

Dear Parents

December 2007

The end of this highly successful term provides an opportunity to congratulate many of our pupils and thank many of my colleagues for all that has been achieved at Colfe's since September. Pupils in all sections of the school have applied themselves with purpose and to good effect. This has been reflected not only in their academic progress but also in other activity, including sport, music and drama.

This year's musical production **Oliver!** was a particular triumph. Pupils of all ages, from Year 7 to Upper 6<sup>th</sup>, worked well together to produce a fantastic show which sold out five nights running. The **Autumn Concert** in the Recital Hall last month was another high point of the term. A large audience enjoyed a programme which was impressive not only for its quality but also for its variety. As I write, we are looking forward to the Christmas Carol Service in All Saints' Church in Blackheath.

Girls' **netball** teams have enjoyed further success this term, especially the U16 team, captained by Ruth Storrs Fox. Having won the Kent Division of the main national schools competition the girls are now looking forward to regional finals next term. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV **rugby** team, captained by Yemi Brown have also enjoyed a lot of success, remaining undefeated until the second half of term. Other teams have also done well, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV enjoying their strongest run for some years, winning the final match of their season against Dartford Grammar School in the last 30 seconds of the game. Prep School rugby teams have performed particularly well this term, achieving noteworthy victories over Dulwich College Junior School and Dulwich College Prep School.

**Academic achievement** this term has also been impressive, with 26 pupils winning gold, silver or bronze certificates in the Schools' Maths Challenge. Our team in the Hans Woyda Maths competition (Ed Delamare, Andrew Sheridan and Ran Xiong) won through to the knock-out stage of the competition, defeating Eltham College and James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich (JAGS), *en route*. Twelve U6th pupils were called for interview at Oxford and Cambridge in the last two weeks of term and it seems likely that this summer will bring further good news when the A level results are published.

For many pupils the second half of this term has been dominated by the tragic death of Adam Stuart. Adam died during the half term break as a result of a meningococcal infection. His death had a major impact on the whole school and his funeral in Blackheath was attended by more than 500 pupils and friends. Adam's family were greatly touched by the support that they received from all quarters and we were all impressed by the response of the pupils and the strong sense of community that emerged at this most difficult time. Sixth Form pupils will compete later this year for a new prize, the Adam Stuart Prize for spirited political debate.

By the time you receive this, your preparations for the festive season will be well under way. I would like to wish all pupils and their families a happy Christmas and a successful new year. The Spring Term begins on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of January.

Yours sincerely

Richard F Russell