

## Welcome

We are delighted to bring you the newly resurrected Cheltenham College Newsletter. By the very nature of College life, it is impossible to reflect upon every aspect or to do justice to the incredible successes and achievements of our pupils. We do hope, however, that this newsletter gives you an insight into our busy community and we look forward to building upon this in future terms.

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## From the Headmaster



I am very pleased indeed to be writing a foreword to the latest version of College News. There has been a hiatus, but now, by popular demand, we are returning to publishing three editions a year.

We have two things in mind. Firstly the celebration of the diversity of College life, from the academic and intellectual to the sporting and adventurous: our pupils are involved in so many worthwhile activities! Secondly, we would like to share everything that is being achieved here with you - I hope it speaks volumes about the breadth that characterises a College education.

In this new edition we are looking back over the last term. Successful Oxbridge applicants and mathematical medal winners give way to a Shakespearian actor, an alpine ski champion, the launch of 'The Longest Climb', the promise of a virtuoso organ recital and plans to host a charity ball in aid of the Ethonjeni Trust. And all of this merely scratches the surface.

The Easter holidays saw some of our linguists in Germany and Spain, our geographers in North Yorkshire, rackets players at Queen's Club and rugby players taking the Rosslyn Park Sevens by storm. A Lower 6th group has just returned from Nepal after a gruelling but exhilarating expedition to the foothills of the Himalayas and others have undertaken their D of E Gold award expedition. We look forward to sharing their stories with you through our website over the coming weeks.

This term our focus is, quite rightly, on public and College examinations. Our first responsibility remains excellent teaching and demanding the highest possible academic standards from our pupils. I hope, however, that this newsletter further shows our firm commitment to the kind of all round education that enriches pupils' lives, develops their wider talents and prepares them to be mature and responsible young people.

John Richardson  
Headmaster

# Oxbridge success



Warm congratulations to our five College pupils who are celebrating after being offered 2009 Oxbridge places. Success at A Level will see Thomas Haggie and Christopher Bond joining Peterhouse and Trinity at Cambridge respectively to read History, Guy James joining St John's, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, Christopher Neumann joining St John's, Oxford to read Chemistry and Tom Stubbs joining Magdalen, Oxford to read Biochemistry. All five pupils will join the College ranks of the 11 girls and 19 boys who have won Oxbridge places in the last four years. John Richardson commented: "Winning an Oxbridge place is a tremendous achievement and I am very proud indeed of these pupils. I wish them every success in their chosen courses and an exciting future."

## Medals for Maths!

Congratulations to: Jun Ho Ku, Peter Wild, Kyusik Shin, Jonathan Harrap, Guy Brothwood, James Baker, Jack Dymoke, Kangbo Lee, Paul Yoon and Thomas Lowde, all of whom have been awarded Gold certificates by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) for their outstanding performance in this year's Maths Intermediate Challenge. This nationwide competition is open to all students in year 11 and below, with over 600,00 from 4,000 schools taking part last year. Our pupils (six of them well below the average age of entry) have all received Gold certificates, recognising them as being in the top 7%.



Every year the top 500 pupils are invited to compete in the Intermediate British Maths Olympiad for the chance to represent the UK. Jun Ho Ku and Paul Yoon have both made this elite grade and three more pupils; James Baker, Thomas Lowde and Peter Wild have been invited back for the European round where they will compete against students from over 30 different countries. We wish them the very best of luck!

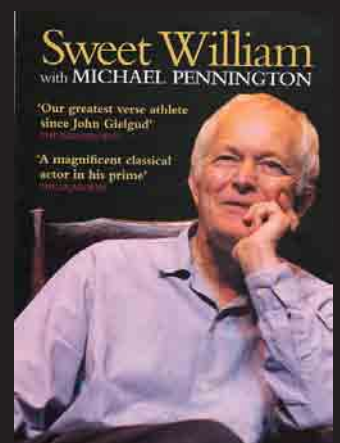
## 16+ Scholarship places awarded

We are delighted to report that 11 College pupils have been awarded internal Scholarships for entry into Upper College in September and congratulate them warmly on their achievement. Scholarships have been awarded to:

- Alex Austin (Academic and Sport)
- Emma Bevan (Academic)
- Cressida Pidgeon (Academic)
- Hannah Topping (Academic)
- Matthew Wright (Academic)
- George Burt (Academic)
- Bethany Chapman (Academic)
- Jun Ho Ku (Academic)
- Harry Jaggs (Sport)
- Harry Smart (Sport)
- Charlotte Alway (Sport)

## Famous Shakespearian actor performs at College

On Friday 30th January we were treated to a special two hour performance by Michael Pennington, a celebrated Shakespearian actor. Michael, who has worked with the RSC and the National Theatre, as well as setting up the English Shakespeare Company, performed his one-man show 'Sweet William'. The show is the actor's tribute to the playwright who inspired his career and who remains the most powerful cultural influence on our lives today.



The superbly crafted and spellbinding performance interwove Shakespeare's plays and performed extracts into what we know about his life. It was a fantastic occasion and a great opportunity for our English and Theatre Studies pupils!

# College performs The Threepenny Opera



Between Thursday 26th and Saturday 28th March, talented pupils treated audiences to a mesmerising performance of *The Threepenny Opera* by Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill. Filled with hidden political messages, hard hitting dialogue and a wonderful array of singing voices, the play brilliantly told the story of gangster, murderer and serial charmer Macheath. Famed by the *Ballad of Mack the Knife*, performed eerily by pupil Guy James, it showed in a series of 9 scenes how Macheath, in true Greek tragic style, overstepped the mark by getting involved successively with the daughters of the Chief of Police and the proprietor of a company of beggars.

Towering over the whole production was a remarkable performance by Richard May as Macheath. A natural on stage, Richard explored the complexities of the character with extraordinary insight and conviction. All the other lead characters also excelled as actors and singers, with especially strong and comic performances from Ra Twilley as the owner of the Beggars' Company and Annabel Coaker as his increasingly tipsy wife. Polly North, as their daughter Polly, was especially touching, particularly in her performance of the famous 'Pirate Jenny' song. A live band, made up almost exclusively of College pupils completed the show with powerful and outstanding music.

Nicholas Lowton, the play's Director, had the following to say: "This was a fantastic ensemble production performed by a hugely enthusiastic and talented cast of pupils, all of whom grabbed the audience – in some cases literally – from the moment they entered the theatre."

## Musical talent abounds

It's hard to pick a musical highlight from last term, with pupils enjoying many terrific concerts, singing competitions and choral evensongs. The unique House Singing competition kick-started the term, with every pupil taking part and Christowe carrying off the victor's title with two classic Simon & Garfunkel songs... Mid term, the Chamber Orchestra concert saw flute soloist Christopher Bond give a superb performance of the Flute Concerto in D by Vivaldi and Matthew Wright delighted the audience with his Corelli Oboe Concerto. And finally, the end of term jazz concert given by JIG and Big Band was spectacular, with their rich and powerful sound being heard to full effect in numbers such as 'Spiderman', 'I'm a believer' and a specially commissioned arrangement by Paul Buck of 'Ain't that a kick in the head'.



In preparation for its inaugural tour to New York and Delaware USA this July, the Chamber Choir has also been busy singing Choral Evensong in various places this year. A real highlight was being asked to sing at Merton College, Oxford on 12th February. Merton's Chapel (1290-94) is one of the oldest in Oxford, especially notable for its lofty bell tower and dreaming spires... Merton has also recently become a foundation for Choral music and forms Britain's foremost choral ensembles along with Sixteen, the other Oxford established choir. Under the direction of College Organist Alexander Ffinch, the Chamber Choir sang a service of 16th and 17th century unaccompanied music for double choir, including the introit 'Reges Tharsis et Insulae' by John Sheppard, the 'Magnificat quinti toni' by Hieronymus Praetorius and the 'Nunc Dimittis' by Thomas Tallis, the great father of English music. The Chapel was packed full and the whole experience, steeped as it was in tradition stemming back to the Middle Ages, had a profound effect on the choir.

# Sporting Excellence

Following on from the stunning achievement of our first XV last term when they finished their entire season undefeated, both College pupils and sports teams have excelled this term. Here are just a few highlights...

## Lucy Peel conquers the Alps!



16 year old Lucy Peel beat all the odds to become the U17 English Alpine Ski Champion. The Championship, held in Bormio, Italy over the February half term saw 27 girls compete for the crown, many of whom race regularly for England. Lucy overcame great mental and physical obstacles to win the Championship. This time last year in the same race she crashed badly and landed on her head, resulting in months of cranio therapy and very little sport. She entered the Championship with a mere 5 days training under her belt – a usual schedule would have been at least 9 weeks... A tremendous achievement!

## 2009 National Schools Squash Trophy Event Winners

Both our girls' and boys' squash teams triumphed in the National Schools Trophy Finals, with the girls confidently beating the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle with a 5-0 result and the boys hot on their heels with a 4-1 result against Charterhouse School from Surrey.



Squad team members:

Standing: Jasper Onslow, Sebastian Cheli, Alex Duncliffe, Barnaby Morton, Rob Shepherd (Coach), Laura Bevan, David Kayes, Phillipa Morris, Laura Harber. Kneeling: Georgia Gunn, Jack Ball, Lily Owen.

## U18s reach rugby 7s final at Hereford Cathedral School



Great efforts from the whole team resulted in a place in the final of this competition – one of the stronger tournaments on the circuit. The boys fought hard to reach the final but the might of Welsh opponents Coleg Sir Gar proved too much and they lost 10-27.

A fantastic performance however, especially considering the boys had played tough games of hockey the previous day!

## Both Girls' U16 and Boys' U16 Hockey Teams represent West of England



For the first time ever, both our U16 girls' and boys' hockey teams were crowned Regional Schools' champions and went through to represent the West of England in the National Finals. Both teams put up a strong fight, with the boys losing to Whitgift School in the quarter round and the girls finishing a solid 4th place. Considering the fierce competition on a national level, this was a truly excellent result and all hearts are set on going even further next year!



U16 Girls' Team: Polly North, Lucy Peel, Phoebe Cruickshank, Chloe Shelbourne-Ralph, Robyn Stovold, Emma Bevan (captain), Bea Reeve Tucker, Georgia Faulkner, Bella Haycraft-Mee, Emma Beresford, Charlotte Alway, Lydia Shortt, Amelia Scott-Hopkins and Philly Morris.

U16 Boys' Team: Harry Jaggs, Fred Nesbitt, Guy Mitchell, Jack Arundell, Harry Symes-Thompson, Alfie Gilbert, Adam Shimizu, Alex Rudge, Alex Mason (captain), Alex Ross, Harry Smart, Harry Hitchins, Charlie Sault, Tom Barton, Ned Langlands-Pearse and Nick Knudsen.

## Record success for College swimmers

On Friday 13th March, both the girls' and boys' squads travelled all the way to Whitgift School in South Croydon, Surrey to compete in the Otter Swimming Club Relay events against 88 other school teams.

The girls swam outstandingly to finish 12th in the freestyle event (having never made a final before!) and excelled even further to finish 7th in the final of the medley event. Congratulations to Grace Knudsen, Daisy Hughes, Hannah Topping and Georgia Faulkner, all of whom swam personal best times in the final, and to Anna Masten who swam excellently in the heats. The boys; Charles Wong, James Fletcher, Phil Charlesworth, Andrew Hay and Paul Endacott also all swam personal bests, exceeding all expectations by winning the Alderman Cup! They then went on to swim spectacularly in the Medley event final, only just being beaten on a touch finish into second place.

# Olympic kayaking Gold Medallist visits Queen's

On Saturday 14th March, the girls at Queen's were privileged to play breakfast hosts to the Olympic K1 1000m Gold Medallist and professional doctor Tim Brabants. Senior Prefect Georgia Rawlinson reported on the occasion: "The drawing room was filled with excited, if slightly apprehensive chatter as the formidable title of "not just another Olympic champion" flashed against our wall. The words rang true and we were quickly amazed by Tim's unperturbed descriptions of his gruelling training regime, which ranged from sprinting up the side of black ski runs to underwater press-ups! All that whilst balancing an impressive medical career - it was exhausting just thinking about it! Amazement deepened when we watched Tim's gold-medal race, followed by a front cover page of Tim and Kiera Knightley... Tim was then officially deified in our eyes when we were informed that he had visited Buckingham Palace no fewer than three times. A last treat was unveiled when Tim casually pulled his gold medal from his back pocket and handed it round to the many envious faces. Finally, a lucky few of us were able to glimpse yet another treasure - Tim's MBE, which he had "forgotten" amidst all the excitement. To hear Tim's Olympic journey was inspirational and what was most notable was the humility and modesty with which he spoke of his achievements. It was a fantastic morning!"



## Another successful CCF Inspection!



On Wednesday 18th March, our grounds were awash with senior RAF officials, College staff and CCF pupils, all resplendent in military uniform and parading regimental colours. Over 280 of our cadets took part in the auspicious Biennial CCF Inspection. Before and after the official parade and inspection, the pupils took part in a Round Robin series of challenges and competitions to showcase their skills and abilities, from gun runs and watermanship to flying a Eurofighter simulator in Southwood car park! At midday, the Guard of Honour donned full military uniform and marched in perfect unison under the watchful gaze of the inspecting RAF officer, Air Vice Marshal Garwood CBE DFC. The cadets were

personally praised by the Air Vice Marshal who spent time inspecting the Guard of Honour both on parade and during the activities. Head of Corps, Clare Oliver, fulfilled her duties admirably, leading with distinction and impeccable timing. The day was then rounded off with a full and grand scale regimental dinner at College, attended not only by Air Vice Marshal Garwood but also by HM Lord Lieutenant Cadet for Gloucestershire, the Chief Constable and many military and civilian guests.

## Rackets Squad takes USA and Canada by storm

Our 12 man strong Rackets squad had a mightily successful tour to North America and Canada at half term. Players from Montreal Racket Club, the Racquet Club of Chicago and Detroit Rackets Club were all beaten by College and it was only when we arrived in New York at the exclusive Tennis and Racquets Club that we were defeated (helped by a world champion OC!)... Each club treated the squad royally, providing dinners and accommodation with members. The players even managed to take in a few sights, from College Basketball at Madison Square Garden to the Henry Ford Motor Museum!



Squad: Dan Shiner, Charlie Wootton, Rory Musgrave, Callum Scott, Sam Collins, Dale Scott, Alex Gotley, Felix Clarke, Charles Clarke, Richard Owen, Alfie Gilbert, Tom Barton, MPB, GEW and KA.

# Turning Valentine's Day into a business opportunity

Back in February, our Young Enterprise groups decided that there was more than enough of a Valentine's market for them to exploit... One group, Myecocollege, more than surpassed themselves by delivering hand wrapped sweetheart gifts to pupils across College.

The group members marketed their product, took orders and then set up a mass production line. More than 200 gifts were designed, created and sent! Congratulations to all the pupils involved, not only for their business acumen but their hard work in bringing the idea to fruition. We look forward to celebrating them as future leaders in the business world!

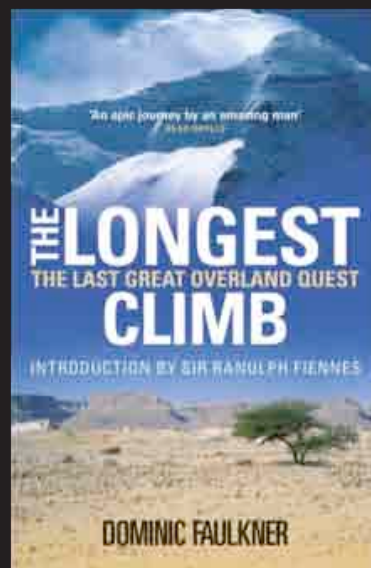


## Dominic Faulkner launches Everest Expedition book

On 14th March in the College library, our Director of Activities Dominic Faulkner launched 'The Longest Climb' – his personal account of the renowned EVERESTMAX expedition. In 2006, Dominic led the Cheltenham based team to the peak of Everest, becoming the first ever expedition to ascend from the lowest point on Earth to the highest. His book offers a gripping insight into the team's experiences – both high and low – as they took on such an immense challenge. Following much of the ancient Silk Road, they cycled five thousand miles across Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India on the way to Tibet and the bottom of the world's highest mountain...

From escaping the Syrian army and confronting Iranian mullahs, to deciding whether or not to share the little oxygen they had and risk their own lives in order to save another climber, "The Longest Climb" is a high-octane combination of the huge personal risk, fascinating cultural insight (and momentary farce) that make up a major expedition.

The evening also saw Dominic announce the College's ambitious and exciting Wilson 100 programme, the centennial commemoration of the death of Old Cheltonian and Arctic Explorer Edward Wilson. Watch this space for more details!



'The Longest Climb' is available from publishers Virgin and Random House.



## Snow at Cheltenham College

As the country ground to a snowy halt in February, pupils made the most out of the winter wonderland that College grounds became. Imaginations were certainly out in force, with a particularly memorable polar bear being created on the College Field and a rather large snowman cunningly blocking the staff Common Room entrance...

With a camera tucked under one arm, we braved the crossfire of snowballs and snow fights to bring you a selection of photos.

# 13+ Open Morning success

On Saturday 14th March we welcomed over 50 sets of potential parents to our 13+ Open Morning. While we were anxious not to let the morning affect the usual timetable too much, sincere appreciation goes to our 4th formers and Lower 6th pupils who were all involved at some point, from partaking in activities to acting as tour guides. The feedback we received about pupils was outstanding. Many visitors commented on their politeness, professionalism and general manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the morning. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for being such a credit to College; they should be extremely proud of themselves.

## Pupils' art displayed on the Saatchi website

We are constantly in awe of the fabulous art work that our pupils create. Much of it can be found decorating College walls but did you also know that pictures can be found online on the Saatchi Gallery website? Just visit [www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk](http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk), search under Cheltenham College and you will access a wide range of our pupils' work. Alternatively, just type this exact link into your browser: [www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/portfolio/SchoolInfo/Cheltenham+College/510919.html](http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/portfolio/SchoolInfo/Cheltenham+College/510919.html)



## Easter holiday events at Cheltenham College

Every Easter, we invite boys and girls from year 3 to year 8 and from all over the country to participate in a professional cricket coaching course during the holidays. Run by our Cricket Professional Mark Briers, this year's courses gave pupils the opportunity to be coached by ex county cricketers and coaching professionals - a great pre-training event for the cricket season coming up. Indeed, cricket is one of our main sports at College and we are delighted to be hosting the Cheltenham Cricket Festival once again this year which will run from 12 - 26 July. We look forward to seeing you there perhaps.

Professional Cricket Coaching  
at Cheltenham College  
From Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 April 2009



**TeachMeet<sup>Mac</sup>**  
cheltenhamcollegeapril9th

We also hosted the Apple Teaching Institute (ATI) conference for the 12th year running, with over 100 teaching professionals from all over the world gathering at College to learn about Apple technology and use our extensive ICT facilities. Renowned as the top teacher training event for

Apple users, this is a significant event for school ICT professionals. This year we also organised something new and a bit different - TeachMeet, affectionately known as speed geeking... Rather like the slightly less educational idea of speed dating, TeachMeet offered teaching professionals the unique opportunity to share their expertise within a 2 (nano) or 7 (micro) minute time slot. Watch this space to see what new ideas we put into practice...

Finally, we also welcomed 127 boys and 57 girls to our sports hall over the holidays to take part in the celebrated annual Cheltenham Cotswold 3/4 Star Table Tennis Tournament hosted at College. Over 900 matches were played, with competitors coming from all over England, Ireland, Wales and even India to play top quality table tennis. A fantastic event and we were proud to share our excellent facilities with so many young sporting stars.



## Easter Holidays away from College

We are delighted to welcome many pupils back from College trips after Easter and look forward to bringing you details of their adventures through our website. To name but a few destinations; some departed for the far flung climes of the Himalayas to stretch their stamina and courage, some participated in a German School Exchange to improve their language and cultural skills, some headed to the French Alps for a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award qualifying ski touring expedition and others attended a shooting training camp in Bisely!

# College to host Thomas Trotter concert

Cheltenham College  
Presents



## THOMAS TROTTER

### PROGRAMME

- Fantasia Et Toccata  
C.V.STANFORD 1852-1924
- Sonata no 3  
C.P.E.BACH 1714-1788
- Sonata no 2  
E.ELGAR 1857-1934

### INTERVAL

- Introduction, Variations and Fugue on  
"God save the Queen"  
W.T.BEST 1826-1897
- Variations on a theme of Paganini for Pedals  
G.THALBEN-BALL 1896-1987
- Scherzo  
F.HOLLOWAY 1873-1954
- 1812 Overture arranged by  
P.TSCHAIKOVSKY 1840-1893 (arr. E.Evans)



British organ virtuoso Thomas Trotter returns to Cheltenham as the highlight of a masterclass for young organists, hosted by Cheltenham College

7.30pm SATURDAY 2 MAY 2009

Pre-concert drinks at 6.45pm in the College Library

Please call 01242 265 600 for ticket information

International organ virtuoso Thomas Trotter is to give a special recital on our venerable Harrison and Harrison organ in the College Chapel at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd May.

Thomas Trotter, described as 'one of today's greatest living organists', has a legendary reputation both as an organist and performer. He will be treating us to pieces by Bach, Elgar and Stanford and culminating in Tchaikovsky's infamous 1812 Overture. Appealing to all kinds of music lovers from the traditionalists to the modernists, Thomas will also be offering commentary upon his music selection and giving a characteristically humorous and down to earth demonstration of the Harrison and Harrison Organ. This will be his second visit to Cheltenham College, following his sensational recital in 2007 where he marked the Elgar centenary so memorably to a packed Chapel.

Refreshments will be served in the Cheltenham College Library from 6.45pm before the recital and there will be a small interval during the concert. Tickets are priced £7 each with concessions at £5. To purchase tickets, please telephone us on 01242 265 600 or visit the main College Reception. Places are limited so we do advise booking early.

## The African Dreams Charity Ball

The charity chosen by the boys and girls for this calendar year's fundraising is the Emthonjeni Trust. Based in Cheltenham, its aim is to make a positive contribution to the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, where poverty and unemployment are particularly high. It has strong personal links with the College, with several of our past and present parents involved with running it and retired Deputy Head Malcolm Sloan as its treasurer.

One of the events Cheltenham College is hosting to raise money for Emthonjeni Trust is 'The African Dreams Charity Ball' on Friday 3rd July 2009 at 7.30 pm. It promises to be a wonderful black tie evening event with dinner and dancing, a Game Drive casino and a Tombola in the Boma to name just a few highlights! Tickets cost £50 and tables will seat 10 people. Any bookings received by 26th April will qualify for a 5% early booking discount. For further information and to book your tickets, please contact either Malcolm Sloan on 07979 242315 and email [malcolmsloan@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmsloan@gmail.com) or Di Pagett on 07515 910900 and email [pagetts@mac.com](mailto:pagetts@mac.com).

## Note from the editor

Many thanks for reading this newsletter which will continue to evolve term by term. Should you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, please do feel free to contact me. Your feedback is always greatly appreciated.

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