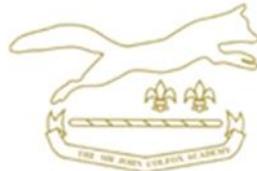


# The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr David Herbert BSc PGCE NPQH

19 November 2018

Dear Parents

Although it may feel like Christmas is fast approaching, we still have five weeks of term to go. There is more shopping time left than you think! Please remember that Friday 23 November and Monday 3 December are both non-student days.

## School Play

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of Mary Poppins Jr!! It was a wonderful performance and the levels of energy were amazing. It was lovely to see so many younger members of the school involved and everyone on stage (and backstage) played their part in making it a memorable production. Many thanks to Mrs Holder and her team of staff for supporting the students so well. A special thanks to parent helper, Les Keatley, who has become an annual fixture with the lighting support. Well done everyone!

## Rock Challenge

As one production finishes another one starts! Our Rock Challenge Entry for 2019 is very much underway. This year we have handed the production and choreography responsibilities to our students in Year 12. They have made a great start and alongside the rehearsals are planning fundraising activities to help support the project. If any parents are aware of any local charities or business who might be able to offer any support, it would be much appreciated indeed.

## Remembrance 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

I just wanted to say well done to all those students who were involved in activities marking this special anniversary. I know we had many students involved in local parades to mark the occasion and here in school our memorial area was very well tended to by our students with a display of poppies and writings. Sixth Form student Ellie McNulty did a great job in organising our Colfox contribution to the wonderful 'River of Poppies' at Colmers Hill. If you follow our twitter account, we posted some pictures of this. At the moment we have 997 'followers' it would be lovely to break 1000!!

## Colfox Christmas Cracker

Our annual event is being held on Wednesday 19 December 2018. More information about buying tickets will come out soon as we make the final arrangements for the show. It has been a really enjoyable event and nice light-hearted way to mark the start of Christmas. There are lots of students making plans to entertain us with festive song and entertainment. It is definitely one not to be missed!

## Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams

Year 11 are halfway through their mock exams and we are all very impressed with the way they have been preparing themselves for these exams and in their conduct carrying them out. Their efforts cannot be faulted, and we are planning a small 'well done' for them in recognition of their efforts. As always, they will receive their results in an envelope to replicate the August experience!

## New Executive Principal

The Board of the Minerva Learning Trust have appointed Andrew Lovett as its new Executive Principal and he will take up the position for three days per week in September 2019. Kay Taylor remains in post until



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the end of this academic year. Andrew has a wealth of experience in education and has been a Headteacher in both primary and secondary school settings. Andrew's most recent post is working as one of Her Majesties' Inspectors conducting OFSTED inspections in primary and secondary schools.

### **UCAS and Oxbridge**

Our Year 13 have been very busy completing the application process to university. They are already hearing back with positive replies about places. This year we have had six students undertaking the very competitive process of applying to Oxford or Cambridge. This is a very demanding process and we wish them the best of luck.

### **'Lock Down' Procedures**

I must apologise for not informing parents about a new procedure we have put in place from this year. It was an oversight on my part not to include this in my October letter. Earlier in the term we shared with students the sound of a new alarm that would be used if there were any need to instigate a process of 'lock down' in the school (most likely to be used if there was an intruder in school believed to be dangerous). Tutors explained the process with students and this was re enforced by me when we conducted our termly fire drill. It is a procedure we hope we never have to carry out. It was produced in liaison with Bellrock and using best practice guidance from other large organisations. We will not be holding practices of this procedure, rather we will sound the alarm once per year as a reminder to everyone what it sounds like and then discuss in Form Tutor groups what the response would be. If you have any concerns about this, please do contact Mr Hoffmann (Deputy Head).

### **Parental Consultation**

We have not undertaken any significant parent consultation events in the last 2-3 years (other than a parent's survey in Summer Term 2017). Prior to this we undertook a number of significant consultation events as we made some bigger changes to the school. Open forum discussions on changes to the curriculum, options, reports, parent's evenings, homework policy and becoming an academy were all well attended and there was some useful and enjoyable debate. There are no big changes being planned for Colfox at this time, but we would still like to hear from you if there are any aspects you would like us to consider for wider consultation. We will conduct another survey in summer 2019 and could also include specific areas of interest to you in this. Please direct any thoughts you have on this to me.

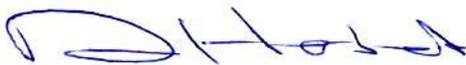
### **Goodbye Mrs Lawless!**

I would like to extend our thanks to our receptionist, Laura Lawless, who has left the school to take up a new position. She has been a valued member of our support staff team and we wish her well. We have appointed a replacement, Kate Ivory, who will take up her post in the New Year.

### **Sports**

Despite the clocks changing it has still been a very busy period for our school clubs and teams. We have clubs running five nights per week and lots going on at lunchtime as well, do check out the club's timetable. Whilst we have got used to hearing about area, county, regional and even national success stories I want to give the final word in this letter to our Year 10 rugby team. The boys have been brilliant and brought home trophies in many sports, but they will be the first to admit rugby has not been one of their strengths! Despite this they have kept going and in their fourth year at the school finally won their first match. I think there is something in there about perseverance that we could all take something from. Well done boys!

Yours sincerely



David Herbert  
Headteacher