

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Eton has continued to deliver a very high standard of education with an extraordinary array of subjects and activities tailored to boys' interests, allied with a very high level of pastoral care and sports opportunities.

An Ofsted inspection in October 2009 under the Care Standards Act 2000 gave Eton an overall quality rating of outstanding, which is defined as being 'of exceptionally high quality'.

An Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection in March and April 2010 assessed the college as 'excellent' in all eight areas inspected.

Academic

At A2-level, in 2010 82% of all entries were awarded grades A* or A. In this first year of the A* grade, 39% of entries were marked at this grade; the national figure was 8%, and for independent schools generally it was 18%. 2010 was also the first year in which the 'Pre U' examination was assessed. Eton has opted into Pre-U in languages and music. 86% of entries were graded 'Distinction 3' (equivalent to an A at A-level) or above. Taking A-level and Pre-U together, the indicative figure for A* performance overall was 41%.

At AS-level record results were achieved at A grade (79%) and A/B grades (93%).

At GCSE top grades also set new records: 74% were awarded A* with 96% at A*/A.

Almost all boys from Eton continue to go on to university. Their focus remains on the most competitive courses at the most competitive universities. Of the 260 boys leaving Eton, 79 received offers of places from Oxford and Cambridge, which is at the high end of the success rate experienced over the last twenty years. The number of boys going on to university in America continues to grow: 19 boys were offered places.

At a time when national public examination syllabuses are more restrictive and limited in scope, the thriving tradition of taking part in academic prize competitions becomes increasingly important. Boys enter voluntarily for a variety of challenging prizes in classics, languages, the sciences and nearly all other subjects, as well as music, art, drama and declamation, judged by external assessors. About 100 of these boys' prizes are awarded each year.

Boys are also encouraged to enter for prizes on national and regional stages. Between them, a number of Etonians won, or were runners up, or were commended, in art and literature competitions in the Windsor Festival, the annual McNair Prize for an essay on medical ethics by school students, the Senior and Intermediate Mathematical Challenges, the British Mathematical Olympiads, the British Physics and Chemistry Olympiads, the national Saatchi Gallery Sunday Telegraph Art Prize for Schools, and Young Engineer of Britain. Eton's senior mathematics team took 4th place overall out of 1,500 schools that entered the National Senior Mathematics Challenge.

Religion

Religious education and worship play a significant part in the school's life. Each year about ninety boys are confirmed. The team of four full-time Anglican chaplains and one Roman Catholic is supplemented by Jewish, Muslim and Hindu tutors to serve the relatively small number of boys from those faiths and to help the school community to have a greater understanding of religions that shape our society and the world.

Sport

The school provides a wide choice of games. The main sports are rugby and soccer in the Michaelmas half, the Field Game along with hockey and athletics in the Lent half, and cricket, athletics, rowing and tennis in the Summer half.

As in 2009, again in 2010 Eton's oarsmen enjoyed an extraordinarily successful year. At the 'Head of the Charles' in Boston The VIII defended the Youth Vllls title and won by no less than 43 seconds. Remarkably the 2nd VIII came 10th in a field of 79 first boats. The VIII also successfully and convincingly defended its headship at the Schools' Head of the River Race, with the 2nd VIII 6th overall. The 2nd VIII was winner in its category, as was the Colts B VIII. The VIII's victory in the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley again this year gave Eton the coveted treble of wins at the Schools' Head, the National Schools Regatta and at Henley for the second successive year. Six Etonians represented Great Britain on the water in the World Junior Rowing Championships; two won Silver. The Captain of Boats – a WJRC medallist – received the BBC London Rising Star award. Two OEs rowed at no. 6 for Oxford and Cambridge respectively in the Boat Race. The Eton College Rowing Centre won the 2010 award by the Royal Town Planning Institute for the arts, culture and sport.

In an active season for cricket at all levels, the XI lost to Harrow at Lord's. The XI's fixtures included matches against touring teams from Australia and South Africa and against a team of Afghan refugee cricketers. The season ended with Eton winning the Silk Cup competition, competed for by Eton, Oundle, Shrewsbury and an overseas touring side at the end of each summer term.

In football, 260 school matches were played with 23 teams regularly taking the field; over 350 House matches were played. The First XI reached the final of the Elgin Capital Southern Independent Schools League. A young team reached the quarter-finals of the national Independent Schools Football Association under-15 Cup.

Rugby remained very competitive with six wins and a draw out of the XV's twelve matches in the Michaelmas half, including a 54-15 win over Marlborough, reversing the previous year's result. Five junior teams played regularly, winning most of their matches. The Senior VII won the Middlesex Sevens and took the Plate at the Windsor Sevens. 40 boys toured Argentina in July.

Athletics had an active and successful season, with some remarkable individual performances and several new school records being set; Eton athletes won 9 gold medals in the Berkshire championships. An Old Etonian won Bronze for England in the 110m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games in India. The hockey season was notable for promising performances by junior teams. The Field Game (played only by Eton) flourished in the Lent half notwithstanding snow, with up to eight school sides playing Old Etonian 'scratch' teams each weekend in addition to the internal competitions; this was the 150th year since the Eton Challenge Cup for House ties was first awarded in 1860. Tennis across the age groups reached new heights in competitions against clubs, schools, academies and adult teams, benefiting from the distinguished Director of Tennis funded, together with improvements of the courts, by Old Etonians and parents; the 1st team reached the semi-finals of the Independent Schools Championship and lost to the eventual winners. Besides the major games, boys have opportunities to compete in a range of over thirty other sports ranging from badminton to water polo. A boy swam the Channel. An Etonian was selected for a GB fencing team that competed in Athens and Azerbaijan. Another boy was selected for the Spanish squad for the European Polo Championships in 2010.

The scale and 'reach' of Eton's sports organisation can also be gauged by the remarkable statistic that on a typical Saturday afternoon in winter there are frequently some 45 teams competing against three or four other schools at home and away.

Exchange Visits and Tours

Boys' horizons are widened by many opportunities to travel overseas for purposes ranging from invitation concerts to sports training and many other activities in between. This year parties of boys have visited Argentina, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Russia, Spain and the USA.

Music, Drama and other activities

Drama continues to flourish, with some 31 productions during the year including School Plays *The Bacchae* of Euripides and Sondheim's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, house plays, drama competitions and several plays produced as well as acted by boys. There were Etonian connections in a dozen different shows in the Edinburgh Festival. Two OEs won Olivier Awards and one of them, Eddie Redmayne, also won a Tony Award.

Music, equally, is pursued by boys to very high standards in a large number of performances and services by bands, groups, orchestras and choirs. The climaxes each half have been the School Concerts featuring such fine and full-blooded pieces as Vaughan Williams's *Symphony No 5 in D*, Sibelius's *Karelia Suite*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto*, Sibelius's *Violin Concerto in D minor* and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture*. A team of seven from Eton's thirty boy organists played in an Organ Marathon to raise funds to repair the organ in Windsor Parish Church. Eight Tibetan Buddhist monks, now in exile in India, gave a workshop on traditional Tibetan instruments, demonstrated ethical debating Tibetan-style and took a meditation session with a tutorial group. One of the Eton College Music Society's concerts was the ballet *Triptych* composed by an Etonian and danced by girls from Concord Academy in Boston; another, requiring outstanding skill, was Thomas Tallis's *Spem in alium*. Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* was performed by a chorus of 150 boys and 60 girls from Wycombe Abbey. Next day the College Chapel choir left for a concert tour of Japan.

Another well established part of school life is the expectation that boys should organise and administer societies covering a variety of interests, and that they should be responsible for inviting guest speakers. Boys were able to hear speakers offering a range of perspectives: from Lord Heseltine to Ken Livingstone; from the Chairman of the London Buddhist centre to the Anglican Vicar of Baghdad; from the Communist Party of Great Britain's National Organiser, Mark Fischer, to the Financial Times's 'Undercover Economist' Tim Harford. Other speakers to societies have included the Chairman of the Bar Council, the Dean of the Royal Society of Medicine, the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Head of the FCO's Middle East and North Africa desk, the former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, the Director of Liberty, the Master of the Rolls, adventurers and explorers, the Chairman of the African Union Commission, Lord Lamont, Lady Antonia Fraser, Miss Gail Trimble, Sir Christopher Meyer, Fields medallist and musician Professor Tim Gowers, Shakespeare scholar Professor Jonathan Bate, the CEO of Hitachi Europe, the Chairman of Microsoft Africa, the Head of Policy at Facebook, the Deputy Editor of *The Sun* and the Musical Director of the English National Opera. Subjects have also included development issues in Africa, Japanese politics, Spinoza, Persian poetry, HIV, artificial intelligence, Saladin, Palm Sunday, a reassessment of the Battle of the Somme, the Greek-Arabic translation movement, Alexander the Great, practising medicine in Afghanistan, the management of the NHS, British foreign policy at the fall of the Berlin Wall and the use of game theory to analyse football penalty shoot-outs. Boys themselves, and masters too, and the Provost, have delivered lectures.

The school remains alive with young people in the summer holidays. The annual programme includes the Universities Summer School, which over 28 years has taken more than 3,000 boys and girls from state schools for two weeks of academic challenge and engagement in the range of

activities enjoyed by Etonians. This summer school for sixth formers has a distinguished record in helping young people raise their aspirations for the future. In their different ways so, too, do the Brent-Eton Summer School, a residential programme for 15 year olds chosen by the London Borough of Brent, now in its second decade; and the specialist schools in the traditional Eton strengths of rowing and Anglican choral music.

Just as it is always a pleasure to welcome the wider world to Eton, so it is good to see Etonians connecting with people beyond their immediate experience, be it through the social services programme, which places some 180 volunteers visiting people and helping community projects, or actively raising funds for charities, whether organised by Eton Action or by individual effort. One particular beneficiary has been Mvumi Secondary School in Tanzania, which in the 12 years of its existence has regularly received financial and practical help from Etonians from physical labour to teaching. The Head for three years recently was a former house master, who has now returned to Eton from a remarkable leave of absence.

Another form of service is through the ranks of the Combined Cadet Force, popular with volunteers from age 16. Eton was honoured in May by a visit by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding the CCF's progenitor, the Eton Rifle Volunteer Corps. The Queen also unveiled a memorial erected in the memory of 44 Old Etonians who have won the Victoria or George Cross.

An Old Etonian, David Cameron, became Prime Minister.

Aided by a body of exceptional masters, boys create a culture which values excellence and independence and which sees virtue in taking action for their own benefit and for those around them. The flourishing of activity this year has amply demonstrated this approach to life – and long may it continue.