



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Collaborative working and achievement have been at the forefront of school activity this term. During the Bramley House Charity Week more than 100 staff and pupils worked together to cycle the equivalent 874 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats from a static bike based in the senior school reception area. Their collective effort raised more than £2000 for children's charity Magic Moments. Our Hans Woyda Mathematics team consisting of pupils from Year 9 through to Year 13 achieved a school record when they made it through to the semi-finals of this prestigious competition, defeating leading independent schools such as Wellington College and St Paul's. Congratulations to Lara (Y13), Simone (Y13), Arthur (Y12), Dan (Y12), Logan (Y11), Panos (Y11), Isha (Y9) and Ajan (Y9) for the part that they played in this fantastic run, as well as to Professor Vijapura for his challenging practice sessions.

The academic aspirations of many senior school pupils were reflected in the popularity of our trips to Oxford and Cambridge this term. We were particularly grateful to Fitzwilliam and Magdelene Colleges in Cambridge for welcoming our pupils and to St Catherine's College in Oxford where Colfe's Governor, Professor Angela Brueggemann, has been so supportive, not only of Colfe's but also of our drive to work closely with local state schools to widen participation at the highest level in higher education. I am grateful to Claire Le Hur for all the valuable work that she continues to do in this area.

The Chairman of Governors and I were equally delighted by the collective achievement of our Key Stage 1 choir in the Festival that we hosted at Colfe's last week. It was a particular pleasure to welcome so many pupils from so many different schools. Now in its third year, this is a joyous event bringing together children from the local community and celebrating their musical talent. Joe Thompson, Musical Director of the Ivy and guest speaker, summed it up perfectly with his closing comment: "Music is the closest thing to magic and grown-ups sometimes forget this!" Thanks to Ruth Hall and her team for their tireless support of this event.

The outstanding performance of Year 6 pupils in their End of Term production, *Mystery at Magpie Manor*, was another Junior School highlight.

ACADEMIC

Further to our success in the Hans Woyda competition our more junior mathematicians, Louise and Isha (Y9) and Samson and Paloma (Y8), secured an impressive ninth place out of 33 schools in the UKMT regional final of the Team Mathematics Challenge.

Year 9 House Science saw pupils battle it out in a CSI style challenge to identify a culprit using crime-scene evidence and analytical chemical techniques such as flame tests and chromatography. Three of the four teams managed to pinpoint the guilty party but Beardwood House clinched the win with the best presentation of their findings.

Senior School pupils joined in with World Book Week celebrations in their own unique style by fashioning some of their favourite book characters from potato as part of the Great Potato Challenge. Winning characters included Professor Branestawn, Mr Happy, Hedwig and Yoda. Many thanks to Mrs Englefield, Head Librarian, for her co-ordination of this event and many other creative reading initiatives for senior pupils. Thanks also to the many parents, staff and students who have donated to the Acorn Group book club campaign which has been set up to collect and redistribute pre-loved children's books to schools and organisations in need. The Acorn Group has been a keen sponsor of Colfe's sport for some years now and we greatly value our relationship with this leading local business.



ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

The Senior School Spring Concert included accomplished performances from our String Quartet, String Ensemble, Brass Group, Wind Band, Barbershop, Chamber Singers, Senior Choir and Swing Band.

We were delighted to welcome the Zweiland String Quartet from Trinity Laban for a performance of Beethoven's String Quartet No. 4 and Dvorak's American' Quartet. It was an inspiration for our pupils to experience performance at such a high level from these aspiring young professionals. The senior choir enjoyed success at the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech, winning the under-18 mixed-choir category and achieving a certificate of distinction for their technically and artistically accomplished performance. Teddy (Year 12), Eleanor (Year 12) and Alice (Year 11) travelled to central London to perform at the Leathersellers' Hall as part of their annual music recital, alongside scholars from the Guildhall School of Music.

We have also enjoyed some particularly powerful performances from our A-level Drama students. Sophie, Zac, Brooke, Milly and Gigi (Year 13) performed 100 by Neil Monaghan, Diene Petterle and Christopher Heimann. Damil, Hannah, Francesca and Holly (Year 12) performed their own script of Nothing More Than a Cycle for their examination piece. Deriving from the starting point of the play Find Me by Olwen Wymark, this poignant and hard-hitting work demonstrated how mental health issues can affect a family. On a slightly lighter theme, rehearsals are now underway for the lower school production of James and The Giant Peach (Years 7-9) and tickets are now on sale.

Art pupils are preparing for the forthcoming final exams and summer exhibition. Several of our A-level students have gained places on Fine Art foundation courses and Architecture and Design undergraduate courses. Our partnership with Goldsmiths, University of London continues to go from strength to strength with visits from undergraduates this term to discuss coursework ideas and concepts with our Year 12 students.

SPORT

In girls' sport, the U15 girls secured an impressive second place in the Kent County Lady Taverners' indoor cricket competition. U12 netballers have also had a strong season, winning seven out of their 10 fixtures and reaching the quarter-final stages of the Kent Schools Tournament. Year 7 girls' football has taken off this term with a flying start. The team narrowly missed out at the quarter-finals of the Bromley Schools Football Competition and played seven fixtures across U12 A&B teams, of which they won three of these fixtures against tough opposition.

In rugby, students, staff and Colfe's alumni were victorious in the London SE England intermediate cup final. The team are now one game away from playing at Twickenham with the national cup semi-final at Horn Park on the 20th April. The rugby Sevens season has been a very busy period as usual with school teams competing in prestigious national tournaments in groups alongside other independent schools including St Paul's, Warwick and Brighton College in addition to solid performances in the county and national competitions.

Pupils competed in the English Schools and London Schools Water Polo Tournaments for the first time this term and we continued with our annual swimming competitions (such as the Kent Schools and London League) as well as local galas. We have had continued success over local rivals St

Dunstan's, Eltham College, Alleyn's, Farrington's, JAGS, Bromley High, Forest School, Brentwood and more recently, Sutton Valance.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

Y8 enjoyed a trip to Snowdonia where they took part in mining, mountain walking and gorge exploring. Some were brave enough to abandon their tents and sleep in their own shelters constructed from woodland materials. Y9 visited Boughton Woods where they had the opportunity to experience new skills including personal development, decision-making, bushcraft and first aid. Trips over the Easter holidays include a Geography trip to Iceland and Languages to Paris.

Pupils put our electric car to the test at Goodwood RRC circuit, racing the full 2.4 mile Goodwood circuit and reaching speeds of up to 23.9mph. Y10 and Y12 had a fantastic day exploring Cambridge University thanks to Fitzwilliam College and Magdalene College.

The CCF squadron deployed to Cinque Ports Training Area (CPTA) over the half term break where 43 cadets were tested on the skills of navigation, military tactics, first aid and camouflage and concealment amongst others. Panos (Y11) attended 11 Brigade's Senior Cadet Instructors Cadre at Longmoor Training Camp. The Squadron was also delighted to provide an honour guard for the Leathersellers' Armed Forces Dinner.



ONLINE SAFETY AND WELLBEING

We hosted an online safety workshop for senior school parents last week in collaboration with Digital Awareness UK. Our aim is to work closely with parents to minimise the potential risks posed to our pupils online and prioritise their safety and wellbeing. Whenever possible, we seek to ensure that pupils and parents get the same message on matters of pastoral importance such as this. We would all agree that technology has transformed our lives in recent years and it is crucially important that pupils should understand its dangers as well as its benefits.

On the subject of wellbeing, teachers have been working very closely with pupils in all years – with particular emphasis on Y11 and Sixth Form – on how to manage their time effectively with homework and revision over the Easter break. Clear expectations and schedules have been agreed and set and we encourage you to communicate with your child to achieve the most effective balance of work and relaxation over the holiday.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Henry (Y7) earned five bronzes at the Kent County Swimming Championships
- Roshanak (Y8) played up two year groups into the Y10 team for the Kent Netball U15 squad and the team came away with the gold medal
- Fraser (Y8) has been selected to join the U13 London Schools cricket squad, in addition to selection for the U13 Kent rugby squad wherein he has been joined by Freddie (Y8) and Louis (Y8)
- Evan (Y9) has earned his brown and white karate belt and is now training towards his black
- Nathan (Y9) attended the CBSS Open Swim Meet in Biggleswade achieving four personal best times and three first and one second place position
- Nathan (Y9) became the 200m Kent Butterfly Champion
- Lily (Y11) has been taking part in the Kent Hockey County Academy since September and has now been selected for the U16 Kent County Side
- Sam (Y11) has been selected to run for Royal Greenwich in the mini London Marathon
- Joe (Y12) has won an Arkwright Scholarship Sponsor (Engineering)
- Oliver (Y13) has received a position on the Lighting Sound and Projection course with the National Youth Theatre
- Elspeth, Sophia, Blythe (Y10) and Olivia (Y9) qualified for the freestyle final at the National Bath Cup Relay Competition (swimming) and Ryan (Y13), Ben (Y10), Denny (Y10) and Nathan (Y9) put in a strong performance against many sixth form teams in their 4 x 100m freestyle and 4 x 50m medley relay.

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

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 in the Bursary Office.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break, I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Wednesday 24 April.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster