



We have enjoyed a huge range of activities as well as the sunny weather this term, although some girls have been rather busy with public examinations too! School trips over the Easter break included three firsts: a Year 12 Religious Studies weekend at **Walsingham**, visiting Catholic shrines and engaging in theological debate, a Year 12 **Tennis Academy** in Barcelona and a joint Economics tour of **Prague** with Alleyn's to learn about the business of the European city. The Year 9 visit to the **Battlefields** made a particularly memorable connection for one pupil with her great-great uncle when she visited his grave at a Military Cemetery near Ypres. Girls also undertook a challenging **Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award** expedition, while there was **field work in Wales** for Year

12 Geographers. Two foreign exchange trips, one the French exchange trip to the **Lycée de Sèvres** for Years 9 and 10 and one to **Montepulciano** for the Year 10 **Italian** students, gave immense opportunities for the girls to learn about the culture of these countries. All of these valuable trips rolled seamlessly into even more during the summer term. Year 7 visited the **Opal Coast** in northern France with the French and Geography departments, honing their linguistic skills as well as exploring the geography of the region. They tried their hands at cheese-making and juice-making at an apple farm as well as completing questionnaires in French at a local market. Year 10 made their annual outdoor education trip to **Hindleap Warren**, a test of individual and group practical skill. Year 12 **Art, Art History and French** students had a busy schedule on their cultural trip to **Paris**. Two Year 12 girls went on a residential weekend as volunteers with **Activenture**, whose clients are severely disabled young people.

Back at school with AS module exams behind them, the focus for **Year 12** has partly been preparation for UCAS and other applications with our Head of Sixth Form, visiting university staff and their form tutors. **Bridge to A2** courses in all their subjects offered a chance to broaden their learning experience, working intensively and independently, for example on astrophysics, financial markets and Russian and Spanish literature. A Year 13 student spoke on her

choice of Social Anthropology at university. It is a breath of fresh air for students and teachers alike to explore their love of subjects for their own sake. Departments structured satisfying visits, speakers or practical workshops, including the **Drama** department's exploration of 'The Revenger's Tragedy' with Picklock Theatre

Company. The **Geography** department took its Year 12 group to a Royal Geographical Society lecture on The Ecosystems of Kenya and Borneo, did field work in East London and visited the Olympic Park. Year 12 scientists visited the **Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition**. Italian students looked at Renaissance drawings in the British Museum; **Historians** examined Tudor portraits at the National Portrait Gallery

and the Russian Civil War in a production of 'The White Guard' at the NT. **Religious Studies** students were impressed to meet former JAGS teacher Karen Armstrong after her lecture on Faith and Belief at the British Museum, part of the History of the World in 100 objects exhibition. The English department thoroughly enjoyed 'Henry IV Part 1' at the Globe Theatre with Year 12 and 'Macbeth' with Year 10.

At each stage of education there are possibilities to investigate and choices to be made. Year 10 heard expert advice on career options from ISCO and appreciated a taste of sixth form lessons in subjects they have not already experienced such as **Economics, Politics, Philosophy and Art History**, as well as glimpsing life as a sixth former. Year 5 went back to JAPS glowing from a day spent in the senior school, sampling specialist Science, Languages, Music and Design & Technology lessons using different equipment.

Year 8 have had a great DT experience of their own: working with the Smallpeice Trust which promotes engineering careers to young people through practical activities. They were challenged to design, make and test a working wind turbine, developing creative thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as responding to environmental challenges. This provided an



Year 12 at Walsingham



Year 7 Opal Coast Trip

excellent link with our recently submitted whole-school bid for Green Flag status as an Eco-school. Visiting artist Zoe Payne gave a vivid talk about her experience of Art College to GCSE pupils and a valuable insight into her working process as a young designer. Years 8 and 9 were able to compare the different writing methods used by two popular children's authors, Scott Westerfield and Sarah Rees Brennan. British Muslim, Cherine Hamid, inspired an unstoppable surge of questions after her talk to Year 9. She addressed her choice to become a Muslim and wide-ranging issues including arranged marriages, morality, and how she deals non-judgementally with Islamophobia.

History students heard two fascinating talks: Polish national Mr Ben Brettler spoke movingly to Year 10 about being on the last kindertransport out of Germany and building a life in Britain; and Mr Hugh Lunghi amazed the audience with his eye-witness descriptions of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at the Yalta Conference, where he worked as a translator for Churchill. Year 10 historians watched the West End production of 'Hair' and learnt more about the Vietnam War. Year 7 spent a day with the Happening History team, handling artefacts, dressing the part and assuming the roles of lord of the manor, lady-in-waiting, soldiers, surgeons and apothecaries in Tudor times.

Students of Italian from Years 9-13 enjoyed an energetic masterclass with actor Eugenio di Giorgi, learning about Commedia dell'Arte characters, mask work and performance techniques. At Sadler's Wells the Year 9 Japanese class had a magical time watching a Kabuki show, 'Yoshitsune and the thousand cherry trees' in Japanese. Audiences at JAGS own Year 7-9 production of 'The Ancient Mariner' came away gripped by the intensity of the group story-telling. Coleridge's poem fuelled a potent interpretation in words and music, and the large ensemble moved fluidly against the beautifully subtle set, showing excellent stagecraft and maturity. Congratulations to the directors Mrs Kathryn Norton-Smith and Miss Adie, and to the whole company. Over at Dulwich College our girls from Years 9 and 10 joined with the boys in a vibrant and most enjoyable open air production of 'The Mysteries'.

It feels a long time since the country went to the polls and we held Mock Elections at JAGS. These bore an uncanny resemblance to what happened in the General Election, except that everybody got to vote. JAGS girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 prepared for active citizenship polished their debating skills in a lively inter-form Debating Competition, organised by the English Department.



Year 7 Tudor Times Day

Taking their cue from our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Askew, JAGS girls are innovative and dynamic in the Community Action in which they are involved: new this term is C5, a children's community gospel choir based at Christ Church, Barry Road, East Dulwich and led by 3 members of our own Gospel Choir, assisted by Mrs Millsom. Girls are taking more initiatives for themselves, for example, organising, with Year 12 at Charter School, a successful

summer tea-party here for Dulwich Helpline guests. We are also forging more new links with Highshore Special School and Resources for Autism.

Messages from visiting speaker, Jane Bradshaw, Head of Amasango School for street children in Grahamstown, South Africa, really challenged the Year 12 perspective on life. It was good to hear about the valuable work of the school, the meaning and purpose that it gives its very disadvantaged children, and to see a photo of former JAGS pupil, Elizabeth Tubby, a volunteer there in her gap year. This summer a Year 12 girl will be helping former JAGS Spanish teacher at Mundo Feliz, her charity for street children in Peru.



Annecy Attlee – Year 13, Rector's Prize Winner

It is never too soon to begin thinking about giving back. Year 8 are planning what they can do after a talk by the City Year Young Heroes, an organisation which encourages young people to contribute their time and skills to their local communities. In an exciting pioneering venture, we are the first girls' school, and the third school nationally to be involved in The Big Give, a scheme which encourages intelligent giving. A philanthropist has donated

£1000 for our Year 9 girls to give to the charities of their choice, after researching thoroughly and presenting a winning case to the donor and a panel of judges including the Bursar and Mr Hamilton-Jones, Head of Economics.

There is much more to life at JAGS than competitions, but there's nothing wrong with sharing good news! JAGS girls were highly commended for the quality and variety of the art they produced for a competition running alongside the **Paul Nash** exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery. Helen Simpkins won the judge's award for best in the U18 category and Emily Quinn took the people's vote with Flora Loughridge in close second place. In the **Cancer Research UK Young Art** competition, ten pupils were selected for the exhibition of painting, drawing, textiles and printmaking, with Anney Attlee in the A level category winning the highly prestigious Rector's Prize. Also exhibiting in the exhibition in the GCSE category were Alexandra Wilson, Alice Parker, Caroline Martin, Amber-Lily Fraser, Abigail Karas, Bethia Ruttle, Emily Scorer and Nathalie Power and in the Year 7 - 9 category, Freya Turner. Mr Okura steered the **Japanese students** successfully to the finals of a **national website design competition** run by the Japanese Embassy. Year 13 Man Sze Yeung designed and made an ingenious space-saving bicycle rack for her D&T coursework and was a **national finalist in the Young Designers Competition**, hosted here.

Spectacular and very marketable work impressed the professional judges. Constance Crozier, Year 11, won the prestigious **Arkwright Scholarship** for demonstrating flair and originality in solving Engineering Design problems and presenting GCSE work to a panel. A Year 8 team won the demanding **Salters' Challenge in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry**, which aims to promote young people's appreciation of chemistry and related sciences - congratulations to Rita Otto, Alice Guillaume, Matilda Pimlott and Shalaka Bapat.

There have been many notable achievements in sport this term. Some individual news first: former Head Girl, Year 13, Julia Wedmore competed in the British Triathlon championships coming 4th and has now been selected to represent GB for the European

Championships in Spain and the World Age Groups Championships in Budapest in September. She has been training with a former International swimmer! Congratulations, Julia.



Man Sze Yeung – Year 13

13 year old Natasha Sinha swam butterfly at the **British Swimming Championships** in Sheffield on 31 March, alongside stars like Rebecca Adlington. Natasha returns in July for the British Gas Age Group National Championships, qualifying in the 100 & 200m Butterfly and 100m & 200m Back events. Sarah Young, Year 10, won her races at the **Southwark Swimming Championships** in all four strokes: Front, Back and Breast Stroke and Butterfly.

GCSEs or not, 16 year old Katie Snowden came first in the **South of England U20s** at Crystal Palace on the weekend of 12/13 June in the 800m, and on 20 June in the 400m at the U20s England Championships, which she won with a personal best and beating both the defending champion aged 18 and Victoria Ohuruogu (sister of Christine), currently ranked number 1. Katie was selected to represent GB and NI at the **European Youth Olympic Trials** in Moscow on 21-23 May, running in the U17 1000m race. What a tremendous experience!

In the **Mini-Marathon 2010** JAGS was well represented with 15 runners. In the London Borough competition 4 girls gained top 10 final placing: Victoria Picken, Grace de Rome, Sophie Parkes and Katie Snowden. In the **London Youth Games** a number of senior school pupils represented Southwark or their local boroughs in different sports: Georgia Newman, Laura Akehurst and Johanna Mandal - hockey; Sarah Young - swimming; Greta Sharp - cycling; Pip Frizzelle - netball (Lewisham); Olivia Whiteford - hockey, Katie Brown and Emily Travers - netball (Wandsworth).



Year 8 Salters' Festival Winners

Congratulations to the following girls for their performance at the **County Athletics Championships**: Victoria Picken won silver in the Surrey U13 1500m and has been chosen to represent Surrey; Sophie Parkes won double gold in the Kent U15 800m and 1500m; Grace de Rome

won bronze in the Kent U15 1500m; Yemisi Sofolarin won silver in the Kent U15 discus. Yemisi threw the discus 30.14m and is now ranked 6th in the country for her age group.

JAGS won all three age groups - U12, U13 and U14 - in the **Southwark Athletics Championships**.

Well done to these girls, who are now **London Schools' Champions**:

Yemisi Sofolarin (Year 8 Girls Discus & Javelin), Rita Otto (Year 8 Girls High Jump), Fiona Basham (Year 8 Girls 1500m), Natasha Sinha (Year 8 Girls 800m), Victoria Picken (Year 7 Girls 1500m), Hannah Webb (Year 7 Girls 800m), Tarini Tripathi (Year 7 Girls Discus), Sophie Parkes (U15 Girls 800m) and Grace de Rome (U15 Girls 1500m). Other girls also selected to represent Southwark in the London Schools' Championships did well: Anna Cardoso, Phoebe Campbell, Sophie Hubbard, Celine Clarke, Lisa Peterson, Natalie Tull, Katie Aitchison, Francesca McClymont, Anuna Matheson, Florence Savage, Rhianna Madden-Hansle, Georgie Hay, Greta Sharp, Emily Rees, Amy Okpala, Imogen Insley, Ella Balinska, Ashleigh Campbell, Eleanor Robbins, Rebecca Stormer and Bee Eldridge.

4 girls have been selected to represent London at the **English Schools' Athletics Championships**: Angharad Seaton, Yemisi Sofolarin, Katie Snowden and Sophie Parkes. Congratulations to the Junior and Intermediate Athletics teams who competed at the Regional Track & Field Championships - the Intermediate team finished in 5th place and the Junior team won their competition. The Juniors went on to the **National Track & Field Team Finals** in Newcastle on 3 July and won by a clear 20 points, the perfect news with which to end Founder's Day. Well done to the JAGS Junior Athletics team for a brilliant performance.

Sports Day gave everyone in Years 7-10 a chance to compete for their Houses in athletics. The sun shone and two staff teams competed in the final relay - well done. Three **school records** have been broken this term by Victoria Picken (Year 7 1500m) and Yemisi Sofolarin (Year 8 Discus & Javelin). We also

won the St Dunstan's rounders tournaments for Years 8 and 9. It was a great end to the season.

Stunning St John's, Smith Square, provided the venue for the wonderful **Choral and Orchestral Concert** on 2 May. The programme included some fiendishly difficult repertoire from French and English composers - Saint-Saëns's *Bacchanale* from *Samson and Dalila*, Lalo's cello concerto, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Britten's *Saint Nicolas*. It is rare that a school orchestra get the opportunity to tackle such advanced repertoire. Many congratulations to

Morwenna Read, Year 13 Music Scholar for her performance of the Lalo. This year's **Jazz Night** was great fun for everyone. Pupils of all ages in the Sax Ensemble, Big Band and Jazz Band blasted favourites such as 'Moonlight Serenade', and the Blues and Jazz Combos and soloists produced honeyed sounds of their own.

Wonderbrass treated the audience to 5 gorgeous tracks from their new CD, *Out Of Sorts*. You can also buy the single, 'Place Your Hands' from iTunes for 79p and help them get into the top 75. All proceeds go towards our campaign for the **Community Music Centre** - a landmark building for local people. We are wholly committed to community music-making. The **JAGS Choral Society Summer Concert** was a lively alternative musical entertainment with an accomplished performance by the adult, community choir and four professional singers, with Dulwich Chamber Orchestra, of Haydn's Symphony no.94 in G Major 'Surprise', two madrigals and then Haydn's Mass in B flat major 'Harmoniemesse'.



Junior National Athletics Winners



Margaret Lund – Year 13

Even more boisterous was the **Form Song competition** before half-term. 7D won with their rendition of 'The Young Ones' and ingenious props. 8G won their age group with 'The Lonely Goatherd' complete with yodelling! 9S won with film track 'Accidentally in Love'. Year 9 prepared their own backing tracks using Cubase on the computers or sang *a capella*. Memorably, 9M dressed in pyjamas and incorporated a pillow

fight in the middle of their song 'Wake me up'! 9J won 'Most Entertaining' with 'It's Raining Men' and 8M won 'Best Singing' with 'So Long, Farewell'.

Our final concert of the year is dedicated to the Founder and is always a chance to say au revoir and thank you individually to the Year 13 musicians. The Founder's Concert programme included two

movements from Holst's 'The Planets'. What a landscape of huge, stirring music for the Symphony Orchestra! With a delightful Gershwin piece from the Recorder Consort, Rutter's 'Gaelic Blessing', sung beautifully by the Chamber Choir, the Concert Orchestra's rendition of Rossini's 'Overture to the Thieving Magpie', and the Cello Ensemble's Villa-Lobos pieces, it was an evening for smiles and wonder. Particular inspiration came from Year 13 Music Scholar and soloist, Margaret Lund, who displayed an outstanding level of skill in Copland's evocative 'Concerto for Clarinet'.

