

Serenity Eltham Newsletter

From Enrolment to Graduation



Summer

Letter from Headteacher

*"Celebrating Courage, Kindness, and Community –
A Remarkable Summer Term at Serenity School"*

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another vibrant and inspiring summer term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared and to express just how proud I am of every single pupil at Serenity School Eltham.

Our pupils face a wide range of challenges—barriers that many others may never fully understand. Yet, day after day, they show up with courage, resilience, and a determination that is nothing short of extraordinary. It cannot be underestimated how proud I am of each one of them.

This term, our school values have truly come to life through the amazing charity work our pupils have led and supported. From the energetic car wash to the joyful summer fair and the competitive spirit of our football tournaments, our students have raised funds and awareness with heart and purpose. Their commitment to giving back is a testament to the kind, empathetic individuals they are becoming.

Throughout the year, we've welcomed many visitors to our school, and time and again, they leave with the same message: our pupils are remarkable. They speak of their authenticity, their warmth, and their kindness—qualities that shine through in every interaction. While our pupils each have unique needs and sometimes express themselves in ways that are wonderfully unfiltered, at their core is a deep sense of compassion and a fierce instinct to protect and support one another.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our entire community. To our dedicated staff, thank you for your tireless commitment and belief in every child. To our parents and carers, thank you for your partnership, trust, and encouragement. And to our pupils—thank you for being you. You are the heart and soul of Serenity School Eltham, and we are endlessly proud of all you have achieved. Wishing you all a restful, joyful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the autumn, ready for another exciting chapter.

Claire Pettman
Headteacher

- We take care of ourselves.
- We take care of each other.
- We take care of our learning.
- We take care of our school, community, and the world.
- We take care of our future.



Monty's Summer Message!
**Woof woof! Hello from Monty at
Serenity School Eltham!**

It's me, Monty the dog, and I just wanted to say a big tail-wagging WELL DONE to all the amazing pupils at our school! I've been watching you all this term, and wow—you've made me so proud I could bark with joy!

Oh, and the football tournaments—I may have accidentally run off with the ball once or twice (sorry!), but you were all such great players and showed brilliant teamwork. joy!

A big woofy THANK YOU to all the grown-ups—teachers, parents, carers—and of course, to YOU, the pupils. You make Serenity School the best place to be.

Have a super fun summer! Don't forget to play, rest, and maybe throw a ball or two for me if you see me around!

Lots of licks and tail wags,

Monty 🐕



Charity Car Wash

"Pupil's Shine with Suds and Spirit: School Council Raises £100 for Nutritious Minds Charity Through Car Wash Fundraiser"

The School Council recently organised a fantastic fundraising event in support of Nutritious Minds Charity Trust, who had visited our school to deliver inspiring Art sessions and teach pupils about the importance of healthy nutrition for brain development. Motivated by the charity's message, the pupils decided to host a car wash to raise funds. Their teamwork and enthusiasm paid off, as they successfully raised £100.00 for this meaningful cause. We are incredibly proud of their initiative and community spirit!



"Pupils Raise £450 with Apprentice-Style Stalls at Summer Fair for Nutritious Minds"

As part of their ongoing support for Nutritious Minds Charity Trust, our pupils took on an exciting Apprentice-style challenge by creating and running their own stalls at the school's Summer Fair. With creativity and entrepreneurial flair, they set up a variety of fun activities including face painting, raffles, "throw the sponge at the staff," a guess-the-sweets-in-the-jar competition, a sizzling BBQ, and many more engaging attractions. The event was a huge success, drawing in families and friends from across the community, and raising valuable funds for a cause that continues to inspire our pupils to care for their mental and physical wellbeing. In total the pupils raised a profit of £450.00 which will be donated to Nutritious Minds Charity Trust.



Year 10 Students Dive into Hands-On Learning at Mudchute Farm

Year 10 students enjoyed an enriching visit to Mudchute Farm, where they explored animal care, sustainable farming, and the natural environment firsthand. The trip offered valuable learning experiences outside the classroom, deepening their understanding of biology, ecology, and food production.



Year 10 Build Bright Futures at C.E.O. Mitcham

Year 10 students recently visited C.E.O. (Construction & Engineering Opportunities) in Mitcham, where they gained valuable insight into the world of construction, engineering, and the wide range of careers available in these industries. Through hands-on activities and expert-led workshops, pupils explored practical skills, learned about modern technologies used in the field, and discovered the pathways available for future apprenticeships and further education.



"Holyrood Class Digs into Plant Life with Garden Centre Visit and Hands-On Learning"



This term, Holyrood Class explored the world of plants by visiting a garden centre, where they identified and classified different species. Pupils purchased plants to care for, learning firsthand what they need to grow and thrive.

"Craigowan Early Years: Learning Through Laughter, Colour, and Curiosity!"



This term at Craigowan Early Years was bursting with colour, curiosity, and hands-on fun! From bubbly water play and minty tooth brushing to messy colour exploration, every activity sparked laughter and learning through imagination.

**"Tamerisk Classroom
Clash: Should Adonis the
Gorilla Stay in the Zoo
During Wartime?"**



Tamerisk debated whether Adonis the gorilla should stay in the zoo during wartime. The "For" team highlighted safety and conservation, while the "Against" team raised ethical concerns and the stress of captivity. Both sides presented strong arguments, ending in a nearly even class vote that reflected the complexity of the issue.

Gatcombe Pupils Make Waves with Sweet Science Experiment!"

This term, Gatcombe pupils explored wave physics through a hands-on project, building a wave machine using sticks, duct tape, and sweets. The activity helped them understand how energy travels through a medium, turning abstract theory into engaging, practical learning.



***"School Marks VE Day 80th Anniversary with Joyful
Celebration and Reflection"***



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our school held an afternoon of celebration and reflection. Pupils and staff marked the occasion with a traditional street party, enjoying 1950s music, classic treats, and patriotic decorations—honouring the end of WWII in Europe and remembering its significance together.

***"Birkhall Pupils Step into Character:
Exploring Emotions Through Role Play and Expression"***

Children in Birkhall took part in an engaging English role play session focused on exploring character emotions. Through expressive facial gestures and body language, pupils stepped into the shoes of different characters, deepening their understanding of how emotions influence dialogue and behaviour. This hands-on activity helped develop empathy, communication skills, and a richer appreciation of character development in storytelling.



***Birkhall Class Hosts Charity Football
Match for Teenage Cancer Trust***

As part of their ASDAN qualification, Birkhall Class successfully organised a charity football match—staff vs. pupils—to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust. While the staff team claimed victory on the pitch, the real win was the teamwork and enthusiasm shown by all.

Beyond football, students and staff collaborated to sell food, drinks, and run a lucky dip, creating a vibrant, community-driven event. Their efforts raised an impressive £85.00, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to a great cause.



"St James' Explore WWII Themes and Data Skills Through English and Maths Projects"

This term in English, pupils read *When the Sky Falls*, exploring WWII themes through emotive letter writing and persuasive zoo posters. In Maths, they worked with frequency tables and bar charts, collecting peer data to identify patterns and interpret results.



"St James' Pupils Explore Chemical Reactions Through Hands-On Experiments"



Ahoy There! A Half Term of Pirate Adventures!

This half term, the children set sail on a pirate adventure, diving into imaginative play, storytelling, and creative crafts. They made pirate hats, flags, and telescopes, explored sea-themed art, and brought pirate tales to life through books and role-play. A highlight was their treasure hunt at Danson Park, where they climbed aboard a pirate ship and searched for hidden treasure. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and curiosity made this a truly memorable learning journey!



A Term of Growth, Grit, and Greatness in Kensington Class

Kensington Class has had a fantastic term full of "Wow Moments"! From calming yoga and spirited debates to creative problem-solving, our students have grown in confidence, collaboration, and critical thinking. We're so proud of their progress and enthusiasm!



Thatched House Takes Flight at Oxygen!

This term, Thatched House bounced into fun at Oxygen Trampoline Park by the O2! After a scenic riverside walk and lunch, the children leapt into action—loving the endless trampolines and diving into the foam pit with joy.



Exploring water play in Leeds Castle! Our Early Years learners engaged with Tuff Trays to experiment, pour, and splash—developing fine motor skills, curiosity, and early scientific thinking through hands-on discovery.



Teamwork, Strength, and Splash: A Dynamic Summer Term in PE



Pupils embraced a vibrant and active PE curriculum that included kayaking, tennis, and boxing—both on and off site. A standout highlight was the enthusiastic participation in water sports, where students chose kayaking and bell boating. These activities not only boosted their physical wellbeing but also showcased their exceptional teamwork, listening, and communication skills. Additionally, access to gym facilities provided opportunities for personal fitness development, while tennis sessions encouraged agility and coordination. The term was a true celebration of physical activity, resilience, and collaboration.



Celebrating Success: Debate Victory and Spelling Bee Highlights

On 26th June, Serenity School hosted a powerful debate at our Maidstone campus on the impact of social media on behaviour. Teams from Maidstone, Eltham, Coulsdon, and Crawley delivered insightful arguments, blending research, personal stories, and creativity. After a lively and respectful exchange, we're proud to share that our team won the debate!

Alongside this, students also shone in our recent Spelling Bee, showcasing their language skills and confidence. A huge well done to all involved!



Serenity Prom 2025: Grace, Glamour, and Golden Memories

The Year 11 and Year 13 Prom was a breathtaking celebration of friendship, growth, and achievement, held under the enchanting theme of Serenity. Students arrived looking beautiful, dressed in elegant gowns and sharp suits, radiating confidence and joy. Many brought close friends to share in the magic of the evening, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The atmosphere was filled with music that moved hearts and feet alike. From slow, sentimental ballads to high-energy dance tracks, the playlist captured the spirit of the night perfectly. Students danced freely, sang along with their favourite songs, and embraced the moment with laughter and love. The dance floor was alive with energy, while quieter corners offered space for heartfelt conversations and reflection.

A delicious spread of food added to the celebration, with something for everyone to enjoy. As the night unfolded, it became clear that this prom was more than just a party—it was a tribute to the incredible journey these students have taken. Every smile, every cheer, and every shared moment was a celebration of their time at Serenity and all they've accomplished.

The pride in the room was palpable. Teachers, staff, and students alike beamed with admiration for the resilience, creativity, and kindness shown by this remarkable group. It was a night of joy, gratitude, and looking ahead with hope. We are so proud of each one of them.



👑 **Congratulations to Our Prom Royalty!** 🎉 A huge round of applause for our newly crowned King and Queen of Prom, chosen by their peers for their spirit, kindness, and unforgettable style! Your reign begins with sparkle and smiles—long live the Prom Royalty! 🥰👑



🌟 **All Hail Our Prom Sovereign!** 🌟

This year, we celebrate a Prom Royal who transcends titles—voted by their peers for their authenticity, charisma, and heart. Here's to a night of magic and memories with our incredible Prom Monarch! 🎉👑



Strength, Spirit, and Smiles: Celebrating Sports Day!

Pupils gathered with excitement and determination for Sports Day 2025—a day packed with fun, friendly competition, and unforgettable moments. The field buzzed with energy as pupils took part in a carousel of activities, rotating through stations that tested their speed, balance, teamwork, and resilience.

One of the highlights of the day was the classic egg and spoon race, where pupils showed off their concentration and coordination, carefully balancing their eggs while dashing toward the finish line. Cheers erupted from the sidelines as eggs wobbled, dropped, and—sometimes miraculously—made it all the way across!

The running races brought out the competitive spirit, with pupils sprinting their hearts out, cheered on by classmates and staff. Whether it was a 100m dash or a relay, every race was filled with determination and celebration.

Even in the warmth of the day, spirits remained high. Water bottles and sun hats were in full supply, and the sense of community and encouragement kept everyone going. From tug-of-war to obstacle courses, every station offered a chance to shine, laugh, and support one another.

Sports Day wasn't just about winning—it was about participation, perseverance, and pride. It was a day where every pupil had a moment to shine, and the school came together to celebrate effort, teamwork, and the joy of movement.





Celebrating Success 2024/2025

At Eltham Serenity, we are proud to share the incredible achievements of our pupils this academic year. Their hard work, resilience, and determination continue to inspire us all.

Year 11	100% of pupils achieved Serenity Baccalaureate with a total of 105 qualifications.	
	Level 1	Level 2
English	30%	70%
Maths	53%	29%
Science		100%
PSHE		100%
Employability		100%
Digital Skills		100%
Sports Leaders		100%
Health and Social care		100%
Moto Mechanics	100%	
Health & Beauty	100%	
Construction	100%	
Animal Care	100%	
Art	TBC	TBC

Year 13	 Post-16 Pathways Our Year 13 pupils are moving on to exciting futures, including further education, apprenticeships, and university placements. Their success is a testament to their ambition and the guidance they've received throughout their time with us.		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Digital Skills		100%	
Travel and Tourism			100%
Health and Social care			100%
Construction	100%		

Year 9 SET SAIL AWARDS	At Key Stage 3, learners achieve the Set-Sail Award , earning a minimum of five Entry Level 3 to Level 1 qualifications, including in English, Maths, PSD, Food Technology, Art, Sports Leaders and Digital Skills. 93% of pupils achieved 5 qualifications or more with a total of 64 qualifications.		
Year 6 Rising Star Award.	This award celebrates the dedication and success in completing all aspects of Primary Education (KS2 Year 6) and their exciting progression to Upper School, KS3 Year 7. 100% of Year 6's achieved the Rising Star Award.		

Thank you to our pupils, families, and staff for making 2024/2025 such a successful year at Eltham Serenity

As we close the school gates for the summer, we'd like to thank everyone for a brilliant year. Have a safe, happy break—and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!



Pupils return on Monday 8th September 2025