



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The highlight of this week was the publication of the ISI inspection reports, links to which we have already emailed. As we head towards the examinations season for many of our pupils, we look back at an extremely busy half-term. Thank you to all those colleagues who have been working so hard to prepare for the forthcoming examinations and to the Tougher Minds team for their Effective Easter workshops for pupils and parents on how best to plan revision over the holidays.

Exam preparation aside, I have been struck by the collaborative working I have seen from our pupils this term. From team sports; music and drama productions; news reporting and outdoor pursuits through to the Sixth Form committee planning of the Y7 disco – students have worked together, across all year groups, to support each other in a number of ways demonstrating some examples of great teamwork.

Many of you who make more use of social media than I do (which is probably most of you) will already be following us on Twitter and Facebook. The relevant profiles offer a daily insight into life at the Junior and Senior Schools and I am delighted to recommend them for regular news and updates:

Twitter: [@ColfesSchool](https://twitter.com/ColfesSchool)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/colfesschool (please note that this is the official Colfe's School Facebook page, any other pages are unauthorised and not under our control).

Please feel free to retweet or share any items which you think may be of interest to others.

Selected highlights of recent weeks have been as follows:

JUNIOR SCHOOL

I was delighted to attend the inaugural [Colfe's Choir Festival](#) for Key Stage 1 pupils last week. Choirs from local primary schools including St Winifreds, All Saints' Blackheath, Deansfield Primary and Blackheath Prep – over 150 children in total – were invited to Colfe's to perform songs of their choice. We were lucky to have vocal coach and mezzo soprano Yvie Burnett, best known for her work on X Factor, The Voice and Let It Shine, on-hand to offer words of encouragement. This was a great opportunity to partner with neighbouring schools and celebrate the talent we have in our local area. All the children who took part were impeccably behaved and we enjoyed some brilliant performances. Thank you to Tara Lee-Oliver and Ruth Hall for their organisation of the festival and we look forward to next year's event.

Earlier in the term Junior School pupils were united in week-long exploration of the works of William Shakespeare. KS1 pupils took part in activities across the disciplines of English, Art and Music including designing mini theatre sets, creative writing and using quill pens. KS2 took part in creating their own Shakespearian-style playwriting with a special 'reduced' performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream* for World Book Day.

We were happy to welcome so many Nursery parents to our Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea and EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils put on a delightful seasonal assembly featuring songs, poems and an Easter bonnet parade. And well done to the Y5 musicians and actors who came together to put on their end-of-term football themed performance of *The Shirt*.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

MUSIC & DRAMA

The music and drama departments have been particularly busy this half term. A very successful (and very well-attended) Spring Concert featured musicians from Y7 -13, demonstrating a wide range of talent across many genres. The evening was also an opportunity to hear the winning performance from the Colfe's Chamber Choir who, earlier in the term, took first place at the [Coulston and Purley Music Festival](#). The Colfe's Swing Band performed once again last week leading an evening of Jazz at the Church of Ascension in Blackheath as part of a charity evening. Thanks to Director of Music, Emma Bond and her team for the coordination of these events.

The Senior School production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat played to packed audiences in the Beardwood theatre. This was a fantastic team effort from pupils across the school, with stand-out performances from many (including staff in their roles as the Fat and Thin Cows). Congratulations to all cast and crew.

I am also pleased to report a record number of pupils (over 100) from Y7-8 have signed up to audition for our production of the hit west-end musical School of Rock which will take place at the beginning of July.

ART

Every pupil in Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a [day-long workshop](#) with Royal Academy artist Charlotte Steele this half term, as well as our own artist-in-residence Lily German. Pupils attended workshops on portrait and form and had the chance to work with a live model.

CLASSICS

Year 12 Classicists have taken part in a worldwide reading of Homer's The Odyssey. Students were filmed reading the book at 9am (GMT) on Friday 24 March to coincide with other readings taking place simultaneously in 26 different countries. Thanks to the Classics Department, with particular mention for Naomi Herbert, for organising this event.

Author and Editor of [The Oldie](#) magazine [Harry Mount](#) and historian and journalist [Daisy Dunn](#) joined our final parents' Latin class of the term this week. Harry Mount had previously written about the classes in his Daily Telegraph column and was inspired to come and visit Colfe's. An enjoyable lesson was had by all. We hope to be a part of a follow-up feature in The Oldie in the coming months.

HOUSE MEDIA

Twenty of our budding journalists from Y8-10 took part in this year's BBC School Report where the pupils wrote, filmed, and edited their own reports (both live and recorded) feeding into a specially created Colfe's online newsroom. This is a fantastic exercise, teaching pupils how to gather topical stories, write newsworthy content, work to tight deadlines and use industry-standard editing software. You can see the final School Report on our [website](#).

SCIENCE

Physics students from Y8 have taken part in the Faraday Challenge held at Queen Mary's University where pupils had to research, design and make two prototype solutions to tough engineering problems. And there was much excitement in the Senior School after the science department took delivery of a batch of duck eggs last week. Combining the disciplines of Biology and Psychology, the hatching ducklings proved an engaging way to teach our younger pupils about the development of embryos and provided valuable research to our A-level Psychology students on imprinting.

TRIPS

Two recent outdoor education trips this term enjoyed unseasonably warm weather with a week at the Glamara Outdoor Centre in North Wales for Y8 pupils who took part in (amongst other activities) kayaking, gorge walking and mine exploration, whilst Y9 pupils took part in their bush craft week at Hatfield Woods in Hertfordshire. Bush craft is a markedly different programme to other outdoor pursuits, offering pupils a range of new experiences and skills from fire workshops, to wild camping and shelter building. Thank you to all those who help make our outdoor weeks such a success and to Major Cherry for his enthusiastic leadership of this important aspect of the curriculum.

Trips taking place over the Easter break include cultural enrichment visits to Paris and Berlin for language students; cadets venturing to RAF Boulmer in Northumbria; Classicists visiting Rome and Geography pupils travelling to California and Nevada to see some geographical wonders including Death Valley and the Grand Canyon.

SPORT

Cricket: our U13 girls made the Lady Taverners Cup County Finals against three other schools in Kent at the Spitfire Ground in Canterbury. This is our fastest growing sport and we look forward to further success next term.

Netball: the U18s convincingly won the Eltham College netball tournament against five other schools – winning for the fourth year in a row. U12 girls placed third in the Kent Schools tournament and won the Bromley Schools tournament against the 20 teams who entered. The U11 A team took part in the IAPS Netball Tournament (40 schools in total) securing some good wins and getting through to the knock-out stage. Y3 netballers took part in the Netball Festival held at Blackheath Prep against five other schools.

Rugby: Colfe's U16s boys reached the final of the Kent Sevens Rugby Tournament just missing out on an overall win after a tie break decided by a golden score.

Football: The First XI have had several wins this term in the Independent League over traditionally strong opponents including RFS Guildford and Sevenoaks, whilst every boy in Y7 represented the school against City of London and every boy in Y3 played in a block fixture against Eltham College, resulting in two wins and two draws.

Cross Country: Colfe's runners competed in the London Schools' Cross Country against 40 other schools – over 200 runners. Notable performances for the Intermediate Boys team included Benjamin Tynan (Y10) who came 21st and Tom Simpson (Y11) who came eighth, qualifying for selection to represent London in the English Schools' Cross Country. In the Junior Boys team, Bobby Parkes, Luca Thurlow, Nathan Chapman and Thomas Carbin (all Y7) won Bronze in the Junior B Team Competition.

Swimming: Colfe's Y5 and Y6 pupils won one gold and six bronze medals at the Kent Primary Schools Gala at Medway Park. Colfe's were competing in the largest relay category against tough competitors such as Dulwich Prep and New Beacon. Well done to all those who took part with special mentions to individual winners Jacob Walker and Roshanak Li-Sue Foulds (Y6) who won bronze medals in their individual events and Zachary Kirkman (Y6) who won a gold medal and achieved a best regional time of 36.78 in the 50m backstroke.

Individual achievements:

- Ethen Benson (Y11) and Christian Hooper (Y10) have been invited to join the national Saracens Rugby Academy where former Old Colfeian Matt Gallagher plays.
- Jordan Busuulwa (Y13) was accepted into the national NXGN Choir and performed at The Festival of Life in front of 50,000 people at the ExCel Arena in London.
- Luca Thurlow (Y7) has qualified to represent GB at the BMX World Championships this year for the fourth year running.
- Thomas Carbin, Madeline Tynan and Nathan Chapman (Y7) are among many Colfeians selected to represent their respective boroughs at the forthcoming Mini Marathon (which runs before the London Marathon) this weekend.
- School Captain David Battersby (Y13) has been invited to train with the Kings College University debating team.

PAFA

Current PAFA chairperson Jodie Rose Clarke will be stepping down from her position at the end of the summer term. Jodie joined PAFA in the spring of 2016, we thank her for all her hard work and wish her well for the future. Parents who would like to apply for the role of Chairperson, or request more information, should email pafa@colfes.com. The deadline for applications is 5 May with elections held at the next PAFA committee meeting on 17 May.

Finally I would like to wish all our pupils a restful, yet productive, Easter break and look forward to welcoming them back for the start of the Summer Term on Tuesday 25 April.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster