



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 17/12/21

Dear Parents

I am delighted to report that the final week of term has been free from further interruption. We have even managed to hold another Year 1 class assembly with parents present and two key musical events in the senior school.

The Winter Concert was as well attended as any I can remember but the audience was safely accommodated in the main school hall. The programme was varied and consistently entertaining. Although the Carol Service on Wednesday became a senior school only event it was nonetheless a privilege to be back in St Mary's Church in Lewisham which was the first location of the school that the Reverend Abraham Colfe first founded in 1652. Huge thanks to Mr Holmes and all our musicians for all they have accomplished in recent weeks.

Thanks also to the PAFA Committee for all they have done in the Junior School this week. Undaunted by the decision not to go ahead with the Christmas Fayre, Michelle, Liz and Bonnie have worked tirelessly to produce individually wrapped Christmas gifts for all junior school pupils.

We say three important farewells at the end of this term:

- After five and a half very successful years as Head of the Junior School, **Miss Catriona Macleod** will be moving on to other things in the New Year. Under her leadership the Junior School has evolved into a unified whole with a determined focus on academic achievement. Her sense of fun and boundless energy will be hugely missed.
- **Major Russell Joyce** will be moving on after 10 years running the school's alumni relations. More recently, he has been the commanding officer of the school's CCF squadron, having first joined it as a Colfe's pupil 30 years ago.
- **Mrs Ruth Hall** has played a pivotal role in Junior school music over the last 20 years, directing numerous Key Stage 1 and Early Years productions. She has enabled a generation of Colfe's pupils to take their first steps in performance in the Christmas Nativity and many others. She will be hugely missed.

Looking ahead to January, we have to acknowledge that much is currently uncertain. It now seems possible that the government's determination to keep schools open next term may be thwarted by the progress of the omicron

variant. We shall monitor the situation carefully through the holiday and update parents in the New Year when the position has become clearer. Contingency plans are in place if we need to shift to remote learning again but we very much hope they will not be necessary. One of the new measures that we will be considering, in the light of our recent experience, is a requirement for Key Stage 2 pupils in the Junior School to wear masks, at least in communal areas.

For now, however, I would like to conclude by congratulating all members of our community on all that has been achieved inside and outside the classroom this term and record my thanks to my colleagues for everything they have done to support our pupils across the range of school activity.

With best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Richard Russell
Headmaster
