

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear students and parents

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and were able to enjoy a restful Christmas break. In this spring newsletter, as usual I would like to share a range of updates about the college as well as looking ahead to the future and exciting plans for Collyer's.

### **Teaching, learning and support**

Last September we welcomed back all students 100% onsite to almost a sense of normality, with not only all lessons operating but the return of a full range of enrichment including a very successful Freshers Fair. Students and staff have been delighted to experience once again the full sense of what Collyer's offers and whilst we of course continue to manage our Covid safety very carefully, morale is high. Rob Hussey (VP – Curriculum) has been leading our teachers and curriculum managers in supporting catch up as well as planning ahead to follow government guidance for exams. Andrea John (VP – Pastoral) has overseen enhanced wellbeing support for our students where they have found the last academic year more challenging. Staff and students are confident and ready for the upcoming exams seasons.

### **COVID-19 safety**

As you will know from my previous emails, we have continued to err on the side of caution with Covid contingency plans and focus on the safety of all within our community. This approach has served us well, with numbers of positive student cases at Collyer's no higher than 15 (less than 1%) for much of the autumn term. We have maintained one way systems and a cap on large meetings since September. In late November we re-introduced face masks in social areas to support West Sussex County Council's updated guidance. As I write, as part of the government's plan B restrictions our office-based support staff are working from home where possible and face masks have just been reintroduced in class. We all hope that there will be no lockdowns imposed due to the Omicron variant that affect onsite teaching and learning – but of course we are fully ready to respond if this is the case. Collyer's Online, based on Microsoft Teams and SharePoint, will maintain the excellent education that we provide every day. Whenever government guidance changes significantly I will of course write to all our community with our updated plans.

### **Partnerships**

A key aspect of our current strategic plan that I shared in my spring term 2021 newsletter is our ambition to look outwards, to learn from others and to collaborate on projects. We are delighted that Steve Martell (Deputy Principal) has forged a partnership with two more schools – The Gatwick School and St. Oscar Romero Catholic School – and we look forward to having the same strong relationship with them around progression and outreach that we have with our other [six existing partner schools](#).

As well as having very close links with the other sixth form colleges in the south-east of England through membership of the S7 Consortium and more recently working collaboratively with all colleges across Sussex through FE Sussex, Collyer's are also planning for exciting new opportunities with our fellow [Mercers' Associated Schools and Colleges](#). Founded as the second oldest Mercer school, Collyer's has a close association with The Mercers' Company and a recent meeting of the headteachers of all schools pledged to look for new collaborative ventures. Our Oxbridge applicants already benefit from attending a joint summer convention with St. Paul's School, St. Paul's Girls' School and Hammersmith Academy.

## Ofsted

I would like to thank from the heart everyone that responded to the Ofsted survey in advance of our inspection for the wonderfully positive feedback they gave about Collyer's. The inspectors mentioned this on several occasions and along with a similarly positive staff survey, it gave a clear indication of what a strong community we have here. We expect our report to be published in a couple of weeks.

## Property strategy

In previous newsletters I have provided updates on progress with two of our upcoming building projects – the Shelley Building and the Café. Both of these are now out to tender for contractors and are planned to start construction from April 2022, with the new Café ready by September 2022 and the ten classroom state of the art teaching block planned for spring 2023. The latest visuals below show the final designs of what will be fantastic additions to our campus as we continue to grow each year.



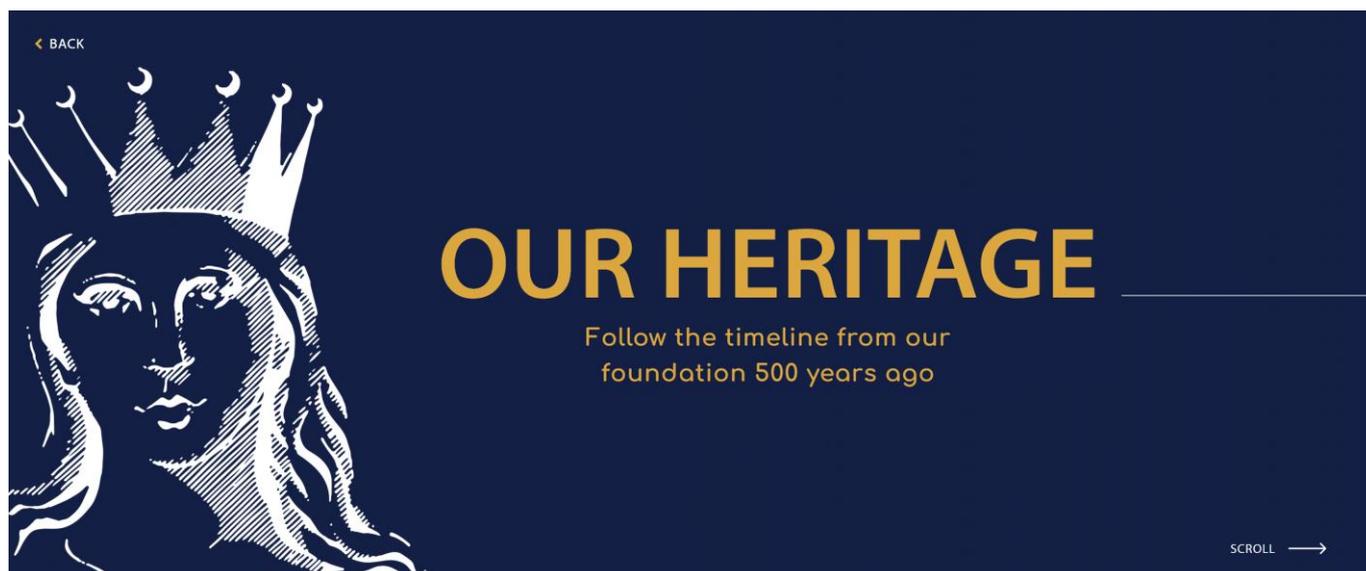
We will also soon be significantly enhancing our perimeter fence, vehicle entrances and pedestrian gates to the College. This will further improve safety onsite and better showcase our grammar school building.

## Heritage

As we head into the year 2022 our community reaches an auspicious milestone, celebrating both the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our alumni organisation the Old Collyerians' Association (OCA) and marking the start of the 10 year countdown to our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation in 2032. The College and the OCA already work closely together on a range of initiatives and looking forward we would like even greater opportunities to celebrate alumni achievements and use these to support our current Collyerians' future plans. With this in mind, we have been designing a brand-new website for the OCA that sits alongside the college website and has a range of new features that I am delighted to share below (click on the image to access). All current Collyerians are warmly welcomed to join the OCA on leaving Collyer's to benefit from the networking and other opportunities provided:



Throughout the autumn term our student-led projects have continued work on their research into our heritage and conducted video interviews with a fascinating range of alumni. The first of these projects – to provide the content for a new timeline of our history on the college website – has successfully completed. I am delighted to share this great new resource which you can access by clicking the image below:



The second project is still in full swing with our Creative Media Production students helping the History researchers to edit down video interviews ready for hosting on the college website. I hope to be able to share the launch of this resource later in the spring term.

## Sustainability

Our collaborative work with fellow colleges across Sussex has developed fast during the autumn term and we will soon be launching an innovative carbon literacy programme for students that will run concurrently in three other sixth form colleges. Watch out for promotional emails from our sustainability lead Ian Carr (Assistant Director of Science Faculty). The work of our Sustainability Committee over the last year in following the Climate Action Roadmap has been recognised by Carbon Targets giving us a score of 80/100 which places Collyer's alongside some of the top universities in the country (click on the image below).

# CARBON TARGETS

**Leading the way**  
These institutions are likely to meet our goal for the sector, and score above 70 points.

Aberystwyth University	Anglia Ruskin University	Bath Spa University	Brighton Hove & Sussex VI Form College	Cranfield University
De Montfort University	Glasgow Caledonian University	Harrogate College	Keele University	King's College London
Lancaster University	London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	Manchester Metropolitan University	Newcastle University	North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College
Nottingham Trent University	Solent University	Swansea University	Teesside University	The College of Richard Collyer

## Mission, Vision and Values

And finally, with our college looking ahead 10 years to its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation, it is right and proper that we have a fundamental review of our mission, vision and values to ensure we are on the right future path. These not only give a sense of direction and confidence to our institution but also form an important backdrop against which we can plan strategically in future cycles. In November we surveyed all staff and governors about their views on our current mission, vision and values which are captured on page 2 of our [current strategic plan](#). The survey results informed whole college discussion groups at 'Planning Day' on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – a day when all staff and governors come together to think about the future and where the college should be headed.

As key parts of our college community, I would like to also invite both students and parents to share their views on the college's future. You can do this first of all by completing the relevant survey below using the links. We will then talk through initial draft plans with the Richard Collyer Union as representatives of the student body and would like to host a Parents' Forum in the spring term with those interested amongst our parents and carers. If you would like to join this forum meeting, please email Linda MacLeman [lm@collyers.ac.uk](mailto:lm@collyers.ac.uk) to express your interest and I look forward to meeting with you in due course.

[Parent survey](#)

[Student survey](#)

I hope you have found these updates interesting, and I look forward to writing again to share more about the exciting journey Collyer's is on both now and into the future.



Dan Lodge  
Principal