



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The summer term is always an exciting time: outdoor pursuit trips and sporting events for our younger pupils but also examination season for older students. As we approach the end of the first half term, this is now fully underway and I am already impressed by the responsible and methodical approach which pupils in Year 11 and above have adopted. It is conceivable that Y13 pupils may behave marginally less responsibly today as they celebrate their final day of lessons. In some cases this final year marks the end of 15 years at Colfe's. Celebrations usually entail a regression to childhood, including fancy dress, ice cream vans and a tug-of-war against staff. This has been a delightful cohort of pupils to teach, some of whom have been with us since nursery, and they all have a bright future ahead of them with much to look forward to. We wish them well over the crucial weeks ahead as they seek to meet the terms of their university offers.

I hope I can take this opportunity to send our collective best wishes for the future to Liz Drury who has moved on from her role as Press Officer at Colfe's to an exciting new challenge as Director of Communications for the University of the Third Age. As many of you doubtless know, Liz has been the conduit for much of the information that I have been able to share with you in recent years about pupil achievement. We are deeply grateful to her for all that she has done for the school and wish her well in her new role. On a related housekeeping point, we have now set up a dedicated email address – if you would like to share any news or achievements of your son/daughter outside of school – please contact comms@colfes.com and a member of our Communications Team will respond. Selected highlights from the first half of term are as follows. Please remember that you can also view Colfe's news, images and insights via our official Twitter and Facebook pages.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Educational trips have been a prominent feature of the term so far for our younger Colfeians. In the past few weeks Y5 and Y6 pupils enjoyed outdoor pursuit trips to Grosvenor Hall in Kent and 'coasteering' in Dorset). Trips to central London included Y5 to the Science Museum and Y6 to Shakespeare's Globe and nursery pupils enjoyed their annual trip to Mudchute Farm.

Key Stage 1 Sports Day last week was a big success. The rain stayed away and I was delighted to see so many parents cheering on our youngest pupils as they took part in running, throwing and jumping competitions. A very good time was had by all.

SIXTH FORM

The Prefects' dinner at the Royal Blackheath Golf Club this term was an opportunity for Mr Drury and me to thank and reward our Prefects (over 40 in total) for all their hard work throughout this academic year, particularly in supporting school events. The process for selection of next year's cohort is underway and we hope to announce after names after the half term break.

A-level Politics students had the opportunity to meet Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neil discuss life in parliament as part of a series of organised lectures by the department. His (ultimately unsuccessful) campaign to save the Porcupine public house in Eltham from the clutches of Aldi and his erstwhile governmental role as Minister for Community Pubs won the admiration of many of our politics students, regardless of their political affiliations.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

EASTER TRIPS

A number of pupils took advantage of a wide range of educational study trips over the Easter holidays. The Grand Canyon and Death Valley were among the many highlights of the Geography trip to the USA; culture, politics and history were at the heart of two trips to Paris and Berlin for our linguists; a walk up and down Mount Vesuvius (under very windy weather conditions) for Classicists on their trip to Rome and the Bay of Naples; budding skiers in the Junior School headed for the slopes of Serre Chevalier in France and closer to home, CCF Cadets spent a week at RAF Boulmer in Northumbria.

DEBATING

I was delighted to attend the annual Colfe's Debating Competition earlier this term. The event – which took place on a Saturday and was hosted here at Colfe's – saw schools from across London and the south east including Brighton College, Whitgift, Clapton Girls' Academy, St Paul's Girls, Kingsbury High and Wilsons School come together for a day of fiercely competitive debating. Well done to the Colfe's team (who were worthy competitors against some much older teams) and congratulations to overall winners Clapton Girls' Academy. My thanks to Chris Dunsmore for his organisation of this highly successful event.

JOHN GLYN SOCIETY

Author, broadcaster and social historian Hallie Rubenhold gave an entertaining talk on the people and places of Georgian London this week as part of our John Glyn Society lectures. Hallie has a very busy schedule with her historical consultancy work and is currently working on a new TV series on pre-revolutionary America. My thanks to Head of Religion and Philosophy Emerald Henderson for her curation of this well-attended lecture series. Future speakers include Sara Khan, Michael Scott and Bettany Hughes.

MUSIC

This term saw the inaugural Colfe's Music Festival, open to musicians from across the Senior School, we were delighted to welcome Classic FM producer Simon Funnell as our special guest adjudicator for the day. The festival ended with a Winners' Concert and a presentation of the Colfe's Young Musician of the Year 2017 Award. Well done to Marc Russo (Y13) our first recipient of the award. We also enjoyed our final seasonal concert of the school year last night. The Summer Concert was extremely well attended and once again demonstrated the breadth of musical talent we have across the school. It was also an opportunity to say farewell to our Y13 students who have contributed so much to the department during their years at the school and to express our gratitude to Mrs Collin and Mrs Metherell, both of whom will be leaving the senior school at the end of this year. My thanks to all who took part in both of these events and to Emma Bond and her colleagues for bringing it all together.

CLASSICS

We were delighted to welcome back one of our former teachers to Colfe's – Stan Wolfson who taught Classics at the school for more than five decades – for his 80th birthday celebrations, last week. The event was organised by Old Colfeian Ben Gray who is currently lecturing in Classics at Edinburgh University, having previously been a Fellow of All Souls College in Oxford. He and others who have pursued successful academic careers in the Classics spoke not only about their current and past research but also about the extent to which they had been inspired by their Colfe's Classics teachers in their formative years.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Nine of our linguists have passed the DELF (Diplome d'Études en Langue Française) exam which is recognised and promoted by the French government and desirable for universities and employers. Well done Killian Gerard (Y9), Edmund Dhanowa, Thomas Dobbyn, Patrick Dunbar, Gabriel Foley, Don Kasindi, Luke Okosieme, Tom Simpson (all Y11), Jayden Gittens (Y12) and to colleagues in the languages department who prepare candidates for this qualification outside the normal timetable.

MATHEMATICS

Pupils from Y7 and 8 achieved an outstanding (best ever) 77 certificates in the recent national Junior Maths Challenge – which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour under exam conditions – achieving eight gold, 28 silver and 40 bronze certificates. Well done to gold winner Amy Bellett (Y7) who was awarded 'best in school' and was selected for the Junior Kangaroo which takes place in June, and to Lukas Jacobs who was 'best in Y8'. And congratulations also go to Dan Kelly (Y10), for achieving a Merit in his recent Pink Kangaroo Paper putting him in the top 25% in Europe of pupils qualifying for this challenging stage.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY SHOW

Thank you to those who came to support this year's Design and Technology show – an opportunity for GCSE and A-level pupils to display their work from throughout the year. This is always an enjoyable event where pupils have the opportunity to present their work and show the creative processes which lie behind the completed projects.

SPORT

Cricket: the season has got off to a very good start with the 1st XI winning against City of London Boys with a great performance by Matthew Walker (Y11) who scored 90 runs and the team were back on form against Allyn's in the London Schools Cup first round match, winning by eight wickets with a noteworthy contribution from Brendan Parker (Y13) who scored 56 runs.

Our girls' cricket teams have also had a great start to the season with Y7, 8 and 9 pupils (U14s) playing against U15 King's School Canterbury side with great performances all round and a win for the B team.

Well done also to Finn Rogers (Y12) who has been reselected for the summer cricket squad playing at county level for Kent.

Tennis: good individual performances for our tennis players – well done to Elliot Hill (Y10) and Patrick Korsgaard-Jensen (Y8) for wins against Bexley Grammar. And well done to Daphne Pratt (Y12) who has just returned from training in Barcelona as part of her coaching qualification.

Athletics: athletes performed well in the Cambridge Cup at Sutcliffe Park, well done to Madeline Tynan who won the Y7 800m, Scarlett Brown Y8 high jump and Daisy Porter Y7 long jump.

Other achievements this term include:

- George Farrell (Y7) took part in the London Kayakathon for charity and paddled 26.3 miles from Wapping to Chiswick and back again raising over £300 for the Shadwell Basin Youth Fund.
- Necati Hassan (Y7) is currently undefeated in five amateur boxing fights since taking up the sport in September including a bout at The Marriott Hotel in Bexleyheath watched by many professional World Boxing Champions.
- Rose Turpin (Y13) passed her professional teaching qualification in tap dance with the National Association of Teachers of Dancing with a distinction – gaining 97 marks out of 100.
- Music Scholar Ruby Collins (Y13) has had a busy term playing a bassoon duet with the Lord Mayor of London in the Leathersellers' Hall, a masterclass with the New York Philharmonic and as principle at the LSSO at the Barbican performing with London's newest orchestra – the East London Symphony Orchestra.
- School Captain David Battersby (Y13) beat hundreds of entrants to win the national Adam Smith Institute's Young Writer on Liberty essay competition.
- Old Colfeian Alex Parker made it to the quarter finals of the TV show Masterchef this year. He says he was inspired by Mr Seddon's House Cooking classes when he was at school.
- Congratulations to John Fishwick (Head of Physics) and John Patterson (Head of History) who joined forces to raise over £4000 for their respective charities after taking part in the London Marathon.

CHARITIES

Dr Robert Thompson, former Colfe's teacher for over 30 years and founder of our partnership with the Kotu School in The Gambia, is aiming to raise over £60000 over the next five years to donate to the water, power and ICT provision at the school. This is an ambitious task for a very worthy cause and one that is very close to the heart of Colfe's. Robert will begin his fundraising efforts by running the London 10K with his wife on 9 July. Their aim is to raise 1% of their overall target. You can find out more about the Gambia project and information on how to donate on their fundraising page.

PAFA

Thank you to all those who supported the PAFA quiz this term which raised over £400 and to all those who attended the committee meeting on 17 May. This term's PAFA meeting was an opportunity to thank outgoing Chair Jodie Rose-Clarke for all her hard work and dynamism this past year. Jodie will be succeeded by Melek Sam, who has two children in the Junior School. We all wish her well in her new role. Melek will be supported by Vice Chair (Senior School) Michelle Collet and there is a current vacancy for the Vice Chair (Junior School) position – please send all nominations to pafa@colfes.com.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

NOTICES

A reminder to parents of pupils in years 3-11 - if you would like your child(ren) to start or stop school lunches from the beginning of the Autumn term, we will need to be notified in writing by Monday 5 June. Please email pkeogh@colfes.com with the details. The termly cost from September 2017 will be £255.

Finally, I wish all staff and students a restful half-term break and look forward to seeing everyone back for the second half of the summer term on Monday 5 June.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster