

5th January 2026

Dear students and parents

I hope all of our community had a restful break over Christmas and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. As the spring term begins, I would like to share with you all a range of updates about Collyer's as well as some exciting new projects for the college.

The autumn term was a very successful one with students getting fully back into their studies as well as broader activities such as events and Collyer's 360 enrichment. Well done to all students for all you've achieved over the last few months which I am sure will be reflected in your Progress Review that is published on Wednesday 7th January. Many of you will have mock exams in the week before February half term and I wish you the best of luck for these and any other formal assessments you may be taking during the term.

Recent events

The lead up to Christmas is always busy with college events – an opportunity to show Collyer's at its best to our prospective students and our broader local community. Thank you to all staff and students who took part in the very successful Open Evenings on 12th and 13th of November. Our visitors received an incredibly warm welcome to our college community and were universally positive about what they heard and saw. Following a large increase in applications last year, interest in joining Collyer's has grown even further this year with applications currently up by 15% year on year so far. Alongside an increased demand from a growing demographic locally and across the region, we are also benefitting from our outstanding reputation for sixth form education as the top state provider of A Levels in West Sussex.

December saw two key events for our college and a way to show our appreciation to our local community. On 4th December we had a full audience at St. Mary's Church for our annual Christmas Concert which included classical music, Jazz, a choir and some enthusiastic carol singing from all present. As always the quality of the music and singing was incredibly strong – well done to all involved:





In the last week of the autumn term on 16th December we celebrated our prize-giving event – an annual highlight of the academic year that sees us welcoming back recent Old Collyerians to the college. Certainly the class of '25 achieved very well during their time with us and have gone on to build their adult lives with great confidence. It was lovely to have so many back on site and to hear very uplifting citations read for their prizes:



Plans for the estate

Following on from the extensive additions to the campus over the summer, work continues on developing the detailed designs of our new Tech Centre with the intention of submitting these as a planning application very soon. Our intention is to share these designs with all our community during this term and we welcome support from both students and parents for our project which is critical for the future of the college. I'm also pleased to share that demolition work is now fully complete for the area of RAAC behind the Duckering Hall and that the next stage of work, to create a new floor spanning the affected space, will commence soon. Finally with the college growing in size each year we have a number of plans underway to increase social and catering space across the college especially with the addition of the Village area of teaching accommodation. I look forward to sharing these plans in more detail very soon.

It just remains for me to wish all our community a great spring term and all the best with your studies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lodge".

Dan Lodge
Executive Principal