



## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The Spring Term began with the 11+ assessment for prospective pupils. A record number of candidates from local state and preparatory schools sat the examination and we have subsequently been interviewing the prospective families. Offers have now been sent and we hope to see many of the pupils join Colfe's this September. A consistent theme in the feedback from prospective parents was how impressed they were with pupils and staff when they visited on the Open Days last term.

More than 70 advisors attended our biennial Careers & Higher Education Convention this week to talk to pupils in Years 11 and 12 and their parents. We also welcomed a large number of pupils from our partnership schools in Lewisham. Many thanks to Librarian and Head of Careers Mrs Judy Cardnell for organising this successful and valuable event.

Preparing our students for life beyond Colfe's is central to the work of the Sixth Form team and we are delighted that five of our Year 13 students have received conditional offers from the University of Cambridge for this September, two for Mathematics and others for Architecture, Chemical Engineering and Classics.

But the highlight of the term so far for staff and pupils was a visit from the multi-award winning actor and activist Sir Ian McKellen who spoke to us about his life, LGBT+ campaign work and the importance and value of equality for all. Sir Ian also took time to speak with the Colfe's Equality Panel – made up of students from across the Senior School – to discuss the work we do to promote diversity, respect and wellbeing amongst our own school community.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

We are continually seeking to improve the buildings and facilities at Colfe's. Planning applications have recently been submitted for a corridor linking the two Junior School buildings with new reception and office area and, eventually, a two-storey extension of the KS2 building to incorporate a new hall and dedicated drama and art rooms. We will keep you informed of progress.

Junior School pupils have enjoyed day trips as well as visits from external companies this half term: Year 3 pupils visited the Wide Horizons Environment Centre in Eltham to enrich their Science work; Reception pupils enjoyed a performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears by the Hobgoblin Theatre Company; Year 4 pupils explored the Anglo Saxons and Vikings with the Drama Hut Theatre Company and Year 5 pupils visited the Greenwich Observatory to learn more about the solar system.

Pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the Young Voices concert at The O2 last week. Singing alongside more than 5000 other children and a seven-piece live band, they performed a diverse musical repertoire to a sold-out audience under the direction of internationally acclaimed conductor David Lawrence.

Tomorrow, Roebucks will be transformed into a French café for our annual French breakfast event. Year 11 and 12 pupils will become waiters and waitresses, taking orders for *croissants*, *chocolat chaud* and *jus d'orange* from Year 5 pupils who have been learning new language pertaining to food, drink, currency and ordering food in a café during their French lessons.

### ACADEMIC

Our programme of enrichment lectures for Year 12 students continued this half term including two speakers from across the political spectrum. Old Colfeian James Cleverly MP and Len Duvall OBE, Labour politician and Member of the London Assembly for Lewisham and Greenwich, both explored the perception of politics and the impact of Brexit on young people. Continued thanks to Ruth Elliott for her organisation of this thought-provoking and challenging series of talks.



# COLFE'S

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## Newsletter

Our congratulations also go to the above mentioned James Cleverly OC (80-88) on his promotion within the Conservative Party to the position of Deputy Chairman.

Year 9 pupils visited the Holocaust exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, while Year 10 Latin pupils visited the London Mithraeum beneath the Bloomberg building, followed by a performance of Shakespeare's epic political tragedy, *Julius Caesar* at the Barbican Theatre.

A team of pupils from Years 7-9 attended the First Lego League UK and Ireland Challenge, which involved working together to build a robot, design a hydrodynamic solution for water supplies and demonstrate cohesive teamwork.

A Philosophy and Ethics enrichment day included lectures from eminent academic, philosopher and theologian Dr Peter Vardy and former Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London. The conference comprised talks on various topics of relevance to both the GCSE and A-level Religion & Philosophy syllabus, including the importance of philosophy for the world today; Aristotle and his influence on knowledge, ethics, religion and the mind; and the nature of language and how it relates to truth.

It was also a pleasure to welcome Dr Nicholas Cranfield FSA to our third John Glyn Society lecture of the academic year. In addition to being Vicar of All Saints Blackheath, Dr Cranfield is a modern historian specialising in early seventeenth century European History. Taking as his theme a quotation from a Marvell poem concerning the execution of King Charles the 1st, (*'He nothing did or mean upon that memorable scene'; London 1649*) Father Nicholas spoke with encyclopaedic knowledge and authority about a fascinating period which incorporated not only the English Civil War but also the life of our Founder, Abraham Colfe and that of William Shakespeare.

### ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

Parents, pupils and staff were invited to an interim art exhibition celebrating the Fine Art and Graphic Communication work of our Year 12 and 13 students this half term, which included ceramics pieces inspired by last term's trips to the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate.

Year 10 pupils from one of our partnership schools, Trinity School in Lewisham, joined us for a 3D sculpture drawing class with our artist in residence Lily German. Lily has also been hosting weekly seminars for Sixth Form art students, which have included discussions about the politics of economics, manual labour and Fordism through clay.

A-level Drama students have been working on their devised exam performance following a workshop with theatre company, Frantic Assembly, last term. Students were also taken to a performance of 'Things I know To Be True' at the Lyric Hammersmith to look for further inspiration for their devised examination pieces.

Following the success of last term's lunchtime recital series with Trinity Laban musicians, we have had two recitals this half term including wonderful performances by soprano Wakana Gong and pianist Sayaka Aoki and two postgraduate pianists Daniella Cáceres Ortigoza (soloist) and Isabella Gori (accompanist) who performed the well-known *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin.

The first platform concert of 2018 took place last week and provided an opportunity for parents, pupils and staff to see our current GCSE Music pupils performing a selection of solos and ensembles in preparation for their performance coursework submissions.

### SPORT

Our Senior School netballers were privileged to attend to an insightful masterclass recently with England Roses and Loughborough Lightning player Hannah Joseph.

The U13 and U15 boys' swimming teams were victorious against St Dunstan's and Alleyn's in a local gala and Colfe's finished third in the London League B Final beating local rivals Eltham College and, for the first time, achieving a win over Whitgift.

Winter nets have started this term, giving all boys in Years 8 and 9 the opportunity to improve their cricket skills ahead of the Summer term. Meanwhile, the girls' U15s cricket team has made it through to the County Finals of the Lady Taverers Cricket competition beating Hayes School in a closely contested match. The team will now progress to the finals at the Kent Cricket ground in Canterbury on 6 March.



### OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

Sixth Form students spent last weekend in Spain visiting the Museo del Prado and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid and the El Greco Museum in Toledo. Other sights on the itinerary included an underground ghost station, an Egyptian temple, an old synagogue and the San Miguel market famous for its tapas.

### CCF

Following a successful pilot programme run with our Year 10 CCF cadets, the Year 12 House Leaders recently completed the new Adair Young Leaders Award. Specially adapted by Major Cherry in association with Adair International, the course aims to develop the leadership skills of the students and follow this up with practical opportunities to practice and hone them. The two-day course included the history of leadership, leadership theories and styles as well as practical tasks. The course was a great success judging by the positive student feedback.

During the half term holiday, a group of CCF cadets from Years 9-13, together with seven members of staff, are heading to Gibraltar to participate in an exercise on the rock, dealing with the terrain and the indigenous monkeys, and to the Buffadero Training Centre where they will practise TIBUA (training in built up areas). They will also have the opportunity to visit the Headquarters of British Forces Gibraltar.

Squadron Leader Garry Hooton will be signing off at the end of the Gibraltar trip after 32 years of continuous service to the Colfe's CCF unit which he first joined as a pupil in 1976. He has been a mainstay of this popular and enduring school activity, serving the Unit in an entirely voluntary capacity, most recently as an inspiring and popular Contingent Commander. We wish him well for the future.

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Georga Halloumas (Y12) has been selected to represent Great Britain in Judo in Spain at the end of February half term, and in Germany later in March.
- Andreas Royet (Y9) will be skiing with the British Skiing Association this half term.
- Christian Hooper (Y11) and Dan Kelly (Y11) have represented an unbeaten Kent rugby U16s team in a series of fixtures against Hertfordshire, Essex and Sussex this term.
- After a number of impressive performances for Kent rugby U18s, Joe Watkins (Y13) has been selected for the South East of England U18 training squad.
- Finn McQueen (Y10) has been selected for the Kent cricket U15 summer squad.
- Matt Walker (Y12) has been selected for the Kent cricket U17 summer squad and was asked to bowl at the Kent 1st XI squad as part of their preparation for an upcoming tour of the Caribbean.
- Elspeth Oliver (Y9) has been competing in the Cornwall Counties Swimming Championships achieving a bronze in the 200m breaststroke.

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](mailto:comms@colfes.com)

### NOTICES

The next PAFA used uniform sale will take place on Friday 9 March.

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](mailto:pkeogh@colfes.com) in the Bursary Office.

Finally, a warm welcome to Dr Nadine Lawrence our new School Doctor who has taken over from Dr Alan Thompson who retired earlier this term after several years of excellent service at Colfe's. Dr Lawrence is joining us in addition to her work as a local GP.

Wishing you all a restful half-term break and I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Monday 19 February.

Best wishes

Richard Russell  
**Headmaster**