



## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The final newsletter of this academic year comes to you from our newly launched parent portal and email system MyColfe's. Based on your feedback we have streamlined our communications and created an online parent portal – your main port of call for information about the school, your child's progress and email. Thank you to those who took part in our feedback sessions over the last half-term. We hope you enjoy using MyColfe's and please do contact [comms@colfes.com](mailto:comms@colfes.com) with any comments or questions you may have.

The last few weeks of term are amongst the busiest of the year with celebrations, farewells and new beginnings. Last week's Sixth Form Ball at the Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich was a particular success, thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts of the student committee and expertly overseen by Mrs Biggs. The departing Y13 have been a consistently delightful group of students and we wish them well for August (A-level results) and beyond. With a view to the next academic year I am pleased to announce that Moyinoluwa Shoroye and Max Hedley will be our new School Captains, supported by the other recently appointed senior prefects. The end of the academic year is also a time of farewells to staff, including some who have given many years to the school. We wish them all well, either for well-deserved retirement or new challenges elsewhere:

- **Andrew Pearson**, Director of Studies leaves us after 12 years at Colfe's to take up the position of Deputy Head at Durham School, along with his family and wife Jenny Pearson who taught in both the Junior and Senior schools.
- **Jenny Pearson** will join her husband Andrew when they move north to Durham over the Summer. Having started her career in the senior school, Jenny subsequently moved to the Junior School where she has worked tirelessly and with great success to raise the profile of girls' games.
- **Katie Collin** has done an enormous amount to raise the profile of school music, particularly during her years as Director of Music and will be moving to New College, Doncaster.
- **Charlotte Ody** has taught PE and games in the Senior School for the last two years and is moving to Alleyn's.
- **Lucy Atkinson** joined us as Head of Drama three years ago and has decided to return to higher education to pursue a full-time Master's course.
- **Mil Moody** retires from the Key Stage 1 team after 16 happy and successful years in the Junior School.
- **Colleen Russell** retires after having been a mainstay of the Junior School for 14 years, most importantly as the teacher in charge of our Nursery pupils.
- **Andy Newell** retired at the end of the spring term after 24 years at the school as Head of Geography and latterly our Examinations Officer.
- **John King** retires from the position of Senior Master after a 28 year career at Colfe's. During that time he has been a highly successful head of department, an Administrative Deputy Head and a key figure behind all of the success that the school has enjoyed over the last three decades.

We were delighted to welcome Members of the Leathersellers' Company to Colfe's on a number of occasions this half-term. The annual Colfe Sermon at St Mary's Church in Lewisham on Sunday 11 June was followed by the traditional reception and cricket match at Horn Park, in which the school team won a closely fought victory over the Leathersellers' team. A heroic finish by Matthew Walker (Y11) concluded the match, with Colfe's winning in



the last over with wickets to spare. This is the second year running that the match has been decided in the final over and, as ever, the game was played in good spirit. We then welcomed the Leathersellers back to Colfe's on 20 June for their annual Visitation, a day for members of the Court to see Colfe's in action, meet our current and former Leatherseller Scholars, enjoy the GCSE and A-level Art Show and attend a presentation on the school's award-winning pastoral care programme. Master Leatherseller and past Chair of Governors Ian Russell wrote subsequently to say how impressed the Company were with the school, not only in respect of the Visitation but also, more widely, on the many positive developments that they have witnessed in recent years.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our younger pupils have enjoyed a number of educational trips this past half-term including residential outdoor pursuit trips and the opportunity to experience Forest School at a local camp in Lewisham. Sports Day for Key Stage 2 survived the weather – well done to overall winners Pegasus House. Elsewhere the Key Stage 2 Art Show was a triumph. The success of our pupils over the past year was celebrated at the Junior School Prizegiving last week, attended by the Chairman Matthew Pellereau and his wife Philippa. The end of year productions from Y6 and EYFS pupils were hugely entertaining and tribute to the leadership of the teachers who orchestrated them, Mrs Pearson and Hrs Hall. Looking ahead to next year, we welcomed current Year 6 pupils to the Senior School in advance of their transfer to Year 7 in September.

### ACADEMIC

Pupil achievement was celebrated once again at our Lower School Prizegiving, hosted by the Master Leatherseller Russell. In Mathematics, well done to Amy Bellett (Y7), Damir McElfresh (Y7), An-Nhi Huynh (Y7), Vince Csaszar (Y7) and Finley Owen (Y7) who qualified for the Junior Maths Kangaroo achieving Gold and congratulations to Lukas Jacobs (Y8) for achieving Merit and for being in the top 25% pupils selected overall to take part. Y12 scientists visited Imperial College London with students from Conisborough College while Psychology students visited London Zoo for sessions on conservation and hypnosis. Our final John Glyn Scholars' Society lecture of the school year was also amongst the very best. Sara Khan Director of [Inspire](#) (the anti-extremism and women's rights organisation) spoke in a measured and informative way about the origins of Islamic inspired terrorism and extremism. Pupils were even more than usually engaged and lots of intelligent and thought-provoking questions were asked. My thanks, as ever, to Head of Religion and Philosophy Emerald Henderson for attracting such high-profile speakers for the John Glyn Society.

### ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

Colfe's artist-in-residence [Lily German](#) exhibited alongside our GCSE and A-Level students at the recent end-of-year Art Show. Lily has worked closely with pupils and has been an inspiration to many of them this year, drawing on her recent experience as a student of Fine Art at Goldsmiths. A particularly successful innovation has been the introduction of "Art Crit" sessions in which senior pupils are encouraged to question each other about their work. She also led a group of Y12 Art students on a trip to the Victorian Crossness Pumping Station, designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and architect Charles Henry Driver, which has been a place of inspiration for her own work.

Despite the intense heat of recent weeks, we hugely enjoyed the energy of the Lower School production of School of Rock. Thanks and congratulations to Richard Gregg and the Drama department, as well as to the Music department which provided the soundtrack. Other key events in the Music calendar have included the performance of the Choir at the Leathersellers' Election Day Service and the singing of both Senior and Junior choirs in St Mary's Lewisham on the day of the Colfe Sermon. Many thanks to Director of Music Emma Bond and her Junior School colleagues Ruth Hall and Sue Watts for their organisation of all these performances.

### SPORT

Over 250 people were in attendance at our Sports Presentation evening – the awards celebrated pupil achievement in all the core sports with the introduction of new merit awards for badminton, fencing and taekwondo. An incredible nine school records were broken on Sports Day. In Y7 Sophie Walker set a new Shot Put record (8.42m); Luca Thurlow set a new 1500m record (5.14.99 mins) and Beardwood House set a new 4x100 relay record (60.32 secs) – Evie Day, Olivia Mason, Tilly Manuel and Freya Williams. In Y8 Scarlett Brown set 2 new records, High Jump (1.35m) and Javelin (29.40m) and Denny Ashison set a new 200m record (25.25 secs). In Y9 Molly Hepden set a new Javelin record (22.60m) and Theo Tomlinson set a new 300m record (43.99 secs). In Y10 Ciara E Perry set a new Javelin record (25.70m).

A particular mention for Scarlett Brown who, as well as setting new school records in athletics, in the same week, was also selected for the Kent U17 netball squad, having trialled for the U14 squad. Other netball success has included Madeleine Tynan and Katie Fielder West who have been selected for the Kent squad in their year groups. We have also enjoyed great success in Cricket this season. Our U14 Girls were runners up in the Kent County Hardball Competition – the girls' cricket programme continues to thrive at Colfe's and I look forward to seeing how the first cohort to play the hardball game progress over the coming years. In boys' cricket both the 1st XI and the U14s reached the finals of the London Schools Cricket Association competitions. Although both teams lost this marked the conclusion of a highly successful season in which we have secured many noteworthy victories including, in the case of the 1st XI, impressive wins over Albyn's, City of London and Westminster.

### OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Students have been busy on Duke of Edinburgh Award exhibitions this half-term with Bronze qualifying and Silver practice sessions in Kent earlier in June, Silver qualifying in the South Downs this week – good luck to those completing their Gold Award in Snowdonia at the end of August. CCF students are set to leave for their Central Army Camp next week in Penally, Pembrokeshire.

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Barnaby Marchant (Y8) has qualified as an RYA Assistant Sailing Instructor and is now able to teach both adults and children to sail.
- Luca Thurlow (Y7) came second in the 1500m at the London Schools Association Athletics, beating his PB record by 10 seconds.
- Joshan Ertan (Y8) has passed his black belt karate exam.
- Teya Adedeji (Y8) successfully gained a place to study violin at Junior Trinity.
- Joey Tafur (Y7) was the winner of the school tennis 'Road to Wimbledon Competition', Joey will compete at county level next week and if successful will have a chance to play at Wimbledon in the finals.
- Old Colfeian Nigel Le Gassick (1996-2003) sets sail tomorrow in an attempt to row non-stop and unassisted around Great Britain in aid of [The Honey Pot Children's Charity](#) – his aim is to beat the current record of 26 days. Good luck to Nigel and his crew, you can read more about his adventure, track his progress and donate [here](#).

If you would like to let us know of individual achievements for your child, to be included in future newsletters, please contact [comms@colfes.com](mailto:comms@colfes.com)

### NOTICES

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents not to leave their car engines running while dropping/collecting their child at school – this is a particular concern for our neighbours in Upwood Road, Leyland Road and Cambridge Drive. I'm sure I do not need to remind you that engine idling in a stationary car is illegal and causes both noise and air pollution which is damaging to us all – especially children. I appreciate your co-operation on this matter.

**Please be aware that the bill for the autumn term will be sent out to parents at the end of July.** You may have heard about a scam involving bank customers being emailed and told that a supplier has changed their bank details. We would like to confirm that we have not changed our details, nor do we have plans to do so. If you receive a message to this effect that appears to come from Colfe's School please ignore it.

Finally, best of luck to those who will be receiving their public examination results in August. I wish all of our pupils a safe and happy Summer break and look forward to seeing everybody back in school for the start of the Autumn term on Monday September 4.

Best wishes

Richard Russell  
**Headmaster**



**COLFE'S**

Newsletter