of evening solo recitals in Central Hall. The Chamber Choir were invited to sing Evensong with the Choral Scholars of the internationally renowned choir of Clare College, Cambridge in their chapel. They also performed Mendelssohn Cantatas with a professional orchestra as part of a lunchtime concert series in St Stephen Walbrook Church in the City of London. Junior and Chamber Ensembles performed in concerts at the College in January and March, and the College's Jazz musicians presented their annual Jazz Evening at the end of term. The College Trebles, who have recently been invited by Sir Simon Rattle and Valery Gergiev to perform respectively with the Berlin Philharmonic**

**and London Symphony Orchestras next academic year, will be taking part in another performance of St Matthew Passion with the City of London Sinfonia and London Symphony Chorus in the Barbican Hall on Good Friday.**



# Six Thousand pounds for Haiti Appeal

We were all shocked by the tragedy which took place in Haiti on 12th January 2010, when the poverty-stricken island was left devastated by a huge earthquake. Many in the Eltham College community looked for ways to help.

Mr Chesterton set an essay on earthquakes for some of his Year 9 Geography pupils, who sought sponsorship related to the mark they received for the essay. Ms Brass and her form 10ERB sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts. The sale was incredibly popular with all the doughnuts vanishing in the first three minutes of break time. So a second bigger sale was held which managed to last slightly longer. Mrs Head-Rapson and Mr Broncz organised the Junior Maths Challenge for Year 7 in the same way as the Geography essay, and Mr Tighe arranged a collection after the Ensembles Concert.

Together the four ventures have raised £6,350 and we are all absolutely delighted with the outcome. Mr Broncz has sent off the cheque to the Disasters Emergency Committee.



## X Factor



March saw the long-awaited return of The X Factor to the Eltham College stage. After much controversy on the judging panel, with Mrs Donaldson making a shock return (having technically been axed to make way for Cheryl the Nurse), the finalists gave excellent performances. Mr Dunman hosted the evening and the performers all united to sing "Don't Stop Believing" while the votes were being counted. On the night, the audience also had a chance to view the highs and lows of the audition process, as well as some unseen footage of the contestants rehearsing with big EC names...

The winners were: on Thursday night 4Play (Sam Hardy, Tom Harden, Sachin Patel, Callum Thurley) with *Keep on Movin*, and on Friday night David Voisey with *Your Song*.

£5,000 was raised for charities, including AZAR, an organisation which is building a secondary school in Tanzania, the BCCS, a local counselling service, and Nordoff-Robbins, a musical therapy charity. Thanks to all those involved in creating such a fun, exciting and successful charity event.

## Junior School raises £1,600 for charity

On Friday 5th February the Junior School held its annual Charity fund raising day. This year the charities chosen were the Haiti appeal, the Sausage Tree Charity and UNICEF. The boys all paid £1 to wear home clothes for the day and a large number of events and stalls were organised by the boys. These ranged from a penalty shootout, a cake sale, an obstacle course, a remote controlled car race and the old favourite apple bobbing!

A further collection after the evening Junior School concert brought the figure to £1,600 for the day. Thank you to all the boys for their outstanding effort and particular mention needs to be made of Sachin in Year 5 who gave £100 of his birthday money to the Haiti appeal. Well done! A great day was had by all.



# Double success for Conor

Conor Murphy of Year 7 has achieved double success this term as a chess player and as a pianist. In the U12 London Junior Chess Championships, one of the most prestigious events in the chess calendar, Conor scored eight wins and one draw to finish in first place, well ahead of his nearest rival. He was also awarded the title of London Boys Champion and Best Under 11 player.

Then in the Stratford and East London Music Festival over half term, the oldest English Music Festival in England, Conor did very well in the two piano classes in which he competed. He came second in the Baroque Class and was awarded first place for his performance in the Sonata Class. Both classes were for pupils aged 15 and under; Conor is still only ten years old!



## Excellent year for Oxbridge results



This has been a particularly successful year for Oxbridge results. Sixteen Elthamians in total have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge (eight at each). Among them are twins Rosalee and Georgina Edwards who are off to Oxford University to read German and English. In addition, Philip Franklin is the first Eltham pupil in the last 15 years to obtain a place to read Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge and Sophie Smith has also won a place to read Land Economy at Cambridge, which is the first for over 20 years.

Our other successful candidates were, at Cambridge: Hamish Greer (English), Greg Liddington (Music), Tom Belger (Music), William Oram (Mathematics), Jon Smith (History) and Greg Walters (Natural Sciences); at Oxford: Matthew Dow (History), Ben Hough (English), Rachel Hutchings (Law), Joe Russell (Biological Science), Matthew Stokes (Modern Languages) and Sam Ward (English).

## Three boys in London productions

Three of the school's trebles have landed roles in major London and West End productions. All are in Year 7.



