



A College
Lottery special
edition

Looking back
at our work in
Romania

Our link
primary school
in Kenya

Trekking in
Nepal

Music Tour to
Barcelona &
Catalonia

Rugby tour to
South America

Taking up the reins

This year sees Cheltenham College enter a new decade under the leadership of Dr Alex Peterken. Alex Peterken joined College as Deputy Head in 2008, after 11 successful years at Charterhouse and took over as Headmaster this September. Passionate about co-education, helping pupils understand the way in which they learn and preparing them for life beyond school, he brings with him a wealth of inspirational ideas. He shares a few of them here in College News:

In the last issue, I made reference to the exciting times that lie ahead. Many new and exciting developments begin this term, including two national 'firsts' - a unique Leadership and Life Skills for the Lower Sixth and a pioneering cross-curricular ICT course in the Third Form. Other schools and national educational providers are already showing an interest in our lead and we have even been asked to record our progress on Twitter...!

For the first time in College's history we have a Head and Deputy Head Girl to go alongside their male counterparts and we wish Emma Bevan (A) and Tilly King (Q) respectively all the best in their roles. We are launching a new peer mentoring scheme which will do a great deal to develop leadership skills and increase support for pupils as they negotiate their teenage years with us. We are also further strengthening our academic enrichment programme after a brilliant post exam week last term when the Lower Sixth were introduced to various careers, finance for

students, writing CVs and a two day business management game. We have new academic societies, with the new 'QI' Society for the Lower College sounding particularly exciting. I am also hoping to see the establishment of book clubs across College.

Two of the boarding Houses are also under new leadership this year and we wish all the best to Holly Mérigot (Chandos) and Fergus Llewellyn (Newick House) as they begin their tenures.

We also welcome Karen Davies as Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Duncan Byrne as Deputy Head (Academic) who, together with the rest of our staff, will ensure that although our buildings are wonderfully historic and traditional, what goes on within our walls is nothing short of cutting-edge and of the highest quality. In January we will welcome Dr Mary Plint who joins us from the Cheltenham Ladies College as Director of Learning.

Finally, no September College News would be complete without mention of the extensive activities which pupils have been involved in over the holidays. To highlight but a few; a 30 strong rugby squad has just returned from a hugely successful tour of Argentina and Uruguay, volunteers have again visited our link school in Kenya to carry out much needed repairs and improvement to the fabric, Geographers have been to Iceland and a trekking expedition has traversed Nepal.

The choir visited Barcelona and Catalonia, Duke of Edinburgh pupils cycled across the Isle of Mull, the shooting team competed (successfully) in the Ashburton Trophy, tennis players won the regional finals in the Glanville Cup and representatives of the Combined Cadet Force marched in London to commemorate its 150th anniversary.

Let's hope for another action-packed, hard working and fun year!



*Dr Alex Peterken
Headmaster of Cheltenham College*

Autumn Term Dates

Start of Term: 20.00 Monday 6 September

Exeat: 11.30 Friday 1 October – 21.00 Sunday 3 October

Half Term: 11.30 Friday 22 October – 21.00 Wednesday 3 November

Exeat: 11.30 Friday 19 November – 21.00 Sunday 21 November

End of Term: 11.30 Friday 10 December

A College Lottery special edition

Welcome to this special edition of College News which accompanies the 'relaunch' of the College Lottery scheme and focuses on all the summer tours and expeditions which have benefitted from its support. It has been a brilliant summer with almost a quarter of College pupils away on one of the sponsored trips, so do please take time to read of their achievements.

The College Lottery, in which many parents participate, is a wonderful scheme that for many years has supported pupils in their overseas endeavours. Through generous subsidies provided by the lottery's fund, the cost of trips is reduced and they can be more inclusive of all pupils. The original scheme was designed solely for sports

tours, however this summer saw an expansion in its provision. Our regular overseas expeditions, such as Kenya and Nepal, are now eligible for financial support, as are musical tours such as the biennial Choir trip. With such a wide range of activities available it is more than likely that every pupil, whatever their skill or interest, should be a beneficiary of lottery support at some stage in their school career.

The benefits of the lottery extend much further than financial support for tours and expeditions however. A quarter of all income is returned to parents through the termly prize fund, of which every contributor has a chance of winning. Perhaps most importantly, 15% goes in support of charitable projects. This year, the Romanian

Orphanage project is supported, as is the Rongai School in Kenya. Many parents will be familiar with our efforts in both countries which now stretch back many years and are highlighted later in this edition of College News. I'm sure we all agree there can be few causes more worthy of our attention.

It only remains for me to thank parents for their ongoing support in maintaining this brilliant scheme.

Mr Dominic Faulkner
Director of Activities

“ Argentina was an unforgettable experience. The culture and the lifestyle of the Argentinians was amazing and it was great to see another continent of the world. ”

Oliver Watkins (L6 H)

“ Nepal was GREAT!! A real eye opener and a once in a lifetime experience. ”

Victoria Moore (U6 W)

“ Kenya was a fantastic experience, especially for an international Cheltonian who doesn't have such opportunities back home. I'd never had such a special trip in the past. ”

Yu Wang (U6 Ch)

“ The Barcelona choir trip was immense fun and offered such a wide range of experiences, combining music practice and education on culture. I thoroughly enjoyed it! ”

Beth Jones (L6 W)

Looking back at our work in Romania

Cheltenham College has been actively involved in supporting the abandoned and institutionalised children of Romania for over 12 years. During that time over 600 College pupils have worked on various projects, including decorating and renovating dilapidated orphanages, building swings and adventure playgrounds for the children, providing new bikes and beds - and much more besides. The College community has also raised over £200,000 to help these children.

Back in 2001, 40 pupils cycled 2000 miles from Cheltenham to Brasov and raised over £50,000. This money made a real impact on improving the conditions at Bradet - an orphanage for children with special needs. For many of the pupils who have worked with these children it has been an unforgettable and life changing experience, humbling yet inspirational. Since then we have regularly brought children from the orphanage to England for an adventure holiday, made possible by the College lottery fund.

This fund has also supported a much-needed (and still ongoing) programme of dental care for the children at Bradet, which has made a huge impact on the children's dental health.

Inevitably, trying to make positive changes in such a country has its endless bureaucratic frustrations and despite officially signed agreements we are still awaiting completion of our final project - supportive housing for post orphanage adults. We aim to have this completed by 15 January 2011.

After 30 happy years of teaching Cheltenham College pupils, it is perhaps my work with them in the field of humanitarian aid that has been the most rewarding and fulfilling. I am now exploring ways of continuing this work into my retirement.

Mr Chris Rouan

Head of Biology / Humanitarian Aid Co-ordinator

Pictures from top to bottom: *Pupil Fiona Cover 2003, Bikes bought for the children, Chris Rouan and Guy Hughes-Games 2009, The playground that the pupils built.*



Working with our link primary school in Kenya



The 3 week trip to Kenya was an amazing experience for me and 11 other pupils, along with the 5 teachers who looked after us. After a bumpy 2 and a half hour bus ride from Nairobi, we reached the little town of Rongai which was the location of the primary school we would be working at. Our first day there was a shock to many of us and showed us just how privileged we are compared to the nearly 900 pupils (and their teachers) in Gogar Primary school.

The before and after photos from the previous years gave the group an idea of what needed to be finished. Pathways from the main assembly area leading to the classrooms were to be built and flowerbeds dug and planted. Since the classrooms

had been decorated by previous trips, the staff rooms were next on our list. We started by scraping off all the peeling paint from the walls until they were smooth. After the initial giggles and jokes about wearing the facemasks, the girls eventually got down to work while the boys (and a few of the hardier girls) went outside to do all the heavy lifting. Over the course of the week, we painted over the rooms with a white emulsion and gloss and also managed to build a new set of steps and several walkways!

We then took a week out for a safari, trekking on camels to the middle of nowhere to sleep on mattresses under the stars while the teachers got luxurious tents. "It's all part of the experience" I recall one teacher saying! Another camel ride in the morning took us to a typical Samburu village. The

villagers performed dances and sang, dragging our somewhat reluctant group in to join in the dancing.

We got to stay in tents at the next campsite, where we learned about Kenyan culture through a local drama group sketch. We then drove cross-country across the Laikipia plateau to another camp on Borana Ranch where we stayed for 3 nights, looked after by OC Sam Taylor. On game drives we saw everything except for leopards, including rare wild dogs, which we were very lucky indeed to see and was the highlight of Mr Harvey's trip. We were given talks on the delicate balance between man and wildlife and shown the security required to protect rhinos and elephant from poachers, which sadly is a serious concern. We also went on walking and riding safaris.

Back at the school for part of the last week was intensive work as we realised that our time at the school was almost done. As a surprise, each College pupil had a classroom door to paint. Our group's artist, Mrs Arnold, helped to colour coordinate every door and everything looked perfect. The children returned on Monday morning and were amazed to see the new doors. The walls in the staff room were finished, hand drawn borders added to the windows and a blackboard put in for the finishing touches. Outside, under the careful eye of Mrs Taylor, the flowerbeds were planted up. Our final job was to paint the front gate a vibrant blue.

The final day at the school was filled with drama, speeches, songs, and dances, mainly performed by the primary school pupils. We each received a thank you gift and even though the time flew, all our efforts paid off in the end, resulting in an amazing trip for everyone.

Sam Berlet (U6 W)

Pictures clockwise from top: *Relaxing with the pupils, Preparing the walls for painting, Hard at work laying the patio.*





Trekking in Nepal

With the annual Nepal trip moving from the Easter holiday to the beginning of the summer, 17 pupils and 4 leaders headed for the Himalayas with some trepidation. We had little idea what the monsoon season would surprise us with; rumours of torrential rivers and giant leeches lurked at the back of everyone's mind.

On arrival in Kathmandu we were immediately thrown into the chaos of daily Nepalese life as we tried to prepare ourselves for what was going to be an incredible experience. An initial day of sightseeing saw us visiting the Buddhist Monkey temple (Swayambhunath) and a Hindu cremation on the banks of the holy Bagmati River. It was amazing to be immersed in such alien cultures so soon after leaving home.

The following morning we boarded our bus and headed for Ngadi to begin our trek on the Annapurna Circuit trail before heading into the remote and rarely visited Nar Phu valley. After abandoning the bus early due to a landslide(!) we began our 14 day hike prematurely, knowing that in 10 days time we would have to ascend the Kang La pass, at the dizzying height of 5150m. After a tiring first few days our objective still seemed a long way off, but the stunning views of the Nar Phu valley combined with the friendly and

welcoming nature of all the local Nepalese kept us in good spirits. After leaving behind the comfort of a nightly 'teahouse' we resorted to camping in the ever-increasing altitude. However, the compensation was being able to look out of our tents in the morning light to see beautiful snow covered peaks. We even managed to have a free afternoon during which we explored Phu village, closed to Westerners until just five years ago and rarely visited. People there still lead a medieval existence and we witnessed a culture unchanged for hundreds of years.

An early wake up call followed our last night of camping as we headed up and into the rarefied air of the Kang La pass, safe in the knowledge that the descent would lead us to a much needed and welcome rest. Everyone felt a great sense of achievement and the reward of staying in a teahouse that night felt like the height of luxury!

The trekking was, of course, made even more interesting by the ever-present monsoon. A rockfall on our path delayed us for hours, adding some excitement to the mountain descent and a hair-raising bus journey back to Pokhara completed what was, for many, the most memorable day. A much needed rest day allowed everyone to relax, with some of us indulging in a cheap haircut or massage. Before making our way back to Kathmandu we sampled our last Nepalese

experience - rafting in the grade 4 rapids of Trisuli River - before celebrating an amazing three weeks with a traditional meal in Kathmandu.

Robyn Stovold, U6 (Q)

Pictures from top to bottom: *Navigating across the river, Luxury in a tea house, Trekking across the magnificent mountains.*



Music Tour to Barcelona & Catalonia

58 pupils singing Palestrina and Stanford in both Barcelona Cathedral and Santa Maria del Mar, receiving a standing ovation in Igualada Cathedral, singing to 500 at the Pilgrimage Abbey of Montserrat, relaxing on the beach at Tarragona, enjoying the spectacular Font Magico fountain at night in Barcelona - this year's choir tour seemed to have everything!

The tour began with a visit to the Abbey of Montserrat, a major pilgrimage and tourist site located on a spectacular rocky mountain. At midday we gave a short informal performance of Palestrina, Byrd, Bruckner etc to over 500 people who gave the choir a warm reception. Later that evening we continued on to Igualada where we were booked

to sing a concert in the Cathedral at 21.30. This was a wonderful occasion as we sang in a glorious acoustic to a packed church. Singing our usual programme of Palestrina, Byrd, Victoria, Mozart, Fauré, etc, applause grew throughout the concert. As we finished with Wood in F (Double Choir) we were given a standing ovation and then sang the Nunc Dimittis as an encore! It was really lovely to see the effect upon the pupils as they realised what pleasure they had given to such a large number of people. One senses that they almost reappraise what the choir is all about at such golden moments!

After Friday in Tarragona and Reus, we visited Gaudi's church of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. The overwhelming effect of the beauty, originality and sheer scale of the building had a powerful

effect on us all - this was without doubt a highlight of the tour. Later we sang for 18.00 Mass at the Cathedral, finishing with a short performance which was greeted enthusiastically by around 200 people. After an excellent dinner we were able to see the spectacular Font Magico - the massive son e lumiere fountain with coloured lighting and classical music - not to be missed!

Our midday Mass on Sunday at the glorious church of Santa Maria del Mar was one of the choir's best performances, and the priest gave them a most touching vote of thanks afterwards, saying that they were one of the best choirs he had ever heard there. Since he is a well-known musicologist this was praise indeed, and the applause at the end of our concluding performance was truly uplifting for everybody in the choir. Apparently, some people in the congregation were even moved to tears during the singing of the Palestrina Missa Brevis. We concluded our tour as tourists for the rest of the day, spending the evening watching the locals celebrate Spain's World Cup final success!

A brilliant tour and our pupils, as ever, were the best ambassadors possible for College.

Mr Gordon Busbridge

Director of Music

Pictures clockwise from left: *Being tourists, Enjoying a Spanish lunch, Singing Mass in the Church of Santa Maria del Mar, Barcelona.*



Rugby tour to South America



We had been looking forward to Argentina for some time; the promise of numerous rugby matches, steak and red wine in one of South America's most famous countries being rather appealing for some unknown reason...

An intense match fixture meant that we would be playing 8 matches in total so the tour kicked off with 2 days training at College. We then flew to Buenos Aires where we were met by Ricky Rinaldi (a former Puma) who was to be our guide for the tour. That evening was our first exposure to an Asado (Argentinian open fire BBQ). It was to be 10 days before we had a day without steak... The next day we headed out and met our first hosts, St. Johns – only to find out that they had lost only one game in the whole season. Our first match was the following day - College played superbly considering we had only had 3 days preparation. It was hard fought but two tries from Peter Wild in the second half meant we ended only 10 points down; 24-34. The whole squad was buoyed by this performance.



The next day we took a long bus journey to rural Pergamino and arrived at the Club Gimnasia y Esgrima who were to host us for two nights. The match against them was a one-sided affair and we ran in many spectacular tries to win 59-7. Almost immediately after we headed for Rosario for a guided tour and our third match against St. Bartholomew's School – this time winners at 59-7! That evening the tour party was on a high and enjoyed an amazing 'All you can Eat' buffet. We then headed back for BA, stopping en-route at a Ranch in the Pampas for a sport of horse riding, lunch with local music and dancing as well as a display of horsemanship.

The next day we headed to Cardinal Newman, one of the most respected private and famed rugby schools in BA. As expected, they were tough competition and the team had to dig in. A huge improvement was most noticed in defence and we prevented a well-organised team from making any headway. Unfortunately they scored in the last 5 minutes to win 17-10, but we walked away with

our heads held high. The day after was a cultural treat with a guided tour of BA in the morning, followed by a tour of the Boca Stadium and then a Tango evening. With Montevideo programmed for the next day, tiredness was just starting to creep in.

The next day we played the 'Uruguay U17 Development Squad'. The basic changing room and uneven pitch provided a rather diverse touring experience and although the boys were on their last legs, they showed great heart to win 27-24.

Following Uruguay was the beginning of a mammoth haul with 5 flights in 4 days, including a trip to the most unforgettable sights of Iguassu Falls where we were blown away by the magnitude and the power of the waterfalls – especially when on the powerboat ride underneath them! Finally though, it was time to come home. All the boys performed and conducted themselves magnificently, but special mention should be made of Harry Jaggs for being an outstanding Captain both off and on the pitch, Peter Wild for winning 'Player of the Tour' with his strong running and plethora of tries and Freddie Unwin for winning the 'Young Gun' prize with his impressive game performances. Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Coley for putting so much effort and work into such an amazing tour.

Mr Simon Conner
Hazelwell Housemaster

Pictures clockwise from top left: The official touring team, Posing in front of Iguassu Falls, Cheltenham College versus Cardinal Newman in the line out.



Autumn Term diary dates

Please see below for a list of events that parents and visitors are welcome to attend.

For the full school calendar please visit our website: www.cheltenhamcollege.org

September		
Friday 17th	9.30	Chapel Choir concert in Cirencester Parish Church
Thursday 23rd	18.45 & 20.00	Upper College Play 'Audience' by Michael Frayn in Big Classical
Friday 24th	18.45 & 20.00	Upper College Play 'Audience' by Michael Frayn in Big Classical
Saturday 25th	18.00	Southwood sponsored Chanel distance swim until midday Sunday in the Swimming Pool
Saturday 25th	19.30	Organ Recital by Leonard Sanderman in College Chapel
Wednesday 29th	17.30	Choral Evensong in College Chapel
Thursday 30th	09.00	U18 County Hockey Tournament at Dean Close School
October		
Wednesday 6th	17.30	Choral Evensong in College Chapel
Thursday 7th	09.00	U16 County Hockey Tournament at Dean Close School
Thursday 7th	18.45	3rd and 4th Form Informal Concert in Thirlestaine Long Gallery
Tuesday 12th	09.00	U14 County Hockey Tournament at Cheltenham College
Wednesday 13th	09.00	Netball U16 County Tournament
Wednesday 13th	17.30	Choral Evensong in College Chapel
Thursday 14th	18.45	Informal Concert in College Chapel
Saturday 23rd	09.00	Rugby XV Tournament - bringing together the four oldest RFCs in the world (Durham School, Rugby School, Sherborne School and Cheltenham College) at Durham School
Saturday 23rd	19.30	Chopin Bicentenary Concert performed by Geoffrey Hopkins in Thirlestaine Long Gallery
Wednesday 20th	20.00	Variety Show in Big Classical
Thursday 21st	20.00	Variety Show in Big Classical
Friday 22nd	20.00	Variety Show in Big Classical
November		
Saturday 6th	19.45	Prefects Charity Weekend Event in College
Monday 8th	8.30	13+ Sports Scholarship Assessments
Thursday 11th	09.00	16+ Music, Art, Sport and Design & Technology Scholarship Assessments
Friday 12th	09.00	16+ Academic Scholarship Assessments (2 days)
Friday 12th	20.00	The Cheltenham College Textiles Dept Fashion Show in Big Classical
Wednesday 17th	18.30	Choral Evensong in College Chapel
Thursday 18th	19.00	Sixth Form Cross-Curricular Evening on 'The Elements' in Common Room
Tuesday 23rd	19.30	Concert by Boyan Ensemble of Kiev in College Chapel
Wednesday 24th	19.00	Morley Society lecture by Dr David Smith, Selwyn College on 'Stuart Britain' in Thirlestaine Long Gallery
Thursday 25th	18.00	Choral Evensong in Keble College Chapel, Oxford
Saturday 27th	19.30	Orchestra and Wind Band Concert in Thirlestaine Long Gallery
Sunday 28th	20.00	Advent Carol Service in College Chapel
December		
Thursday 2nd – Saturday 4th	20.00	Southwood and Queen's Pantomime in Big Classical
Friday 10th	14.30	Cheltonian Association Carol Service in College Chapel

Open mornings

Junior School 3 – 13 | Saturday 9 October at 9.30 | 01242 522 697
roskilly.lucinda@cheltenhamcollege.org

Senior School 13 – 18 | Saturday 16th October at 9.30 | 01242 265 662
registrar@cheltenhamcollege.org

Note from the Editor

Should you have any comments or suggestions for improvements to this newsletter, please do feel free to contact me. As always, I would like to thank all members of the Common Room and College pupils for their contributions. *Rachel Vicary, Editor*

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