



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

This year has been one of the busiest that I can recall. Pupil achievement across the range at the school activity has been prodigious, as was acknowledged by the Leathersellers' Company on the occasion of its annual Visitation earlier this month. Leathersellers, Governors and guests were entertained by our Junior and Senior Choirs. They also enjoyed an excerpt of the Lower School production of James and The Giant Peach and spent an hour in the GCSE and A-Level Summer Art Exhibition. This year's work was of a remarkably high standard. A new school video on co-curricular activity can now be played through the [Colfe's website](#).

In accordance with the Will of our Founder, we gathered at St Mary's Church in Lewisham for the Founder's Day Service on the 16th June. Choirs from the Junior and Senior Schools were once again outstanding and our school chaplain, Father Steve Hall, struck just the right note from the pulpit. The subsequent cricket match between the school and the Leathersellers' Company went down to the last over. Victory eventually went to the school with Olivia (Y9) – currently playing for Kent U15s – taking two wickets.

The generosity of the Leathersellers' Company has extended well beyond losing cricket matches in recent years. They continue to fund our ground-breaking Sixth Form Scholarship programme and match-fund a lot of the charitable fundraising that happens in the school through the year. Including the Company's contribution, the total for the year currently stands at £31,470, with further funds still to be added. Charities supported this year include Help For Heroes, Macmillan Cancer Support and Young Minds.

As always, the last few weeks of the summer term are filled with celebrations, farewells and new beginnings. The Sixth Form Ball was a particular highlight for our departing Year 13 students at the Bromley Court Hotel. Thanks to Mrs Biggs and the student committee for their organisation of this very successful event. I am also very happy to announce our new school captains for next year – Dan and Tochi – who will be well supported by an unusually strong team of senior prefects.

The content of the following paragraphs is inevitably eclectic and can never be comprehensive. Please remember that you can also view Colfe's news, images and insights via our official Twitter and Facebook pages.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

This year's Junior School Summer Fair is in aid of the Anaphylaxis Campaign – selected by the pupils to help highlight the need for better understanding and care for children growing up with severe allergies. As with much Senior School charity, all money raised will be generously match-funded by the Leathersellers' Company.

Year 5 pupils once again took part in our annual Maths Masterclass run by the Senior School. We were also pleased to welcome over 30 pupils from a number of local state and prep schools. My thanks Dr Buescu, Prof Vijapura and Year 10 helpers for making the day run as smoothly as possible for all involved. Congratulations to the winning team made up of pupils from Colfe's and Merton Court.

Trips for Junior School pupils this term have included a (very wet) visit to Mudchute Farm for Nursery and Horton Kirby Environmental Education Centre for Year 1. Year 2 visited Wildcat Wilderness in Catford and took part in a mini-beast hunt, constructed dens and built a campfire.

Year 3 pupils had their first taste of outdoor pursuits travelling to Swattenden, Kent for two action-packed days. Teamwork and communications skills were essential for successful navigation of the assault course leading a blindfolded partner along the nightline course. Many were fearless as they climbed to the top of a tree and soared through the air on a zip wire.



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Both the Junior School Sports Days enjoyed good weather. The junior athletes impressed, as ever, with their enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. Activities included the 80m sprint, hurdles, speed bounce and medicine ball push. Pegasus were the victors in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and Lynx were the winners of Key Stage 2. Parental requests for the return of the sack race will be considered in advance of next year.

ACADEMIC

Many congratulations to pupils in Years 7-10 whose achievements were celebrated at our Lower School Prizegiving this week, hosted by the school's Chairman of Governors Matthew Pellereau.

After the success of the Junior Mathematics Challenge at the end of April (in which pupils from Years 7 and 8 achieved an outstanding 92 certificates), several pupils progressed to the next stage where they achieved a merit in the Olympiad and the Kangaroo stages. Congratulations to Ahan (Y8) who achieved a merit in the Olympiad and Eleanor (Y8) in the Kangaroo (European) Challenge.

We continue to work in partnership with many state secondary schools in the local area under the supervision of our Director of Schools Partnerships, Claire Lehur. Thanks to her endeavours, supported by the Leathersellers' Company, we have been able to work increasingly closely with St Catherine's College Oxford, who visited the school this week to hold a workshop on university applications and to judge our first annual essay competition which is open to all pupils from our partnership schools. The panel chose three overall winners: congratulations to Heather from Prendergast Vale School who achieved first place, Diana (Y10) from Colfe's who came second and Zoe from Addey & Stanhope School who was third. We look forward to working more closely with St Catherine's College as it plays its part in Oxford's bid to widen access to include more pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

ART, DRAMA & MUSIC

The Lower School production of James and the Giant Peach was a huge success this term. Approximately 40 pupils from Year 7-9 took part, whether on stage or behind the scenes. Well done to all pupils for their hard work and my thanks to Natalie Maher, Director of Drama, and her team for yet another outstanding production.

I was delighted to see so many parents at the recent LAMDA showcase. The performances are an opportunity for pupils to show off their work from their LAMDA lessons and get the chance to perform in front of an audience prior to their grade examinations. I was delighted to hear that no fewer than 165 students from across the Junior and Senior Schools are currently working towards LAMDA qualifications.

The A-level and GCSE Art exhibition earlier this month was particularly well supported by friends, family, former students and Governors. The range of the work on display this year was especially impressive – we hope that the examiners will agree! Prior to the exhibition, A-level students had the benefit of mock interviews with undergraduate students at Goldsmiths, University of London and had the opportunity to discuss their ideas and plans for future work.

As part of our Trinity Laban Conservatoire Recital series we were fortunate to welcome Spanish harpist Noelia Cotuna, winner of the 2019 Trinity Laban Soloist's Competition, who performed an outstanding programme of French music. We wish her every success at the USA International Harp Competition in July. The professional concert series has been a most welcome addition to the Music calendar, enabling our scholars and other musicians to hear soloists and ensembles performing at a very high level.

The end of term concert earlier this week was an opportunity, inter alia, to thank those members of the departing Year 13 (James, Max and Leo) for all that they have done over the years to contribute to the strength of Colfe's music. It was great to see so many past pupils, parents and grandparents returning for this delightful event.

SPORT

In athletics, 14 new records were set on Sports Day - which is a record in itself. Nine of these were in the Lower School, including Madeline (Y8) who is currently the London Schools' Champion in her age group for the 800m.

Girls' cricket has excelled this year with the team winning over half their matches played. The U12s have had some great wins, including Sydenham High and St. Dunstan's College. The U13 side just missed out on the Kent indoor finals day and took part in the U13 'Chance to Compete' competition hosted by Kent Cricket. The U13A team had a great 22 run win over St. Dunstan's and a 10 wicket win against Sydenham High. The Girls U14 sides have had comprehensive wins over Blackheath High and St. Dunstan's College and the U15A team made the Kent indoor finals, placing third. Our U18 team beat Eltham College in a great fixture.

Girls' football continues to grow in popularity. Tournaments this year have included the U13 Charlton Athletic Community Tournament, with Colfe's finishing second in their qualifying group, as well as the U13 ISFA Football Competition and the U13 ISFA Futsal competition where the team won two of their three games and qualified for the semi-final.

The boys' Year 9 and Year 10 tennis team have reached the county finals of the Aegon Schools Tennis Competition. Well done to Ben (Y10), Patrick (Y10), Joey (Y9) and Josh (Y7).



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We have had another successful cricket season. The first team had a 75% win ratio and finished the season by beating Eltham College in dramatic fashion by one run. The highlight of the season has been the success of the boys in the London Schools Cup. Both the U13 and U14 teams were knocked out in the quarterfinals but the first team managed to win the U19 competition, beating City of London, UCS and

Westminster. We also had a great game against the Leathersellers' Company that went into the last over for the third year in a row. Olivia (Y9) became the first girl to play in the fixture and took two wickets. We would again like to thank our sponsors Hamptons International for providing the First XI kit this year and John Payne for agreeing to sponsor the First XV Rugby team kit.

Water polo is becoming increasingly popular with pupils. Teams have taken part in both the Colfe's, the English Schools and London Schools Tournaments this term with many more enjoying the training and after-school external clubs. A particular success was the U14 mixed team scoring a 7-4 win against Eltham.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS & TRIPS

This term has seen a number of Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. Over 70 pupils have undertaken two weekends of training in Kent as well as various qualifying expeditions. Silver qualifying expeditions are currently underway in the South Downs National Park with 20 pupils and cadets from the CCF Squadron and the Gold Expedition heading to Wales at the end of the holidays.

There is a steady stream of activity for CCF cadets over the summer break including a rare opportunity to visit the Royal Artillery on Salisbury Plain Training Area; the Army section deploys to CPTA, Folkestone on their annual central camp and the RAF section to RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. At the end of August, Year 10 cadets deploy to Snowdonia National Park to gain the Mountain Training Association's 'Mountain Skills' qualification and cadets in Year 11 and Year 12 will be completing four days of 100km practice and qualifying expeditions for the Gold level of the award.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Jack (Y8) won the Sundridge Park Junior May Medal and was the winner on handicap at the Kent Golf Union Race to St George's Competition at Walmer & Kingsdown Golf Club
- Jasmin (Y9) has qualified in the three disciplines of show jumping, cross country, and dressage for The Hickstead Sunshine tour and qualified in Affiliated British Show Jumping
- Nathan (Y9) has qualified for the ASA Summer Swim Meet (English Nationals) for the 200m Butterfly
- Madeline (Y9) won the London Schools Championship 800m final for U15 girls
- Max (Y13) has been offered a special award scholarship by the Institute of Civil Engineers to study at Surrey University
- Ahan (Y8) has achieved his black belt in karate
- George (Y9) was a member of the Tower Hamlets team who won the gold medal for best overall results in kayaking in the London Youth Games
- Elspeth (Y10) swam in the London Open Water Championships achieving 7th place in London and a 1st place gold medal for Kent.

If you have news of any out-of-school achievements for your son or daughter please let us know by emailing our Communications Team at comms@colfes.com.

DEPARTING STAFF

The end of the academic year provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of those colleagues who will be leaving Colfe's to pursue their careers elsewhere. We are deeply grateful to them for all that they have contributed during their time with us.

Adam Greenwood has been appointed Headmaster of Pointers School in Blackheath after four very busy and successful years at Colfe's, notably as Head of Year 7. He leaves with our best wishes and we look forward to an even stronger relationship with one of our most valued feeder schools.

Mrs Judy Cardnell is retiring from her key role of overseeing higher education and careers after 18 years of highly distinguished service. We will miss her enormously. Her many achievements include the development of the biennial Colfe's Higher Education and Careers Fair which is very much the best of its kind. I am delighted to report that she shall maintain contact with Colfe's as our school archivist next year.

Miss Emerald Henderson has decided to return to full time study to follow a Master's course in Moral Philosophy at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Emerald has made an enormous contribution as Head of Religion and Philosophy over the last 8 years, including the development of our unique well-being programme Eudaimonia. She has made a very special contribution to the intellectual life of the school and we wish her well for the future.

Mrs Eileen Reevell has been a mainstay of the Colfe's Junior School for more than two decades, much loved by a generation of pupils and parents. She will be hugely missed and she embarks on well-deserved retirement with all our good wishes.



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Mr Guy Lane leaves the Junior School, having made a decisive contribution to junior sport across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. His patience and enthusiasm will be greatly missed when he and his family relocate to Dover this summer.

We also say farewell to Mr Delarry Sawyer who has decided not to return from his current sabbatical year, having taught Chemistry at Colfe's for the previous seven years. He will be greatly missed.

Thanks also to Mrs Trisha Theodore-Heath, Mr Miguel Garcia Las Heras, Mrs Laura Doran and, in the Junior School, to Mrs Jenny Cizek, Miss Claire Isbeque and Miss Kate Stickland. All will be moving on to pastures new and they leave with our thanks and best wishes.

NOTICES

As is now a regular call to action, I must continue to draw your attention to the congestion and parking difficulties around the school at the beginning and end of the school day.

Parents who drive their children to school should always park considerately and take care not to leave vehicles blocking the driveways of local residents. Please check carefully before parking and particularly carefully before leaving your vehicle near the school.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing pupils back at school on Monday 2 September.

Best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster