



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 04/03/22

Dear Parents

The developing situation in the Ukraine has been front of mind for us all in recent days. Pupils and colleagues are individually and collectively distressed by eye-witness accounts and news reports from the region. It has of course been a particularly dreadful time for Colfe's families who have relatives or friends in the region with whom they are in contact. We are all equally horrified by the news that is sent through daily by BBC journalists who are now in great personal danger themselves. We have made it clear repeatedly, and will continue to do so, that this dreadful military offensive is not the responsibility of the Russian people collectively.

The overwhelming feeling amongst senior school pupils seems to be one of helplessness. There is a very strong consequent desire within the whole of the school community to do something tangible that might make a difference. Within this context we are grateful to junior school parents who have already stepped forward to channel donations of first aid/baby and sanitary supplies through a local organisation, with a view to transporting such items into the Ukraine itself. I am also in direct contact with Greenwich Council to consider ways in which we can potentially support refugees and their families. Meanwhile we will be reviewing the priorities for school charity, ensuring that any charitable funds directed to the Ukraine are routed through mainstream organisations such as the Red Cross. The collective desire of pupils and parents to make a difference in this crisis has been inspiring and I hope very much that we will be able to play our part in the weeks to come.

The gravity of the situation in the Ukraine inevitably reminds us of how lucky we are to be able to enjoy the normal activity that we take for granted in an open society. I am accordingly delighted to report that our senior school water polo team were victorious in all their matches in the semi-final of the national water polo competition hosted by St Paul's School earlier this week. This was a fantastic achievement for all concerned against strong opponents including St Paul's itself, King's College School Wimbledon and Eltham College. World Book Day was celebrated enthusiastically in the junior school yesterday, the pupils enjoyed themselves almost as much as Mr Rogers did in his Gruffalo costume. I look forward to many such successes in the remaining weeks of the Spring Term.

With best wishes to you all

Richard Russell
Headmaster