

## OUR NEW COLLEGES

The Elmgreen School is one of a number of innovative schools who are implementing vertical tutoring (VT). VT means that your child will be in a tutor group with children from other year groups. We feel that this system is reflective of a family unit where older siblings support younger and that this in turn reflects our unique status as a Parent Promoted School. Schools who have successfully adopted this system have enjoyed better 'inter-year' relationships, enhanced school/ family partnership, a reduction in bullying and an increase in leadership skills amongst older students.

Your child's vertical tutor group is a smaller part of one of four larger communities of children called 'colleges'. These colleges, each eventually made up of students from across years 7-13, will be led by a College Leadership Team whose members bring a range of skills and experiences to their work. This College Leadership Team will remain responsible for your child (and any siblings) from the day they arrive until the day they graduate. We feel that this will result in families building longstanding relationships of trust and stability with college staff. It is also our intention that these smaller communities of students will ease the transition from primary to secondary school, and ensure that your child settles quickly amongst students who already know the school well.

College staff are responsible for the attendance, attitude to learning and, most importantly, the academic progress of students in their care.

Each college has its own distinctive identity, but all colleges are bound together under The Elmgreen Way, our code of conduct.

The Headteacher invited all staff to offer a preference with regards to possible names for the college. As a result the Headteacher chose four names belonging to local heroes. All of these inspirational personalities lived or worked in Lambeth and the surrounding area. The Deputy Heads of College have written a little something about **Szabo** and **Wilberforce** Colleges on the following pages.

**Profiles of Besant and James Colleges in next week's School News.**

## BEN HUR

On Thursday 17 September, thirty Year 7 students were lucky enough to go and see Ben Hur on its opening night at London's O2 Arena.

The first indoor chariot race at highspeed; 50 scene changes; the world's biggest tour arena (almost 2500 sqm); 5 quadrigas; 2 galleys and 9 pirate boats; 46 horses, donkeys and ponies; 100 birds; 1000 different costumes ; more than 4000 props ... These statistics come together to make the current global tour of Ben Hur Live.



### A Review by Melissa Anane (8G)

Ben Hur was a really memorable and enjoyable event for so many reasons. The music was lively, fun, and the dancers were really good. There were even loads of circus acts! The script was mostly delivered by a narrator, but the characters themselves were really believable. They even spoke in Latin and Hebrew. Everyone knew their place which made it really realistic and showed the director did a good job. The horse and chariot racing were really exciting and fast. They even used real horses!

All of these things helped make it interesting, and the storyline kept you hooked. Something which I really liked was the way that two stories were linked into one. The story of Ben Hur and parts of Jesus' life were intertwined. But it was the special effects which were most memorable. Fireworks, music, colour and excitement; Ben Hur had it all.

The show was so good I would give it 10/10! It was a must-see and I would definitely go again!

## SZABO COLLEGE (Silver Tie)

**V**iolette Szabo was born in France on 26th June, 1921. Later the family moved to London and she was educated at a Brixton Secondary School.



During the Second World War Violette met Etienne Szabo, an officer in the Free French Army. The couple decided to get married when they discovered that Etienne was about to be sent to fight in North Africa.

Soon after giving birth to their daughter, Tania Szabo, Violette heard that her husband had been killed at El Alamein. She now developed a strong desire to get involved in the war effort and eventually joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE).

Overcoming initial opposition to a woman being involved in such dangerous missions Violette was parachuted into France where she had the task of obtaining information about the resistance in the Rouen area. Despite being arrested by the French police she completed her mission successfully and after being in occupied territory for six weeks she returned to England.

Violette returned to France in June 1944 but was ambushed by a German patrol. By providing covering fire Szabo enabled a comrade to escape before she herself was captured. After being tortured by the Gestapo she was sent to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in Germany.

Some time in the spring of 1945, with Allied troops closing in on Nazi Germany, Violette Szabo was executed. After her death she was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the George Cross, both signs of great honour. Her story is told in the book and film entitled *Carve Her Name With Pride*.

Violette Szabo showed great courage, strength and determination. She never gave up and she stood up for what she believed in. She is the embodiment of everything that members of Szabo College aspire to be.

Like Szabo, we must aim to show courage, strength and determination in everything that we do. Like Szabo, we must truly believe that success is possible even against the most formidable of odds. For that reason Szabo college members repeat to themselves a simple phrase as they work towards their goals: 'We can succeed...we *will* succeed'.

Ms Moran

## The Times Book Tokens

### Thank you!

**A** huge thank you to all of you who collected Book Tokens from the Times and The Sunday Times newspapers between January and July!

You will be pleased to hear that we collected enough tokens for more than 30 books and a year's subscription to First News – a newspaper for young people. The books arrived safely in our new school at the beginning of September and have been added to the book boxes which are in every English classroom and Tutor Base.

A particular thank you to: Sam Johnstone's family, Mr Burke and his family, Ms Wright, her family and neighbours, Ms Wilson and her family and to Ms Willis' family. We really appreciate your efforts!

AND IT'S NOT OVER YET ...

You will all be pleased to know that the scheme is continuing. All you need to do is collect the tokens printed in the Times and The Sunday Times and hand them in to Ms Willis, Ms Chester or your English teacher.

If you don't read these newspapers yourself, maybe you know someone who does. Get your friends and families involved and we will be able to collect even more books this year.

So, start collecting today!

Don't forget: at The Elmgreen School there is a book in every bag!



## WILBERFORCE COLLEGE (Blue Tie)

**W**illiam Wilberforce (24 August 1759 – 29 July 1833) was a

British politician, a philanthropist (practice of helping people less well-off than oneself) and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade.

A native of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, he began his political career in 1780 and became the

independent Member of Parliament for Yorkshire (1784–1812). In 1785, he underwent a conversion experience and became an evangelical Christian, resulting in major changes to his lifestyle and a lifelong concern for reform.



In 1787, he came into contact with Thomas Clarkson and a group of anti-slave-trade activists, including Granville Sharp, Hannah More and Charles Middleton. They persuaded Wilberforce to take on the cause of abolition, and he soon became one of the leading English abolitionists. He headed the parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade for twenty-six years until the passage of the Slave Trade Act 1807.

In later years, Wilberforce supported the campaign for the complete abolition of slavery, and continued his involvement after 1826, when he resigned from Parliament because of his failing health. That campaign led to the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, which abolished slavery in most of the British Empire; Wilberforce died just three days after hearing that the passage of the Act through Parliament was assured. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, close to his friend William Pitt.

All of the work that William Wilberforce had done over the years contributed towards the abolition of slavery. His campaigning changed the world and freed people from slavery. Subsequently, he changed the lives of many people and that of future generations.

Like Wilberforce, we must aim to make a positive contribution to our society and the world we live in, show compassion and have humility to be a good role model. We must believe that we can achieve anything – all you have to do is believe in yourself!

*Ms Wellington*

## School Library News

**T**his week children's author Michael Rosen was in the news talking about how schools can improve their own libraries and play a part in encouraging access to local libraries.

He was especially concerned about schools having rooms devoted to ICT but not to books. Here at The Elmgreen School we are incredibly fortunate to have access to both. Our brand new book collection numbers 3500 and by Christmas we expect it to have grown to 5000. Even better we can see how well you are using our library. In the first week alone we issued 897 books! In fact, we have been so busy we have had to turn some of you away at lunchtime which is disappointing for us and you.

We hope to work out a fair system in the coming weeks which means everybody has a chance to enjoy the library. Meanwhile, do take the time to discover your local library. If you'd like to find out where your nearest one is, come and see us and we will help you find out.

## Booked Up!

**F**or the third year in a row, The Elmgreen School is taking part in 'Booked Up!', a government scheme that gives every Year 7 student a free book out of a choice of 12 titles.

Yr7 students all had an enjoyable time last week skimming and scanning the books and making their choices showing they are already getting The Elmgreen School reading bug.

The books should arrive in early November and we are looking forward to hearing and reading some interesting reviews.

For more information and some fun games and activities, go to [www.bookedup.org.uk](http://www.bookedup.org.uk).

The Elmgreen School is a school that reads!





## Ebony Saturday School

Every Saturday at the Elmgreen School

10am – 12pm

starting on

Saturday 3 October 2009

Visit [www.ebonyeducation.com](http://www.ebonyeducation.com)

or call 0208 859 3388 for more information

Alternatively contact Mr Castle at

The Elmgreen school



## DRAMA CLUB

Wednesdays 3.30 pm



Year 7, 8 and 9 working together

A mixture of drama activities:-

Script Work

Plays

Improvisation

Character Work

Games

and much more

**1. First come first served**

**2. Limited number of places**

**3. High expectations**

Starts Wednesday 7 October

Meet: Activities Room

## Online Payments to School with ParentPay REMINDER

Introducing a more convenient on-line method to pay for school meals, educational visits, music lessons

This service will go live from Monday 5 October. From this date we will be working towards no longer accepting cash and cheque payments, making the school a cash-free environment. Parents who need to continue making payments by cash may do so using the PayPoint network at local convenience stores. Please don't forget to return the form to the School Reception in order to receive your Parent Pay Card, user name and password.



ParentPay

## Dates for your Diary.....

- Tuesday 6 October—Year 8 (girls) HPV Vaccinations
- Please tell parents of current Year 6 students that they are invited to attend:

Open Evening Tuesday 6 October 6 - 9 pm

Open Morning Saturday 10 October 9.30 - 11 am

Open Morning Wednesday 14 October 9 - 10.30 am

Open Morning Thursday 15 October 9 - 10.30 am

## Year 9 Inner London Cup

### First Round Victory

Many congratulations to the Year 9 football team, who won 3 – 2 against Holloway in the first round of the Inner London Cup. The match was played at Kennington Park on Wednesday afternoon. After a strong start Elmgreen faltered, letting in two goals in the first half. After some formation changes and a tough talk at half-time, Elmgreen powered back into the match in the second half with Joshua Jinadu scoring three goals. Jemarle Jacobs- Rennalls proved his versatility with some strong defending following a move to the back four. Montell Lockhart remained resilient and powerful in defence-midfield; Kayne Campell-Wilson made a promising first team debut; and Shaquille Boreland and Montel Ottey created some good opportunities from midfield. Man of the match was Duke Francis who showed excellent pace, ball control and determination throughout. Well done. Details of the next match will follow shortly.



### MFL GCSE examination results

Congratulations to Year 9 students Daniel Molina and Frederick Afrifra Owusu who both gained A\* grades in their early- entry GCSE languages examinations. Daniel sat Spanish, gaining very high scores in the speaking and writing sections, whilst Fred took Italian and excelled in the speaking and reading components. The marks breakdown revealed that both boys performed extremely well on a national level, achieving some of the best marks in the country in some parts of the examination. We look forward to more superb languages results next year.

## Daily Breakfast Club

The official school opening time for students will be at 8.00 am. If however you need to your child to attend earlier the school will be running a breakfast club from 7.40 am. Students will be supervised, able to get on with work or quiet reading and will have the chance to get something to eat. A register will be taken and you will be able to check they have been attending. We will need a permission slip in order to be able to manage numbers.



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Breakfast Club—7.40 am daily

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student) to attend the breakfast club

College \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name

*Please return to Mr Russell via the School Office*



## Cycling to School

We encourage our students to cycle to school as part of a healthy lifestyle. If you wish to cycle to school, you must first complete the attached agreement form and hand it in to Reception before you will be given access to the cycle storage area.

Regrettably, the storage area will only be available **from Tuesday 3 November**, immediately after the half-term break. Please do not bring your bicycle to school before then as we are unable to provide secure storage.



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### AGREEMENT TO USE A BICYCLE TO COME TO SCHOOL



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the following code of use:

- I will always wear a helmet
- I will always use a D Lock
- I will lock the bike in the cycle storage area near the multi-use games area
- I accept that I, and not the School, take full responsibility for the safety and security of my bicycle
- I will always wear reflective material when riding in the dark
- I will always follow the Highway Code and consider taking a cycling proficiency test

Description of bike \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be returned to School Reception before you can use the cycle storage area.**