



May 2019



## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The summer term is always an exciting time with lots of events, trips and performances. It also marks the beginning of examination season for older students. The current Year 11 have worked responsibly and methodically in the run up to this important period and I wish them well with their forthcoming GCSEs.

Last week marked the end of formal lessons for A-level pupils who – as has become tradition – celebrated the occasion with a regression to childhood including fancy dress, an ice cream van and a staff versus pupils' tug-of-war. The success of the staff team in the latter marked the end of a deplorable run of failure in recent years. We will miss this group of Year 13 pupils 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.

Our pastoral wellbeing programme Eudaimonia – based on the teachings of Aristotle – featured in the Sunday Telegraph last weekend. This is the first year for the programme and its focus on personal flourishing as a by-product of living a morally good life caught the attention of the national press as wellbeing and mental health awareness is an increasing focus for all schools. You can read the article [here](#) along with commentary from the distinguished philosopher AC Grayling: "This is exactly what schools should be getting their pupils to think about. I would love to see this idea implemented in all schools."

As if to exemplify Aristotle's equation of happiness (Eudaimonia) with activity (Energeia), I am delighted to take this opportunity to record the following highlights of the term so far. Please remember that you can also view Colfe's news, images and insights via our official [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils across the Junior School took part in a colourful Maypole Dance workshop to celebrate the start of summer earlier this month. Each class learnt how to weave intricate patterns with ribbons to traditional folk music. There have been a number of trips for our younger pupils this half term. Year 3 visited the French Institute, which included a workshop on French language comics; Year 5 took a science trip to the Royal Observatory to learn more about the earth and beyond and Reception pupils visited The Royal Maritime Museum Greenwich learning about exploring the high seas and local maritime history.

Residential trips this half term saw our Year 5 pupils travel to Bradwell Bay in Essex to take part in a week of activities including mountain biking and sailing on the River Blackwater. Year 6 travelled to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset where they took part in a range of activities including coasteering, hiking and sea angling.

## **ACADEMIC**

After a close competition at Dulwich College, Colfe's lower school pupils brought home the coveted CWISL CWIZZ book quiz trophy for the second year running. It was an impressive afternoon as our three teams of students were placed first, third and fourth in an extremely competitive field. Congratulations to Isaac (Y8), Nico (Y8), Katie (Y8) and Paloma (Y8) who were placed first; Samson (Y8), Polly (Y8), Holly (Y7) and Xanthe (Y7) who came third and Joshua (Y8), Ned (Y7), Leif (Y7) and Mirja (Y7) who came in fourth.

## **ART, DRAMA & MUSIC**

Following our fantastic success last year, Colfe's pupils have once again been invited to join the highly prestigious National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Francesca (Y12), Millie (Y10) and Denny (Y10) secured their places after auditioning for an acting course. Arthur (Y11) won a place for a sound engineering course and Oliver (Y13) – who hopes to continue his education next year at the Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance – was selected for a specialist lighting course. Upon completion of the NYT course, all five pupils will become company members. As such, they will have access to exclusive castings and performance opportunities. Closer to home, the Lower School production of *James and the Giant Peach* is on 12-14 June; tickets are available to book [here](#).

Big Smoke Brass performed as part of our Trinity Laban Conservatoire series. The exciting young brass ensemble featured high-energy New Orleans-style pop music and a selection of classical pieces. The platform concert last week was as successful as ever with parents and staff enjoying a varied selection of pieces performed by pupils from Year 7 through to Year 12.

Meanwhile senior Art pupils have been working hard to complete their coursework for GCSE and A-level. The final summer exhibition will be completed over half term, with a private viewing on the 18 June.

## **SPORT**

We were delighted to host a tennis-coaching day for our own staff and those from local schools at the start of term. The Miss-Hits programme was founded by Judy Murray, with the aim of encouraging more girls in to the sport. Teachers were taught simple skill-building exercises and games designed to help introduce pupils to starter tennis.

In girls' football the U11 side performed well at the ISFA football qualifiers and girls' cricket had a successful start to the season with all age groups playing in competitive fixtures. We look forward to further fixtures after the half term break.

In boys' cricket the first team were victorious over Wilson's Grammar School in the semi-final but sadly lost out to Trinity School in the final of the regional HMC 2020 competition. Matches were played in our new kit kindly provided by sponsors Hamptons International.

The popularity of water polo at the school continues with conspicuous success. The U14 mixed team played brilliantly in the London Schools tournament, finishing in second place with a 7-4 win against Eltham College.

Well done to Sophia (Y10), Anna (Y10), Amelie (Y10), Edith (Y9), Matthew (Y7), Nico (Y8) and Joseph (Y7) who represented Colfe's in the Dulwich Inter-schools Cycling Championships for the first time against tough competition. The girls finished in a phenomenal second place with Edith winning rider of the day.

In swimming, Blythe (Y10), Nathan (Y9), Jacob (Y8), Zach (Y8), Amie (Y8) and Henry (Y7) performed well in the 2019 London Regional Summer Championships across a variety of distances and strokes. Special mention to Panos (Y11), Ben, Denny, Sophia, Elspeth (Y10) and Max (Y8) who have been regularly assisting and teaching the younger members of the swimming and water polo sessions, imparting their knowledge and acting as role models.

## **OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS**

Colfe's pupils travelled on two educational trips over the Easter break. Year 11 and 12 visited Paris and enjoyed the sites of the Musée d'Orsay, The Grand Rex, the Sacré-Coeur and L'Opéra Garnier. Pupils were also some of the last to see Notre Dame in its reigning glory before the tragic fire only two weeks later. Years 8, 9 and 10 went on a field trip to Iceland which included visiting the Gullfoss Waterfall in the Golden Circle where they witnessed the eruptions of the Stokkur Geysir and a tour of Reykjavik.

The CST Cadre weekend in May saw 14 cadets from Year 10 trained in the soft and hard skills necessary to become recruit instructors. CSCCF visited the Royal School of Mechanical Engineering, Chatham Barracks. The next generation of cadets will deploy to Cinque Ports Training Area over half-term to be put through their paces in preparation for selection into Colfe's CCF Squadron.

## **INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Jonathan (Y7) was awarded a silver medal in the under 18s London County Championship Archery competition after discovering his talent for archery on a Year 4 Outdoor Pursuits trip.
- Eleanor (Y8) won the Kent Girls and Ladies Football League Tina Marshall Trophy Cup for U13 with the Footscray Lions.
- Nathan (Y9) achieved three PBs including a Bronze Medal in the 200m Butterfly at the London Swimming Championships.
- Congratulations to Jack (Y8) who placed second in the Kent Schools Golf Championships, missing out on the gold medal by only one point.
- Francesca (Y12) performed as Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* at Erith Playhouse and was the lead in *Hairspray* at Thameside Theatre, Thurrock.
- Eleanor (Y12) took part in the 'LPO Soundworks' programme, a side-by-side workshop with professional musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Congratulations to Nikolas (Y13) and Emanuele (Y13) who achieved their first-degree black belt in Taekwon-Do.
- A number of Colfe's teachers and pupils took part in marathons over the Easter holidays. Congratulations to pupils Benjamin (Y12), Sam (Y11), Alice (Y9), Nathan (Y9), Madeline (Y9), Thomas (Y9), Scarlett (Y7), Emily (Y7), Evie (Y8), Isabella (Y8) and Talemwa (Y7) who ran the London Mini Marathon for Royal Greenwich. Congratulations also to Mr Holmes, Director of Music who ran in the Manchester Marathon and Mrs Dunster, Teacher of Psychology and Ms Crummay, Head of History who both ran the London Marathon.

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**

Once again, I must draw your attention to the congestion and parking difficulties around the school at the beginning and end of the school day. I am very aware of the congestion in Horn Park Lane and Upwood Road in the mornings and evenings and we would much prefer it if a higher proportion of Senior School pupils would use public transport or cycle to school.

Parents who drive their children to school should always park considerately and take care not to leave vehicles blocking the driveways of local residents. Neighbours of the school who have been repeatedly inconvenienced in this way are now reporting such incidents to the police and have approached the council regarding sending a warden to patrol and ticket such vehicles. So please check carefully before parking and particularly carefully before leaving your vehicle in the vicinity of the school.

Wishing you all a restful half term, I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Monday 3 June.

Best wishes,

**Richard Russell**  
**Headmaster**