

September 2008

Dear Parents

Now that we have reached the start of the second week of term, I wish to take the opportunity to bring you up to date on various matters and, looking ahead, to remind you of various forthcoming events. First and foremost, however, I wish to congratulate last year's Upper Sixth Form on their fantastic A level results, enabling Colfe's to break through the 80% A/B barrier for the first time in our history.

I am delighted to welcome eight new members of staff this year: Miss Danja Sanovic (Head of English), Mrs Katie Knowles (English), Mr Marios Koutsakis and Miss Sarah Brennan (Languages), Miss Cecilia Craciun (Mathematics), Mr Ross Hazard, (Chemistry), Mrs Elizabeth Lyons (Science) and Miss Alice Wilkinson (History).

I am equally delighted to welcome Mrs Caroline Butler, academic deputy head, back to the Senior Management Team following her maternity absence. Miss Sara Ward, director of sixth form, has agreed to continue as pastoral deputy head this term, due to Mrs O'Leary's continued absence due to illness. Mr Spencer Drury will continue as acting head of sixth form, assisted by Mr Andrew Pearson.

Looking ahead to key events of the term, I wish to remind you that all parents of pupils in Year 10 and above are welcome to attend the **Governors' Visitation (Senior Prizegiving) on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September**. The event will take place in the Sports Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. Our guest of honour will be the Master of the Leathersellers' Company, Mr Michael Binyon. **Please note that this event is compulsory for all pupils in Year 11 and above.**

Our first **Open Morning** for prospective pupils and parents will take place on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October**. This is, of course, an important event for the school and we will require the attendance of the majority of pupils to act as tour guides and to assist with departmental displays. **Parents of pupils involved in the orchestra and swing band should note that they will be performing on Open Day.**

The day before Open Day, **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October**, is a staff training day and pupils will not be required in school in the morning or afternoon.

On the subject of school commitments generally, I wish to take this opportunity to remind parents that pupils who are selected for school teams are expected to play. This fundamental school expectation applies to all fixtures, including Saturdays. Details of this term's fixtures can be found in the calendar or on the school website. I am sure you will appreciate that our outstanding sporting success in recent years can only continue if we can rely on total commitment of our players and support from home.

The roads around the school are always particularly busy at the start of term. I would be grateful if parents dropping or collecting their children in Horn Park Lane could be patient and respectful of the rights of our neighbours and of each other. Occasionally I receive complaints from neighbours who have been blocked in, or even from parents who feel they have been treated inconsiderately by other parents. In particular, I would ask parents not to park on the far side of Horn Park Lane while they are waiting since this has a dramatic negative effect on traffic flow. I have also instructed our Sixth Form pupils who drive to school to park on the school side of Horn Park Lane only.

On a related point, I should remind parents that they should not drive into school to deposit or collect children. The only exception to this relates to pupils who are injured or disabled.

I wish to pass on thanks from Mr Mark Taylor, our senior deputy head, for the very strong response that he received to my letter at the end of last term regarding GAP student accommodation. We have now agreed the arrangements for this year's students and look forward to welcoming them to Colfe's in January.

With all good wishes for the Autumn Term

Yours sincerely

Richard F Russell