



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

A term of hectic but productive activity reached a musical crescendo in the senior school last week with the Spring Concert and *Oliver*, the latter playing to full houses four days running. Oliver Guindi's portrayal of Fagin was particularly memorable and the numerous cast included pupils from every age group in the senior school. More music followed this week with the Year 5 concert, an extravaganza of music and dance which reflected so well upon the prep school. Meanwhile Nursery and Reception classes donned beautifully decorated Easter Bonnets to perform in their Easter Assembly to an appreciative audience of parents and special guests. Our Prep and PPN choirs did very well in the recent Bromley Festival of Music and Speech, with the prep choir winning an honours certificate with 84 marks, just two marks below the competition winners. The pre-prep competition was equally closely fought, with the PPN choir (Year 2 and below) missing out on the winning position by just one point. Thanks to all my colleagues who played such a central part in all these performances and productions, including Ruth Hall and Sue Watts (pre-prep and prep,) and Richard Gregg and Emma Bond (senior school.)

On Wednesday evening I was delighted to meet many of the parents of pupils who are due to join the Nursery and Reception classes for the first time. Later that evening, I met up with the prefects at their annual dinner in the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, on which more below. The two events complemented each other well, with one focussed on those about to join us and the other on those who will be leaving at the end of this academic year, in many cases after 15 years at Colfe's.

Royal Blackheath prides itself on being the oldest golf club in the world and I am delighted to report that Colfe's will be more closely associated with the club in the near future. We anticipate adding golf lessons to the range of prep-school clubs next autumn. As we get closer to the summer, senior school pupils (boys and girls) may wish to consider the Club's Introduction to Golf scheme. Please go to http://www.royalblackheath.com/introduction_to_golf for further details.

This may also be of interest to adults (there are two schemes) and the club would be delighted to hear from pupils or parents.

Year 9 pupils return today from Bushcraft in the woods of Hertfordshire and forthcoming Easter holiday events include a senior school ski trip in the French Alps for 60 pupils. Debaters will participate in an international competition in Bratislava which will entail four days of high-level debate on a range of international issues. Closer to home, the Colfe's Debating Competition on the 17th April has now attracted entries from more than 40 teams. This is one of only three such school-based competitions nationwide (the others are held at Eton and Dulwich) and I am extremely grateful to Mr Dunsmore for his ongoing support for this most important activity.

Engineers in Years 7-9 launched twelve rocket cars this week (each pupil designing and building their own car) to see whose could reach 25 metres in the fastest time. This competition was part of the national Bloodhound project which aims to use a 1000mph world land speed record attempt to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. It was a pleasure to welcome one of the project's ambassadors Tony Barber who came to speak to the pupils about the project.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

Elsewhere in the school our PHSEE programme continued with a lecture for both our senior and junior school parents on various forms of addictive technology. This is also a central aspect of the Tougher Minds programme in the senior school and follows on from a high profile visit from the Irish boy band 'Taken' earlier in the term who, as well as singing some of their most recent hits, spoke eloquently and directly on the subject of cyber bullying. Finally well done to all our budding journalists who again took part in the BBC Schools report this week.

One of many recent sporting highlights has been the success of our U11 netballers who put in a strong performance at the IAPS National Finals against 40 of the top Independent schools in the UK, winning three of their nine matches and finishing 6th in their group. This is the third time in recent years that Colfe's has reached the National Finals of this prestigious competition. The 1st XI football team finished the season on a high with victory over Sevenoaks. The 2nd XI were also successful and the U14s ended with a thrilling 3-3 draw. The U15 rugby Sevens team lost narrowly to Chislehurst and Sidcup in the final of the Dartford Competition and no fewer than thirty-six of our players (U13, U16 and Seniors) took part in the National School Sevens tournament at Rosslyn Park, the largest school rugby tournament in the world. All teams did well with the highlight being the senior V11's emphatic victory over Eltham College 31-19.

Best of luck also to Mr Bene Medhurst who leaves us at the end of this term to take up a senior role elsewhere after three action-packed and highly successful years at Colfe's. Mr Medhurst has been a mainstay of school sport in both prep and senior schools. He leaves with our thanks and best wishes.

Individual achievements this term include:

- Freya Williams (year 6) who took part in the London Regional Floor and Vault Gymnastics Championships – against 30 contestants in her Bronze group. Freya 'Pinned' (moved up a level) came first in the group and got a trophy for the highest floor score.
- Louis Richardson (Year 5) won Grade 5 Guitar class at the Bromley Music Festival and won the Rutter Cup for the third year running for the highest mark (93) awarded in the class. He also won the Grade 6/7 Bass class winning a trophy for the highest mark achieved in strings.
- Showjumper, Georgia Noone (Year 11) who is taking part in the Summer Show Season – the first competition takes place at Norton Heath Equestrian Centre in Essex on Saturday. As well as her own horse, Georgia has been asked to ride another owner's horse (a great honour) - riding in two classes on each horse.
- Old Colfeian David Brinson's debut novel, Dead South, has reached the Top 10 Best Selling Horror Books just behind Stephen King and Max Brooks and is now sold in nine countries around the world including the USA and Australia.
- Max Dunmore who graduated from Colfe's Sixth Form in 2012 has launched this week an International line of Health Food Bars <http://maxbars.co.uk/our-story/>.

Best wishes, in conclusion, to all pupils and parents for the Easter break. I look forward to seeing everybody back in school on Tuesday, 12th April.

Richard Russell

Headmaster

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