

3rd January 2023

Dear students and parents

I hope all our community had a restful break over Christmas and would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. With the start of the new term, I am writing as usual to provide updates across a number of college areas and share some exciting new projects at Collyer's.

Teaching, learning and support

Students settled quickly back into their studies during the autumn term and also had a resoundingly positive response to our new enhanced approach to enrichment and private study. Called Collyer's 360, this programme involves all our learners in taking on an enrichment activity alongside their core subjects and also having the benefit of two periods of Pro Study per week on their timetable. Attendance has been excellent and the broader advantages of our community being even more engaged in the life of the college are already clear. Thank you to all students and staff for their support for this initiative.

During the autumn term we've been concerned to see a significant increase in the number of students vaping. This is a national phenomenon that is affecting all schools and colleges, but because at Collyer's we have moved to a single pedestrian entrance it has caused some issues with groups of students forming along the pavement in front of the college, particularly at break time and lunch time. I would ask for all our community to consider safety at all times and the impact on members of the public during the college day by fully supporting these clear college expectations:

- No congregating in groups or vaping along the pavement either side of the pedestrian entrance
- Always use the traffic light crossings to cross Hurst Road
- Be considerate of the public and our neighbours when walking along pavements near the college
- Never vape or smoke anywhere on college campus – including toilets and outside areas

The health implications of vaping are far from clear and Andrea John our VP (Pastoral) will write separately to signpost students and parents to further guidance about the risks, particularly when the selling of vaping and tobacco products is not legal to under 18s.

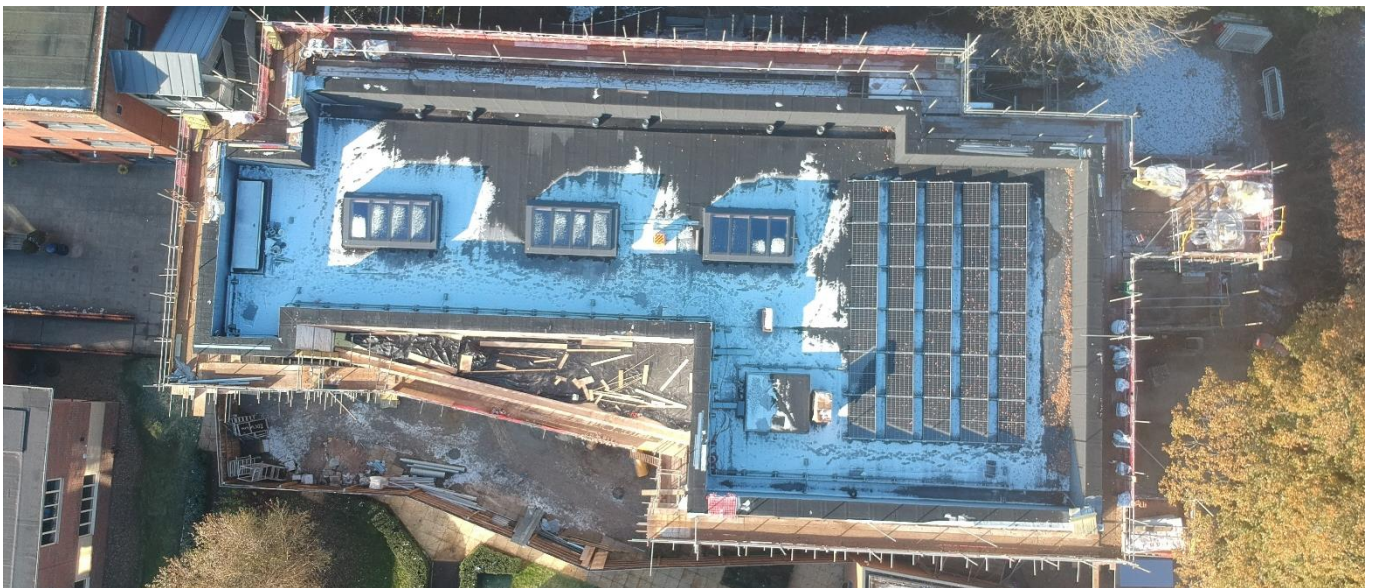
Partnerships

A key part of our identity as well as our strategy for the future is working with partners from local to international. Due to our original foundation as a Mercers' school, we have very close links with the rest of the [Mercers' Associated Schools and Colleges](#) which includes another sixth form college in Winchester (Peter Symonds), independent schools such as St. Paul's School and even the Royal Ballet School. I am very pleased that planning is underway for a Mercers' student conference to be hosted in the summer at a university and look forward to sharing more details in due course.

Closer to home, there have also been regular meetings involving the headteachers of the Horsham area schools – Millais, Forest, Tanbridge, Bohunt, The Weald – and Collyer's. This has been a hugely positive initiative that builds on the existing relationships with our partner schools and allows sharing of good practice across teaching, learning and support as well as aligning our views on future challenges and how we communicate with our communities. Together we are planning a joint teaching and learning INSET day to be hosted at Tanbridge on Friday 31st March and I am delighted to share that we have all agreed a new memorandum of understanding to form a soft federation.

Property strategy

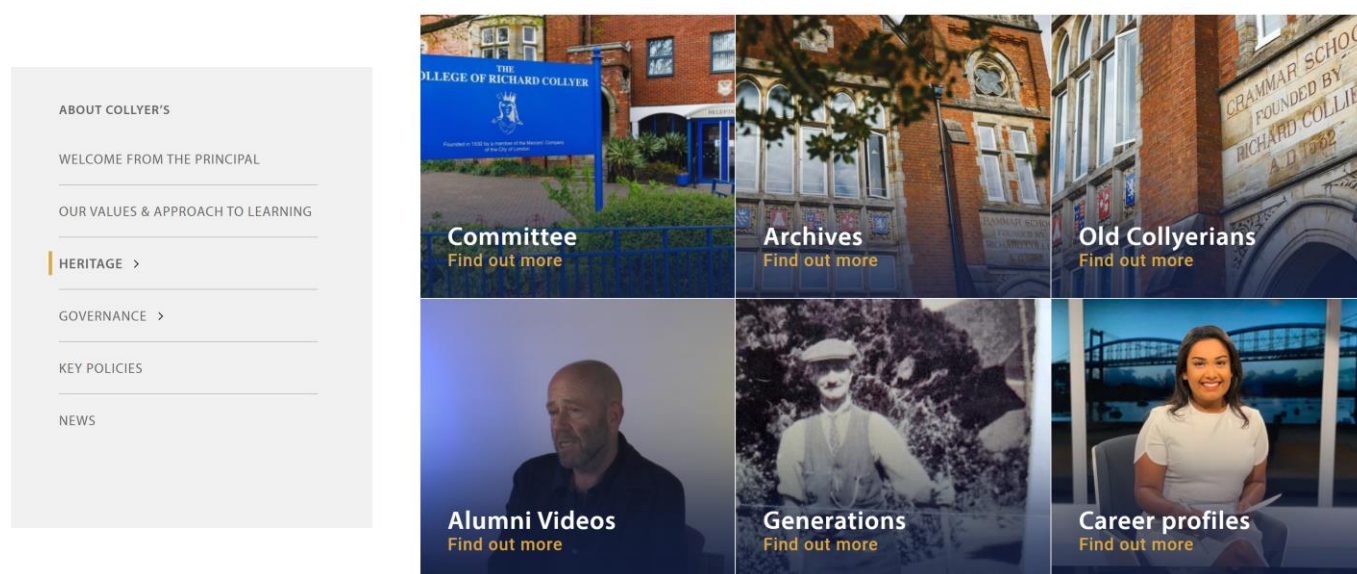
In my previous newsletter I shared the much-anticipated opening of the Café and it is clear that this new high-street style space is very popular with students – part of a longer term vision to ensure our campus meets modern expectations and has a university-like feel. The opening event in the Café's performance area was well attended and more events are planned for the coming months including art exhibitions and awareness raising events. The next project to complete just after Easter will be the state-of-the-art new Shelley Building housing 10 new classrooms. With a large glazed foyer, forward-looking design and an array of 30 solar panels on the roof, this new teaching space is a signal of our commitment to modern architecture and our sustainability ambitions for the estate:



Looking further ahead, we have just finalised initial outline designs for four exciting new projects that will allow us not just to grow to accommodate our ever-increasing number of applications but also to expand our campus in a way that is fit for the future, adds vital facilities and makes our community proud. The designs include a large, glazed expansion to our Library, an extended and modernised Arts quarter, a brand new much larger Sports Centre and a new cutting-edge Tech centre at the heart of the campus. Whilst it is important to have a vision for the future, it is also clear that all of this will take time, has significant planning implications and will need major capital funding. On the latter – we will be launching in late spring our Quincentenary Fund, an opportunity for our local stakeholders, alumni but also our current community to support the future development of the college if they wish. I will share more details in my start of summer term newsletter.

Heritage

During last year we had a number of opportunities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our alumni organisation - the Old Collyerians' Association (OCA). A Founder's Day event took place last May and other social gatherings have been organised as well. We are very much looking forward to the OCA Centenary Dinner which had to be postponed and will now take place on Saturday 25th March. Old Collyerians are a vital part of our broader community and make an important contribution to the story of Collyer's as well as supporting current students. As a way of capturing and celebrating this contribution we are pleased to announce two new sections of the Heritage area of our website - Generations and Career Profiles. Generations will tell the stories of families that have been attending Collyer's across more than a century – back even to when we were in our 'new school building' next to St. Mary's Church in the 1800s. Career Profiles showcases the extraordinary things our OCs go on to do in their working lives and will no doubt be of great interest to current Collyerians thinking about their career choices. Click on the image below to find out more:



Sustainability

Finally in this update I would like to share some recent developments with our sustainability strategy for the college. Our Sustainability Committee is as active as ever and is currently developing a new action plan to detail initiatives we wish to take in the coming months and years to continue to reduce our environmental impact. In terms of progress against the [Climate Action Roadmap](#) we have now fully met the Emerging College criteria and will start addressing the Established College targets as a priority. As part of this response we are delighted to have been granted over £430K by central government to further reduce our reliance on traditional energy sources. There are a number of options to consider and I look forward to updating you all on the success of this project in future newsletters.

I wish everyone a successful spring term, all the best with your studies and I'll write again after the Easter break.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal