



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The second half of the Autumn Term at Colfe's has already been busy and we have much to look forward to between now and Christmas. The half-term break was an opportunity for many pupils to participate in a range of school trips including New York (drama and art) and our annual visit to the Gambia. The range of pupil achievement across the school remains outstandingly diverse and I am delighted to report so comprehensively on so much that has been happening.

A reflective start to the second half of term for pupils and teachers as we paused to remember those who fought and died for our country. Over 200 Colfeians joined the CCF Squadron last Sunday for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Horn Park War Memorial and School Chaplain, the Rev Steve Hall, who led the Senior School's remembrance assembly on Monday of this week. Junior School pupils held their own remembrance assembly and nursery children made poppies and held a minutes' silence in class. This evening, senior cadet NCOs (non-commissioned officers) from Years 12 and 13 will be joining their parents for the annual CCF Remembrance Dinner held at Horn Park.

I was also pleased to attend the book launch of *This Ghastly Affair* by Leathersellers' archivist Jerome Farrell at the Leathersellers' Hall last week. One of the high points of the occasion was a reading of the poem which we most associate with Remembrance (For the Fallen) by Michael Binyon, Pastmaster Leatherseller and great nephew of the poem's author Laurence Binyon. The poem (...they shall grow not old...) was written in less than two months after the start of the Great War and two years before the horror of the Somme. It was first published in the Times newspaper, (for which Michael himself has spent much of his career as a journalist writing editorials,) in September 1914. Jerome Farrell's book records letters sent to the Leathersellers' from three of their Clerks who fought in the Great War. Colfe's Librarian Judy Cardnell and Old Colfeian parent Andrew Whittaker both helped to contribute documents from the Colfeian archive and I was delighted to see this acknowledged in the foreword. 124 Colfeians lost their lives in the First World War and a chapter of the book is devoted to their story. Old Colfeian novelist Henry Williamson (author of *Tarka the Otter* amongst many other works) also features in the Colfe's chapter. Copies of the book will be available in the school library.

Trips

Half-term saw an array of trips take place including the fourteenth annual expedition to the Kotu School in the Gambia. Our partnership with the Kotu School has developed over the years from support with building projects to a now much wider focus on cultural and educational exchange. Highlights this year included a visit to Kunte Kinte Island (formerly James Island) which played an important part in the slave trade. I was also pleased to hear that the Colfe's team managed to win the traditional last day football match for the first time. Thank you to Major Chris Cherry for developing the programme this year.

Dramatists and artists from Years 11-13 joined forces for a three day cultural trip to New York where they took part in a Broadway acting workshop with the cast of *Fiddler on the Roof* and a drawing class on the most effective use of pastels. CCF Cadets held a successful November camp in Wattisham, Suffolk which included the opportunity to take part in a day of gliding – a first for many of them. Thank you to all colleagues who gave up their time over half-term for these trips.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

Junior School

The Junior School Pupil Voice Forum was announced just before half-term after students took part in weeks of campaigning to elect a representative (and deputy) for each class from Years 2-6. The Forum allows pupils to put forward sensible suggestions on how to improve the school. This was the first time that pupils from Key Stage 1 were represented and early ideas put forward ranged from how to improve the playground to potential new clubs.

Students from Key Stage 2 have been travelling through time this half-term with individual days focused on the Roman, Egyptian and Victorian eras – wearing tradition costumes and led by actors from the Freshwater Theatre Company – bringing elements of history to life. As part of their Geography studies, Year 5 pupils experienced India with a series of workshops that recreated the Chembakolli village in the Nilgiri Hills and pupils in Year 4 took part in a visit to a Hindu temple in Neasden – attending a ceremony, exhibition and talk about the history of the temple. Year 1 visited the Unicorn Theatre to watch a production of *The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark* and Year 2 enhanced their musical experience with a visit to see the London Symphony Orchestra performance of *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*.

The winners of the Key Stage 2 poetry competition have been announced. Well done to Thomas Villamagua (Year 3), Amabel Jones (Year 4) and India Fuller Griffin (Year 6) for their winning entries – and to overall winner Jacob Jarman (Year 5) for his poem S.O.S.

Sixth Form

Peer-to-peer learning is the focus of the Sixth Form's revamped blog – the Newgate Papers – under the editorship of Natasha Dixon (Year 13). The blog is devised and written by sixth-form students, allowing them the creative freedom to produce editorial from outside of the curriculum. In light of the recent political events in the US, articles this term include an analysis of the American Presidential election. The blog is available for parents to view on FireFly.

English

Children's author Lauren St John (*The White Giraffe*, *Dolphin Song*, *The Last Leopard*) visited Colfe's to hold a creative writing workshop for Years 7 and 8 while the Library and English Department have launched a joint initiative – Reading Passports – with the aim of encouraging and celebrating reading books for Years 7-9.

Maths

In a closely fought match, our mathematicians had a narrow loss against Dulwich College in the prestigious Hans Woyda maths competition. Colfe's won the team and race rounds but narrowly lost by six points overall. Well done on a strong performance from the team Panos Philalithis (Y9), Simone Korsgaard-Jensen (Y11), Pebbie Miller-Imbert (Y12) and Emma Williams (Y13). They now face Eltham College where a win will take them on to the knock out stages.

Science

Year 9 scientists had the chance to expand their knowledge of astronomy with a visit to Greenwich Planetarium and Observatory. Physicists in Years 12 and 13 took part in a university level lecture on Astrobiology, *The Truth is Out There*, at the Royal Institute which looked at the science behind the study of extra-terrestrial life. We were also delighted to welcome back old Colfeian Dr Ali Mozaffari, a PHD postgraduate in theoretical Physics at Imperial College, to talk to sixth form students about 'Science at University – an insider's view'.

Music

Special mention to three of our talented musicians Ruby Collins and Sara Yussouf (Year 13) and Charlotte Gaskin (Year 12) who were selected to take part in an interactive workshop run by the London Oriana Choir's new project known as five15 which aims to champion women composers.

There are still a few tickets for next Monday's (21 Nov) performance of Karl Jenkin's *The Armed Man* at St Alfege in Greenwich – please contact Emma Bond, Director of Music ebond@colfes.com

PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education)

Inspired by the Gambia trip, this half-term's PSHEE programme for senior school students is exploring the topic of human rights across the world including freedom of speech and the right to an education. We were also delighted to welcome the leading psychologist and media personality Dr Aric Sigman to the school to hold a series of interactive talks and workshops for students (in Years 9-11) and parents, on the dangers of alcohol.

Sport

Half-term sporting activity has so far included a highly successful U14 (Year 9) rugby tour to Belfast with fixtures against some of the stronger grammar schools and a victory against Friends School Lisburn.

Nearly 200 rugby players also took part in the first full block fixture against Eltham College last Saturday with convincing wins for our U15s (20-0) and U14s (19-12) and draws for the U12 and 13A teams. Our U15s are through to the third round of the Nat West Vase after a victory over Westcliff High School for Boys 35-27.

All our U9 teams (A-C) have had convincing wins against Bickley Park School and just before half-term rugby players from the Junior School (U11 and U10) took part in tournaments against local schools including St Dunstan's, Merton Court and St Christopher's.

In Hockey our 1st XI girls' team were triumphant against Eltham College winning 6-1.

In swimming Colfe's has performed strongly in galas so far this term. Swimmers in Years 5 and 6 were on winning form in a friendly gala against Eltham College, Farringtons, Gatehouse and Pointers securing first position overall. And over 30 student from Years 7 to 10 took part in a gala against Albyn's, JAGS, Bromley High and Wimbledon – with some great individual performances and just missing out on first position overall.

In Netball our U14 team had their best Kent Schools tournament to-date against 60 other teams from across the county – winning matches convincingly but not quite enough to secure a place in the finals and our U12 A and B teams had wins against Bromley High (10-4 and 9-5) respectively. A special mention for the Year 4 (U9) A and B team netballers who won a convincing fixture against Farringtons – the team were undefeated last season and are already on course for a repeat performance this season. Well done to Grace Turner, Gabriella Noyce, Lucy Chamberlain, Saskia Ayres, Noemie Klanga, Lily Evans and Jayani Thananchayan.

Other individual achievements include:

- Music Scholar Ruby Collins (Year 13) has been awarded a prestigious Jack Petchey award by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for outstanding contribution to the woodwind department.
- Madeline Tynan (Year 7) has taken part in the U13 girls English National Cross Country Relay Championships in Mansfield against hundreds of runners from 65 clubs across the UK. Madeline placed tenth overall in the 2K event.
- Luca Thurlow (Year 7) took part in the National Indoor BMX Championships winning two of his three qualifying races and coming second in the semi-finals. Luca placed fifth overall against around 70 riders in his age category. Luca has now been selected to represent Bromley at the London Youth Games Cross Country event tomorrow (19 November).
- Nathan Chapman (Year 7) has qualified for the British Modern Biathlon Championships which takes place in Solihull at the end of November.
- Elizabeth Reczek and Tori Graham (Year 8) organised a day of fundraising events for the charity St Thomas' Lupus Trust raising £400.

Community & Partnerships

Colfe's commitment to playing a part in the life of the local community continues with our academic enrichment programme which is now underway in the senior school. GCSE students from local state schools come to Colfe's to take part in specially run, after-school classes in subjects such as Latin, Science, Maths, Debating and Modern Foreign Languages. The programme gives students the opportunity to study a new subject or to enrich the study of their own curriculum subjects, and many who attend these sessions go on to apply for Leathersellers' Scholarships for their A-level studies. Many thanks to Claire Le Hur, Head of Classics, for her continued support and management of this programme. More information on the fully-funded Leathersellers' Scholarships and our partnerships with local schools can be found on our website.

General Notices

A reminder that Senior School students should not be on school premises past 6pm at the latest, unless they are involved in a supervised activity – please bear this in mind when making after-school arrangements for your children.

Finally, thank you to PAFA (Parents and Friends Association) for their planning of our annual fireworks night last Friday – the first major event under the guidance of its new chair, Jodie Rose-Clarke. It was a record turnout with over 400 teachers, parents and children enjoying the celebrations. Many thanks to the CCF for managing yet another incredible display.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster