



Choristers excel at St Paul's

At the very end of last term twenty-seven trebles and sopranos from the College Choir were invited to join with the London Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Valery Gergiev, for two performances of Mahler's colossal Symphony No.8 in St Paul's Cathedral.

St Paul's has experienced many a cacophony of sound over the years both from the outside and from within, but Wren's mighty dome itself was nearly dislodged when 'Valery Gergiev and the London Symphony Orchestra completed their cycle of Mahler symphonies with the gargantuan Eighth. Its first promoter

called it the 'Symphony of a Thousand', and close to that number must have gathered there on the July evenings with an orchestra that stretched the width of the dome itself, an excellent pupils' choir from Eltham College, the fine London Symphony Chorus and well-drilled Choral Arts Society of Washington DC and eight soloists,' The Times reported Friday 11th July. The two sell-out concerts were relayed live on BBC Radio 3 and recorded for the LSO Live label for a CD to be released later in the year. Many people who attended the performances were quick to sing the praises of the 'Eltham Trebles'. Being part of this musical extravaganza was without doubt the climax of what has been a remarkable year in their professional singing careers.

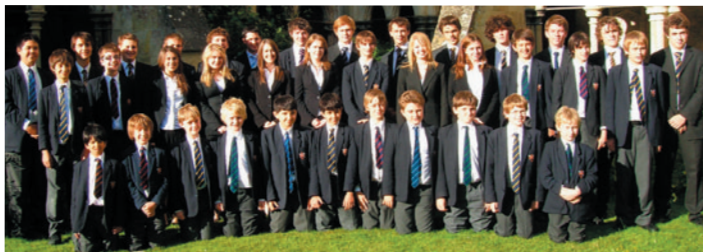


Kiss of the Spider Women at the Edinburgh Fringe

In August a group of twenty-four pupils past and present took the Kander and Ebb musical *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* to the Edinburgh Festival. Director Ben Pollard and Musical Director Robbie Jacobs recruited former pupil Anna Simmons to play the title role. This was her final appearance in an Eltham production before she begins the three year Musical Theatre course at Mountview. The two male leads were played by David Burnett and William Vander Gucht. The show played nine performances in Edinburgh and was extremely well received, in particular Charles Simpson's ingenious and stylish set. It was an incredible experience, and one which we hope to repeat.

ECCO Jazz

Meanwhile, ECCO teamed up with the ever popular Jazz Evening to form a summer night special in the marquee. The concert showcased all of Eltham's Jazz ensembles; the R 'n' B Band and Saxophone Quartet gave brilliant performances whilst Hot Jazz, with Tuxedo Junction, showed how good the Eltham College Music Department were at bringing on young musicians. The Jazz Orchestra played *Just in Time*, and the Dixieland Band impressed and amused the crowds with *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The second half of the night was hosted by the Syd Lawrence Jazz Orchestra. Chris Dean led a very interactive night with his entertaining commentary throughout. Their Big Band playing was simply stunning and it was a great experience for pupils to be able to enjoy it. A demonstration on how polished their set was could be seen in *Peanut Vendor* when during the song, the majority of the band broke into a maraca accompaniment. The SLO was joined by Eleanor Keenan who gave stunning vocal performances. The evening was rounded off by a grand finale in which all the members of the SLO and the Eltham College musicians came together.



Plaudits at Salisbury

During the first week of the summer holidays the Choir of Eltham College spent a very enjoyable week singing daily services at Salisbury Cathedral. The choir sang some extremely challenging and exciting repertoire to large, highly appreciative congregations, and received many plaudits from the clergy, including an invitation to return and sing at the Cathedral in future years.

Writer in Residence

Following in the tradition of Artists and Musicians in Residence at Eltham College, from September 2008 for one term the English Department will have Penguin author Grace Bowman working with them as Writer in Residence. Grace's memoir, *Thin*, has been published to widespread critical acclaim. Charlie Lee-Potter in The Independent on Sunday said, 'it is powerfully written, beautifully articulated and elegantly constructed... essential reading... Grace Bowman has readability by the bucketful.' Grace is a Cambridge English graduate who has much experience of writing for magazines and public speaking.

Head of English, Matthew Pollard: 'The role of Writer in Residence is a new venture for the English Department. We are hoping that Grace will work closely with English teachers in class to encourage

and guide the pupils' creative writing and help them express their thoughts and ideas with lucidity and maturity. Grace will also be running lunchtime clubs for budding writers. I hope pupils of all ages will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.'



'I'm looking forward to this fantastic opportunity to work with pupils and teachers at Eltham College. By imbuing pupils with my own passion for reading and writing I hope to encourage creativity, build confidence and self-expression and help develop some great writing. I'm sure I will also be able to draw inspiration for my own work by being in a thriving creative and academic environment, and discover some new young writers along the way.'

ECPTA

The ECPTA wishes to extend its thanks and gratitude to all parents who have so generously supported our events over the past School year. Due to this support we have once again raised a considerable amount of money that has allowed us to consider a 'wish list' put forward by departments within both the Junior and Senior School. This year we have allocated money to buy new tables and chairs for the extended Dining Hall, a projector and screen for the Junior School Hall and have put some money aside for an awning to be built in the Junior School playground.

Just to let you know how valuable your support is, last year one of the items we purchased was a satellite telephone to be used by the School on expeditions to far flung locations in the world. This proved an essential addition to our expedition team when one of the boys was taken ill whilst walking the Inca Trail. The satellite

telephone enabled the emergency services to be called and the young lad returned safely and quickly to a nearby town. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our AGM on Tuesday 14th October where you will have the chance to get first hand information about us and consider becoming a Committee member.

PTA EVENTS 2008/2009

October	Saturday 4th - Pop Quiz - Junior School Only
	Friday 10th - Wine Tasting
	Tuesday 14th - AGM
November	Saturday 22nd - Quiz Night
January	Burns Night
May	Pop Quiz
June	Junior School BBQ
	Summer Ball

Open Morning Saturday 15th November 10.00am - 12.30pm

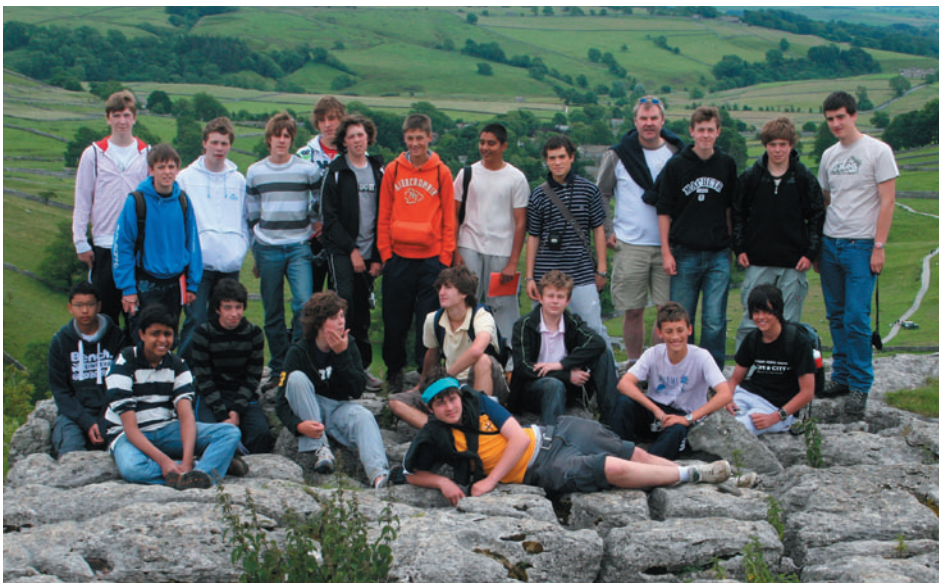
A record 91.6% gain top grades at A Level

Eltham College broke the 90% barrier for grades A and B at A level for the first time. Mr Paul Henderson, Headmaster at Eltham College was delighted, 'We are all very pleased and our pupils are to be congratulated on their fine results. While there are some outstanding candidates in this year group, with 11 pupils achieving 4 grade As, nearly half of all pupils (46%) achieved 3 A grades. This high level of achievement secures places at good universities and places them on the next rung of the ladder to their adult life'.

Calum O'Byrne-Mulligan (17) from Blackheath is going to read History and Politics at Warwick after spending a year working in Ed Milliband's Office – he achieved 100% on his Politics A level, as well as A Grades in History and Religious Studies. Anthony Barron ((18) from Beckenham has a place to read Geography at Durham with A Grades in Economics, Geography and Politics and Distinctions at Advanced Extension Award level in both Economics and Geography. Robbie Jacobs (18) from Eynsford Kent has gained a place at King's College Cambridge as a Choral Scholar with A grades in History Music and Politics. Rachel Collins (18) from Bickley has gained a place at Merton College Oxford to read Mathematics with A grades in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and History. Alex Cross ((18) from Chislehurst has gained a place at Selwyn College Cambridge to read Natural Sciences with A grades in Maths Chemistry and Physics. All 12 offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities were achieved and in the light of such excellence others are likely to follow.



Geographers head 'Up North'.



After a decade and a half of enjoying the coastal delights of Dorset, the GCSE class of 2008 headed up north to explode some of the myths of northern England and expose them to the natural and man made beauty of Yorkshire and Lancashire. The M1 remained a three lane motorway all the way to Leeds and wasn't transformed into an uphill cobbled track just outside of Luton and very soon the group arrived in Skipton where its Central Business District was delimited and its Sphere of Influence clearly defined. A short journey to Haworth lay ahead and the group was soon bedded down in the most comfortable and elegant of Youth Hostels.

The next day was all about limestone and we headed to the world famous Malham Cove, Malham Tarn and Goredale Scar; potholes, sinks, resurgences, waterfalls, limestone pavement,

clints, grikes and solution weathering were the order of the day and if being on the limestone wasn't enough we were soon able to explore and enjoy the sub-terranean features found in Ingleborough caves. Rocks and landscapes gave way to tourism on day two and the charming Yorkshire Dales National Park contrasted vividly with Britain's number one seaside destination Blackpool! Whilst it had seen better days, the Pleasure Beach was still a major crowd pleaser. Manchester, like Blackpool, was keen to reinvent itself and that it did with the aid of the IRA bomb in 1996 and the Central Manchester Development Corporation. New uses for old buildings, homes and people back in the inner city, reclaimed waterways and enviable retail shopping stores were there for all to see. A short but sweet taste of the geography of northern England, with not a whippet or flat cap in sight, was I hope a thoroughly good experience.

Open Morning Saturday 15th November 10.00am - 12.30pm

Faster, Stronger, Higher



Whilst Great Britain was enjoying success at the Beijing Olympics, Eltham College's very own Angela McCullough was running her own race in attempting to establish closer ties with a school in China. Mrs McCullough, who teaches Mandarin at Eltham College Junior School, together with her son Andrew, who is Year 7, met the Headmaster and Party Secretary of the No 17 School in Tiensin and exchanged materials and books. This school was especially selected because it was where Eric Liddell (one of Eltham's most famous former pupils) taught when it was an Anglo-Chinese School. Mrs McCullough and Andrew were then interviewed live on Tiensin radio with Andrew proving his ability to speak Mandarin by singing a few Chinese songs.



The Chinese hold Eric Liddell in very high esteem claiming that he is a son of China because he was born in China, saved some of Mao's soldiers and won a gold medal for them – although Scotland may have something to say about that! What with Gordon Brown giving the Chinese PM a statue of Eric Liddell as a present and Tessa Jowell and some GB Gold medallists visiting his grave, Eric Liddell is currently big news in China; now that over 10,000 books about his life have been printed in Chinese even more will know about his good work and where he went to school. Now that much of the ground work has begun Eltham can begin to benefit from much closer links with schools in China and by the time London hosts the Olympics in 2012 exchange visits may well taking place.

Two other Eltham College pupils were also represented in Beijing; Jack Oliver, who has represented England U18 at weightlifting, was invited by the British Olympic Association as part of the 2012 programme for young hopefuls for the London Olympic Games. Jack visited both the Great Britain holding camp for the whole of the track and field team at Macau and the Olympic Village in Beijing. He also enjoyed watching two categories of the weightlifting in which the Chinese took gold in both. Since then he has been selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India. The opening ceremony will be on 12th October, but he flies out five days earlier to train and acclimatise; his chances of medal success are high and we wish him well.



Meanwhile, Patrick Pamment had been asked by the BBC to write a blog from his experience of the games; he enjoyed reporting on boxing and basketball and he was impressed with the enthusiasm and great lengths the Chinese had gone to to embrace the games. Patrick also reported that the air pollution wasn't as bad as it might have been thanks largely to the halving of the number of cars due to the system of having vehicles with number plates ending with an odd number driving on one day and even ones on another.



Faster, stronger, higher was a theme that continued into September with The South London State and Independent Schools' Partnership once again devising and putting on an original play in the Antony Barnard Hall. Pupils from Archbishop Tenison's School, Darrick Wood School and Eltham College (Charlie Mottram, Patrick Pamment, James Prior, Will Holcombe and Cameron Smith, photographed above) performed two memorable performances of a play that sought to explore the tensions that competition at the highest level can bring to the lives of those who dare dream Olympic glory. The work was a synthesis of the collective thinking and feeling of twenty young people who, in little more than a week, created a piece of drama which they can all be extremely proud of.

Open Morning Saturday 15th November 10.00am - 12.30pm