



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The summer term is always an exciting time with many trips, sporting events and performances for younger pupils but it also marks the beginning of examination season for older students. I have been consistently impressed by the responsible and methodical approach which pupils in Year 11 and above have adopted throughout this important year and wish them well with their forthcoming GCSEs.

Both GCSE and A-level this year will test students' understanding of new syllabuses and examinations. This has been particularly demanding for many of my colleagues who have had to grapple with both through the year. I am extremely grateful to them for going the extra mile, particularly with additional revision classes in recent weeks.

Half term marks the end of formal lessons for A-level pupils who have planned to mark the occasion with a regression to childhood. Fancy dress, an ice cream van and a staff versus pupils' tug-of-war will be amongst the highlights of their festivities tomorrow afternoon. Year 13 have been a delightful group of pupils whom we will miss greatly. They are holding some very impressive conditional offers from the country's best universities and I wish them all well for the final exams.

On a related note I was delighted to hear of the success of Old Colfeian James Lynch who has recently graduated from Maastricht University with a first class degree, having acquired fluency in both Dutch and German during the last three years. Whilst the majority of our pupils will continue to aspire to the top British universities there is no doubt – Brexit notwithstanding – that a growing number are casting the net more widely and we will continue to support them across the range of their applications.

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

A very busy half term for our younger pupils with outdoor pursuits trips for both Year 5 (Kingswood) and Year 6 (Dorset). These trips, run by our dedicated Outdoor Education department, are at the heart of the Colfe's journey and have enormous personal and social benefits, helping to hone the skills of independence, team work and resilience.

Orion House arranged a pyjama day for their charity event – which saw every child (and adult) in the Junior School pay £1 to wear their pyjamas to school – and raised over £400 for Water Aid.

The Colfe's Choir Festival, now in its second year, has become a firm fixture on the calendar of our local neighbouring primary schools. Key Stage 1 Choirs from All Saints Primary School, Blackheath Prep School, Deansfield Primary School and West Lodge Prep School joined our own Junior School pupils for an afternoon of musical celebration. The Senior School Hall was packed with proud parents. Comments and feedback this year came from Joe Thompson, Musical Director at The Ivy (Mr Thompson revealed he had joined us that day after playing piano for Victoria Beckham!). My thanks to Ruth Hall and Tara Lee-Oliver for their excellent organisation of this joyous event.



COLFE'S

ACADEMIC

Newsletter

Following recent success in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, ten Colfe's pupils have progressed to the next stage of the competition. Daniel (Y11) was awarded a merit in the Maths Olympiad, whilst Arthur (Y11) and Ole (Y9) both achieved a merit in the Kangaroo Maths Challenge. Pupils from Years 7 and 8 picked up an outstanding 98 certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge with nine gold, 28 silver and 40 bronze certificates. Congratulations to gold winner Ahan (Y7) who was awarded best-in-school and selected for the Junior Kangaroo.

Year 7 and 8 pupils were victorious at the annual CWIZZ book quiz organised by Children's Writers and Illustrators in Stories and Literacy (CWISL) and held at Emanuel School. After six rounds, Colfe's A team – made up of Amy (Y8), Polly (Y7), Toby (Y8) and Katie (Y7) – were announced the winners narrowly beating Dulwich College and Emanuel in a nail-biting three-way tiebreak.

We were delighted to welcome back Trinity Laban's Puzzle Piece Opera for our John Glyn Society lecture this half-term. Scholars were given a second opportunity to watch Cinderella: A Jukebox Opera – a unique interpretation of the fairy tale classic that combines nine different operas together.

My thanks to the many Old Colfeians who were on hand to discuss and share their experience of the university applications process at our annual Competitive Courses Evening. Parents and pupils from Years 11 and 12 were invited to find out more about applying for university courses at Oxbridge, in Medicine and other popular choices at leading Russell Group institutions. A number of parents also joined us at the latest Tougher Minds 'Happier Half Term' course, covering how to support your son or daughter in making the most effective decisions when revising during this crucial exam term.

ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

This half term has been an exceptionally busy one for our arts departments.

Six pupils from the Senior School have fought off fierce competition to be invited to join the prestigious National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Actors Ollie (Y13), Ally (Y13), Zac (Y12), Daniel (Y11) and Laurie (Y10) will now attend a three-week residential course with the National Youth Theatre over the summer, along with Tyler (Y10) who auditioned for technical theatre support. On completion, all six will become company members and granted access to exclusive castings and performance opportunities.

I am very much looking forward to the Y7-10 production of Romeo and Juliet from 18-20 June, which as a promenade performance promises to be thoroughly entertaining. Tickets are available to purchase online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/colfes.

The Art department are preparing for the annual Summer Exhibition which will be held on Thursday 7 June, 5pm to 7pm. As well as outstanding pieces of work from our GCSE and A-level pupils, artist-in-residence Lily German will be displaying her latest pieces in the Atrium of the Beardwood Centre. Parents and pupils are welcome to join us for this celebration of artistic talent.

The lunchtime music recital series with Trinity Laban continues to be popular with a group performance from Jennifer Barwise (soprano), Juliette Koch (soprano) and Lucy Rose Murphy (piano), followed by a visit from pianist Marisa Munoz Lopez. And this year's House Music competition proved to be one to remember – many thanks to Tabby Estell from Trinity Laban for adjudicating the outstanding performances and crowning Bramley House overall winners. The newly-formed staff band, ColfePlay provided a highly entertaining finish to the evening. Congratulations also goes to Prendergast House who were the overall winners of the House Dance competition.

SPORT

With cricket season now well underway, the girls' teams have been proven to be particularly successful. The U15 girls performed well in the School Sports Magazine National Hardball competition. Despite this being the first time Colfe's girls have entered the competition, the team went on to enjoy a win over Cranleigh School and only lost by two runs to St. George's, Weybridge. The U14A girls also won Colfe's softball festival against Bromley High, Sutton Valence and St. Dunstan's in the finals.

The boys' first XI won a particularly close contest against Alleyn's last weekend and the U14 team have progressed to the final of the London Independent Schools Cup.

Swimmers from Year 7 triumphed in a gala against Farringtons with both Zachary (Y7) and Nathan (Y8) achieving six regional times across a variety of strokes.



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A fantastic night of sport awaits this evening, when our Year 7 and Sixth Form football teams play Dulwich College at Bromley FC. Year 7 will play two nine-a-side matches and Sixth Formers an 11-a-side match. Friends and family are invited to watch, kick-off is at 6pm. Good luck to all teams involved.

Parents have also had a number of opportunities to get involved with sports at Colfe's this half term. Back by popular demand, we welcomed parents and friends along to a five-week 'Adult into Netball' course, as well as hosting a Zumba and Yoga party to fundraise for the forthcoming Netball and Hockey Malaysia and Singapore tour. There was also a very good turnout for the Women's Softball Cricket Festival earlier this week as well – an opportunity to play friendly matches and receive professional coaching.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

The CCF Cadre will be departing this weekend for a three-day training camp at St Martin's Plain, Folkestone, whilst those participating the Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award will undertake a practice expedition at the start of the next half term in preparation for their qualifying expedition in July. As part of the annual programme of theatre visits, Y9 have this week been to Her Majesty's Theatre to see Phantom of the Opera and Y8 saw the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre earlier in the term.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- To mark the first anniversary of the Manchester bombing pupils in the Senior School wore pink and blue socks in support of the Chloe and Liam Together Forever Trust. This is a cause particularly close to the Colfe's community as victim Liam Curry was a family friend of one of our teachers – the trust supports young people who are looking to pursue their ambitions in sport or performance.
- Mufti day this year was in aid of Sports Relief – this combined a sponsored swim and a sponsored run raised a very impressive £4000 for the charity.
- Nathan (Y8) competed in the London Swimming Championships in the 100m Fly, 200m Fly, and 400 IM – achieving personal bests in all three races.
- Stan (Y10) was part of an indoor cricket team who won the U15 English National Finals in Birmingham. He has been asked to represent England U15's in the Indoor World Cup in New Zealand later this year.

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

NOTICES

The PAFA Summer Ball this year will be held in the Garden Suite at The Manor at Bickley Hotel on Friday 8 June – tickets are available via this link <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/colfespafa>

A polite reminder that notice is required by the end of half-term if you wish to move your child(ren) from school to packed lunches from the beginning of the Autumn Term.

And finally, my thanks to the many parents who were able to join us for 'user-testing' of the new Colfe's website over the past week. Your feedback has been invaluable and we look forward to sharing the new site with you when it goes live next half term.

Wishing you all a restful break, I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Monday 4 June.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster