

18 February 2011

Dear Parents

I am writing to bring you up to date with some important matters at JAGS. I am not including details of all the events and pupils' achievements from this half-term as these are all reported in full in the news area of our website (www.jags.org.uk). Please do look at our website and enjoy the vibrant accounts of our activities which you will find there.

Appointment of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, who will succeed Mr John Reid, who is retiring after 23 years of exceptional service. Miss Sarah Buxton will be taking up the post from 10 May 2011. Miss Buxton is a Cambridge graduate and Chartered Accountant and her previous posts include that of Bursar of an independent school and Director of Finance for a large national charity. We look forward to her joining us.

Access to the Car Park at the rear of the school

A new car park barrier has been put in place at the entrance to JAGS sports facilities. This is to prevent the incidents caused in the evenings by cars "tail-gating" through the main gates. It will be in operation after the end of the school day, but please rest assured that parents will still be able to park to collect children or watch fixtures. You will just need to press the button and the barrier will be raised for you.

James Allen's Community Music Centre (JACMC)

Much hard work has been put into the JACMC project this half-term. Our main focus has been on establishing the precise nature of the planning conditions which Southwark Council is imposing and then demonstrating how we can fulfil them. We have also continued to research and make some preliminary contacts with potential major donors and grant-giving trusts and new materials illustrating the project are being produced. If any parents have any connections with people in the music world or any would-be philanthropists, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are now also moving ahead with planning the 2011 Music Festival and all offers of help are most welcome. Please contact veena.joseph-mcbride@jags.org.uk, Head of our Development Office.

We are still receiving complaints from some local residents about JAGS parents parking thoughtlessly across their driveways and blocking their access. Please do remember to show care, courtesy and consideration when parking or dropping off and collecting your daughter in the area.

New Teaching Staff

At the end of January Mrs Sandra Thompson joined the Chemistry department, for the rest of this academic year, replacing Ms Judy Fernandes.

Mrs Anna Jones, English, will be returning from her maternity leave just before Easter and taking on Mrs Catherine Ferrar's classes, as Mrs Ferrar is going on maternity leave.

Your Daughter: a guide for raising girls

The Girls' Schools Association (GSA) has produced a paperback book full of useful advice about bringing up girls. This is linked to the successful MyDaughter.co.uk website. Copies of the Your Daughter book can be ordered at a significant discounted price from Amazon, via a link in the *MyDaughter* newsletter and website.

Bettany House Charity Auction (Rolling Stones signed 'Art Licks' Boxed Set)

To raise funds for their 2010-11 Charity (BEAT), Bettany House are auctioning on Ebay a special boxed set of Rolling Stones signed artwork and CD, known as the 'Art Licks' boxed set. Please do look out for this if you are a Stones fan, as we are keen to make the most of this generous donation in order to help Bettany's fundraising efforts. Details about this are on our website.

Diary Dates - reminders

- Monday 14 March at 7pm: a special talk by Camila Batmanghelidjh (entrance by ticket only, see website for details)
- Changed date of the start of next term: Tuesday 3 May 2011 (to accommodate the Royal Wedding Bank Holiday)
- Sunday 8 May at 6pm: our flagship Choral and Orchestral Concert at St John's, Smith Square

I hope you and your daughters will have a very good half-term break. Thank you for your continued support.

Manion Gills