When a child comes to Eltham College, whatever their age, they immediately feel part of our community. We look after each and every student from the moment they join us to the moment they leave.

It is this sense of individual attention that sets us apart. The school is small enough to know every child well and large enough to offer an exceptional range of academic and co-curricular activities.

We balance the highest academic standards with outstanding pastoral care, ensuring that our students learn to be resourceful and resilient.

We will help your child to discover their unique talents and give them the confidence to seize opportunities. We will challenge and inspire them every day. And we will encourage them to achieve more than they ever thought was possible.
Values for life

Our founding fathers were guided by their Christian faith and their values still stand today. All students attend chapel weekly and we place a strong emphasis on integrity, compassion and helping others. Students learn these values by working together, mentoring each other and taking part in community projects.

Equality and diversity are just as important. We celebrate difference so students know they can be who they are without judgement.

The result is young people whose values sustain them and empower them to make the right choices.

"Eltham College is mindful of its Christian background while accommodating the interests and beliefs of people from all walks of life and all faiths. It has an inclusive, nurturing environment and a strong sense of values that permeate the school in a softly-spoken, understated way. It’s a place where deeds are valued above words."

Jim
father of three Eltham College students
Our grounds are breathtaking. Eltham College is set in over 70 acres, with the Junior School, Senior School and chapel standing at the centre.

When we look out across the expanse of fields and trees all around us, it’s hard to believe we are in South London, only 20 minutes from London Bridge. This magnificent setting is both a joy and a privilege. Students make the most of it every day, whether they’re gardening in the allotment, playing sport or reading a book in the Quad at lunchtime.
First-class facilities

Most recently, we’ve opened a brand new building that includes a Sixth Form Centre with study and social spaces as well as a Mathematics and Languages Centre. Next to it, a new purpose-built Medical and Wellbeing Centre houses our medical and pastoral care teams to ensure all aspects of students’ mental and physical health are looked after.

We’re inspired by our heritage, but constantly look to the future.

The Senior School is set in an 18th century mansion, with the Junior School sharing the same campus. We’re proud of our physical and virtual libraries, modern 240-seat theatre, on-site art gallery, and sports centre with its 25 metre swimming pool and fitness suite.

240 seat modern theatre

25m swimming pool and fitness suite
The school nurses are absolute superstars. They play a very important part in children’s wellbeing. Teenage children have their anxieties and their challenges, so they really appreciate knowing they can pop in to see the nurses for a cup of tea and a chat.”

We want your child to feel safe, happy and supported at school, so we have a comprehensive pastoral care programme that combines specialist oversight with personal attention.

In the Junior School, Form Tutors are central to our pastoral care. They know both children and their families extremely well, and are practised at spotting potential issues early and finding the right solution.

In the Senior School, students can drop in to speak with our pastoral care team in the Foxbury Medical and Wellbeing Centre. Our team of two nurses, a chaplain, counsellors and a SEND specialist is dedicated to looking after the emotional, spiritual and pastoral needs of all our students.

Sometimes all a young person needs is for someone to listen to them and they’ll feel better. And if they need further support, we’re here.
Academic excellence is at the heart of what we offer, but we’re careful to balance wellbeing and success.

From the moment a child joins us in the Junior School, we offer a powerful blend of a strong academic curriculum and a lively, varied co-curriculum. We encourage them to pursue their passions and help them grow into confident, well-rounded students.

When they move into the Senior School, for the first three weeks, our Year 7 students don’t have homework. This allows them to settle in, make friends and prepare for this exciting new stage of their life. Throughout their time at Eltham College, children learn in small classes with specialist teachers who share their knowledge and set realistic, challenging targets.

Our students go on to read the degree courses they want, at the universities they choose, because they develop a love of learning.

Ann
mother of one current Eltham College student

“Eltham College has ignited my son’s imagination and raised his aspirations. He’s studying GCSE astronomy and recently competed in a Galactic Challenge at Imperial College. Opportunities like that make the school a special place.”
"The school allows people to flourish as individuals. No one suppressed my desire to do drama and rugby at the same time. They encourage students to do what they love, and that allows everyone to be unique."

Personalised curriculum

At Eltham College education is truly personalised, so students can build on their strengths and follow their passions.

In the Junior School, children can study a variety of languages including French, German, Mandarin and Latin. They are also free to explore a wide range of sporting opportunities as well as the creative and performing arts.

In the Senior School, in Years 7 and 8, students aren’t limited to combined humanities or science.

They can try out various subjects before selecting those they enjoy most for GCSE. If they want, they can be triple linguists from Year 7.

There’s a similar degree of freedom when it comes to GCSE and A level. Students can choose any combination of subjects. However, we do offer guidance to ensure they have a good balance of subjects that suit their study and career goals.
Girls and boys thrive together

Eltham College has been educating girls for 40 years when the first group of Sixth Form girls joined the College.

We believe that boys and girls are better equipped for the modern world when they work and learn together from an early age.

At Eltham College, girls and boys learn with and from each other throughout their time at school. They develop a broader set of social skills and embrace a greater diversity of opinions as they play alongside each other and work together.

What better preparation for life beyond school, at university and in their future careers?
Resilience and brilliance

Employers need more than brilliant academic results. They also want resilient team players with excellent leadership and communication skills.

Our students develop these skills by immersing themselves in our many clubs, societies and co-curricular programmes. Whether they’re the lead violinist in the orchestra or a goal shooter out on the netball court, this is where they learn valuable lessons about working with others and overcoming challenges.

It’s also about having the courage to take a risk. Every avenue is open to every child, from sport and music to art and drama. We expect our students to try new things. We think it’s the best way to prepare for a lifetime of discovery.

―

Alexander Zane
actor

“Eltham always provided me with so many opportunities. There were an unlimited number of school plays to take part in and music lessons to attend. But the school really helped me achieve my ambitions by encouraging me to work hard to get what I wanted. And that’s real life – working hard when no one is forcing you to.”
Opportunities for all

Students will have the chance to stretch themselves through a rich variety of activities across art, sport, music and drama. They'll also have access to a whole range of clubs, societies and trips, as well as community service. Opportunities are open to everyone. Our aim is to nurture each student’s interests and help them discover passions they’ll enjoy for a lifetime.

Our co-curriculum is built into our working day and there’s a seamless flow between it and our academic curriculum. There’s always plenty to do, whether it’s on the sports field, on stage, in a concert hall or in our art gallery.
The Eric Liddell Sports Centre has a sports hall, 25 metre pool, dance studio, gym, badminton courts and a climbing wall. Add to this a team of professional coaches with international and county experience, and the Old Elthamian Rugby, Cricket and Hockey professional teams that are based on site, and it’s clear how we inspire every student to play sport to the best of their ability.

We take sport seriously, not just because we produce some of the highest-performing school teams and players in the region, but also because sport gives all our students vital physical and mental skills, on and off the pitch.

We have over 70 acres of grounds including numerous rugby pitches, cricket squares and netball courts, a floodlit all-weather hockey pitch and rugby training area, multi-use games areas, tennis courts and cricket nets.

“I like the way we do so many sports instead of just one. There’s hockey, football, cricket, swimming, water polo and climbing. And there are so many fixtures, so everyone has a chance to play.”

Alex
Year 7
Every success

While rugby, hockey, cricket, netball and rounders are our core sports, your child will experience a vast range of activities.

We offer swimming, tennis, basketball, athletics, rowing, cross country, running, pilates, sailing, dance fitness, weight training and table tennis.

Our priority is to help every student find the sport they love, so in our co-curriculum we’ll give them the chance to try everything from fencing to water polo, skiing to climbing. And we celebrate every success, from winning the Kent Cup in cricket to perfecting that elusive table tennis backhand slice.

“I’m a rugby player and hope to make it as a professional after school. Right from Year 3, the sports opportunities here have been exceptional. You only have to look at the grounds to be amazed. The coaching has been really good for me and the High Performance Athlete Programme has helped me to balance my academic studies and sport.”

James
Year 12

Some of our students have the potential to progress to the highest level in sport. To help them achieve this, we support them with a development programme that includes advice from nutritionists, strength and conditioning experts, physiotherapists and sports psychologists, as well as one-to-one mentoring sessions.

High Performance Athlete Programme
there are lots of musical opportunities here. i am in the chamber choir and the college choir. the best experience so far was visiting lake garda with the choir. we learned about italian culture and went to a massive theme park. next, i'm looking forward to singing in the fauré and duruflé requiems and playing the trumpet in a jazz band.

sounding out talent

damian
year 7

there are lots of musical opportunities here. i am in the chamber choir and the college choir. the best experience so far was visiting lake garda with the choir. we learned about italian culture and went to a massive theme park. next, i'm looking forward to singing in the fauré and duruflé requiems and playing the trumpet in a jazz band.

70% play an instrument

50 ensembles, choirs and quartets practice a week

music is an integral part of school life. we nurture every child’s musical ability and encourage everyone to get involved.

it all starts with our music alive programme in years 3 and 4, which offers our youngest students free music tuition and instruments for five weeks.

across the college, around 70% of students play an instrument and many gain grade 8 or their performance diploma.

technical brilliance is only part of the picture, as music is also about expressing yourself, playing together and gaining confidence by performing.

every week, we rehearse around 50 ensembles, from the symphony orchestra and college choir to the django jazz guitar ensemble and saxophone quartet. budding composers and conductors can hone their skills in specialist music workshops.

our students have performed at the barbican, royal festival hall and royal albert hall, as well as in our school concerts and on international tours.
In the Senior School, our drama department is a constant hive of activity. Every lunchtime and after school, rehearsals take place in the Antony Barnard Theatre, and often in the dance studio too. Each year, we perform several plays and a musical, and hold a House Drama competition. We take productions to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and participate in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Having London on our doorstep also makes it easy for us to take regular trips to see stage shows in the city.

Our students gain so much from getting involved in drama. They experience the sheer joy of performing while developing vital soft skills in teamwork, confidence, empathy, communication and public speaking.

In the Junior School, all year groups have the chance to take part in plays and productions, as well as enjoying visits from the likes of the Young Shakespeare Company.
The art of creativity

We encourage students to develop confidence, competence, imagination and creativity by working with a range of different artistic materials and techniques. They’re taught by specialists in a variety of disciplines and have access to equipment including a dark room, clay kiln, glass kiln, 3D printers, and vinyl and laser cutters.

Exceptionally, we have our own professional art gallery on site, the Gerald Moore Gallery. It has hosted exhibitions of works by Louise Bourgeois and Matisse and offers students unique opportunities to promote and curate their own shows. All year groups have the chance to work with our Artist-in-Residence, while clubs and workshops enable students to expand their art and photography skills.
Clubs

Our students are endlessly curious and energetic. They love to pursue their existing passions and discover new ones through our huge variety of clubs and societies.

For the youngest, it’s their chance to try fencing, learn a language, play chess, create a stop motion film or design an electric car.

Older students can delve into politics and philosophy, tackle environmental issues, blow things up in Pyrotechnics Club or even track down a murderer in the Forensic Science Club.

Students are also welcome to set up their own clubs. Badminton and futsal are just two of the latest.
What are you doing?

Junior Touch Typing Club, Fencing Club, Judo Club, Basketball Club, Skiing Club, Horse Riding Club, Chess Club, Gardening Club, Eco Club, Quiz Club, Cooking Club, Critical Thinking Club, Young Enterprise Club, Art Club, Book Club, Coding Club, Dance Club, Journalism Club, Mandarin Club, Design & Technology Club, French Club, German Club, ICT Stop Motion Club, ICT Club, Latin Club, Science Club, Maths Club

Don’t be surprised if you see Year 3 children re-enacting a Roman battle on the sports field or spot Sixth Formers building a greenhouse in the grounds. We love to learn outside the classroom, and get out and about with a vast range of activities and trips, taking in everywhere from Margate and St Ives to Iceland, New York and the Himalayas.

Throughout the year, we make the most of our proximity to London, with regular visits to The Globe Theatre, Greenwich Observatory, Tate Gallery and the Imperial War Museum. Meanwhile, our thriving Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme attracts around 80 students a year.
Greenwich Observatory, Museum of Childhood, Harry Potter Studio Tour, Tate Gallery, The Wallace Collection, Planetarium, The Globe Theatre, Imperial War Museum, Lullingstone Roman Villa, Adventure centres in Ashford and Tonbridge, Art trips to Margate, Dungeness, St Ives, Copenhagen and Venice, Physics trip to CERN, Geology/Geography trips to New York and Iceland, Trekking in the Himalayas, Politics trip to Manchester, Spanish trips to Mallorca and Sierra de Gredos, German trip to Berlin, History visit to Auschwitz, Design & Technology trip to Florence, Skiing in Les Menuires, Ski Racing in the Netherlands, Rugby in South Africa, Cricket in Sri Lanka, French trips to Montpellier and Bordeaux, Duke of Edinburgh trips to the South Downs and the Peak District, Geography trips to Yorkshire and Dorset, Humanities trip to Hadrian’s Wall, Boys’ Choir trip to Lake Garda

Where are you going?
Giving back

Our commitment to community has its roots in our founders’ values. It is still a vital part of our ethos which we promote in Chapel and at Assembly, and reward with prizes on speech day.

Locally, our Lower Sixth students take part in an extensive community service programme. Through this, they might mentor GCSE students at local state schools, perform music at a nearby retirement home or share art-based workshops for primary school children in our Gerald Moore Gallery.

Further afield, the College has established links with a water, sanitation and hygiene project in Uganda run by the International Needs charity. Recently, students have raised money for the charity, donated clothing, and visited Uganda’s Buikwe Province to help build safe water projects for families in the area.
A sense of belonging

Your child will belong to one of four Houses named after the original missionary Fathers who are part of our school’s heritage. They are: Carey, Chalmers, Moffat and Livingstone.

The house system promotes a healthy competitive spirit amongst the students as they take part in a year-round programme of academic, athletic and artistic events.

These include everything from music, debates and mental arithmetic competitions to a sports day and tug of war contests.

House activities enable students of different ages to become friends and work together towards common goals.
From Year 3 to university

When your child comes to our Junior School, it's one smooth transition from Year 3 right through to university, or wherever they choose to go to next.

7+

Junior
Whatever the age of your child when they join, a class buddy and an older student mentor will help them settle in. From Year 5, taster lessons and workshops will prepare them for Senior School life. The move to the Senior School is automatic and without the stress of an entrance exam.

11+

Senior
In the first week of Year 7, children go on an overnight outdoor pursuits trip where they climb, abseil and build camp fires. It's a great way to get to know each other and develop team spirit. By Year 11, they'll be ready to move seamlessly into the Sixth Form.

16+

Sixth Form
Students who join us for the Sixth Form typically find their feet quickly, supported by new friends, Form Tutors and our pastoral care team. Both Form Tutors and subject mentors offer guidance on university and careers, ensuring that young people have the best possible advice on taking their next step.
The journey begins

Our Junior School is a vibrant, friendly community. It’s just a short walk from the Senior School and has a family feel, which is supported by our sibling policy.

Everything is geared towards the individual child from the academic curriculum and co-curriculum to pastoral care.

We help children settle in by pairing them up with a class buddy and an older student mentor. Teachers and Form Tutors also get to know your child extremely well, and will always look out for their welfare.

By the time they get to Year 6, students are ready to move on to the Senior School in a journey which is seamless and without pressure.

Romit
Year 4

“The most exciting lesson is Science. Today we learned about different animals and their teeth – including the shark, the crocodile, the hippo, the horse and the rabbit.”

Taiyo
Year 5

“I think coding is really cool and fascinating because you can do a load of really clever stuff and it’s related to the real world. How a computer works is amazing. I want to do ICT as a job.”
Junior School life

We offer a challenging curriculum that stimulates and inspires young minds. In Maths students focus on developing their problem solving skills to a high level; whilst in English they tackle a range of significant classic and contemporary texts. Children learn quickly as they’re taught in small classes by specialist teachers and Form Tutors who are passionate about their subjects.

Outside the classroom your child can let off steam in rugby, netball, football, rounders, hockey, cricket and swimming lessons.

And that’s not all. Through our many clubs and societies, your child can take part in a play, try fencing, sing in a choir or train with the Senior School’s professional sports coaches.

Children learn the value of hard work, perseverance and teamwork, and gain a sense of independence. They’re ready for what’s next.

Does your child have a future as a jazz trumpeter or classical guitarist? Our Music Alive programme lets Year 3 and 4 children find out by offering free music tuition and instruments for five weeks. And for future linguists, Mandarin Club is available from Year 3.

Music and Mandarin

“I really enjoy creative writing. I read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and liked Mr Wonka because he’s a chocolate maker. That set off a spark in my brain, so I wrote a two-page character description about him and read it out in assembly.”

George
Year 4
Wise choices
At our Senior School we encourage students to choose subjects they feel passionate about. This inspires them to work hard and pick subjects that they’ll continue to enjoy long after they leave school.

We believe that students will only be happy and successful at school if they feel safe and supported. Therefore, we have a comprehensive pastoral care programme in place that provides support, help and guidance throughout students’ time at Senior School.

In Lower School (Years 7 and 8), students are assigned a Form Tutor who looks after a Form Group of around 22 children for those two years. Form Tutors get to know each individual child very well, so they are able to ensure that children settle in and are happy. They can deal with any potential issues quickly and provide appropriate guidance and support. The Head of Lower School is also available to give additional support in these early years.

In Middle School (Years 9, 10 and 11), students again have the support of one Form Tutor who gets to know their strengths and needs, and can work closely with parents. Form Tutors regularly meet students individually to talk about progress in all aspects of school life.

The Head and Deputy Heads of Middle School also work together as a team to ensure that all students are given continued support and guidance through their crucial GCSE years.

In addition, students can drop in for a chat with our professional pastoral care team based in the new Foxbury Medical and Wellbeing Centre. Our team of two nurses, a chaplain, counsellors and a SEND specialist is dedicated to looking after the emotional, spiritual and pastoral needs of all our students.

Making new friends
We make the transition into Senior School as easy as possible by taking all Year 7 students away for an overnight trip in their first week. Children bond over activities at an outdoor adventure centre and build a real sense of team spirit.
Aiming high

From sculpture to algorithms, and from the Industrial Revolution to the reactions of acids, we offer a broad curriculum throughout the Senior School. Your child will be able to study world languages such as Mandarin, as well as the Classics, before personalising their GCSE curriculum.

We also offer an enormous range of co-curricular activities. Students might join the tech crew for the next drama production, play water polo, join a brass band, learn to code or sharpen their debating skills.

Meanwhile, our supra curriculum in Years 10 and 11 gives students the opportunity to learn about issues such as money management, enterprise and charity, mindfulness, citizenship, and the future and employability.
Feel at home
The Sixth Form is an important time of transition as students prepare for university and life beyond Eltham College.

With small tutor groups and the support of highly experienced Sixth Form Tutors, students settle in quickly.

Each student has a subject mentor who guides them through the myriad of degree course choices and helps them with interviews, entrance exams, additional reading and their personal statement.

And their Sixth Form home? It’s a brand new building with lecture and seminar rooms, a specialist careers suite and a spacious café.

Caroline Warren in her final year at Durham University

“The careers support at school was fantastic. I wanted to study politics and was trying to decide between Edinburgh and Durham. The school assigned me the Head of Politics as my advisor. Following their advice, I chose Durham, which has been brilliant. I’m really enjoying it.”
Sixth Form life

Sixth Form life at Eltham College is distinctive for its richness and variety. It goes far beyond studying three or four A levels.

Students have fantastic opportunities to go on trips, including performing music in Italy, learning about history in Auschwitz, geography in Iceland and politics in Washington, or helping on outward bound projects in Uganda.

They can get involved in all kinds of drama, music, sport and art, and take academic enrichment courses in everything from French cinema to gene technology.

Students also add valuable mentoring roles to their cv through our community service programme and can boost their leadership skills by setting up a club, directing a play, leading an ensemble or running house activities.

Speaking out

In Upper Sixth, every student gives a presentation on a subject they feel strongly about. This enhances their public speaking skills and gives everyone else a chance to learn about cloud seeding/dark matter/Augustan propaganda in ancient Rome.
A levels plus flexibility

Students don’t have to specialise in the arts or sciences, but can combine subjects across disciplines if they wish.

All our A levels are traditional facilitating subjects, and we help students to prepare for the most competitive universities with our ‘3 Plus’ extended curriculum.

With this model, students take three A levels plus either a fourth A level, an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or a significant co-curricular commitment. If a student wants to play in the Saracens Rugby Academy, in the Under 18 Netball Team or with a London orchestra, we allow time for them to pursue that passion and still achieve outstanding results.

To enhance their A level studies, students go on field trips, research trips, cultural visits and exchanges. So our linguists go to France, Spain, Germany and China, our physicists go to CERN, and our politics students visit the High Court and Parliament.

Real-world learning
Looking ahead

Programmes on law, medicine, engineering, veterinary science, dentistry and Oxbridge offer dedicated support, while Form Tutors and subject mentors provide additional guidance.

A full programme of skills workshops and talks helps students focus on their post-18 choices, while Old Elthamians provide students with invaluable work experience placements, internships and networking opportunities.

The majority of our students go on to higher education, many to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as well as to American and other elite global educational institutions.

With our careers centre at the heart of the new Sixth Form building, students have access to all the resources they need including drop-in sessions with our Head of Careers and Oxbridge.

Lower Sixth work experience

Our Year 11 students undertake one or two week placements with employers including Clifford Chance, Ernst & Young, KPMG, the Crown Prosecution Service, BAE Systems, Foxtons, Nomura International and King’s College Hospital.

Katie
Year 13

“The careers counsellor helps you figure out what to do at university and which jobs are available for you afterwards. Talks from alumni and employers also open your eyes to other career possibilities. I didn’t realise there were so many different strands of law, so now I’m considering doing family law.”
There’s no typical Eltham College student, but certain qualities do shine through.

Our students are kind and well-mannered, with inquiring minds. They’re confident enough to take risks and learn from their mistakes. They know where they excel and work hard to achieve their dreams.

Teamwork comes naturally to them, as does a sense of community spirit. When they leave Eltham College, they’re well-equipped to deal with the complexities of modern life, wherever they go and whatever they choose to do next. They know it’s up to them how far they go.
Five objects

Opportunity

These coins remind me of the power of opportunity. Some students gave them to me after a politics tour of the East Coast. Four went on to study PPE at Oxford; two now work for the civil service and one for MI5.

International outlook

I was raised in Zambia, am married to a Norwegian and am proud of the school’s missionary heritage that saw parents and students travel the world to spread the gospel. The school maintains these missionary links with work through the International Needs charity, and every year Eltham students go out to support schools in Uganda and Tanzania.

Pastoral care

Just before he died due to mental health issues, my brother gave me this chess piece that he’d carved. His problems with mental health are one reason why I believe that good pastoral care in schools is so important.

Growth

I see this tree through my study window every day. It’s been there since the school was founded, in recent history the whole school could gather beneath it. To me, it symbolises continuity: our school’s heritage and continuous new growth.

Excellence

This was a present from some students I used to teach. Barack Obama represents forward-looking ambition and I respect the inclusive way he ran his administration.

“Students have sometimes asked me the meaning behind some of the objects in my office. There are five objects which are important to me for different reasons. But they are all related to my personal values and my ambitions for Eltham College.”

Guy Sanderson
Headmaster
Come and see us

If you like the sound of Eltham College, the best way to get a feel for our school is to come and visit us. We hold regular open days, and on our visitor mornings you can see the school during a working day, take a personal tour, and meet the Registrar and the Headmaster.

Please find full details of open days, visitor mornings and individual tours, and how to register, on our website: elthamcollege.london/opendays
discover more
elthamcollege.london