



Horn Park Lane, London, SE12 8AW
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Headmaster: Richard Russell MA (Cantab.)

Dear Parents

The closing days of the Autumn Term have given us much to celebrate. To judge from what I have read in the reports, I think that the majority of our pupils have earned their Christmas break and I hope that they will enjoy it. I would be grateful if all parents could read the *appendix* to this letter (as well as the letter itself, of course!) which contains information of a practical nature.

The high points of the term have included the success of our mathematicians in the prestigious Hans Woyda competition. Aably led by Andrew Sheridan, they added victory over Alleyn's last week to their success in previous matches against Eltham College and Bromley High. They can look forward to facing some of the strongest schools in the country in the knock-out stages of the competition next term.

The 1st XV rugby team, captained by Jake Mallen, have also enjoyed conspicuous success this term, despite losing a number of players due to injury. Their victory over Eltham College last month was the prelude to an unbeaten four week stretch which has brought out the best in a strong team. The younger boys have also had a good run this season, with the Under 12 team remaining undefeated until last Saturday when they lost narrowly to Dulwich.

The Drama department's production of *Noises Off* last week marked a break with the recent tradition of musicals. Alyce Potter, George Sullivan, Tom Bentley, Tom Channell, Zoe Williams, Jamie Powrie, Shelly Fahri, Georgia Brown and George Ronayne all rose to the occasion magnificently in a fast and furious production which played to full houses three nights running. Preparation for *High School Musical*, next term's lower school production, is already well advanced.

Christmas is always a busy time for musicians and this week's Christmas Concert involved just under a hundred pupils. The concert was particularly memorable for its musical range, from *Abba* to Verdi, and included distinguished solo performances from Melissa Urban and Francesca King. Our swing band has reached such a high standard in just two years that they are regularly invited to perform at external venues.

My penultimate duty in this term's newsletter is to inform you that Mr Mark Taylor will be leaving Colfe's at the end of this term to pursue a new career. Mr Taylor has served the school in many different capacities during the last three decades, most recently as Deputy Headmaster. I wish to take this opportunity to record my thanks to him, both personally and on behalf of my colleagues for all that he has done for our pupils.

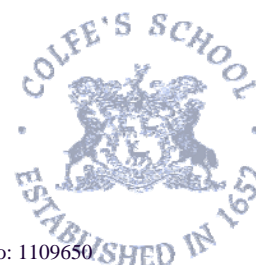
I am pleased to report that Mr John King will take on the new role of Administrative Deputy Head in January, following Mr Taylor's departure. Mr Richard Otley will take over from Mr King as Head of Economics and Business Studies.

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, 12th January.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Richard F Russell





COLFE'S SCHOOL

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Appendix

- Parents who need to report pupil absence due to illness should either call the main office (0208 852 2283) and choose the absence option or email absence@colfes.com Please do not leave voicemail messages about absence with form tutors or heads of year.
- This end of term letter is the first to be sent out by email in addition to the traditional method and we hope that you will find this helpful. We also have the ability to send text messages to the mobile 'phone number that we have on record for you and may, occasionally, use this facility for important or urgent communications.
- Photographs of School events (including Oliver!, Noises Off! The Snow Queen & the Pre-Prep Christmas Concert) can now be purchased directly from Gillman and Soames. Further details can be found on the Colfe's website.

