



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The highlight of this week was the publication of the ISI inspection reports, links to which we have already emailed to parents. I hope that you will all find time to read the reports in full. The overwhelmingly positive impression that the inspection teams gained in their time with us, much of it gained from pupil interviews, is well reflected in the reports. It was particularly rewarding to see the acknowledgement of the academic improvement in recent years, as well as the ringing endorsement of our pastoral care and extracurricular provision. Many thanks to all the parents who found time to complete the parent questionnaire at such short notice last November. You can read the reports in full on our [website](#).

Colfe's in the news

Our parents' Latin course attracted the attention of the national press last weekend, with pieces running in the Sunday Telegraph and the Daily Telegraph the following day. You can read the stories on our [website](#). This is good news both for Colfe's and for Classics: we are delighted to find ourselves at the heart of an important national discussion. Knowledge of classical languages and culture is central to our understanding of modern Europe. I am very grateful to Classics teacher Henry Cullen for the development of this initiative but less grateful to the Sunday Telegraph which (unfairly) described our parents as "pushy"!

Junior School

Junior School pupils took part in the Numbers Day fundraiser this term, in aid of the NSPCC. Children were encouraged to engage in mathematics by bringing number games to school and fundraising included Pegasus House selling homemade cakes.

Year 1 went on a trip to central London visiting St Paul's Cathedral and the Fire! exhibition at the Museum of London and Year 5 linguists took part in the annual French Breakfast club, which transformed Roebucks coffee shop into an authentic Parisian café. Pupils were asked to conduct all conversations in French, with Year 11 students providing the role of serveuses and garçons.

The Key Stage 2 choir spent an evening singing along with 8,000 other children at the Young Voices 2017 Concert, held at the O2. Well done to all those who took part and to Ruth Hall for organising our participation in this incredibly successful event.

John Glynn Society

Our latest scholar's lecture was of particular interest to Colfeians as we welcomed the founders of [Beyond the Bike](#) – Head of Classics at Colfe's, Claire Le Hur and her husband Stuart Block. The duo pedalled over 11,000km last year in an epic cycle from London to China, visiting schools along their way and raising over £55,000 for charity. It was a pleasure to hear about this inspiring adventure in greater detail.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

Biology

Biologists in Year 13 have won medals in the British Biology Olympiad placing them in the top 10% of the country. Well done to Victoria Newman, Lucy Williams, Elsie Luke (silver medals), Anna Patel, Frederick Hall (bronze medals) and Sara Yussouf (highly commended).

Physics

As part of their syllabus on particle physics, Year 13 students had the opportunity to visit the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxfordshire – a facility not normally open to the public – viewing a JET laboratory where they learnt about the enormous potential and challenges of fusing Hydrogen into Helium at one million degrees Celsius.

Economics

Congratulations to our team of Year 12 Economists – Jasper Banerjee, Oliver Farrant, Conor McLean Wait and Harry Harte – who have gone through to the semi-final of the London Institute of Banking and Finance Student Investor Challenge. With control of two investment portfolios and a fictional £100,000 to invest on the stock market, the aim of the competition is to make the most profit. We look forward to hearing of their progress.

PSHEE

Following last year's visit from Natasha Devon OBE, we were delighted to welcome another member of the Self-Esteem Team to Colfe's. Grace Barrett spoke to pupils from Years 10-13 – as well as a separate session for parents – about performing under pressure and dealing with exam anxiety. The subject certainly struck a chord with pupils and provided them with several useful strategies.

Debating

Colfe's hosted two debating competitions last week, with our own teams performing strongly in both. In the first, we fielded two teams against four other schools in the ESU Mace competition. Well done to Max Hedley and Conor McLean Wait (Year 12), David Battersby (Year 13) and Dan Kelly (Year 10). We also welcomed the London regional round of the Cambridge Schools Debating Competition to Colfe's – 40 teams from schools including Eton and Sevenoaks. Well done to all those who took part with notable performances from Victor Famosaya and Orlando Davies (Year 8) – the youngest debaters in the competition – who despite their age only narrowly missed out on a place in the national finals (one point behind the Eton team).

Charities

Bramley House have raised almost £1000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you to Assistant Head of House, Luke Fielden for organising an extraordinary week of fundraising events – and to the Leathersellers' Federation who agreed to match the money raised, taking it to a total of almost £2000.

Good luck to my colleagues John Fishwick (Head of Physics) and John Patterson (Head of History) who have joined forces to raise £2000 each for their individual charities: Health Poverty Action ([click here](#) to donate) and St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham ([click here](#) to donate). The pair have already made a sterling effort by holding events throughout the term, their fundraising will culminate in them both taking part in the London Marathon on 23 April.

Sport

In Football, our 1st XI are through to the quarter finals of the London Independent Schools Cup after beating Royal Grammar School Guildford 5-1.

In Cricket, our U13 girls won the divisional round of the Lady Taverner's Indoor Competition putting them through to the Final of the Kent Cricket Ground in Canterbury in March.

In Netball, there were wins across the board for U12 to U18 teams in a block fixture against Royal Russell last week. Colfe's U12s and Seniors beat Reigate Grammar and our Year 3 teams played their first ever match in a fixture against Breaside.



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In Swimming, 18 pupils took part in one of the 28 regional rounds of the IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) 2017 Swimming Championships. Well done to the team and a special mention to Grace Turner, Noemie Klanga, Gabby Noyce, Leo Walker and Billy Wright who all swam up an age group against Year 5. Results will be out later in the term.

And well done to all those who took part in the Year 3 and 4 Gala against Farringtons and Merton Court – especially William McAuliffe, Felicity Trust, Alex Edwards, Leo Walker and Mia Platt who finished in first place in their individual events.

Other individual achievements this term include:

- Luke Okosieme (Year 11) is currently ranked number two in the UK for high jump in the U17s category. Luke recently won the South of England U17 Indoor Athletics Championships and the South of England U20 Championships.
- Georga Halloumas (Year 11) has been ranked first in England and second in the UK at Judo for her age group (Cadet Level).
- Eloise Hembrough (Year 12) has been promoted to the Charlton Athletics WFC Reserves (the step before Charlton's first team).
- Necati Hassan (Year 7) represented Eltham & District ABC Club at an amateur boxing bout at the Marriott Hotel and was awarded the winner's trophy by stoppage in the second round.
- Zach Kirkman (Year 6) made it to the final of the 50M Backstroke at the Kent ASA Swimming Championships.

Notices

Old Colfeian and Former Head Boy Gregory Jones (1986-1989) QC has been elected as Alderman for the Ward of Farrington Without. This is a key position within the Corporation of the City of London.

Colfe's Governor and Old Colfeian (1994-1996) Serena Cheng has been appointed Queen's Counsel.

I hope that all pupils will enjoy a well-earned break over half-term and look forward to seeing them back in school on Monday 27 February.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster