



## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

One of the highlights of recent weeks was an excellent display of A-level and GCSE work from our Design and Technology students. Pupils were on hand to explain their work to parents and visitors, including the creative process which lies behind the completed projects. I was delighted to see evidence of outstanding craftsmanship, as well as appropriate use of relevant (CAD) technology.

Aspiring engineers and designers from ages 11 to 14 have also been busy with this year's Electric Car project – building and designing a car from scratch. The educational value of this project is immense, combining aspects of Physics, Art and Engineering. The team will participate in a series of races organised by Greenpower in the coming months, although the Schools Series Formula E (in which we were victorious last year) will not be repeated this summer. The Chief Technical Officer from Virgin DS, the only British team taking part in the Formula-E series this year, will be visiting Colfe's in the near future to meet all of year 8 and our past and present electric car teams.

In languages, eight of our Year 11 pupils have passed the DELF (Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Francaise) exam which is recognized and promoted by the French government and therefore highly desirable for universities and employers. Congratulations to Callum Grant, Max Hedley, Michael Ly, Anisha Morally, Georgia Noone, Sam Rosen-Fouladi, Isaac Rouland and Morgan Smith and of course to my colleagues in the languages department who prepare candidates for this qualification outside the normal timetable. On a related theme, I was delighted to hear successful reports of the Sixth form trip to Paris during the recent break.

The outdoor pursuits season is now well advanced with Year 6 pupils in the prep school returning home today from their residential week of bushcraft in the woods of Oxfordshire. Last week Year 5 participated in a residential activities week in Ashford and last weekend more than 30 Year 10 pupils completed their first training for D of E Bronze and Silver awards in Lenham, including a challenging 13-15 km walk. At least 20 members of staff have been directly involved in this activity over the last two weeks under Major Cherry's expert leadership.

The Sixth Form organised their own London elections ahead of the real vote which was a good run through for understanding the electoral system particularly for those of our Upper 6th who were eligible to vote for the first time. Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith may be consoled to learn that he emerged from the Colfe's process as victorious.

Other recent activity has included a Fire Brigade education workshop (Year 5,) and a trip to a Sikh Temple (also Year 5). Meanwhile Year 6 took part in a World War 11 workshop and had a behind-the-scenes look to the Globe Theatre. Our very youngest Colfeians in the Nursery enjoyed a trip to Mudchute Farm which included an encounter with Dora and Delilah, the two cows which the PPN sponsor with money raised during the Shared Values Week at the start of the year. All the PPN (including the teachers) are dressed as book characters today (Friday) to mark the last day of a week dedicated to reading. This has included a focus on Shakespeare and a new initiative – 'Rooted in Reading Passports' – which we hope will encourage pupils



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to read a variety of books for pleasure. The scheme will run to the end of the summer term. On a related theme, congratulations to Faith Chong (Year 3) who won the Prep School's Poetry Recitation Competition and received a trophy and poetry anthology. Faith was chosen for her performance of Sick by Shel Silverstein against many strong performances from across the school.

In the theatre the Lower 6th AS production (DNA) last Wednesday was exceptionally strong, preceded by excellent and varied individual monologues which included passages from Hamlet and Sophocles' Electra. Congratulations to Sophia Rosen-Fouladi, Stanley Gordon, Georgina Heys, Sam Harrington, Jeremiah St Fort and Felix Holland and I hope the external examiner was as impressed as the rest of the audience.

Just under 70 former Colfeians attended the Spring Reunion this year in Leadenhall Market which made it one of the busiest events of its type in recent years. The class of 2006 was particularly well represented in the 10th year of their graduation from the Sixth Form and it was great to witness such positive feeling towards the school. Many thanks to our development officer, Russell Joyce, himself a proud Old Colfeian, for all that he continues to do to maintain contact with the wider Colfeian community. Meanwhile the PAFA Quiz night raised an impressive £1,079 for two of our 6th Form nominated charities. PAFA has now announced that their Summer Ball this year will take place on June 10 at the Valley – home of Charlton Athletic football club. Tickets always sell out fast for this big event in the PAFA calendar so please contact [pafa@colfes.com](mailto:pafa@colfes.com) to book your place.

In sport, the U12A&B girl cricket squads have started the cricket season as they ended the netball season with strong wins over Bromley High. The A team batting was exceptional with 99 runs off just 9 overs. In athletics - Years 7 and 8 girls and boys took part in the Cambridge Athletics Cup against six other Greenwich schools. Well done to Denny Ashison (Year 7) who won the 200m with an impressive time of 26.7 seconds and Ronald Aduaye-Odiete (Year 8) who won the discus. Colfeians also took part in the Greenwich Athletic trials at Sutcliffe Park this week.

In Tennis Ethan Benson and Leo Holder (Year 10) and Arvind Thirumaran and Alfie Oakley (Year 9) had a strong start to the Kent Schools League beating Greenwich Free School 10-2.

Teams from Years 8 and 10 took part in the Kent 9-a side Rugby League tournament – the first time that Colfe's has entered the competition. Year 10 boys won this round which means they are now through to the play off stage. There were outstanding performances for our Year 5 and 6 swimmers in a friendly gala against Breaside, St Olaves Prep and Merton Court with Colfe's just missing out by one point on first position overall. Well done to Roshanak Li-Sue Foulds, Zach Kirkman, Alexios Philalithis, Hugo Tonks, Rohan Hiran, Olivia McAuliffe, Jacob Walker.

Finally Colfe's once again hosted the Aquathlon for Greenwich Tritons in which over 180 competitors took part from around London, Kent and Essex as part of the Triathlon England London Region Junior Race Series. Congratulations to Freya Burton-Franklin, India Fuller Griffin, Anna and Nico Hadingham, Ben and Jacob Jarman, Sophia and Zach Kirkman and Louis and Amelie Klanga.

Other individual achievements in the last few weeks include

- Thomas Jenkins and Lucy Still (both Year 12) who have secured highly sought after places with the National Youth Theatre – for acting and technical Theatre (respectively). The school is very proud to have two people accepted into the NYT which is an outstanding achievement for both Thomas and Lucy. NYT's alumnae include Dame Helen Mirren, Daniel Craig and Sir Ben Kingsley.
- Arthur Drury (Year 9) who recently filmed an advert for Volkswagen.
- 14 year old Georga Halloumas (Year 10) who won Gold at the Southern Area Judo Open and a Bronze at the Northern Home Counties Judo Open. It is Georga's first year of competing as a cadet (against girls aged 15 to 17).
- Issy Fleming (Year 12) has run the Hackney half marathon for Cancer Research so far raising around £250. <https://www.justgiving.com/Isabelle-Fleming>

**Richard Russell**  
Headmaster