### Joe Battle

is in *Oliver!* as one of the street urchins and boys in the workhouse, singing numbers such as "Food Glorious Food" and "Who Will Buy".



### Kaisun Raj

is chief understudy to the lead boy, Gustave, in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical *Love Never Dies* and will be appearing on stage in this role over the next few months.



### Joseph Beesley

performs in the Royal Academy of Music's production of Benjamin Britten's comic opera *Albert Herring*. He takes the part of "Harry" one of the village children.

# The Boy King



In February "The Boy King" was staged in the Antony Barnard Hall by a cast of over forty pupils, directed by Andrew Beattie. Principal performers, including Louis Barclay (the boy), Nicholas Cochrane (King Edward V), David Hamon (Richard of Gloucester) and Josh Clayton (Duke of Buckingham) were drawn from Years 9 and 10, with two girls (Alissia Philips and Paloma Thompson) from the Sixth Form playing female roles, and six Year 7 pupils playing street urchins in the scenes set in London. The play, a grim tale set in medieval England, followed the story of the boys known as the Princes in the Tower, imprisoned in the Tower of London and later murdered by King Richard III (in the play, anyway). The production was a huge success, with considerable input behind the scenes from pupils involved in stage crew and from the "ladies of the wardrobe", led by Mrs McCourt, who costumed the performers in splendid medieval attire.

## Wassailing in the New Year

In January a special "Winter Wassail" was held to celebrate winter and to warm up our winter nights. Historically, farm labourers would sing to the Lord of the Manor in the New Year in exchange for food, drink and money. A "wassail" is a sort of punch but it also means "be healthy" and so this practice became known as wassailing. Morris Dancing is not normally associated with the younger generation, but Eltham College is proud to provide its pupils with the opportunity to learn about one of the oldest English folk traditions.

The "Morris Minors" were formed last year as the result of an invitation to dance at a British themed fete in Germany. Managed by German teacher Peter Cheshire, the troupe is made up of boys aged from 11 to 14 and most of their events occur during Spring and Summer when they are invited to perform at local fetes and celebrations. They dance the dances of the Welsh border tradition (i.e. ones collected in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire).



Many of the seasonal folk plays, known as Mummers Plays, are elaborate forms of wassailing with appeals for food at the end. Normally there is also an appearance of a poor man, to stir up sympathy, and the devil, to scare people into giving. Morris dancing is associated with mumming hence the link between this Winter Wassail and our Morris Minors.

## Junior School Brass and String Concert



The Junior School Brass and String Ensembles enjoyed playing to a packed hall on Friday 5th February in the Annual Informal Concert.

The evening began with some soothing pieces from Mr Williams' Guitar Ensemble and a jaunty Caribbean number from Mr Wells' Year 6 String Quintet. The rest of the first half followed with some big numbers from Mr

Thompson's Brass Ensemble (including Tomorrow from Annie) interspersed with solos from many of our string players of all ages. Roan Khanna in Year 3 played a funky item called In the Groove and several Year 6 boys wowed the audience with their talents (including Cameron Brown, Rohan Jain, Matthew Gilbert, Thomas Hood, Harry Higginson, Rohan Rao and Jack Marsch).

In the second half, the string and brass players switched roles with the String Ensemble (directed by Mr Bray and Mr Sawyers) playing a series of folk pieces and the brass players performing solos, duets and trios. This also included a first performance from the new Year 6 Brass Quartet who have named themselves The Hypno' Juniors after the group Hypnotic Brass! The group (Nick Smith, Jamie Williams, Irvine Turner and Andrew Hughes) played the moving theme from Forrest Gump. We look forward to hearing them perform again soon.

Well done Mr Bray and Mr Thompson for their relentless work with the boys in rehearsals and lessons, and for their organisation of the concert.

# Contemporary Poetry Evening

In January we were delighted to welcome the poet Lee Harwood to the College. He is being studied by a number of the Sixth Form as part of their coursework on modernism. Professor William Rowe, Anniversary Professor of Poetics at Birkbeck College, University of London spoke at the event as to how far Lee Harwood was continuing 'the Modernist Project.' He was also joined by Ian Brinton, author of *Contemporary Poetry: Poets and Poetry since 1990* who offered a close analysis of the elegy that Lee Harwood wrote on the death of his friend and fellow poet, Paul Evans, *For Paul/ Coming out of Winter*. He spoke of the difficulty of making absence present and how, like Thomas Hardy, Lee Harwood is a poet who makes the feelings of grief palpable. Lee Harwood read from work that spanned his forty-five year



career, ending with an unpublished poem about departure. Many of his comments about the process of writing poetry and the oddity of being studied were extremely illuminating, and his comments on love and loss were equally moving. The students asked a number of thoughtful questions and

are in the rather unique position of having asked Lee Harwood personally whether he was completing 'the Modernist Project,' which should be hugely beneficial for their coursework essay. We were also pleased to welcome a number of working poets to the event.

## Chinese Visitors

In January we were visited by 40 pupils from Beijing Haidian Experimental High School. The girls and boys, aged between 12 and 17 years of age, were on a two week trip to England and Europe, learning about our education system and culture. Eltham College has a longstanding association with China. As we were originally a school for the Sons of Missionaries, many boys who boarded here had parents in China. Eric Liddell was one of them - he worked in the Anglo-Chinese School of Tiensing from 1925 and subsequently as a missionary in China until 1943.

Mandarin has been taught in the Junior School now for the last three years and pupils were thrilled to be able to practise their language skills as they performed a selection of poems, songs and greetings to our visitors. Our visitors were pleased to be welcomed in their own language and praised the pupils on their excellent command and pronunciation of the language. They also attended classes in the Senior School and participated in a debate on the motion: "Sport is the best way of bridging national boundaries".



## Berlin

The Year 11 trip to Berlin took place in February. For the first time, 24 boys stayed in Ostel, an East German themed hostel created in a block of Communist flats in the heart of the German capital.

The two-day trip was packed with sightseeing. The boys barely had time to deposit their luggage before heading out into the night for an introduction to the former border crossing at Friedrichstraße station and a walk down Unter den Linden to see the illuminated Brandenburg Gate. The hearty salami and sausage breakfast on Saturday morning set them up for a morning tour of the preserved Wall and death strip at Bernauerstraße. Lunch on Alexanderplatz was followed by a Hertha Berlin football match at the Olympiastadion and an evening trip to the top of the Reichstag.



On Sunday, the group walked along the longest remaining stretch of the Wall (East Side Gallery), visited the Story of Berlin museum and the preserved nuclear bunker in West Berlin, before returning home via Checkpoint Charlie.

# Cricket tour to Australia



The second leg of the tour proved tougher as the boys came up against two very strong teams in Melbourne Grammar and Trinity School. We were well-placed in both matches but couldn't force a victory. On Boxing Day we went to a Test Match at the MCG before a trip down to Phillip Island to see the Koalas. The boys had their final game against Eltham College Melbourne and battled hard in a tough draw over two days.

The Eltham College 1st XI squad headed Down Under for a three-week tour to test themselves against schools in Adelaide and Melbourne. The boys enjoyed a huge amount of success, winning 4 from 4 in Adelaide and drawing 1 and losing 2 in Melbourne. They also got to sample the wonderful festivities of

Christmas and New Year in the sun. The cricket played in South Australia was fierce at times as the boys came up against some very fast and hostile Australian attacks. Everyone chipped in with either bat or ball but the star performance was Mark Philpot's match-winning 115 against Felsted School.

This really was the trip of a lifetime for these young cricketers and they embraced it with arms wide open. They made the most of every opportunity, be it on or off the field, and they could not have been better ambassadors for their school or country.

# Eltham Hockey on a high

Hockey is now a very strong sport at Eltham College with success all through the school. The junior sides have been progressing well, with the U12s developing game by game and the U13s in fine form. The U14s scored 38 goals in their first seven matches and qualified for the Kent finals by beating King's Canterbury 6-1, but on the day unfortunately failed to do justice to themselves. Nevertheless a fine achievement to get that far. The U15s have recovered from a slow start to the season by developing rapidly into a potent and athletic counter-attacking side, with a notable 5-0 victory against Kent College.

The three senior sides have been formidable. The 3rd XI won a handsome 5-0 victory over Dulwich, while the 2nd



XI have won almost every match, with excellent results against Langley Park (5-0) and Reigate (10-0). The 1st XI recorded the best start to a season ever at Eltham College winning 6 and drawing 3 of their opening fixtures. They also qualified for

Kent Finals day but they too did not perform at their best on the day. Since then they have bounced back with a 6-0 win over Reigate. All in all this has been a very successful term and the future looks promising for school hockey.

# Tournament win for U8 soccer team



Ten teams took part in the Almey's 7-a-side soccer tournament. We had a tough group to negotiate but managed to beat Dulwich College A team, who had won this tournament for the last four years, Bishop Challoner and Reay School, and to draw with Blackheath Prep.

This meant we had won our group and faced Honeywell Primary in the semi-final which we won 5-0.

The final was against Almey's who had dispatched Blackheath Prep 2-0 in their semi. Almey's attacked early on, but our defence stood firm and James Biss in goal made some fearless saves. Finally we scored and in the second half doubled our lead. Almey's threw everything they had at us and nearly pulled one back, but we held on and won the match 2-1 and the tournament.

Well done to all ten boys who played. The squad was: James Biss, Hayden Riley, Lucas Pilcher, Harry Houillon, Ross Craig, Frankie Nella, George White, Louis Slatter, Shaylan Patel and Ata Suleyman-Caganaga.