

22nd April 2025

Dear students and parents

As the summer term begins, I trust all our community had a restful and productive Easter break and would like to share some updates about key events last term and what the next few months hold. I hope students are feeling positive about the last few weeks of teaching before the summer assessments and exams. Certainly our most recent Progress Review 3 shows that our community are preparing very well and should be confident that they will be fully ready. I would like to wish everyone all the best with final revision and am sure you will be pleased with your results in the summer.

Academisation

In my last newsletter I explained that we would be running a formal public consultation on our plans to form a new multi-academy trust called the Horsham Learning Alliance with our founding partner The Forest School. Thank you to all our students, parents and local community that completed the survey and who joined our town hall meetings both for members of the public and also for our student body. Your questions have been extremely useful in our planning and I am sure our answers have given reassurance about the new Trust and how it will benefit not just Collyer's but the broader local community. Feedback in our survey was largely positive and I am pleased to confirm that at a meeting of our Governing Body on 1st April it was agreed that we should continue on our path to conversion. The report from the consultation has been published to our college website and can be found below:

[Report on formal public consultation](#)

Ofsted

Collyer's had a full Ofsted inspection from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th March 2025 and we look forward to sharing our report with all our community as soon as it is published. In the meantime thank you to all students, parents and staff that completed the pre-inspection survey and for the wonderfully positive feedback you gave about the college.

Property strategy

During the last few months the initial design work for the new Tech Centre has moved forwards remarkably and we are confident that this state of the art building will not only provide future-proofed teaching, learning and social space but also be an attractive addition to the front line of the estate. We are working with our architects to ensure we achieve a project that our current Collyer's students and staff, but also Old Collyerians and the local community, are proud of. As soon as designs are finalised I look forward to sharing these with all stakeholders and consulting more broadly.

In the meantime this term we have been appreciating the addition of our new Immersive Suite – a teaching space funded by the DfE through the Local Skills Improvement Fund. Each college in Sussex has a new classroom with virtual reality (VR) equipment and giant screens on three walls – allowing for fully immersive teleconferencing and VR-based learning. As well as skills sessions focused on careers run within the college, Collyer's also took part in a series of live immersive events broadcast from different college campuses across the whole of Sussex and featuring a range of inspirational speakers.

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7th February **EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE, LEWES CAMPUS**

★ **GIO PRINCE** Scuba diver turned Instagram sensation ★ **WILL BAYLEY MBE** Paralympic gold medalist & Strictly Come Dancing star

28th February **CHICHESTER COLLEGE**

★ **NICOLA HARVEY** Mental health and wellbeing expert, delivering Mental Health First Aid to employers

7th March **VARDEAN**

★ **FATBOY SLIM** DJ and icon of dance music Interviewed by BBC & Juice FM Radio Presenter ★ **GUY LLOYD**

14th March **BHASVIC**

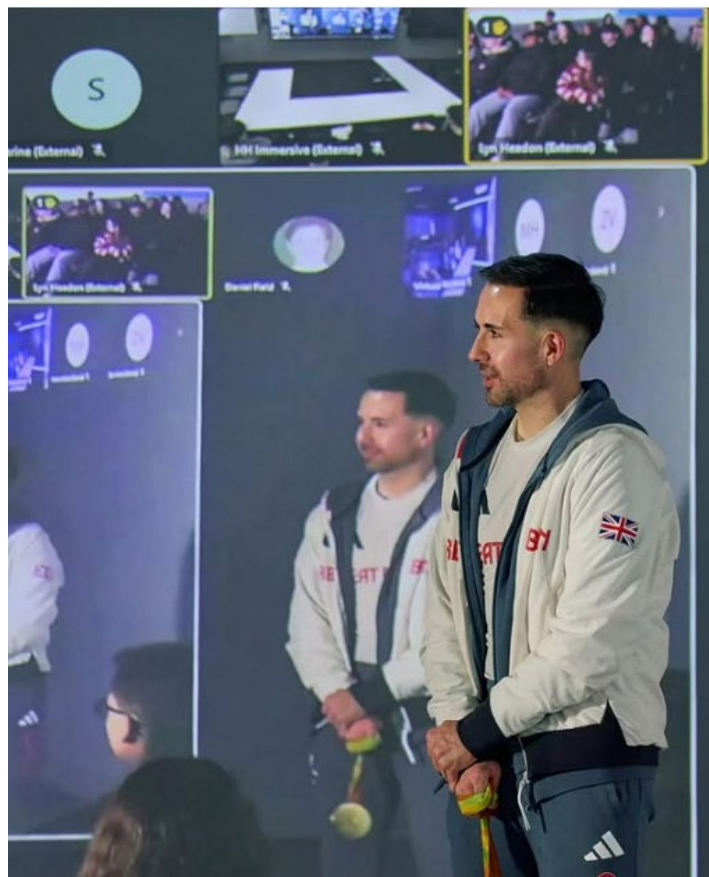
★ **CHRIS HOGG** Playwright and digital creative ★ **BRIGHTBLACK** VR/AR immersive game designers

21st March **PLUMPTON COLLEGE**

★ **RT NON PETER KYLE** Celebrating the digital transformation of learning across Sussex with the Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Innovation

★ **LIVESTREAMED ON YOUTUBE/TWITCH @FESUSSEX** ★

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Founder's Day / Leaver's Event

An important Collyer's tradition is to mark our foundation each year by remembering Richard Collyer and the legacy he left for education in the region. On Founder's Day, as well as offering our thanks to our founder, we also celebrate our student community's involvement in the incredible range of enrichment activities and broader college life by showcasing student performances and giving awards for being fully involved in broader college life.

Following the celebration in the Duckering Hall, our second year leavers were treated to a festival in the Café and outside on the sports fields, benefitting from beautiful spring weather for once! Well done and thank you to the Richard Collyer Union and staff for organising and running such a fun event. Once you have headed off to your next steps after Collyer's, please consider staying in contact by joining the Old Collyerians' Association – our alumni organisation that is developing a range of opportunities for those that studied at Collyer's in every generation.



Finally, I wish everyone a great summer term, all the best with your remaining studies this year and with your exams and other final assessments in due course.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal

