



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 08/09/23

Dear Parents

Colfe's pupils of all ages returned to school on Monday in glorious sunshine which seems likely to last into next week. New routines are becoming established quickly as pupils and teachers set targets for the year ahead. Sports fixtures will start very soon and auditions are already taking place for the senior school drama production later this term.

We have started the year on a high, with excellent results at A level and GCSE. We now know that 97% of last year's Year 13 have won places at their chosen destinations, ranging from Oxbridge to degree apprenticeships with multinational corporate organizations. The GCSE headlines were even more impressive, with 79% of entries graded 7-9. The key point of comparison nationally was with 2019 when the corresponding figure at Colfe's was 54%. This level of improvement speaks volumes for the progress made by the school during the years of the pandemic and its aftermath, as well as for the dedication of last year's Year 11 and their teachers. We look forward to acknowledging this achievement at the senior school prizegiving next week.

One implication of the growing popularity of the school is that the site is particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day. I would therefore be grateful if parents could **not** drive on to school premises when they come to drop off or collect children. The only exception is when senior school parents are picking children up from after school fixtures, events or rehearsals. On a related point, I am sorry to report that we have received a number of complaints from residents in Upwood Road about inconsiderate parking, sometimes obstructing residents' access to their own driveways.

When the heat subsides next week we will be returning to full school uniform in the senior school, including blazers and ties for boys. Parents of **senior school girls** (Years 7 to 11) are reminded of the rule that kilts should be worn 'just above the knee or longer'. Likewise, sixth form girls will be expected to comply with the "smart business dress" criteria more closely than has sometimes been the case this week. I need to be clear that our expectations will be consistently applied and that there will be an appropriate disciplinary response if these are contravened, including communication with parents.

We have much to look forward to between now and Christmas across the range of school activity. Thanks in advance to all parents for everything you do to support your children's endeavours in school.

With best wishes to all

Richard Russell
Headmaster