

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear students and parents

As the summer term starts and I write to provide a series of updates on the college, our community have all returned onsite for the first time since March last year. This full reopening has been a long time in the planning, with new social and catering areas organised to help with social distancing and separation of year groups. We are confident that this major step towards a sense of normality is the right thing to do and have taken reassurance in the smooth implementation of mass testing last month. However, it is vital that all our community, students and staff, remain vigilant to the risks of COVID-19 and observe all of the safety arrangements at all times. I ask all of you to please support us in this endeavour, so that we do not endanger anyone's wellbeing and the hard-won achievements we have made.

### **Summer term**

Although Collyer's is finally back to a normal timetable, there remain many challenges for all our community during the last term of the academic year. Rob Hussey, our Vice Principal (Curriculum), has written recently to explain the outcome of the recent Ofqual consultation on summer grading. He has provided reassurance that we will adopt a professional and consistent approach that supports students in achieving their potential. Whilst lessons have all returned to fully onsite delivery, larger college events remain more complicated to deliver safely and in the short-term will either be cancelled or moved online. We had hoped to run our prizegiving event, postponed from just before Christmas, but will now write to prize winners instead this year to award prizes. Founder's Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May, when our 2A students graduate college, will take place online.

### **Safety, safeguarding and student wellbeing**

Collyer's is fully committed to the safety of all our community and safeguarding will always be our first priority as a college. In tutorial this week, as last year, 1A and Transition students will be engaging with the issues of sexual consent and sexual harassment. Safeguarding concerns raised by any member of our community are always taken very seriously and acted on by our experienced safeguarding team. We have a dedicated email address for raising safeguarding concerns: [safe@collyers.ac.uk](mailto:safe@collyers.ac.uk) or students can make an appointment to speak with a member of the team in person via Student Services. Andrea John, our Vice Principal (Pastoral) and Designated Safeguarding Lead, is working with the Student Support team to put in place enhanced wellbeing support for students impacted negatively by lockdown and has appointed an additional temporary Wellbeing Practitioner for the summer term.

### **Feedback and involvement in college community**

Each year we survey students and parents for their opinions about the college. We will send a link to this year's survey via email tomorrow, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please do take the time to complete the questionnaire. Your views are important to us and we consider the results of the survey carefully to put in place continual improvements. This year we welcome views about our response to Covid and regular feedback on teaching, learning and support.

As well as responding to surveys, another way parents can be involved in the future of the college is by becoming a parent governor. I would like to highlight to all parents that there will be vacancy for a parent governor advertised soon and applications are warmly welcomed. This is an ideal opportunity to be engaged in college operations as well as strategic plans for the future – with many exciting initiatives ahead of us as we develop towards our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation in 2032.

## Longer-term plans

Alongside responding to the pandemic and focusing on student progress and wellbeing, there are a number of exciting opportunities and initiatives focused on the future. As a Mercers' school, Collyer's benefits from very strong links to The Mercers' Company and [The Guild of Mercers' Scholars](#). Each year students are offered a fantastic opportunity to take on [an apprenticeship through the guild](#), developing an understanding of the workings of the City of London and forging a network that will help in future careers. If any students would like to know more about this possibility, please email Linda MacLeman [lm@collyers.ac.uk](mailto:lm@collyers.ac.uk) to express your interest.



Finally, in my last update I explained how Collyer's, as part of our new College Strategic Plan 2020-23, was focusing on its incredible heritage and developing work on sustainability. We have now published the initial pages of new microsites for [Heritage](#) and [Sustainability](#) on the college website, which give a summary of future plans for these areas. Look out for new additions as the committees roll out their initiatives. Alongside these two projects our initial planning for the new teaching building is taking shape as well, with a project management team appointed and design work for the new classroom block underway. I look forward to sharing more visuals in due course once construction is under way.



Take care everyone and keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Lodge".

Dan Lodge  
Principal