

31 August 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

Our public examination successes reflect the talent, hard work and commitment of the girls and their teachers and the support and encouragement provided by you, their parents. It is also heart-warming that so many of the girls also give up their time to Community Action, helping others and being involved in extra-curricular activities.

Our **A level results** this year were pleasing: overall, the girls did really well, with several of them overcoming significant personal challenges. The 86 Year 13 girls achieved 101 A* (out of 299 A level entries), with 34% A*, 72% A* or A and 93% A*, A or B. Special congratulations to Freddie Onslow, who achieved 5 A* at full A level, and to Sophia Lambton, Eleni Pittas, Quinta Pusey and Bethia Ruttle who each gained 4 A*. In total 19 girls achieved at least 4 A grades and 43 at least 3 A grades at full a level. Three girls had their Geography results upgraded and one girl had a Physics upgrade this week, so we have already surpassed our previously announced results.

At **GCSE** 92% of all our entries were awarded A* or A grades with 67% at A*. Of our 113 candidates 98 girls achieved at least 8 A* or A grades. Fourteen girls achieved 11 A*, 18 girls achieved 10 A*, 18 achieved 9 A* and a further 8 girls achieved 8 A*. Unfortunately, something seems to have gone dreadfully wrong with the marking of the GCSE Drama written paper this year and we have already asked the Board to re-mark a substantial proportion.

Meanwhile we remain focused on making our planned **Community Music Centre** a reality and increasing the funds we have available for **Bursary places**. We are working very hard on this and I am very grateful to those who have already given support.

At the start of the school year we are welcoming several **new teachers** to the Senior School. Mr Gravell has joined the Physics department; Mrs Hutchinson will be teaching Chemistry part-time; Miss Paine has joined the Biology department; Mrs Ward will be teaching RS part-time. Mr Pattison has returned to the Mathematics department for a year while Ms Buccheri is on maternity leave. We are fortunate in having been able to recruit such talented staff and I hope that they will be very happy at JAGS.

The three Cs - **Care, Courtesy and Consideration** - remain the bedrock of JAGS. We expect all girls to abide by the school rules and our codes of behaviour and dress. This includes showing care and consideration to others by not dropping litter and keeping classrooms and the grounds tidy. Although they may bring mobile phones to school, girls are not allowed to have them switched on or to use them during the school day - please support us by not phoning or texting your daughter during the school day. If there is an emergency please contact the School Office. Please also ensure that your daughter has the correct uniform, with a suitable length skirt and appropriate footwear and that she comes to school without make up, nail polish and jewellery or chewing gum. Working together on this, we can maintain our calm, orderly and purposeful learning environment where we all feel safe.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you and your daughters will have a very happy and successful year.

Yours sincerely,

