



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Traditionally the last few weeks of the summer term are some of the busiest of the year with celebrations, farewells and new beginnings. The Sixth Form Ball was hosted at the Bromley Court Hotel last week and acted as a fitting farewell to our departing Year 13 pupils. Many thanks to the Sixth Form committee, overseen by Mrs Biggs, for all their hard work in making this event such a success. Looking ahead to next academic year, I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new school captains – Simone and Don – who will be supported by the other recently appointed senior prefects.

Members of the Leathersellers' Company have had a number of opportunities to visit the school this half term. The annual Colfe's Sermon at St Mary's Church in Lewisham on Sunday 11 June was followed by the traditional reception and cricket match between the school and the Leathersellers' Company in which the school team emerged as victors after a closely fought match. Members of the Court were then welcomed back for our annual Visitation Day which this year focused on the success of our current and former Leathersellers' Scholars. One of many ways in which the Company supports the school is through the provision of Sixth Form scholarships. We were therefore delighted to feature very positively in a major article in [The Observer newspaper](#) last month which was otherwise very critical of the independent sector. The programme is now in its seventh year and continues to go from strength to strength with more local 11-16 comprehensives choosing to partner with Colfe's. For more on the scholarship you can view a video on our [website](#).

JUNIOR SCHOOL

This year's EYFS and KS1 Sports Day was a great success – the final scores were incredibly close with Aquila coming first and Orion second. At the KS2 Sports Day every child had the opportunity to compete in nine different activities, including 80m sprint, hurdles, speed bounce and medicine ball push. Pegasus were pronounced the winners, with Aquila the runners-up. Well done to all the children for their remarkable efforts and many thanks to the parents who came along to support our young athletes. Year 1 and 2 were lucky enough to explore community green space Wild Cat Wilderness in Catford where activities included nest building and mini-beast hunting. Last week we celebrated our pupils' success at the Junior School Prizegiving ceremony, attended by the Chairman Matthew Pellereau, followed by the annual art exhibition. The half term culminated with an outstanding performance of The Magic Harp from Year 2 and a heart-warming end of year production from our departing Year 6 pupils.

ACADEMIC

Many congratulations to pupils in Years 7-10 whose achievements were celebrated at our Lower School Prizegiving, hosted by the Master Leatherseller Antony Barrow. The Master has had a very active year in the role, not least as wicket-keeper for the Leathersellers' XI in the annual cricket match!

Following the Junior Maths Challenge in April, 10 Colfe's pupils qualified for the Maths Junior Kangaroo (European) Challenge – An-Nhi (Y8), Jack (Y8), Alice (Y8) and Isha (Y8) achieved a merit, while best in the school was awarded to Ajan (Y8) and best in Year 7 to Rohan. Well done to Ahan (Y7) who saw success at the Junior Olympiad where he was awarded a merit. The Maths Department also welcomed nine local schools to the Colfe's annual Maths Masterclass. Pupils from Blackheath Preparatory School, Merton Court Preparatory School, St James' CE Primary School, Eltham Church of England School, Brindishe Lee School, Breaside Preparatory School, All Saints Blackheath, St Olave's Preparatory School and The Pointer School joined Colfe's pupils for a morning of mathematics and friendly competition. A joint team from Colfe's and Blackheath Prep were crowned the overall winners.



COLFE'S

Newsletter

Sixth Form students have been taking advantage of the school's affiliation with the prestigious Royal Society by attending a series of lectures by leading experts from the technology industry, academia and civil society. Year 12 students, Ollie and Simone, were invited to write about their experience for the [Royal Society's Schools Network blog](#), which I would encourage you to read.

ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

The Fine Art and Graphics Summer Exhibition is always a fantastic end to the year for our artists. The quality of the work – both GCSE and A-level – is always of a very high standard and this year included a vibrant collection of hand drawings, graphics, textiles and sculptures. As well as exhibiting her latest collection of sculptures alongside pupils at the Summer Exhibition, artist-in-residence Lily German was responsible for the Year 7 Creative Collaboration workshop this half term. The result of which is a giant collection of 115 unique prints currently on display in our art studio. We wish Lily the very best of luck for the future as she leaves Colfe's at the end of the year to take her creative programmes to other schools and colleges around the UK.

The promenade production of Romeo and Juliet this term was a triumph. The 60 strong cast and crew responded magnificently to the challenge of Shakespeare's language. The audience were invited to follow the action around the school as the production moved from one location to the next. Major thanks to co-directors Natalie Maher and Danielle Sutherland for whom this was a fitting finale to a wonderful first year in the Colfe's theatre and to Richard Gregg for building a number of hugely impressive sets around the school.

The Music Department have ended the year on a high with a number of performances. The Senior School Choir sang alongside Prendergast Vale and Prendergast School at the Leathersellers' Election Day Service at St Botolph without Bishopgate and both the Senior School and Junior School choirs sang exquisitely at the Colfe's Sermon. The Summer Concert was yet again a resounding success. Many thanks to the Orchestra, Brass Group, String Quartet, Chamber Orchestra, Barbershop, Swing Band and soloists for providing a wonderful evening of musical entertainment. The final Lunchtime Recital of the year was performed by Trinity Laban student composer and pianist Marisa Munoz Lopez.

SPORT

Over 250 people were in attendance at our Sports Presentation evening this week. Well done to all those who received an award for their achievements and commitment to Colfe's sports. This year's Athletics Championship at Sutcliffe Park saw ten school records broken and many new ones created as we added hurdles to the programme and invited Year 12 to compete. Over the course of the half term more than 200 girls have participated in competitive cricket matches, with the U15 team successfully qualifying for the Kent County hardball finals and the U12 girls playing their very first hardball match. Over the last few weeks we have been honoured to welcome two England Rugby players to Colfe's – Vicky Fleetwood and Chris Hodgson gave pupils some excellent advice on strategy and position. In Netball, congratulations to Madeline (Y8), Nell (Y7) and Roshi (Y7) who have all been selected for the County Netball squads next season. Congratulations also to Elspeth (Y9), Georgia (Y10), Nathan (Y8), and Jacob (Y7) who swam in the London Regional Open Water Championships at Surrey Quays. Georgia was placed first in Kent, Elspeth third and Nathan fourth.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

Pupils 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 East Sussex this week – good luck to those undertaking their Gold qualifying in Snowdonia at the end of August. CCF students are set to leave for their Central Army Camp next week at Cinque Ports Training Area.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Io (Y7) qualified for British National Age Group Diving Championships in Sheffield, being placed ninth in the country for 3m springboard.
- Luke (Y12) won the South of England U20's High Jump championships.
- Necati (Y8) won the Alliance Boxing Challenge Cup Championships 2018 in his age and weight category, and is now ranked number one through the Alliance Boxing Association in the UK.
- Tori (Y9) won a gold medal and a first place trophy for her floor routine in The Final of the London South Region GFA Floor and Vault Competition at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.
- Tyler (Y10) received an award at Bromley's Volunteering Awards ceremony held by Community Links Bromley. He was presented with his certificate by the Deputy Mayor and Old Colfean, Councillor David Cartwright.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED:

- Ajan (Y8) has attained Merit in his Grade 8 Trinity Keyboard exams.
- Nathan (Y8) will be participating in the Welsh Swimming Nationals in August.
- Barnaby (Y10) competed in the London Youth Games for the third time winning medal for sailing.

As ever at this time of year we must say goodbye to colleagues who have decided to move on to pastures new. Each has contributed significantly to the success of the school and in some cases, over many years. I take this opportunity to specifically highlight and thank those members of staff who are retiring this year or leaving after long-service at the school.

Susan O'Leary was appointed as Pastoral Deputy Head in 2006. In the course of a highly successful period in that role she was pivotal in consolidating co-education at Colfe's. More recently she has spear-headed our in-house teacher-training programme through which many current members of staff, including several Heads of Department, were recruited. Every single trainee who has qualified under Sue's leadership has been judged outstanding by our external provider, E qualitas. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Siobhan Price retires after 16 years in the Economics and Business department. Her quiet good humour and her dedication to the success of her pupils are legendary and she has played a key part in the success of a generation of Colfe's sixth formers over the last two decades. We wish her well for her well-deserved retirement.

Also retiring at the end of this year is our much loved Nurse, Elaine Strafford. Her occasionally unconventional approach to work has endeared her to many but her tireless support for the pupils who need it most has been the most consistent feature of her time with us. She will be remembered with huge affection and we shall miss her dearly.

After 16 years as Head of the Art department, Sonia Beetlestone is moving on to a similar role elsewhere, having accomplished a huge amount during her time at Colfe's. Her period of office has coincided with our first Saatchi prize and the development of our ground-breaking partnership with Goldsmiths University.

We also wave goodbye to Alison Chapman who has been a great force for good at Colfe's over the last 28 years. Not only as a teacher of Modern Languages but also as a pastoral leader (Head of Year and Head of House) and as a leader in Outdoor Pursuits, she has impacted positively on the lives of many of her pupils over the years. We wish her well for retirement by the seaside and hope that she, and others who are leaving, will stay in touch with us in the future.

NOTICES

This half term saw the launch of our new school website. The new site is more in keeping with the ethos of and values of the school today and our pupils are central to this. We thank those who took part in the photography and filming and to the parents who helped us with feedback during the testing phase ahead of launch. We are very pleased with the new site, especially the videos, and we hope you agree.

Senior parents please note the communication regarding uniform sent from Mrs German today which will be available to view on [MyColfe's](#) - a reminder for all of the importance of and rules for school clothing. We expect pupils to return in the autumn in the correct attire.

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 restful summer break and look forward to seeing everybody back in school for the start of the autumn term on Monday 3 September.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster