

18th April 2023

Dear students and parents

I trust everyone in our community had an enjoyable Easter break and would like to welcome you all back to the summer term with a range of updates about life at Collyer's and our plans for the future.

Teaching, learning and support

Spring term will have been very busy for all students with Progress Review 2 and 3 giving an update to everyone on how their studies are going. As we head closer to summer exams our staff continue to be very impressed with their classes' attendance and focus on learning. Engagement with our new Collyer's 360 enrichment programme has been very strong as well. Our 2A students will have mock exams this week as a final preparation for summer assessments and I wish everyone all the best with their grades.

Partnerships

In my last newsletter I explained how important partnership work is for Collyer's and two of the various networks we are members of. Working ever closer with our local partner schools, we were delighted to take part in the first ever joint INSET day on Friday 31st March for teachers from Millais, Forest, Tanbridge, Bohunt, The Weald and Collyer's. It was a really uplifting and thought-provoking event and a great chance for colleagues to network and share good practice for the benefit of young people in Horsham and beyond.

The Challenge of Challenge

Horsham Partnership Joint INSET Day 2023

Featuring Keynote Speeches from:



- Rachel Higginson
Creative Education Consultant

- Debra Kidd
Author: 'A Curriculum of Hope'



- Peps McCrea
Dean of Learning at the Ambition Institute



We are delighted to invite you to attend our Horsham Schools Partnership Joint INSET Day on **Friday 31 March 2023** to explore 'The Challenge of Challenge'.

This is a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues from across the Horsham Schools Network, sharing ideas and best practice to enhance our own pedagogy and improve the educational experience and opportunities for thousands of students.

● Innovate ● Learn ● Share ● Network

Friday 31 March 2023
Tanbridge House School

Arrivals from 8.30am
9am - 3pm

Please park at your own school and car share to Tanbridge House School.

We are asking all attendees to bring their own lunch (must be nut-free).
Hot drinks and light refreshments will be provided throughout the day

No need to book/register. Please just sign in on the day.

Further from home, Collyer's took part in the inaugural Mercers' Leadership Conference held at St. Paul's School on Friday 10th February. This new annual event will allow members of our senior management team to learn from counterparts from across the country and different educational sectors. And finally, we are in the last planning stages of another inaugural event – the Mercers' Year 12 Conference. Aimed at students and hosted at Reading University, the day is focused on 'Sustainable Futures' and will be opened by a keynote from Lord Professor Robert Winston and include workshops led by university academics.

Property strategy

Now that the scaffolding around the Shelley Building has been removed and the hoarding taken away, our community have been able to see much more clearly the daily progress with completing our much-anticipated new classroom block. We intend for prospective students and parents to be able to tour the new facility as part of our Open Evening on Thursday 13th July and will have a formal opening event as well in due course. A thoroughly modern building, with a light, airy design and state-of-the-art heating and cooling using air source heat pumps and solar panels – this will be a fantastic addition to our teaching space. A large glazed foyer is planned to double as an art gallery to showcase student work.



The Shelley Building, the new Café and the new perimeter fence mark completion now of Stage 1 of our estates masterplan. Stage 2 involves further expansion to be able to accommodate a student intake that grows each year as well as ensuring our facilities continue to keep pace with the quality of education on offer. This growth aligns with the original intent of our founder Richard Collyer who asked in his will for '*none to be refused likely to learn*'. Four projects are now moving forwards to the design and planning phase: a larger Sports Centre, a new Tech Centre, an expanded Library and an extended Arts Quarter.



Funding for our estates masterplan will of course be critical for its delivery, and as part of our overall strategy we have just launched the Quincentenary Fund, a fundraising project that gives the opportunity to our Old Collyerians, local stakeholders and also our current and prospective community to support the future development of the college if they wish. Please do take the time to look at the new section of our college website, which includes a video explaining why we need help and how you could support us, by clicking on the image below:



Heritage

The OCA Centenary Dinner took place on Saturday 25th March in our new Café – a wonderful event that brought together Old Collyerians from across the generations to celebrate a significant milestone in their history. Our alumni organisation continues from strength to strength, having nearly doubled its membership last year, and we fully expect an influx of new 2A members at Founder's Day on Friday 12th May which could triple numbers as the OCA heads into their next centenary. Work is under way already to develop an enhanced offer of events and benefits for newer members, particularly those studying at university or forging their new careers. More information soon via the OCA newsletter and if you studied at Collyer's but haven't yet joined, you can find out more by clicking on the image below:



Sustainability

In my last newsletter I explained that Collyer's is actively looking to reduce the carbon footprint of its estate. Our Estates Committee has agreed a plan to replace a significant amount of our old fashioned lighting with newer LED technology which uses less power. This is a significant piece of work that will take place over the summer holidays. At the same time, since we have plans for major building work in the coming years, we are exploring the feasibility of installing geothermal energy technology as one possible option for heating our future buildings. Our Sustainability Committee comprising students and staff will be monitoring progress with both initiatives as part of their new Action Plan 2023-26.

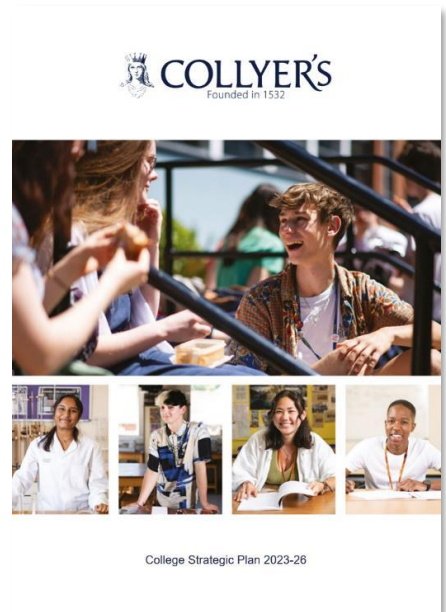
Parent views

Finally in this update I would like to share two important opportunities for Collyer's to listen to our parental voice. Our biennial Parent Satisfaction Survey collects feedback across the range of provision and services that we offer and forms a vital part of our quality assurance and improvement process. Alongside surveys of students and staff, as well as ad hoc consultation with other key stakeholders, the Parent Satisfaction Survey is part of our approach to strive to always do better. The results are considered by senior managers and reported to governing body committees, with an action plan agreed where there are areas to focus on. The survey only has 10 key questions with the optional choice to provide follow-up information on each question if you would like. Please take part by clicking on the link below and completing the survey by Friday 28th April:

[Parent Satisfaction Survey](#)

The second opportunity for feedback is related to our future strategic direction. At Collyer's we take stock of our strategic landscape and plan ahead to navigate this on a three-yearly cycle. Our first draft College Strategic Plan 2023-26 has had its first discussions and review by our Governing Body and we would now like to share it with key stakeholders to ensure that our future plans reflect the opinions of all of our community.

We will of course also be consulting with students via the Richard Collyer Union as well as with our partner schools and local employers. To express interest in taking part in this consultation process, please email Linda MacLeman lm@collyers.ac.uk and we will invite you to one of the upcoming focus groups running online both in the day time and evening. Parents taking part in a focus group will be provided with a draft copy of our College Strategic Plan 2023-26 in advance of joining.



I hope you have found this newsletter interesting and would like to take the opportunity to wish all our students the very best of luck in their summer exams.

Kind regards



Dan Lodge
Principal