



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The public examination season is now well under way and pupils in Year 11 and above seem to be taking things in their stride. Upper 6th students have enjoyed their last official day in school today, indulging in a traditional regression to childhood which will involve, amongst other things, an ice cream van, a tug-of-war and a bouncy castle. These pupils have been a delight to teach throughout their time in the Sixth Form and they all have a lot to look forward to, in some cases after 15 years at Colfe's. As previously reported, we have every confidence they will progress to highly competitive courses at the best universities. The outcome of the tug-of-war (pupils against staff) will be reported in a future newsletter.

After half-term all year groups in the Senior School will be engaged in exams. This is an important milestone in the school year and I hope that all pupils in Year 10 and below will find time to do some serious revision over the half term break. The "little and often" principle is by far the most effective method, supported by a healthy diet and regular exercise.

Highlights of the second half of term will include the Fine Art and Graphics Exhibition which takes place in the Art department from 3.45 until 7.00 on 9 June. Outstanding creative pieces produced by pupils in Year 11 and above will be on show, with sixth form students on hand to talk and answer questions about their work. All are invited.

Last week's junior school Open Morning was hugely popular with over 150 prospective parents attending. Places for September are now at capacity and registrations for future years are reaching us in record numbers. My thanks, as ever, to Mrs Redman and Mrs Marsh for welcoming so many visitors to the school. Prep school tour guides were as impressive as ever.

The Summer Platform Concert last week was an opportunity to say farewell to many of our U6th musicians who will be leaving Colfe's at the end of this term. It was a highly successful occasion with a wonderful range of music, expertly directed by Mrs Bond and her colleagues. This was followed by an equally well-received tea-time concert in the prep school yesterday afternoon. Thanks to Mrs Watts who organized our younger pupils and guided them through a much appreciated programme of items.

Year 7 and 8 mathematicians have accumulated nearly 60 certificates in the national Junior Maths Challenge organised by the UK Mathematical Trust. Well done especially to Gold Certificate winner Lukas Jacobs in Year 7 whose score was sufficiently high to qualify for the prestigious (and accordingly difficult) Junior Kangaroo paper which takes place on 14th June.

Other events throughout the school have included study trips for Year 6 who visited Christ Church in Erith and Year 5 who went to Epping Forest as part of their studies in RS and Geography. Year 1 took a trip to the Enchanted Forest at Groombridge Place near Tunbridge Wells continuing their scientific study of plants and trees. Reception pupils had (among many highlights) a talk on the historical timeline of teddy bears during



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a visit to the V&A Museum of Childhood, an early introduction to the concept of history whilst Pre-Prep and Nursery pupils enjoyed an assembly on healthy eating organised by our Catering Manager, Graham Renfrew. Nursery pupils were entertained by 'Safari Pete' accompanied by various animals including meerkats and a baby crocodile with an appetite for mice.

Nine pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in the London CWIZZ book quiz against schools from across South London. This is the third time Colfe's has taken part in this event in which pupils test their knowledge and meet local authors. Congratulations to all pupils who won prizes including a visit to the school from the author and comedian Mo O'Hara.

Colfe's athletes performed very well in the London round of the English Schools Athletics Championships. Year 10 pupils excelled, with Tom Simpson winning the 1500m, Gabriel Foley the 800m and Ololade Fakoya who won the shot put.

Boys' and girls' cricket teams have started the season with conspicuous success. In girls cricket we have hosted two successful Cricket Festivals, both of which we won. In Year 8 our U12 Gold team defeated Bromley High (by 22 runs) and Blackheath High (by 35 runs) and our U13As were victorious at the expense of Chislehurst School for Girls, Blackheath High and Bexley Academy. Every Year 7 boy took part in a block fixture against St Dunstan's and today they are all out in force again – this time against Albyn's. As ever, the 1st XI players have had to combine cricket with public examinations but the team is performing well with an emphatic victory over St Dunstan's on Wednesday. Meanwhile U13 A and B teams defeated City of London in the quarter final of the London Schools' Cup and the U15 As defeated Kings Canterbury. Lower down the school, the U9s won two matches against Blackheath Prep and our Year 3 C team triumphed over Bickley Park.

In swimming, Colfe's hosted our last Year 5 and 6 Gala of the term against Merton Court and Coopers Lane. Our Gold team finished in first place with outstanding performances from all those taking part, a fitting end to highly successful season of prep school swimming.

Luca Thurlow (Year 6) is currently in Columbia for the World BMX finals – we all wish him the best of luck.

Other individual achievements include:

- Rose Turpin (Year 12) who achieved the top mark of Distinction in her Advanced 1 Tap, Intermediate Modern and Grade 7 Ballet Dance Exams and Grade 8 LAMDA solo musical theatre exams where she achieved an outstanding 95/100 for singing and 94/100 for Acting. These give her UCAS points and are the equivalent of 2 A* at A level.
- Georga Halloumas (Year 10) who won gold at the London Judo Open. This means Georga is currently ranked 4th in the UK. This is the first year that Georga has competed in the cadet category which includes girls born between 1999 and 2001.
- Lucy Still (Year 12) who has been invited to be on the Youth Forum at the National Portrait Gallery. The Forum works to engage young people in Art.
- Horse Show Jumper, Luke Wilkes (Year 13) who has qualified for the prestigious Hickstead Horse Show in July.
- Gymnast Sophia Clark (Year 10) who successfully competed in the Zone Grades Tournament in Canterbury and qualified to National Level in the junior category. Sophia will be competing at the National Final Grades in Birmingham and the International Rhythmic London Spring Cup 2016 in June
- Teachers Naomi Herbert and Jill Li Sue are taking part in a parachute Jump in Headcorn to raise money for the Charity Edith Cavell during half-term. <https://www.justgiving.com/Naomi-Jill-Skydive>

Best wishes to all and particularly to Mrs Sarah Marsh who is leaving Colfe's today after three highly successful years as Head of the Prep School. The popularity of the school and the many achievements of her pupils, many of which are celebrated in these newsletters throughout the year, derive from her untiring commitment to the Prep School and we wish her well for the future.

Richard Russell
Headmaster