



# Language College News



**Spring is here, at last! There is, of course, much to tell regarding Language College.**

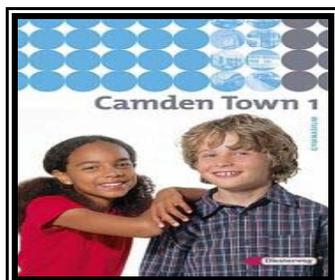
**At the time of writing the last newsletter, we were all on tenter hooks, who was going to win The William Ellis International Trophy?**

**Well after a very close run 10SFU won, beating 10SPO by a mere 2 points SFU achieving 198 to SPO's 196. A well deserved win. The competition will be back in force in the summer term.**



A deserved win, 10SFU with the coveted trophy.

**January saw the visit of two German delegates from schools in Hamburg. The two teachers are also co-authors of the English Language book for German pupils entitled 'Camden'. The book focuses on the daily life of a boy who goes to school in Camden, indeed who attends William Ellis!**



***Pamela Hanus (co-author) writes:***

*Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality at William Ellis. Our visit was really very informative and we thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and the boys. We will now be able to update all the information in the book as the interviews with the boys were an enormous help. Thank you once again for making it possible.*

**Having secured funding through the kind help of one of our governors, we have been able to launch a KS3 Latin Club and so in January the Latin Club got underway. The boys are following the Cambridge Latin Course and thanks to Ms Damms it is a great success. The boys involved are an absolute credit to the school, showing commitment and hard work, whilst thoroughly enjoying themselves. Last Monday I joined the class to find them all utterly engrossed in a group translation exercise. SUPERBUS!**



Working hard on the translations.

**The annual MFL/PE trip to France took place early in February.**

**When we were offered the French, Italian border resort of Montgenevre, childhood memories came flooding back, I had been there as a 14 year old. In those days you had to take a passport to go skiing as the border was not as easy to cross as it is now.**

**The drive up from Grenoble (more memories from university) is spectacular, passing by some of the highest mountains in Europe with ancient glaciers and vast snow fields.**

**This year as well as being taught by ESF (École de Ski Français) instructors, the boys had the pleasure of skiing with myself, Mr Rourke or Mr Sofer during their lunch break and at the end of the day. This enabled them to gain in confidence and therefore progress all the more quickly.**



Is there anything finer than the French Alps?

**Of course it was not all skiing, the boys also enjoyed varied evening activities such as a town trail or snow shoe (raquette) walking**



**under a moonlit, star studded sky. Bizarrely at this time of year there was not a cloud in the sky all week and the temperature was more akin to that of late spring than early February. Thankfully there was plenty of snow from earlier in the season.**

**Henry Sami-Pour and James Groves write:**

*We took a plane to Grenoble airport and arrived there to beautiful views of the Alps. We skied with professional French skiing instructors for 5 hours each day. In the last few days we even skied into Italy! On our amazing trip, we were involved in many evening activities. Many of these included a pool competition where we beat Mr. Altmann!*  
*On Wednesday night we experienced raquette mounting climbing, learning about trees and searched for the mystical creature (with its two left legs longer than the right legs) called the Dahu. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful.*



*The Dahu (notice the legs!)*

*Then we wolf tracked (creeping up) to a tipi and learned about rocks that were over 400, 000 000 years old and drank hot*

*chocolate, and ate traditional French pie next to a warm fire. The next day we went bum boarding down the piste, and took part in challenging races at night. Finally we went on a quiz trail around the old traditional town of Montgenevre. We arrived back to William Ellis tired, cold and hungry but happy after the trip and glad to be home.*



*In the tipi by the fire*

*Hugo Courtenay-Pinfield writes:*

*Every day, we would ski for around six hours with our instructors and the teachers we even skied over the Italian border. Each evening we would participate in an activity. Bum-boarding, French Bingo, walking with spiked shoes through the mountains at night and even a town trail. I had never been skiing before; it was a fantastic first experience. I really enjoyed it and would love to go in future years.*

**As you can see, all the boys enjoyed a tiring yet wonderful week.**

**February also saw celebrations for the Chinese New Year.**

**Rory Morgan writes:**

*On February 3<sup>rd</sup> of this school year Ms Shi organised a workshop to celebrate China Day with the help of Mr Forrest at WES. More than 20 Mandarin study students from the La swap and William Ellis Mandarin Clubs took part in the annual festivities of the Chinese New Year. Celebrating the year of the Rabbit. Students practised the Chinese custom calligraphy on rice paper and took part in a quiz about the festivities. Students were also treated to Chinese snacks and sweets involving fortune cookies and dumplings (as well as many other typical Chinese new year food), and also enjoyed watching traditional Chinese dance and the televised celebrations from the country itself.*



*Calligraphy & cookies!*

*This is all part of William Ellis's continuing link with schools in the Chinese cities Kunming and Shanghai, which becomes greatly strengthened through the schools' continuing development of the understanding of each other's diverse and fascinating cultures.*

**March saw Ms Shi in action again accompanying several students to Chatham House**



# Language College News



## for the annual China Conference.

### **Elora Aboua Y 12 writes:**

*Ms Shi took a small group of LaSwap and William Ellis students to take part in a conference. This conference was held at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. We all saw this as a great opportunity as Chatham house is recognised as a highly influential institution where many respectable individuals (such as prime ministers and presidents) gather to discuss current affairs.*

*During our visit we were presented with a range of China related subjects which included: Chinese geography and differences between its citizens, China's economic growth and how it affects the rest of the world, as well as China's historical and social past. These talks were specially written and designed for students and presented by a panel of experts who work here in England as well as mainland China.*



The panel at Chatham House.

*Many were professors from universities such as Oxford and Cambridge who were prepared to answer any questions we had about China. Overall the*

*experience was enlightening as we were all given a clear, wonderful as well as beneficial view on China's past and current affairs.*

*After the event we had a chance to explore "China Town" before making our way back to school. The day was very useful and much appreciated, hopefully next year we will be invited again.*

**March also saw a delegation of 16 teachers from all over Italy visit William Ellis, they were on a cultural tour of England and had wanted to gain an insight into the English educational system. After a tour of the school there was a question and answer session about various aspects of our system and the differences between schooling in Italy and in England.**

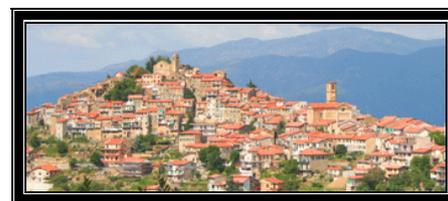
### **Vincent (an Italian teacher) writes:**

*We had a fantastic time on our ACLE visit to William Ellis on Monday.*

*Our teachers really enjoyed seeing your school, they said the trip was eye-opening, educational, they had a lot of fun and they were impressed by how welcoming and enthusiastic all of your staff and pupils were.*

*We would love to keep in contact with you. Our teacher visits are annual, it would be wonderful to possibly arrange another visit in the future. Again, thank you for being so welcoming and helpful. We really appreciate it.*

**Indeed they enjoyed it so much that they have offered some wonderful houses free of charge to all William Ellis teachers in the beautiful hill town village of Baiardo. I'm off with the family next week and I know that many other staff members have taken advantage of this generous opportunity.**



Baiardo

**At the time of writing this newsletter Mr Parry and Mr Batten are out in Spain with students from Years 10 and 12.**

### **Mr Parry writes:**

*A 4am departure under rainy skies was not the best start to our Southern Spain adventure but so it was! Like clockwork, our take off was right on time and two and a half hours later we landed at our destination- Malaga. However, the spring heat brought a smile to some very weary travellers. After a brief introduction to our temporary home 'The Malacca Instituto' and hearty lunch the boys began their first Spanish lesson- all in Spanish.*



*William Ellis boys hard at work in Spain.*

*This is a true foray into culture and language with visits to world famous sites such as the Alcazaba Fortress in Malaga, the world famous Alhambra in Granada and beaches on the Costa del Sol and more importantly it offers plenty of opportunity to use everyday Spanish. The behaviour of the participants from William Ellis and LaSwap are a tribute to the school and hopefully they will use this experience to explore less tourist trodden corner of this fascinating country.*



*Courtyard of the Myrtles in the Alhambra.*

**All that remains for me to mention are those boys who gained awards in Languages this term.**

**Well done to all of them for their hard work and outstanding achievement.**

**Year 7 French  
Rio Grinnell-Parke  
Rizvee Azim**

**Year 8 French  
Christopher Fairweather**

**Year 8 Spanish  
Alexander Caico**

**Year 9 French  
Mujeb Miah**

**Year 9 German  
Juli Zequiri**

**Year 10 French  
David Hickman**

**Year 10 Spanish  
Barney Doak**

**Year 11 French  
Andrew Bankole**

**Year 11 German  
Kun Yuan Shi**

**Latin Award.**

*Alexander Caico  
Chinedu Kalu  
Aaron McGuire  
Conor Carlton  
Devontte John-Martin  
Vincent Dang  
Yves Von Daniken  
Vladimir Stamenkovic  
William Savoy*

**Finally I must say thank you to all staff and students who have contributed not only to this newsletter but also to all the activities that have made this term a great success.**

**Happy Easter!**

**Felices Pascuas!**

**Frohe Ostern!**

**Joyeuses Pâques!**

**Mr Altmann**