



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Team work has been a recurrent theme this term. Our pupils have been busy working collaboratively on a number of projects over recent weeks from drama and music productions, to sports fixtures – with a notable new addition of girls' rugby, a pupil led initiative – and the annual House Media competition for BBC School Report. You can view the final news report: produced, filmed and edited by winning team Beardwood House [here](#). The Sixth Form girls' rugby team played their inaugural tournament at Gravesend two weeks ago and won their first competitive fixture against Townley Grammar School this week.

Fundraising has been another key activity since half term, with House events raising money for numerous charities – all generously match funded by the Leathersellers' Company. The most heroic contribution was almost certainly that of Year 7 pupil Polly Chamberlain who spent an evening sleeping rough last weekend (in freezing conditions) for children's cancer charity [Clowns in the Sky](#). You can donate to Polly's fund [here](#).

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School pupils have spent much time exploring the local community this half term, with visits to the Discover Centre in Stratford, Greenwich Observatory and the Horniman Museum. Despite World Book Day being delayed due to the extreme weather, pupils were still able to celebrate in costumes and with typical enthusiasm towards their literacy studies.

Other celebrations have included a special Mothering Sunday afternoon tea hosted by the Nursery and this week's Easter Bonnet Parade, featuring a delightful assembly of songs and poems. Year 5 confidently performed *The Menu Bites Back*, a wonderful evening of humour, singing and solo instrumentalists. Term ends with a very active fundraiser for Sport Relief, with pupils and staff participating in a giant Zumba workout.

ACADEMIC

Over 100 Colfe's pupils took part last week in the Intermediate Maths Challenge run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Our pupils achieved a total of ten gold, 25 silver and 26 bronze certificates. Special mention to Year 11 pupils Daniel Kelly, Arthur Drury and Elliott Swain, Year 10 pupils Panos Philalithis and Joe Byard-Golds, and Year 9 pupils Ole Heilmann, Madelyn Morris, Oliver Crockett and Lukrecija Steikunaite who all achieved a gold or silver certificate and have been selected to go to the next stage of the competition. Isha Ganeshalingam (Year 8) also achieved a gold and will go through to the next round.

Visiting speakers this half term have included children's author Jo Franklin, who visited the school to speak to Year 7 pupils about creative writing; Natasha Devon OBE – body image and mental health campaigner – who spoke at our Year 12 enrichment series and visual effects supervisor, Paul Franklin who spoke at the latest meeting of the John Glynn Society. Paul has been creating spectacular visual effects for over 25 years and, as the co-founder of one of the world's leading digital visual effects studios, has won a number of Academy Awards in collaboration with director Christopher Nolan. His lecture addressed how art and science collide when in the world of visual effects. After the lecture Paul told me that he had been present several years ago when Old Colfeian Director James Marsh collected his Academy Award for his ground-breaking film *Man on Wire*.

Year 12 pupils are now looking ahead to university applications and related trips have already started with visits to both Oxford and Cambridge. The Oxford trip, hosted by Colfe's Governor Angela Brueggemann at St Catherine's College, also involved a number of Year 10 pupils, along with others from two of our partner schools, Deptford Green and Addey and Stanhope School. Many thanks to Claire Le Hur who not only oversees Oxbridge preparation but is also the key point of contact with state sector partner schools.



Artist in Residence Lily German hosted a private viewing for staff, parents and pupils of her current work in an Interim Exhibition. Lily and fellow creative Hannah Wilson also ran a day-long workshop for Year 9 pupils on the techniques behind life drawing.

It has been a busy term in the Drama department, for which many thanks to Ms Maher who has had a remarkably active first year as Director. As part of their GCSE and A-level examination requirements, pupils in Years 11-13 performed a number of monologues and group pieces throughout March and the A level cohort will perform *Art* this week. Many thanks to the staff, parents and pupils who formed audiences for each of these. Auditions for the Year 7-10 production of *Romeo and Juliet* have also begun and rehearsals will begin in earnest next term. The performances will take place in the Beardwood Theatre from 18-20 June.

As part of our continuing partnership with the Music and Drama Conservatoire Trinity Laban, we welcomed violinists Mattalia to play for pupils and parents in a lunchtime recital. This unique duo performed a variety of classical music and classical cross-over tracks, as well as pieces from a more traditional repertoire. Colfe's musicians performed in a highly successful Spring Concert of our own – a varied evening of performances given by the choir, orchestra, brass group, chamber orchestra, string quartet, Barbershop quartet, swing band and soloists and pupils in Year 7 also performed in an ad hoc platform concert – an opportunity to demonstrate the progress they have made during their first year in the Senior School.

SPORT

Girls' cricket at Colfe's continues to go from strength to strength with a third place win at the pre-season U15 Lady Taverners County Cricket Finals. Year 9 netballers secured a 26-14 win against Allyn's and our new girls' rugby team – an initiative driven by sixth-form students – enjoyed their first competitive tournament; we look forward to watching their progress. Meanwhile the boys' Sevens teams have enjoyed a lot of success in a range of tournaments, notably participating in the Rosslyn Park National Sevens competition this week.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

Despite the heavy snow of the past weeks, Year 8 were still able to enjoy a trip to Snowdonia where they took part in mining, mountain walking and gorge exploring amongst other things and Year 9 are currently spending the week in Hatfield Woods learning bushcraft skills. Trips over the Easter holidays include skiing for Junior and Senior pupils to Serre Chevalier and our Geographers are heading on a field trip to the Azores Islands.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Luke Ide (Y13) has been selected for the final of the British Touring Car Race Team at Brands Hatch with the opportunity to win a scholarship worth £100k.
- Georga Halloumas (Y12) successfully won Silver in Scotland Cadet Judo Competition and represented Great Britain in the European Cup.
- Joe Watkins (Y13) has been selected for the London and South East Rugby squad.
- Ana Lyons (Y10) has been selected for the Kent U16 Hockey squad.
- Nathan Chapman (Y8) qualified for 12 individual events at the Kent Swimming Championships, and achieved third place in the 200m butterfly.
- Barnaby Marchant (Y10) has been selected to represent Kent at the NSSA (National Schools Sailing Association) at Windsor in July.
- Francesca Whittle (Y7) raised over £270 for Bramley Charity Week via a sponsored run, in aid of Childrens' Hospice at Home charity [Ellenor](#).

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.

NOTICES

If your son or daughter wishes to change from school to packed lunches, or if you wish to stop using the school coach service, please remember that you need to give half a term's notice. Please email pkeogh@colfes.com in the Bursary Office.

Finally, I kindly remind all parents to drive and park considerately on the local roads surrounding the school. We have received a number of complaints from our neighbours in recent weeks about parents blocking or moving cones that they have placed over their driveways or sitting for prolonged periods with their engines idling. It is important to us to be a good neighbour to local residents and this depends on your collective support.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break, I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Tuesday 17 April.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster