



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The weeks following half term have been hugely busy across the school with highly successful open days in all parts of the school and record numbers of registrations, including more than 100 external pupils entered for the Sixth Form Scholarship exam tomorrow morning. The most consistent feature of all these occasions has been the outstanding contribution that pupils of all ages have made, acting as tour guides and helping with departmental and classroom displays.

Over 200 Colfeians joined our CCF Squadron last Sunday for the Remembrance Day service at the Horn Park War Memorial. All those in attendance, including our youngest Colfeians, did justice to the dignity of the occasion which was led by the CCF Honour Guard. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the different parts of the school, the CCF squadron itself and, on behalf of the Old Colfeians, by Gregory Jones QC, erstwhile Head Boy and current President of the Old Colfeians. We are grateful to the Reverend Tony Collier who came out of retirement to lead the service.

On a related theme our cadets also had the opportunity to visit and honour the graves of the many Old Colfeians who gave their lives in service during the first and second world wars during a CCF trip to the Battlefields in France over half-term. This was a special opportunity for our cadets to learn more about both wars from an ex-army tour guide. Half-term also included a visit to Madrid – specifically the Sierra de Gredos – for our linguists and the 12th expedition to the Kotu School in the Gambia, with the pupils and staff this year building the second storey to the classroom block and developing the cultural and educational focus of the exchange through more active engagement with the community. Half Term sporting activity included a highly successful U14 rugby tour to Belfast with fixtures against some of the stronger provincial grammar schools. The boys in the year above (U15s) exited from the Kent Cup a week later, losing narrowly to Tonbridge in the quarter finals.

Cross-country runners performed particularly well in the first round of the Greenwich and Lewisham Cross Country League. This was the first of three meetings which we hosted. With over 100 runners taking part across the two boroughs from Years 7-9, our Year 7 and 8 girls did well – coming third overall in the team event. Anna Hadingham and Freya Burton-Franklin were placed 4th and 5th respectively out of 26 competitors. Other noteworthy performances included that of Amy Parton (2nd in the Year 9 girls' race) and Louis Klanga (11th in the Year 9 boys'). The Year 7 and 8 boys put in a superb performance coming 2nd overall with Year 6 pupil Luca Thurlow playing an important part in the team effort, coming 4th in the race and running faster than

all the other Year 7 competitors. We look forward to the block rugby fixture against Eltham College tomorrow morning, having already secured a 4-0 victory in the corresponding 1st XI hockey match yesterday.

Prep school netballers have had a busy first week back at school with the Year 3s taking part in their first ever competitive match for the school beating Breaside 3-0. U10A and U11A teams showed great skill and sportsmanship during their fixture against Pointers at home, winning 24-2 and 15-0 respectively whilst Year 6 kept up the pressure in a block league fixture against Blackheath Prep winning 6 – 1 with the B teams winning both their matches. This means the U11A team are currently sitting top of the table having won all four of their league fixtures.

45 pupils between Year 5 and Year 9 participated in a triangular swimming gala against Eltham College and Dulwich College last week. All schools put up A and B teams for 25 metre events and medley/freestyle relays. Although the school team narrowly lost out to Dulwich overall our Year 7 team was victorious, a really good result against strong opposition.

Meanwhile the senior Hans Woyda Maths team defeated Alleyn's last Friday by 45 points to 31. Sixth formers Cheran Suriyaprakasam (Captain) and Emma Williams were ably supported by Nicholas Orde (Year 11) and Arthur Drury (Year 9). Their success takes them through to the next round of this prestigious competition. In English, we were delighted to welcome back children's author Sam Hepburn who spoke to pupils in Years 7 and 8 and ran creative workshops throughout the day. Other educational highlights have included the Year 1 trip to the Tower of London and the Year 4 workshop on Indian Dance.

Last week's senior school platform concert was possibly the best such occasion that we have seen in recent years, with the most wonderful variety of instrumental and vocal performances. Particular thanks to Mr Davies, our newest recruit to the Music department, who organized much of the programme. We now look forward to the Winter Concert on the 26th November.

Other forthcoming events include the PAFA Fireworks on the 20th November, for which tickets can be obtained from the school. PAFA Chair Helen West has asked me to thank all parents who have already volunteered to help with this event and would be delighted to receive other offers of support. Please contact her via the PAFA email: pafa@colfes.com.

I was delighted to hear of the successes achieved recently by the following members of the Colfe's community:

- Lettie Rainsford (Year 9) who was presented with a Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement award at a ceremony in the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre for her contribution to her guides group (based in Brockley).
- Georga Halloumas (Year 10) who competed in the Southend International Judo event in a higher weight category for the first time. 14 year old Georga has begun training for the U17 cadet category for the National Championships in December.
- Luke Ide (Year 11) competed in the Euro Max Series - Rotax International Open Karting event in Adria, Italy against 100 competitors from 25 countries. Highlights for Luke included qualifying 4th out of 41 drivers – finishing 2nd in his group.
- Sophia Clark (Year 10) has been nominated by London Gymnastics to receive a Bronze Award for her rhythmic Gymnastics at the prestigious "Night of the Stars" ceremony in London on 28th November. Sophia has been invited to compete in "La Lights" USA in January 2016.
- Footballers Bea and Eloise Hembrough (Year 10 and 11 respectively) helped their team Charlton FC win a tournament in Swindon against five other clubs including Swindon Town and Plymouth Argyle.
- Horse rider, Georgia Noone (Year 11) was chosen by her club for her high level of achievement to attend a lesson with World No 1 Show Jumper - Scott Brash MBE at his yard in Sussex.
- Henrietta Englefield (Library Assistant) raised around £2,500 for the charity WaterAid by completing two 100km (63 mile) walks - each without stopping to sleep!



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Newsletter

- Lottie Davies (Year 11) has attended her first training and workshop weekend in Lewes in preparation for the One World Stage cross-cultural arts event (to take place next year) for young people from the UK and Ghana.
- Old Colfeian Daniella Briscoe-People, in her third year reading Classics at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, is now holding the prestigious position of Senior Production Editor for Varsity. In addition, Daniella is teaching Latin at Mayfield – a local primary school.

In conclusion, I would be grateful if parents of senior school pupils could remember that we do not supervise children in school after 6.00 pm (Monday to Thursday) and 4.30 pm on Friday, with the obvious exception of those who are in detention. The closure of the school library coincides with these times by which all children should have left the premises. I would be particularly grateful if parents who collect their children from school could take note of these timings.

With best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster