

21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Dear students and parents

With just four weeks to go until the Christmas break, I would like to share with you some important updates about life at Collyer's and upcoming events.

### **New Café open**

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November we were delighted to have the soft opening of our brand new Café just in time for open evenings. We are all really pleased with this fantastic new venue that gives our community much-needed extra space with a high-street style café and a performance area that will host music concerts, art exhibitions and awareness raising events. All of this project was funded through the incredible generosity of John Snelling OC (1942-49), who remembered Collyer's with great fondness and left us a substantial lasting legacy in his will.

The pictures below are from our informal opening event on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November where our construction team from Sunninghill and BAQUS as well as governors and our previous Principal David Arnold (1983-99) joined students and staff to celebrate. I was joined in giving thanks by short speeches from Feli Beissel (RCU Co-President) and Susie McAlister (Head of Art and Design). Feli explained how the RCU Office was now centrally located in the new Café area which facilitated promotion of RCU events and awareness raising activities. Susie introduced the beautiful commissioned art on the main café wall that was developed by groups of Fine Art students. All present then enjoyed our very first live music concert with a variety of students performing.





### **Strike action – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

You may well be aware that there is a planned strike day next week on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We are of course concerned about the cost of living issues for all our community, including pay for our staff, but are hopeful that the union's dispute with the government about lack of funding for pay awards will not disrupt students' education too much in the coming months. UNISON have accepted an increase of at least 5% in pay across the board for support staff, but the NEU have not done so for teaching staff and have balloted successfully for strike action. Further information about this industrial action can be found by clicking on the link below for our strike action FAQs:

[Strike Action FAQs](#)

### **Christmas Concert – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Finally I am delighted to be able to invite all students, parents and their family and friends to our annual Christmas concert in St. Mary's Church, Horsham at 7pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is the first time we have been able to run this in person since 2019 and I look forward to welcoming many of our community to such a wonderful opportunity to hear our accomplished student musicians and bring festive cheer at this time of the year.

I will write again in January with my spring term newsletter, but in the meantime can I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Dan Lodge  
Principal