

# Nicola Culshaw: an obituary

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As many of you reading this school magazine already know, Nicola Culshaw tragically lost her life in a car accident in April of this year; she was just 33 years old.

Nicola joined the Chemistry Department in the academic year 2005-2006 and quickly established herself as a respected and popular teacher. She had a wonderful rapport with her pupils and always managed to engage them fully in lessons, her passion for chemistry being clearly transferred to her charges. She was an Environmental Chemist by qualification and was very adept at placing abstract chemical ideas into real-life situations, injecting excitement into difficult theoretical concepts. One group of Year 10 pupils reached the finals of a national analytical chemistry competition after many hours of extra lunchtime practical sessions with Nicola. Her empathic nature made her a highly regarded form tutor and member of the Community Service team. Nicola left Eltham College in December 2009 to take up a well-deserved promotion to Head of Chemistry at Sydenham High School for Girls.

Nicola had an infectiously warm personality and quickly made friends at Eltham. Helen Bowes, Celia Taylor and Nicola were known affectionately as "the three witches" for no more sinister reason than their raucous cackling could be heard emanating from the Common Room every lunchtime. It is a lesser known fact that Nicola was very creative artistically. I know she was once offered a significant sum of money for one of her paintings and her cookery skills were legendary.

The very sizeable numbers of mourners that attended Nicola's funeral and the subsequent memorial service in our chapel are testimony to how well she was loved. The accolades and tributes left on 'Facebook' demonstrated how affectionately she will be remembered. She was due to be married this summer to her long-time fiancé, Dan, who was also severely injured in the accident that took Nicola's life. Our sympathies must remain with Dan and Nicola's parents at their tragic loss.

*PCM*



# Mr Hamblin



Matthew Hamblin arrived at the school in September to teach in the English Department. He studied English and Ancient History at the University of Exeter, and previously taught and trained at a comprehensive school in Somerset.

## When did you start to have an interest in English?

From when I first read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

## How did you come to teach at Eltham College?

My last teaching post was a training position in a very rural school in Somerset (where the pupils listed hunting and tractors as hobbies) and as soon as I started looking for jobs a bit closer to "home" I saw an advert for Eltham College.

## What made you interested in teaching?

I always thought it might be nice to read books and talk about poems for a living, so I never really considered anything else.

## If you could take three things onto a desert island with you, what would they be?

A copy of *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, a radio that could pick up Radio 4, and a pencil.

## What was your favourite subject at school? (apart from English!)

I really loved History and Philosophy (and still do). I also quite liked Latin.

## Do you think that digital books and e-readers are going to be the future of reading?

I suppose I can see the appeal. They're useful for travellers who haven't got the strength to carry their library, or people who want to read shameful books on the train, but they do lack a certain charm and don't look nearly as good piled up next to the bed or stacked on a shelf.

## Where were you born and brought up?

I was born and brought up in the metropolitan utopia that is Dartford.

## How would you sum up your teaching style?

I think it's probably a bit early in my career to be doing that. I'd hope it's engaging and educational, but that's really for the pupils to decide.

## How have you found your time at Eltham so far?

Wonderful. The staff, students and grounds are all charming.

## Tell us a strange/random fact about yourself.

I suffer from very mild heterochromia, which means my eyes are different colours, I can juggle, and I used to have an 'afro'.

## What areas of extra-curricular activities do you want to get involved in?

I would like to continue to work with the debating teams, and perhaps turn my hand to some extra-curricular philosophy.

## What has been your favourite year group to teach so far?

Probably Year Nine.

## If you were a fruit or a vegetable, what would you be and why?

Purple sprouting broccoli. And why not?

## Who, in your opinion, is the greatest living author writing in English?

Probably Harper Lee, who wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird* fifty years ago and has been nearly silent since. As for writers who are still working, I'm always happy to read Philip Roth; Michael Ondaatje usually surprises me with his eclectic interests; and Edward Albee usually has something interesting to say. Bob Dylan takes some beating in the poetry field, but Lawrence Ferlinghetti comes close.

I'm also very keen on non-fiction, so I would consider Dan Dennett, a slightly crazy polymath with a huge beard who has written important and enjoyable books on almost everything; Richard Dawkins, whose early work is neat and clear and fascinating; Matt Ridley, who combines science, economics, and philosophy; Oliver Sacks, the utterly eccentric neurologist; and probably Steven Pinker. And Christopher Hitchens. Oh, and Eric Carle (who wrote *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*).

## What did you specialise in at University?

I spent most of my time studying African-American literature.

*Richard Prior (Yr 9)*

# Mr Hind

Mr Hind retires this year after teaching Maths in the school since 1983.

## How long have you been here?

Twenty seven years.

## Tell us about an incident in your teaching career...

At my old school there was a really tough boy in Year Nine who was very big for his age. He and another boy in the year above, who was also a big lad, didn't get along; they each liked to think that they ruled the roost. One day I was on duty and I was going around all the classrooms – but there was no one in any of them. It was like the Marie Celeste. I was imagining there had been an alien abduction until I went up the stairs to the gym where I found literally the entire school all crowding around this one little area. I eventually pushed my way through to the middle of the crowd to find these two kids squaring up to each other, although neither of them looked ready to start anything. They kept saying "Are you going to start" but no-one did, until I finally said "If no one starts a fight we're all going to die of boredom". So one of them looked at me and smiled and just as he did this the other lad whacked him; there was a brief flurry of punches which resulted in the Year Nine boy emerging as winner. And they never squared up to one another again.

## What is your proudest Eltham memory?

I was coaching the Under 15 Cricket Team in the late 1980s. There was one boy on the team who was just the sort of player I liked; he'd absolutely belt the ball, score about thirty and then he'd be out. Nice short matches; life is too short for cricket. Anyway this boy had a proper cricket coach. He had never been able to do defensive shots before; all he did was smash the ball around the ground. Anyway, after he got this coaching all he did was play defensive shots, and naturally this dragged the matches out for far longer than was necessary. During one match it was hot and it was getting late and this lad was playing the usual array of defensive shots. So I took him aside and said to him "This is silly; you're wasting everybody's time, just go out and whack the ball!" - which he did! He scored a rapid hundred and won the game and I got to go home on time.

## How about your best school trip?

The trips at Eltham were good, but they tend to blend into one another. At my previous school the kids would run amok on trips; you'd go to check up on them at eleven and they'd have all jumped out the windows and gone drinking. Every trip we'd have at least three stomachs pumped.

## What's your favourite city?

Buenos Aires. It's a fascinating city and in my first year of retirement I'm travelling around the world and I'm really looking forward to chilling out there with my wife and daughter, who will be taking tango lessons there. It's a city with

a very European feel, but with the passion that only Latin America can provide.



## Who would you share a bottle of fine wine with?

Sir Alex Ferguson definitely. Apart from being the greatest manager in the history of football, he's also extremely knowledgeable about red wine.

## Which class will you miss the most?

Definitely my Year Eleven set four. I will miss all of them, not just you. They were an extremely diverse bunch.

## How did your interest in wine start – and where will it lead?

My interest started in about 1995, when somebody gave me a bottle of 1971 L'Evangile, which I thought would taste amazing because I always assumed that the older the wine, the better it was. L'Evangile is a very famous Pomerol grand cru. However, when I opened it, it tasted like inferior vinegar; but far from putting me off, this made me very curious about what good wine should taste like. Apparently this wine should have been drunk around 1985, which is probably why the person gave it to me!

## I have £30 to spend on a bottle of wine. What would you recommend?

A bottle of 2001 Lafon Rochet. I bought a case in 2002 en primeur for £160 and it's now selling for £360 a case, and has just been voted the best value wine of the 2000-2001 vintage by Decanter magazine. I've still got two bottles left and it really is a spectacular wine.

## Tell us how you are going to spend your retirement.

I'm spending the first year travelling the world, spending six months in Australia, including two months working in a vineyard, and when I return I am setting up in business as a wine merchant. I will also continue working towards my WSET diploma – I have already passed half of the units required.

## And finally, what kind of fruit or vegetable would you be?

I refuse to answer this question on the grounds that the first person to ask it in an Elthamian interview was something of a dilettante!

Oliver Pimm and David Long (Yr 11)

# Mrs Wyatt

Kimberley Wyatt leaves the school after nine years to become Head of English at Warwick School.



## Firstly, why are you leaving us?

I'm going to be a Head of Department at Warwick School, which is a boys' school for ages 3 to 18, so my sons will both go there. I'm looking forward to moving out of London and as it's near Stratford upon Avon, it's not too much of a cultural wasteland. It seems like a very friendly place: at the station someone offered to help me with directions whilst seemingly not wanting to mug me.

## What will you miss the most about Eltham College, apart from 11HCC, of course?

11HCC have remained eerily pleasant for two years. They are disconcertingly nice. It's probably just part of their grander plan for world domination. I feel very privileged to have taught so many lovely people here. I like the way that the boys here are witty, amusing, confident and engaging without being arrogant. I certainly think there is an Eltham College wit that is very charming. I hope the boys at Warwick are the same, and I think they are.

## What have you brought to the school, which no one else has?

Sadly, I'm probably entirely dispensable! Mr Mitchell says you can replace me with a cardboard cut out with a speech bubble providing a quote about the dichotomous role of women in English literature. I also have managed to find an excuse to teach *The Matrix* at some point in the past eight years. That took some skill.

## What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done at Eltham?

I just think it's worth saying at this point that whatever Hamish (Greer) says in his leaving speech is entirely fictional...I mean, debating competitions are emotional rollercoasters...

## Care to expand?

No.

## What do you feel about being a woman in a man's world/boys' school?

It's fun. I like challenging the boys with feminist ideas and having arguments and debates with them.

## Is there a certain teacher who you've got on really well with?

I do find myself reading these questions in the leaving articles of very good friends and then shedding a small tear when I am not mentioned (Mr Sutton) so perhaps I shouldn't list people in case I miss anyone inadvertently. I have had some wonderful friends here but as I'm hoping to stay in touch with them I don't need to mention them in the belittling form of a list.

## Are you scared of any of your colleagues?

Yes, Mr Hotham – he can rip the Yellow Pages in half.

## Why English?

English is changing all of the time, not just in terms of what texts we teach but how we read literature. I love the way I get new perspectives on some of my favourite texts when I read them with a class. I like to think I am genuinely interested in my students' opinions, and I think that there is nothing like English for being able to really listen to what other people think. I feel like I learn all the time from my students. Only today one pupil has lent me a graphic novel, and this whole new world has opened to me, and he told me about algorithms, but I've forgotten about them.

## What has been your favourite outing with the school?

All the weekend debating trips have been very amusing. Crawling and 'commando rolling' through the mud with Matthew (Waite) and George (Glass) when I was invited to 11HCC's Class Paintball with Mrs Clough was also quite an experience...although the bruises afterwards were quite bad.

## What is your favourite Shakespeare play?

Hamlet obviously, because it is the greatest work (next to Ulysses of course) that really deals with the workings of innermost man.

## What is your most hated grammatical mistake?

There are loads! Terrible things happen to me when I am confronted by bad grammar. For instance, I was once on my little Vespa behind a van obviously belonging to a man called Tony who sold keys and blazoned across the back was the sign, "Tonys Key's" and I was so aghast and full of rage that I literally nearly crashed into it. It would have been an interesting way for an English teacher to die.

## If you were given a nickname, what would it be?

I've no doubt that I've got loads of horrible nicknames that I have never heard. So, I'll just say: "Miss Lovely".

## Finally, if you were a fruit, which one would you be, and why?

I'll think about this one, because it's such an Eltham College tradition. I'd feel like such a fool if all I said was: "An Apple, because it's crunchy."

Matthew Waite (Yr 11)

# Mr Draycott

## Revd. Robert Draycott retires after 18 years as Chaplain and Head of RS.

### What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Interacting with the pupils at Eltham College; each pupil is different and it has always been very enjoyable to be in the same room with them, it is slightly ambitious to say I have been teaching them!

### If you had to describe yourself in four words, what would they be?

Quiet, conscientious, patient, enthusiastic.

### What is the most memorable moment from the any of the R.S trips?

The most memorable occasion would have to be from the first trip to Corrymeela when John McCourt gave us an eye-witness account of the shootings on Bloody Sunday and showed us the spot where his friend had been shot dead.

### What are your plans for life after Eltham?

I was considering a post at Iona, but that hasn't worked out. We have a cruise from Brazil booked and we will be freer to travel to see our scattered family. I'm really in a line of work where you don't retire, so I will continue to preach and take services in local churches.

### What is the first thing you are looking forward to in your retirement?

I guess not having to follow bells and not having to get up early anymore.

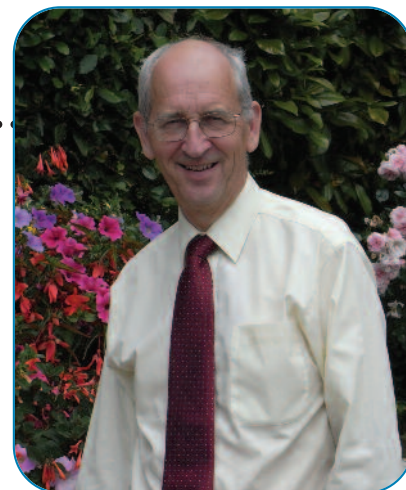
### Tell us a bit about your life in Brazil.

Well, at first I didn't want to go, but I felt called. We took the four children and, looking back, it turned out to be a great experience. The weather was always nice and everyone was really friendly. I suppose indirectly it led me to Eltham as my sons were boarders here. The first thing was to learn the language, then we worked with local churches in the vast state of Mato Grosso do Sul in the north before moving to the east where I looked after the Baptist Church in Aparecida do Taboada. We returned to England during which time our sons started at EC. During our second spell in Brazil I taught in the Baptist Seminary in Campo Grande teaching a wide range of courses on the Bible, Theology, Bible Geography, and Latin American Cultural History. I was also the Executive Secretary of the Central Association of Baptist Churches.

### When you were younger, what did you see yourself doing?

When I was younger I wanted to become a teacher. I was firstly a student teacher then I did a geography degree and became a secondary school teacher, but then felt called to the ministry. I went to Oxford to study theology and then became a Baptist Minister in Northamptonshire. Teaching Religious

Studies and also being Chaplain here was a nice way of bringing teaching and my Ministerial experience together.



### We heard you are a dab hand at cricket, did you ever see yourself going professional?

When I was younger I used to play every day and it was the stuff of dreams. I have continued to play because I'm not a 'has-been' just a 'never-was', although I have had my moments over the years.

### What has been your most embarrassing moment at Eltham?

I suppose those moments when you should know who a pupil is and you can't put a name to the face. My sincere apologies to those concerned.

### Over the years we have all enjoyed your assemblies; which have been your favourites?

One that stands out in my memory was the one where I re-enacted David Beckham's free kick against Greece in Chapel. Another favourite was when I scattered sweets out during Junior School assembly to illustrate the parable of sowing seeds, which unleashed mayhem. Another occasion I polished pupils' shoes to represent Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. How much time have you got?

### Have you enjoyed your time at Eltham?

Yes, very much. There's something quite unique about the pupils and the community at Eltham and everyone's always friendly. If you ever meet Old Elthamians they're always genial and eager to come and speak to you –and having taught every lower school pupil I can usually remember them, even if some names elude me.

### What will you miss most about Eltham?

The pupils, they make the school and are a pleasure to work with. Also the banter in the staffroom, those times when Chapel comes alive, lots of things once you begin to think about it.

### Will we be seeing you again anytime soon?

I'm not expecting to return much; I want to leave my successor to it and I don't want to interfere, although I will be returning for a couple of weddings over the summer.

### What has been the most rewarding thing about your time here?

Job satisfaction, a sense of being in the right place at the right time, a challenge and all the people who have helped and

supported me, especially the long line of great Chapel wardens like Anthony and Alistair:

### **What do you feel you have achieved over your time at Eltham?**

Well I felt Christianity was at a low ebb when I first arrived, I have tried to demonstrate that it's perfectly intellectually respectable to be a Christian. The other thing has been to build up the RS department so that pupils engage with various issues that they will come up against in both their lives and their careers.

# Mr Tighe

Alastair Tighe arrived at the school in September 2009 as the new Director of Music.

### **Tell us about your childhood, your schooling and how you were brought up.**

I was born in Portsmouth, which is down on the south coast in Hampshire. My father was in the Royal Navy and was based at the time in the large Naval Dockyard down there. Then we moved to Devon where I was brought up. When I was eight I started as a boarder at Buckfast Abbey Prep School which is on the edge of Dartmoor. I stayed there until I was thirteen, then I went to Downside School in Somerset, which is another boarding school. Both schools were run by Benedictine monks so they were both attached to large Abbey churches, which is where a lot of my music-making went on. During this time my parents were moving abroad a lot so we lived for a bit in America and a bit in Belgium and a bit in Italy so I was lucky to live in all sorts of different places. But because I was a boarder I was able to stay in the same school whilst growing up.

### **Did you know that you wanted to be a music teacher as a child?**

I don't think I knew, but I think maybe my teachers thought I might be a music teacher in due course. I did a lot of music and my teachers always used to say how much time I spent doing music. So I suppose it had crossed my mind that I might be a teacher one day but I didn't really make my firm decision until I was leaving university.

### **So how did you end up being a teacher?**

I actually read English and Theology at university – at Magdalene College, Cambridge – but I was also an organ scholar and I was in charge of the Chapel music at the College. I was always doing lots of music even though I wasn't reading music as a subject. At the end of my three years at Cambridge I got a phone call from the school I worked at previously saying that they were looking for someone to run the choir for two years. Since I hadn't any job plans at that point I thought I would go for an interview and I was very lucky to get the job. Since at that stage I didn't know whether I would enjoy being a teacher as a career, I was encouraged by the fact that I had

### **Finally any future advice you can give to your pupils?**

Just take the opportunities that life offers, and remember that you can't live without faith. Everybody has a belief system, the question is, does it work?

*Anthony Poupard and Alistair Maltby (U6) with Aria Oram and Rosie Boyle (L6)*



only been offered a two year contract, so there was always a get out clause at the end of two years if I

didn't enjoy it much! As it happened, I enjoyed the job hugely and that was the moment that I fell into teaching.

### **Can you tell us a bit more about your family.**

As I have already said, before retiring my father was a Naval Officer. My mother has been a naval wife and looked after the family but when she wasn't abroad worked as a teacher in a nursery school. I have got two younger brothers both of whom are actors at the moment and trying to establish themselves in the acting profession. Dominic, my youngest brother, is a bit of a singer as well and was involved in a group called Blake quite recently. This was a boy band/classical/pop group. He had a bit of fun for a year and a half but he isn't doing that any more.

### **Which school were you at before you came to Eltham and how was it different?**

I taught at Oundle School which is near Peterborough. It was almost double the size of Eltham, it was mainly boarding not day and was completely co-educational in all years. So there are three quite big differences in that respect. In addition, it was a more rural school.

### **Do you have any hobbies?**

I have always considered music to be my main hobby. I am very lucky, therefore, that my job is also my hobby. I do enjoy all sorts of music - singing, conducting and doing a bit of playing. I also enjoy going to the theatre, both musicals and serious theatre, and I enjoy travelling.

### **What is your favourite kind of music?**

That's a tricky one. It's difficult to say really. Something that involves both orchestra and choir is something that I enjoy listening to and conducting.

### Do you think that A level and GCSE music should consist entirely of western classical music?

I think it's very important that GCSE and A level have a strong bias towards the Western classical tradition because all music that is produced today in the Western world has its roots in the Western musical tradition. This starts with medieval plainchant through to Renaissance composers such as William Byrd and Giovanni da Palestrina through to J.S. Bach, Mozart and onto our contemporary composers. Now of course we have so many varieties of music. But in all these styles the fundamental ideas about how you relate notes to each other and how melodies and harmonies work is all based around this evolving Western tradition. So I think it's very important that students of music are familiar and knowledgeable about this history and context. But of course, in the last few years, because communication has got so much better in the world, we are used to hearing so much more music from other parts of the world. Consequently, there is increasingly a bit of a blur between the different musical styles, so it is also important that people are aware of these different influences on music.

### What would you do if you won the £3 million rollover?

I would like to buy a picturesque Georgian rectory in the country – somewhere that I could escape to.

### What is your favourite author, colour and composer?

My favourite author? My favourite book, certainly at the moment, is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. My favourite colour is navy blue but as I am a Cambridge man I should have said light blue! As to my favourite composer; I don't think I have one. I know it's a bit of a copout but there are lots of different composers that I think I would like to listen to. I was going to suggest that if I told you I was sent to a desert island, these are the pieces of music I would like to take with me. I would take a piece called *Civitas sanctae tui* by William Byrd, Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, Poulenc's opera *Dialogues des Carmélites* and the Evening Service for Gloucester Cathedral by Herbert Howells.

### If you were stuck on a desert island which three teachers would you like to have with you?

(Laughter!) That's a very tricky question! I think I am going to be very diplomatic and say I would take all the teachers who sing in the College Choir!

### What is the greatest piece of music in your opinion ever composed?

I think it is, without doubt, Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. Mahler once said that a symphony should be like the world – that is must contain everything. Bach's *Matthew Passion* certainly achieves that for me.

### We thought you'd say that....

#### Your predecessor Mr Johnson musically directed some stage musicals here. Will you do any?

I hope to. Mr Pollard and I have already been discussing which musicals to do in the future, so yes there are plans afoot and we hope to do something soon.

### You were an organ scholar at Cambridge. What did that actually entail?

It meant I was in charge of the music in the College Chapel – which meant conducting and accompanying the choir, selecting and rehearsing the music for services at the College and also being very much the lead person running the music, the College orchestra and music society. I also instigated a tradition of producing an annual College musical during my time there. So the role was all about being involved in promoting music in the College and getting my first real opportunity to direct and lead music ensembles.

### How has your time been here at Eltham so far and what highlights have you had?

I have loved it, it has been really great. It's been very, very busy which has been exciting and I can't believe how quickly the year has gone. It has been great to get to meet new people, both pupils and staff, and to get used to new systems and new ways of doing things. My highlight so far? This week we had the big choral concert in Blackheath Halls which was fantastic. I thought it was wonderful to present *St Matthew Passion* at the Naval Chapel in Greenwich and a real achievement for some pupils to sing some of the arias. I enjoyed the *St Alfege Concert* in Greenwich, and I enjoyed the *Jazz Evening*. We have had masterclasses and Ensemble Concerts. I think there are too many highlights to mention but it has been a good year so far.

Mr Tighe, thank you very much.

## Dr Morris

Dr Fiona Morris arrived at the school in September to teach in the chemistry and biology departments after studying for a degree and Ph.D at Leeds University; subsequently she moved to teaching chemistry only.



**So tell us about Dr Morris.**

I was born in Lancashire but when I was older my parents and I moved to Norfolk, where we lived in a very small town in the middle of nowhere and I just wanted to get out! I saw university as a way of doing this. I did my first degree at Leeds University and then stayed on to do my Ph.D. While I was doing my Ph.D. I did some teaching of undergraduate and masters students and gained a reputation for being able to teach chemical concepts to foreign students. After my Ph.D I worked as a Research Fellow at Leeds for a few years until a Teaching Fellowship came up. For a year I taught undergraduate and masters students in the practical labs. I really enjoyed this and found it much more fulfilling than research. I then looked for a job in a school and the rest as they say is history!

**What do you wish to achieve in Eltham before you leave?**

I want to help young people to really enjoy and understand chemistry and to develop a scientific way of thinking.

**What did you do your Ph.D on (in English)?**

I did it in colour chemistry. I researched dyes and made a textile dye which had amazing properties!

**Between Chemistry and Biology, which is your favourite and why?**

Chemistry of course, "and why" hmm... I just prefer it.

**Describe yourself using four words:**

Hmm...  
Determined  
Sensible  
Fun  
Caring

**Which is your favourite year to teach?**

The Sixth Form because they are the closest in age to undergraduates, whom I last taught.

**Who do you think is the best chemist of all time?**

William Perkin who made the first synthetic dye called "Perkins Purple" which changed the world of colours as we know it.

**Who have you met who is famous?**

Well I have met some famous athletes but no recent ones. Have you heard of Jonathan Edwards? I've known Jonathan all my life, he is a family friend who is the world record holder for the triple jump and he won gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

**What made you want to come to Eltham?**

The main reason is to be closer to my family (Mum and Dad) and a little nearer, but not too near, to my sister.

**How did you end up as a chemist?**

I had to choose between art and chemistry. I decided that art could be pursued as an independent interest whereas it would be much harder to do that with chemistry. Having gained my BSc I thought I wanted to be a research scientist but I realised that to do the cool stuff I would need a Ph.D. I enjoyed research – but not as much as I enjoy teaching.

**What was your dream job when you were a child?**

In the privacy of my bedroom I used to conduct while I listened to classical music so perhaps I harboured thoughts of being a conductor. But then I've always loved science.

**What hobbies do you do in your spare time?**

I do wheel pottery (like Mr Agate) and enjoy art but I can't draw. I enjoy visiting art galleries when I have the time and I like to travel.

**What other subjects do you want to teach?**

I suppose Art perhaps textiles or dare I say it pottery!! [Sorry Mr Agate]

**What makes you unique to the other teachers?**

I am me and the world really isn't big enough for two of us.

**If you were stuck on a desert island what three things would you have?**

Company – So I wouldn't get lonely.  
An allotment – To eat and pass the time.  
Some sun cream – To stop myself getting burned.

**Do you believe in God?**

Yes.

**Tea or Coffee?**

Tea – I hate coffee.

**Facebook or twitter?**

Facebook, I don't see the point of twitter.

**R&B or Rock?**

Rock – there's no competition.

**What your favourite food?**

Italian/Chinese, but not together.

**If you had a superpower what would it be?**

Super speed.

**Where do you see yourself in five years' time?**

At Eltham (still) but just five years older.

**What secret talents do you possess?**

As I said, I am good at pottery...and I can adjust the timing on my car and do other minor maintenance jobs. I know how to use an electric drill. My friend Muriel (another research scientist) and I once made an indoor tortoise enclosure for her flat, which could be converted into a seat for 5 people.

**And to finish off, the "classic" Elthamian Question: if you were a fruit or veg, what would you be and why?**

Pomegranate – It's simple on the outside but complicated on the inside.

*Adam Broncz and Daniel Chen (Yr 9)*

# Miss Perry



Joanne Perry arrived at the school in January to teach in the Chemistry and Biology Departments.

## Where did you go to school?

Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common, Berkshire.

## Why did you want to become a Biology/Chemistry teacher?

I decided to become a teacher when I worked for Rentokil Pest Control Division. I particularly enjoyed controlling pests and thought this would be a useful skill for teaching. Part of my job involved training adults in insect and rodent biology. Despite taking me away from my fieldwork I enjoyed the challenge of engaging pest controllers about identification and control techniques in a classroom situation.

## What did you do before joining Eltham College?

I worked at Baston School for Girls where I was in charge of Science. It was a tiny school and had about seventy girls on roll in the senior school. Teaching at Baston was very different to teaching at EC. The girls were quiet, organised and did their homework on time. Boys on the other hand are very different. They love practical lessons with as little writing as possible- the more explosive and gory, the better.

## If you were a super heroine what super power would you have?

I would want to be a time traveller as I think being able to travel into the future could help to solve the world's problems.

## Tell me a biology fact.

The animal with the largest brain in relation to its body is the ant.

## Tell me a chemistry fact.

It takes 50,000 years for a plastic container to decay.

## Is there any other subject that you would like to have taught?

I enjoy drawing and if I had the skills, I would have liked to have taught Art.

## What is your favourite science fiction film?

Star Wars because I found it compelling and really liked following the story in so many parts. I watched the first one when I was very young and have only recently seen the third episode to complete the saga. So I guess Star Wars is the longest film I have ever seen.

## What do you prefer- Biology or Chemistry?

I like them both equally but for different reasons. In Biology I prefer teaching about chemical reactions such as Photosynthesis and Respiration and how they are controlled

by Enzymes. I also enjoy teaching about how the body functions and topics which are particularly relevant to people's lives. In Chemistry I really enjoy the experiments especially when they go according to plan.

## What is your favourite book?

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks because I loved the story and how well it was written. The details about the war were really interesting and, although very sad it was a brilliant book to read.

## If you were a fruit, which one would you be?

I have no idea about this but if I have to choose then I guess a Kiwi fruit because its appearance is very deceptive.

## Which areas of Biology and Chemistry did you specialize in at university?

I studied Zoology at Cardiff University where I specialized in entomology (insect biology). After this I went to Cranfield University and did an MSc in Bio - Aeronautics. The emphasis here was on pest control from the air which did involve some flying and was a big incentive to do the course. This led me into a career at Rentokil in London, although I had anticipated working somewhere a little more exotic.

## Tell me the name of a famous biochemist.

A famous biochemist was Rosalind Franklin, who discovered the structure of DNA using X-ray crystallography at the same time as Watson and Crick. Rosalind was not recognized for her work at the time.

## Tell me a science joke.

Why did the germ cross the microscope? To get to the other slide!

Harry Warren (Yr 7)

# Mr Chesterton



## Mr Chesterton is the new Head of Geography.

### What first drew you to geography?

I found it was a subject at school I seemed to relate to and was successful at. I had a really exciting teacher and I remember the Sixth Form Geography prize being the only academic prize I won at school. I liked the fact that it was a very contemporary subject, and that you could talk about what was going on in the news. I liked the wide variety of topics that were covered in lessons and in my different modules at university.

### Did you always want to be a teacher?

Not always, no. One of the reasons I applied for geography at university was because I didn't really know what I wanted to do; I wanted to do a subject which would sustain my interest and keep lots of opportunities open. I only realised I wanted to become a teacher later on, mainly because I really enjoyed my time at school and I wanted to work in that type of environment. I'm not known for having a long attention span and a job sitting at a desk all day would drive me mad!

### Did you always want to work at Eltham College?

I knew about Eltham College because I went to school at Reigate Grammar which is not far away. I knew Eltham to have an excellent reputation, mainly owing to its impressive exam results. I used to play away sports matches at Eltham when I was at school myself, and I had met Mr Dunman and Mr Thorogood through attending South Hockey tournaments through my job at my previous school. When the job as Head of Geography came up I applied very quickly.

### Do you wish to remain a teacher?

I'm not one of those people who tends to set out exactly what they want to do in the future but I'm very happy here and I certainly see myself remaining a teacher but what happens ten years down the line I have no idea. I'm sure there'll be something exciting for me to do.

### Is there a particular part of the world you want to see?

The only continent I haven't been to is South America, so I think any country there could be next on my list.

### If you weren't a teacher what would you do?

I would like to have some kind of job in the sports industry. I'd also like it to involve travel and meeting people. Maybe I'd like to use my knowledge of tourism to start my own travel company specialising in golf holidays!

### Where did you study geography?

I went to Exeter University following school and I was there for three years. I did my teacher training at Exeter as well, and taught at two Devon state schools during that year. In 2004 I got my previous job at St George's College in Weybridge, Surrey.

### What advice would you give to anyone who would like to do geography?

Geography is all around you. You can see it on your drive to

school, you can see it on your summer holidays. Just ask lots of questions and be inquisitive about why places and landscapes are like they are and why people choose to live where they do.

### Which areas of geography do you specialise in?

At university I studied a mixture of human and physical geography. Physical geography included glaciers and I enjoyed looking at the climate and landforms of the last major ice age. I also studied tourism and at Eltham I teach Human Geography. I also studied an entire module at university about the temperature of river water; though the less said about that the better.

### Which year group and part of the subject do you enjoy the most?

I like teaching A level human geography in particular the work on development and globalisation. This year I have had a very good A2 set and we had a lot of fun. I like to teach Year Nine because they are getting to that age where they understand what is going on in the world and what affects them.

### Where would you go on a field trip if you could go anywhere in the world?

My dream field trip destinations (cost no object) would be Antarctica and the Yellowstone National Park. I would also like to take a field trip to a place that shocks people a little, like being able to witness extreme poverty and appreciate what has led to people living the way they do.

### You do a lot of hockey. Tell us about that.

Hockey is probably my favourite sport, and I have played it since I gave up rugby at 14. I played for my school first team and I played to a high standard at university. I play for my home club, Reigate Priory HC and I'm their first team vice captain. I have been their top scorer for the past four years, which I guess makes me sound like I'm quite important! I really enjoy coaching hockey as well because it is like football but more technical and more demanding in terms of fitness. I also try to play as much golf as I can in the summer.

### Which countries have you been to?

I'm not as well travelled as Mr Beattie! I've been to most parts of Europe. I really like Scandinavia, and I was really impressed by Norway. I've travelled to parts of Northern Africa though I have never been to Southern Africa. I would love to go to Zimbabwe. I lived in New Zealand briefly when I was younger and I've travelled to Iceland five times. I've been to the USA twice but not Canada yet.

### My final question is if you were a fruit what fruit would you be and why?

I would be a grape, so I could be made into a fine wine that would mature with age.

*Akin Wright (Yr 8)*

# Mr Floyd



Paul Floyd taught in the Politics and History Departments. He was also Head of Liberal Studies and Politics. He read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford and leaves Eltham College to take up a position as Director of Studies at Cokethorpe School.

## What is “liberal studies” all about, then?

One of the things I've done is I've tried to come up with a little epithet to encapsulate what liberal studies stands for, and what I came up with was suitably pretentious and rubbish, but I think it does the job: “Broader minds, wider understanding, richer experience”. Probably sounds like something that has come out of a focus group or some other awful organisation, but I think that's what the liberal studies ethos is about. You guys are the most examined generation of, well, any generation, and there is some debate about whether that is what education should be entirely about: it should be about more surely than just passing exams. So basically, it is an opportunity for pupils to try something you might not have tried before, and it's also an opportunity for teachers to change gear; it gives them the chance to talk about something other than the subject they would normally teach, and hopefully that will mean you will see them in a different light, and lead to a richer experience as you see different facets of your teachers' understandings.

## Which subject do you prefer; Philosophy, Politics or Economics?

Philosophy.

## Why?

That's exactly why; philosophy is the subject of asking questions. I love politics, but politics is always let down by the human element. Philosophy is the love of knowledge, it's a wonderful subject, but one I think that gets better as you get older. I left university a pretty mediocre philosophy student, and I'm still distinctly sub-par, but the older I get, the more sense it seems to make.

## Who do you think will win the election?

Nobody. I'd be surprised if it came up with anything other than a hung parliament, however, having said that I do think that when people find themselves alone in the polling booth, they're faced with the big three, whether or not they might hesitate over picking liberal democrats, simply because they don't “have the experience”, however it's not as if the conservative party has a huge amount of experience of government, and nor did the labour government before they came in.

## Do you think politics has become blander and less interesting since the 1980's?

Blander; yes, less interesting, definitely not. We might see fewer big political beasts bestriding the horizon, and I think perhaps the biggest single change is politicians trying not to cause offence. If you take a strong point of view you necessarily alienate anyone who doesn't agree with that view, and politics these days seems to be about alienating as many...sorry as few people as possible, and as a consequence of that you necessarily become increasingly bland, but that doesn't mean that the political processes and machinations of a government are any less interesting or indeed important.

## Can we have some background info? What other jobs have you done? Where have you been before now?

Well this is only my second teaching job, and my first was only for two years. Working backwards from that, I founded and ran an internet company with my old boss from the City. We were building cricket websites and this was in fairness around 2000, and building websites was the fashionable thing to do, as it still seems to be now, but that was just the tail end of the dot com bubble. Even as we were starting, all of these businesses were crashing around our ears and we looked at them and swore blind we wouldn't make the same mistakes everyone else was making, and in fairness we didn't, however we did make an entirely new set of mistakes, but it led to the same and tragically inevitable conclusion. Prior to that I did a little bit of cycle courier work, just to see if I could, and the answer to that was I couldn't – not in the long term anyway, I started to fall apart. Then between 1992 and 1999 I worked in the city as a financial analyst and stock broker, which was quite good fun.

## What would your high point at Eltham College be?

I had a feeling this might be coming, and I'm still finding it difficult to pick a specific example. Every exam results day is a high point; that probably sounds absolute rubbish, but it always is as the students inevitably surpass my expectations. Every rugby season has its highlights. One of the days that will stay with me for a long long time is the last game of the season in your year, when it was absolutely hosing with rain, and one of the other teams declined to play, and we played in the teeth of a most ferocious gale, and we drew which led to a square season. That was fun because I thought it demonstrated

uncommon character on behalf of the team; I didn't expect them to rise to the occasion in quite that way, a huge demonstration of "cojones". Other than that there are stacks, but you just can't pick one.

**What would you say has been your most embarrassing moment here?**

Well, those are legion. Various inappropriate comments and urgent and somewhat furtive dashes to the Headmaster to prepare him for the bad news that I felt was imminent. Again too many to remember.

**If you were a super hero, what super hero would you be?**

Captain Inappropriate I think [laughs]. Well we are looking for someone with a vastly inflated sense of their own importance, is entirely inured to their many character flaws, believes themselves to be constantly right and believes everyone else to be a complete and utter idiot, and yet has absolutely no super powers at all. Actually, that sounds a lot like the Ben Stiller character from *The Mystery Men*, Mr Angry, whose only super power seems to be getting really really angry.

**What are your rules of life?**

1. Don't get caught, 2. Never get involved in a land war in Asia, 3. Never play cards with someone whose middle name is "the", 4. Never trust anyone that says "trust me", 5. Never go back. Those are the consistent ones anyway; the rest change depending on the time and place.

**Who would you say was your favourite staff member to work with here?**

They are all tremendous professionals, and it has been a privilege and an education to work with the vast majority of them. Mr Mander is a fantastic politics teacher, and I think we work extremely well with each other; the same is true of Mr Grinstead in both a History and Head of House capacity. The one candidate who I think stands out however would have to be Mr Walker; he's a lot of fun to work with and he's unfortunate in that his office is right outside my classroom, so it's very easy to take your frustrations out on him, he's a good guy for that.

**Define yourself in one word?**

Indescribable, although I hate the idea of being constrained by a single word.

**And finally, for the traditional question, if you could be a fruit, what fruit would you be?**

Pineapple, on the grounds it looks much more prickly than it actually is.

*Nick Kelly, Elliott Williams-Fletcher (Yr 11)*

# Mr Willatt



Mr Willatt formally joined the school in September to teach in the geography department, after teaching here for the summer term of 2009 while Mr Cotterill was on his sabbatical.

## **Describe yourself in 5 words.**

Ummmm. I don't like doing things like this. Can I say... Teacher of Geography at Eltham.

## **No, that's rubbish.**

Well it's my answer. Tough.

## **Desert island with one member of staff;**

I don't really mind who. Just as long as they have an iPod charger; a football and something to eat with them then I think I would be happy. Oh and some sun cream. Safety first.

## **What will you bring to Eltham College?**

Well, there is now a greenhouse behind the ABH constructed from recycled plastic bottles which I may have had something to do with. Do you think I have brought anything else?

## **What about your square-ended ties and the shoes with tassels on, sir?**

Yep, OK. Them too.

## **Which year is your favourite to teach?**

Well obviously I don't have a favourite year.

## **Really sir? Not even us?**

... but if I had to pick a favourite class then I feel that I have little choice but to say 8ADB.

## **One million pounds?**

As a geographer I would have to travel the world.

## **That's not very environmentally friendly.**

OK. I would sail around the world. And plant one tree to offset my carbon emissions.

## **Do you know how to sail?**

No.

## **What was your time at university like? Where did you go?**

I attended the University of Nottingham. It was lots of fun thank you.

## **What did you get up to?**

Well I spent most of my time in the library. Honest.

## **Really?!**

Yep. I immersed myself in all things geographical. (And I may have visited the occasional discotheque.)

## **What type of geography did you specialise in at university? Physical or human?**

My degree was a BSc because my dissertation was predominantly focussed on physical geography. However I preferred the human elements of the course: economic, cultural and medical geography.

## **Vegetable or fruit. Which one and why?**

I would be a carrot because they make the best cakes.

## **Do you make cakes?**

No.

## **Field trip anywhere in the world?**

I would like to go to Ramsey Street.

## **Neighbours has nothing to do with geography.**

We could investigate the impact of tourism on the local area...The sustainability of a television set...

## **Still not convinced.**

OK. Well either Las Vegas or New Zealand. Both are geographically fascinating places in very different ways.

## **Did you enjoy your time in Iceland on the Sixth Form fieldtrip?**

Yes thanks. It is an amazing place. It is very sparsely populated and has some stunning scenery.

## **Do you work for the Icelandic Tourist Board?**

No.

## **What about the volcano?**

Ah yes, Eyjafjallajökull....We were about twenty miles southeast from it when it began erupting. We could see the mushroom cloud created by the glacier melting. It wasn't ever really worrying as we had several escape routes planned. We ended up flying from the beach at Vik in nine-seater planes to Vestmannaeyjar (an island off the south coast of Iceland). Very exciting stuff.

## **Would you ever want to become Head of Geography?**

I think Mr Chesterton would have something to say about that!

## **Oh yeah, well what about in a few years?**

I have never really given it much thought...

*Silas Raggett, Oliver Evans, Guy Seymour (Yr 8)*

# Miss Scarantino



Lucia Scarantino arrived in September as Head of French. She studied French at King's College, London and was previously Head of French at St Dunstan's College.

**First of all, tell us three interesting facts about yourself.**

Hmm...I don't think there are any! (laughs) Well, I suppose I'm part Sicilian and I can juggle. One more thing...oh, I can touch type.

**What made you so attracted to the French language, in particular?**

I think liking the country definitely helped and French food and the culture. I also have French friends which made me more curious about the lifestyle and of course I always thought knowing the language would make me very sophisticated.

**What is your favourite part of France and why?**

I'm slightly torn between Nice and the Loire valley, although overall I think I prefer the south as the weather is better! The local food is fantastic and there are endless places to visit and things to see.

**You can speak Italian....would you like to see the language taught at Eltham College?**

I shall be teaching a beginner's Italian course at Eltham College as part of Liberal Studies next year. I hope it's a success and yes, I would be keen to see it taught here as it is a lovely language and Italy is incredibly appealing!

**Did you always want to become a teacher?**

Well...no! (laughs). I actually had a lot of very different aspirations and things I thought I wanted to do. For example, at one point I wanted to be a professional tennis player.

**Oh really? Were you a very good player then?**

Oh, no. I only ever did it for fun so this was just a very distant dream! I also wanted to be a doctor and study medicine, an architect and I think a politician as well.

**What is the worst experience you have ever had in the classroom?**

I haven't really had any experiences that were that bad, I suppose I haven't been here long enough. (scratches head) Oh, I've had experiences that were annoying like the new whiteboard and computer not working for ages and then not having a back-up plan.

**What is your best experience you've ever had in a classroom?**

(Laughs) Gosh, I don't know! I can't even think of one...when my students listen to me!

**If you were to pack up and move to any other country in the world, where would it be and why?**

France. I love it, everything about it – not just because I love French wine and food. I think I would settle there rather easily providing I had some money to live off!

**So you wouldn't live in the Caribbean?**

No, actually no... I would happily go on holiday there but I don't know if I could live there!

**What about Sicily?**

No, I can understand Sicilian fairly well but don't speak it. I can speak Italian but Sicilian is more difficult, the two are quite different.

**Every student imagines what goes on behind the door of the staffroom, could you shed any light on that?**

If you want to know about the inside of the staffroom, I can tell you that the refreshments are quite nice, the cakes and biscuits are lovely and it's furnished like a Victorian house, with nice leather sofas...

**What do the teachers talk about?**

I suppose what you talk about really. You get teachers talking about who's got the latest gadget, for instance Mr Howls and his iPad.

**What made you choose to teach at Eltham College in particular?**

It has a very good reputation and I've always been aware of that, I think it's a nice, small school with a friendly atmosphere and I heard very good things about it.

**And finally, looking many years into the future, where do you see yourself after retirement?**

After retirement? (Laughs) I would hope to see myself in the South of France with some grandchildren and a lovely house with a swimming pool in a friendly town...

**On that note Ms Scarantino has a longing look in her eyes and gathering up her books, she bids us farewell and dashes off to a meeting.**

*Helena Jerreat, Anandi Vara (L6)*

# Mr Thomson

Sean Thomson arrived in the school in September to teach in the PE Department.



## List five words that sum you up.

Stubborn, determined, relaxed, realistic and competitive.

## Can you tell us a little about your teaching life and your background? Where did you grow up?

I went to an all boys comprehensive school near Reading, and was lucky to have some really good teachers and coaches. I then moved to Devon and went to Exeter University (studying Sports Science), spent four amazing years there and even managed to fit in some studying. I was then fortunate enough to get a job teaching PE in Devon before moving back to the South East to work at Eltham.

## What made you decide you wanted to be a teacher?

I love sport and teaching is a great way to put that across. I started doing some rugby coaching towards the end of my school career and at university. Then the idea of using the skills I had learnt through coaching grew into teaching and I took it from there.

## What drew you towards Eltham?

A chance to further my career. I had really enjoyed my first job but the chance to move back to the South East and work at a school like Eltham was too good an opportunity to pass on.

## If you won the lottery, how would you spend the money?

I'd definitely buy myself a nice house, a reasonably fast car, though not too fast - I could not trust myself. I'd put the rest aside and make sure I would have a fun life with it, but would definitely still work or I would get really bored really quickly.

## You said reasonably fast car, what car would you say is most like you?

An Aston Martin – not too flashy but does the job – and still pretty quick.

## Which year groups do you find the best to teach? Why?

I quite like all of them, but for different reasons. With the junior years you've got the enthusiasm that you can develop over time. However, I also like working with the seniors as they all understand why they are there and what they are working towards.

## What is your favourite film?

Gladiator – a good guys' film!

## What has been your favourite moment of Eltham College so far?

Either watching the Under 13's get to the quarter finals of the Rosslyn Park National 7's, or the U14 cricket team reaching the final of the Kent Cup at the end of an amazing season. When they both started the year they were quite raw but they really have moved on, it wasn't just a few star players, they played as a team throughout. It was great to see both groups achieve that.

## Being a P.E. Teacher, you must have come across many different sports, what would you say is your favourite?

Rugby, definitely.

## Who do you think will win the soccer World Cup?

I'm going to have to say Spain, they are just too strong.

## So, the traditional Eltham College question... if you were a fruit, what would you be? Why?

A really tough question. I had lots of silly suggestions from other members of staff but I will go for a raspberry because I am not as sweet as I look!

*James Reeves (Yr 11)*

# Miss Hobot



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Ania Hobot left the school in December after five and a half years teaching Economics and Business Studies. She is now Head of Economics at Brentwood School in Essex. She was interviewed for the magazine in December 2009.

**After just over five years at the school, you're leaving; what will you miss most about Eltham College?**

Cake in the Common Room at break-time, chocolate pudding and chocolate sauce at lunch-time, Messrs Walker, Dunman and Howls, the amount of travelling that I've managed to fit in on school trips and of course, my lovely Business Studies and Economics students.

**Did you feel it was time for a change and to move back to your home county of Essex?**

I wanted to become a Head of Department, and Mr Walker doesn't seem to be leaving EC any time soon so going to Brentwood was a good option. Essex is also a beautiful county.

**Are you a stereotypical leopard-fashion loving, stiletto-wearing Essex girl at heart then?**

Well I am very excited that Jodie Marsh will be one of my new neighbours! Maybe she can share her fashion tips with me. But I prefer zebra print to leopard.

**It will be easier to get to school without having to drive across the whole of London; will you miss living in the city?**

I love living in London but I won't miss the journey into school. Now I have two doggies, it will be great to live out in the countryside, although I'm not sure the night-life will be up to much.

**We hear that you are getting a new house with your new job as Head of Economics at Brentwood; how's the decorating going?**

Badly! Although I now have a range of power tools and a new variety of skills which means that I can be easily employed as a handyman in the holidays.

**You have been the netball coach for many years at Eltham now; are you going to continue with this at your new school?**

Yes, I think that I'm going to be coaching the second team. I'll also continue playing for Foxes in my spare time – as long as my knee holds up!

**Can you describe yourself in five words?**

Long, Supercool, Polish, Orient Supporter.

**What do you think that you brought to Eltham College no-one else has?**

A love of Leyton Orient F.C.

**What do you think has changed since you have been here?**

Oh I remember the days of the Gallery tuck shop. There was nothing better than a crusty cheese roll and an iced bun served by the lovely Mr Howls at break time.

**What would you change in the school?**

Maybe have football teams in each year? Of course I would also give the Economics Department an office and all the staff a pay rise!

**If you could have three superhuman powers what would they be and what would you use them for?**

Invisibility so I could listen in to what people were saying and stalk celebrities. The ability to mark work just by looking at it. I could choose the power of flight but (as a later question will reveal), I'd be too terrified to use it.

**What is your verdict on the current economic crisis? Whose fault was it and when do you predict the economy will recover?**

What we've seen is that when there are significant imbalances in an economy (in this case, the Global economy!) eventually those imbalances have to be corrected. The preference is for a gradual correction but these can sometimes be politically unpopular and people are also reluctant to change their behaviour in good times – especially when told 'This time it's different'. So we have had a violent economic shock that is typical of a capitalist system every twenty years or so.

Banks, the Western Consumer, the Chinese government, mortgage brokers in the US – some sort of 'blame' can be apportioned to every aspect of the financial system. I expect that everyone will vow to learn the lessons of this episode to make sure it never happens again. The measures implemented now, rather than prevent the next crisis, will probably actually cause it, so expect another shock (although hopefully not as

big) in the mid 2020s!

Lots has been written about the recovery –but I think the recovery depends partly on next summer's World Cup, so over to you Fabio!

**What do you think about the “bankers’ bonuses” controversy?**

It's difficult to strike the right balance. Banks are profitable again now and it is right that individuals who have contributed to that should be rewarded and their skills retained within the UK (and their tax revenue). On the other hand, the reason the banking system is still standing is because of the enormous level of taxpayer support so the first priority should be to return those funds. The real purpose of the controversy is to deflect attention away from the Government's conduct so it's a very handy distraction for Alistair Darling – controversial!

**You have taught both business studies and economics. What do you think the difference between them is? Is one harder?**

Business Studies is more practical whereas Economics is more theoretical. I couldn't possibly comment as to which one is more difficult (it will cause a lot of rows in the department!)

**Do you have a fear of anything?**

I make myself fly, but I'm absolutely petrified of it. Even seeing aeroplanes in the sky scares me.

**If you had to pick one memory as your fondest from Eltham, what would it be?**

The netball trip that I took with Miss Lewis to Salou in Spain was the best trip that I have been on. It rained for the entire time that we were there but the girls were fantastic and winning the tournament at the end of the week was the icing on the cake.

**And the traditional Eltham College question, if you had to be a type of fruit, what would you be and why?**

It would have to be an apple, as soon I'll be Mrs Cox.

*Jo Healy (U6)*