Music-making doesn't stop here at the end of term: seven local primary schools will be rehearsing music with Alexander L'Estrange from the national Sing Up campaign and the music department here on 13 July, leading towards a concert for their parents and teachers at the end of the day. We are also delighted that another new venture, South London Youth Orchestra, will be launched with a 4 day course here in August. Details are on our website: <http://www.jags.org.uk/jasspa/slyo/>

Our Founder's Weekend was a wonderful celebration of the rounded achievements of all our pupils. It began on Friday with a special gathering of all pupils and staff at a whole school assembly with music from the pre-prep, the middle and senior school, followed by an evening service of commemoration with Alleyn's and Dulwich College at Christ's Chapel. Saturday morning's Leavers' Ceremony was a breath-taking example of all that Year 13 do for the JAGS community and the wider world and all that they mean to us. We look forward to hearing more about their future adventures. Our speaker, Dr Anne Weaver, (year of '90) was refreshingly honest about her journey towards being the lead clinician with the London-based helicopter emergency medical service. JAGS alumnae play an important part in our education about life beyond the school. They come regularly to speak to the

school and are always welcome back. The wide-ranging afternoon activities on Founder's Day were indeed a vivid reflection of the happy and dynamic life we have here.

At this time of the year we inevitably have to say farewell to a number of staff and thank you for all they contributed to JAGS. Five staff are



Founder's Day

retiring: Mrs Mountain, after 30 years teaching Chemistry here and holding a variety of senior posts including Head of Science; Mrs Larkman, after 20 years teaching Mathematics and being a superb Head of Years 10 and 11 for the past 11 years; Mrs Latham, after 22 years of teaching Physics; Dr Lazar, who has been

teaching Economics part-time for 10 years and Mrs Bates, who joined us as a part-time Mathematics teacher after her first retirement 5 years ago. We are also saying goodbye to Mr Sheikh, who joined us for one year teaching Mathematics while Ms Buccheri was on maternity leave, to Ms Gorvett, who has helped out with Year 8 and 9 Art teaching one day a week for 2 years and Mlle Dunoyer, who has been French Assistante here for 6 years and is going to train as a teacher. Mrs Jones, English, had a baby son a few weeks ago and will be on maternity leave next year, as will Ms Miller, our Staff Resources Administrator. We wish them all well. I will announce the new staff appointments at the very start of next term.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, girls, governors and parents who have worked so hard to make JAGS the wonderful place it is.

Whatever the summer holds for you, enjoy a well-deserved and happy break. Do keep in touch with what's happening via the News page and Teaching & Learning pages on our website: www.jags.org.uk

Marion Gibbs

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS:

Notices:

The new Community Music Centre

Our planning application has been lodged with Southwark Council for the proposed new Community Music Centre (JACMC). As you know this will provide high quality music practice and performance facilities for JAGS and for other local schools and groups from the wider community. We want to inspire people of all ages to sing, play or enjoy as a member of the audience, music of all kinds: classical, rock, pop, jazz, folk and world music. We are awaiting a response to the planning application and are busy identifying and approaching major donors and other sources of finance. Do please get in touch if you would like to help us.



School Uniform

You all should have received full details of our new uniform supplier (Schoolblazer.com) and in particular the change to the school skirt. We are very happy for girls to continue to wear their old uniform provided that it is in good repair and fits. However, we have already informed your daughters that we will be very strictly enforcing the skirt length rules from 1 September. New skirts must be knee length; old skirts should be a maximum of 10cm above the knee and if they are shorter you will have to purchase a new skirt. We are determined to ensure that the girls are decently clad and that they are modestly covered at school. Letters will be sent home to parents if skirts are unacceptably short and we ask for your support in our endeavours.

School Calendar for 2010-11

We are sending out the JAGS Senior School Calendar of Events for 2010-11 via Jags Post and it is also available on the JAGS website. We will make sure that any additional events are included on the website version and the separate calendars for Music events and Sports fixtures are also to be found on the website. If you have no access to the internet, please do contact the School Office for paper copies.

Policies, Rules and Regulations and PSHCE information

All our policies, rules and regulations and information about our PSHCE programmes are available on our website (www.jags.org.uk).

USB Memory Sticks

It would be extremely helpful if your daughter had a USB memory stick at the start of the new term, with her name on. This can be used for transferring work easily between home and school or between computers in different areas of the school.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 19 September, Foundation Schools' Orchestral Concert, Alleyn's School, 7.00 pm.

Sunday 26 September, James Allen Community Orchestra (JACO) Concert, Holst Hall, 6.00 pm.