



## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The end of the Autumn Term provides an opportunity to celebrate a very wide range of pupil achievement and to reflect on some recent highlights. Whilst many of these are recorded in this newsletter I would urge parents to follow us on Twitter and/or Facebook for more regular updates.

We were delighted to be invited to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show in November, alongside our partnership schools. Colfe's pupils were a central part of The Leathersellers' Company procession celebrating The Leathersellers' charitable contribution to the education of the children of London since the sixteenth century. This was an extraordinary experience for our pupils and one that was captured on film as it was broadcast live on BBC One. You can read more about the day [here](#). Over 200 Colfeians joined Colfe's Combined Cadet Force Squadron (CCF) for the Remembrance Day service at the Horn Park War Memorial to remember those who gave their lives in war. The service particularly honoured the number of former Colfeians who served, and are currently serving, in the Armed Forces. **Please see below for a further notice about the CCF.**

We welcomed more prospective parents to our final open events of the year this half term and now have a record number of pupils registered to sit the entrance exam – on 6 January – to join Colfe's in 2018.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

It's been a busy build up to the festive season for our Junior School and we were treated to some very entertaining performances. In Angel Express the Nursery and Reception children practised a new song for the birth of Jesus, Y1 and 2 told the traditional Christmas story through a contemporary primary school setting in Baubles and Y3 and 4 performed their own version of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale Hansel & Gretel, with an original script written by Miss Higgs. My thanks, as ever, to the staff in the Junior School for the production of these highly enjoyable performances which are a yearly highlight for pupils and parents alike.

Our youngest children also found time to compete (and triumph) in the annual Beckenham Music Festival this half term. The KS1 choir put in a strong performance and took the cup for the second year running and the KS2 choir impressed equally and finished as proud runners up.

### ACADEMIC

University offers have started to come in for our Y13 students and will continue to arrive until early February. More than a quarter of this year's applications were in the priority (either Oxbridge or Medicine) category this year which is a new record for the school. Parents of Y11 pupils will have received advice on revision guidelines in the run up to the mock GCSE examinations in January – you can find links to these on [MyColfe's](#). We would encourage you to discuss these guidelines with your son or daughter to create revision timetables that work best for you as a family – we appreciate your help and input at this extremely important time for senior pupils.

For the second year running, A-level Psychology students took part in 'Brain Day' led by Dr Guy Sutton, Director of Medical Biology Interactive from the University of Nottingham Medical School. Students participated in a series of fascinating university-style lectures designed to go beyond the A-level syllabus and also took a closer look at brain anatomy.

Our programme of enrichment lectures has continued with Year 12 students enjoying hour-long, weekly sessions that complement the academic curriculum and involve speakers who talk on a wide range of topics. During this half term, guest



# COLFE'S

---

## Newsletter

speakers have included Dr Robert Thompson on his life-changing charity projects in The Gambia, Angela Findlay on finding out that her father was a prominent figure in the SS German army during WWII, and pro-golfer John Hoskison on how his life was changed by one mistake that resulted in a prison term. Thanks to Ruth Elliott for her organisation of this thought-provoking and challenging series of talks.

Year 7 pupils took up the *Reading Round the World Challenge* last month which required them to read and review at least three books set in different parts of the world. The competition ends this week and the results will be announced in January. It looks likely that a new Colfe's record for the greatest number of books read by a single student is about to be broken!

Over seventy Colfeians entered the Senior Mathematics Challenge which is a national competition for the most able students in the Sixth Form. Five students from Y11 and four students from Y10 also took part. Overall, two Gold, 15 Silver and 29 Bronze certificates were awarded to Colfe's pupils this year: Pebbie Miller-Imbert (Y13) was the best in school and – together with Nicholas Orde, (Y13), Dylan Evans (Y12) and Dan Kelly (Y11) – now moves on to the Senior Kangaroo Challenge round.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome Jane Burton, Global Director, Content at Christie's auction house to our second John Glyn Society lecture of the year. Jane oversees a team of journalists and videographers producing films, magazines, books and online features about the incredible objects and artworks that come through the doors of Christie's. Prior to this she spent 15 years at the Tate Modern as Creative Director and Head of Tate Media. With a lecture entitled 'Where are the women? Rethinking art history', Jane addressed the changing role of female artists in a male dominated art world over the centuries.

### ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

Our partnership with Goldsmiths, University of London (alumni including Damien Hirst, Antony Gormley and Vivienne Westwood) continues to grow with a new conversation programme for Y12 Fine Art & Graphic Communication students. This is an exciting collaboration between Goldsmiths art students and our own Art & Design Department. Colfe's students benefit from the undergraduates' input and have visited Goldsmiths to get a taste of the art courses available and university life.

The Senior School production of the classic spy thriller *The Thirty Nine Steps* was a triumph, with a three night run in November. The performance featured 16 student actors playing over 100 roles in 100 minutes of fast-paced action. We also enjoyed a series of originally devised pieces from Y10 Drama students. Earlier this week, the Splendid Theatre Company came to Colfe's to perform their adaptation of Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. GCSE and A-level Drama students were then able to take part in a practical workshop, developing their devising skills and exploring Splendid's approach to physical theatre. A packed St Alfege's Church in Greenwich enjoyed a magnificent performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* from our combined choir and orchestra earlier this term. Over 120 pupils, staff and parents joined together for a spirited and hugely entertaining rendition of this 1930s cantata which derives from Mediaeval drinking songs (*cantiones profanae*). I was delighted to see so many of you in the audience and particular thanks to Director Emma Bond.

We continued our popular lunchtime music recitals in partnership with Trinity Laban with an exciting end-of-term performance of 'Cinderella' in a jukebox opera style, from the visiting students of the Conservatoire. The annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Lewisham was a festive celebration, featuring congregational carols as well as performances from the Chamber Choir; the Junior School Choirs and the Barbershop singers.

### SPORT

There have been a number of new sport initiatives this term. Water polo was added to the curriculum and has proved extremely popular with a number of competitive fixtures. I am delighted to announce that next term will see the introduction of senior girls' rugby – thanks to Y12 students Chelsea Sampson and Alasdair Trimmer who championed the sport and proposed its introduction at Colfe's. We look forward to seeing the progress.

Unusually for this time of year, our high performance cricketers have been working hard over the autumn term using the indoor cricket nets under the guidance and expertise of Old Colfeian, James Butterfill. I am sure that their dedication and training will pay off during the season later in the year.

Our U13 netball team was narrowly defeated by Emmanuel in the last 16 of the National Schools Cup, the biggest schools competition in the sports' calendar. And finally, we are looking forward to another Friday Night Lights match this evening, where Colfe's School First XV are playing against Bradford Grammar School at Blackheath RUFC. Good luck to all.



### OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

A team of pupils and staff took part in the 15th annual expedition to Kotu Senior Secondary School in the Gambia over the half term holiday. Mornings were spent teaching and helping to build the foundations for a new canteen for the school, while afternoons focused on cultural outings such as a trip to a wild animal reserve in Senegal. The partnership between Colfe's and Kotu School has developed over the years from support with building projects to a now much wider focus on cultural and educational exchange between staff and pupils.

### COLFE'S SCHOOL CCF SQUADRON

Many parents will be aware of the values that the school CCF squadron confers upon those who choose to become cadets in Y8 and above. Our unit is unique, giving pupils the opportunity to choose between the RAF and the Army Air Corps. After several highly successful years as the unit's commander, Squadron Leader Garry Hooton has decided that he will be not be continuing in this voluntary role and will relinquish responsibility for the unit later this academic year. We are therefore seeking a suitably qualified volunteer (ideally somebody who has a services background) to succeed Squadron Leader Hooton as Unit Commander and work closely with Major Cherry to lead it into the next stage of its evolution. The role is voluntary and can be combined with full-time employment. If any parent might be interested in this position, or knows of somebody else who might be a suitable candidate, I would be delighted to hear from you.

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Francesca Rameaux (Y11) is a member of the internationally recognised Capital Arts London Children's Choir and will be singing at 10 Downing Street in the run up to Christmas.
- Madeline Tynan (Y8) won the Greenwich Schools Cross Country Final on 18 October and has been selected to represent Kent in the U13 girls' cross country team.
- Luca Thurlow (Y8) won the Thailand National Down Hill mountain biking race in Chiang Mai in October. He has been selected by British Cycling to represent Team GB in 2018.
- Joseph Watkins (Y13) has been selected to play rugby for Kent U18s.
- Necati Hassan (Y8) has been put forward for the School Boy Championships in January 2018 competing for the National Title Belt in Amateur Boxing for his age and weight.
- Tori Graham (Y9) won a bronze medal at the Grand Final of the London Region GfA (Gymnastics for All) Floor and Vault Competition, missing out on a Silver medal by 0.05 of a point.
- Barnaby Marchant (Y10) has won the Captain's Cup in the Chipstead Sailing Club Graduate Points Race series 2017.
- Christian Hooper (Y11) began at the Saracens Rugby Academy this term.
- Georga Halloumas (Y12) won Bronze at the Welsh U18 and U21 Open Events and represented England U18s in Flanders. She also won Bronze at the British U21s Judo Championships.

If you have news of any out-of-school achievements for your son or daughter please let us know by emailing our Communications team [comms@colfes.com](mailto:comms@colfes.com)

### NOTICES

There have been two very successful PAFA events this month, the annual fireworks display and Christmas Fayre which were both well attended and raised well over £3,000 for charity – which will be equally split between Evelina London Children's Hospital and St Christopher's Hospice. My thanks to new PAFA Chair Melek Sam and her team for the organisation of these events.

The Biennial Careers and Higher Education Convention will take place on Tuesday 6 February 2018, 6.30-8.30pm. All students in Y11 and 12 are expected to attend with their parents. Pupils from Y10 and 13 (and their parents) are welcome too. More details will be provided nearer the time.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and restful festive break and I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Thursday 4 January.

Best wishes

Richard Russell  
Headmaster