



Thanks to the incredible energy and enthusiasm of our staff and pupils, and indeed the whole school community, we have managed to fit an enormous amount into a very short term. Well done and thank you.

In the Easter holidays our successful trips included Sixth Form geographers undertaking field work in Wales and a week on exchange programmes for Year 9 and 10 German students in Cologne, for Year 9 French students in Paris, and for Year 10 Italian students in Montepulciano. The History department took Year 9 to the **Battlefields**, a memorable trip made even more special for those who visited graves of family members. Even for the teachers who visit the sites in France and Belgium annually, there are always fresh discoveries to be made and contemplated. The RS department spent some April days in **Amsterdam** with a group from Year 11 and 12 and were privileged to be able to put the remarkable story of Corrie ten Boom into context.

With some public written and practical examinations underway almost immediately, the term started at speed. We focused on making the most of the weeks before senior girls departed on study leave. The Music department quickly found its stride, rehearsing the orchestras and choirs for our flagship annual concert at **St John's Smith Square**, held on the first Sunday of term. For the first time the programme included a joint performance with Year 6 at JAPS who joined the senior school Madrigalists and Holst Choir in some marvellous singing, a credit to both Music departments. The orchestra was magnificent in its playing of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, an ambitious choice, appreciated by everyone there. Year 13 music scholars enjoyed solo opportunities at concerts throughout the year. 8 May was Hattie Doble's special day: she played the first and last movement of Mozart's *Bassoon Concerto in B flat Major* and gave a stunning performance. Appropriately, our **Founder's Concert** at St Barnabas on 5 July helped to bring the term to a close. Eleanor Makower sensitively played part of Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No.2* and Anna James played two movements from Mozart's *Oboe Concerto* with great musicality. These solo pieces were complemented by several other wonderful choral and orchestral pieces - well done to all who took part!

The launch of **Friday Night Live** heralded a new-look Jazz Night which had the audience on its feet in an irresistible response to the great music-making. Wonderbrass, the Jazz Band and jazz combos of all ages indulged our appetite for good, popular music

across the decades, enjoyed by families, staff and pupils alike. With sparkling fairy-lights, flowers,



candles, linen tablecloths and picnics, it's a real summer treat and should be a date for your diary next year.

Learning at JAGS is enriched both by experts coming in to the school and by our girls going out to visit subject-related places of interest. Year 8 spent a highly productive **STEM day**, organised by the DT



department, in a workshop at JAGS designed to encourage potential careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The excitement and concentration in the Holst Hall was palpable. How high could each group build a tower and could it withstand the weights balanced precariously on top? The teamwork and lateral thinking was impressive. Y9 examined what it is to be a Muslim woman in 2011 with **British Muslim** Cherine Hamad in a thought-provoking question and answer session at JAGS. Year 10 RS students enjoyed a trip to the **Jewish Museum**. An introduction to their study of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was possibly eclipsed by their enthusiasm for the current exhibition 'Entertaining the Nation', which explores the Jewish contribution to the entertainment industry and had them dressing up as Ali G and Amy Winehouse, amongst others.

Enthusiastic Classicists from Years 7-10 were invited to a **Latin Day** at Charter School. Year 10 Geographers were introduced to practical field work on a trip to

Rye and Hastings and DT students took inspiration from the work on display at a Design Show. A Year 9 English group were thoroughly absorbed in a production of Harper Lee's 'To Kill A Mockingbird'. For a week, Year 9 and 10 girls were busy introducing their **exchange partners** from France and Germany on their return visits to the delights of life in London and Brighton. Year 7 pupils have also been soaking up contrasting cultural experiences: as well as continuing their visits to **art galleries** in Dulwich and central London, the whole year group toured **Canterbury** and its beautiful cathedral on a joint English and History trip, bringing Chaucer's Tales and the story of Thomas Becket vividly to life. A few days spent on the **Opal Coast** also gave them a new perspective. The French



department challenged the girls to complete questionnaires with the help of locals in Le Touquet, and buy produce from the markets in the native tongue, while the Geography department ventured into the organic orchards, helping them to find out about cider and cheese-making and how to do field work by the river. As ever, we have a large number of pupils from Year 10 and above engaged in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** scheme: Mr Luttick and Mr Davies organised a Bronze Qualifying Expedition to Henley, to give some their first taste of camping under canvas.

With their public examinations over, Year 12 returned to school eager to think outside the box of Exam Board specifications and to enjoy the free-wheeling direction of their teachers in our **Bridge to A2** courses. As the name suggests, the content points them towards Year 13 work with a range of stretching, subject-based

research and activities and preparation for their studies and life after JAGS.

A first for the Art department was a weekend Year 12 trip to **St Ives**, spending time at the Tate with its Barbara Hepworth garden and summer exhibition. Meanwhile the French department enjoyed a weekend of cultural experiences in **Paris**, especially its visit to a huge collection of Impressionist art. Students of Latin, Classical Civilisation and Greek toured the newly refurbished **Ashmolean Museum** in Oxford and in particular the exhibition on 'Heracles to Alexander the Great'. London itself provides a rich selection of opportunities: RS students visited **St Paul's Cathedral** and the **British Museum**, the Spanish and History of Art departments arranged a fascinating guided tour of the Miro exhibition at **Tate Modern**. Geographers enjoyed a trip to the **Olympic Site** to look at sustainability of regeneration in the Stratford area and physicists appreciated their visit to the Rutherford Labs at **King's College Hospital Department of Medical Engineering and Physics**, while chemists visited the **Royal Society Summer Exhibition**.

The Drama department was focusing on playwright Caryl Churchill and Year 12 found a workshop led by a professional director on 'The Skriker' very stimulating. Mr Kerr led a workshop for History, Russian and Drama students on '**The Cherry Orchard**' before they all went to the National Theatre for a further workshop and a chance to see Howard Davies' 5 star production of the same. Russian students were equally gripped by the Young Vic production of Gogol's '**The Government Inspector**'. Meanwhile, the English department acquired tickets for two excellent productions: '**Dr Faustus**' at the Globe, and '**Much Ado About Nothing**' at Wyndham's Theatre.

At JAGS we attracted some interesting **speakers** for the Sixth Form. The Medical Society had visiting experts here to give three lunchtime talks on pulmonary circulation, on being part of the medical relief team in Haiti, and on beekeeping at JAGS. The Maths and Physics departments enjoyed listening to an energy analyst who works with the National Grid. Visiting speakers also included a panel of alumnae talking about their courses at UK universities. Sixth Form students have been given advice by visiting university admissions tutors on writing personal statements for UCAS and heard a talk about higher education in the USA. An interesting new development was hosting a forum with visiting tutors from Maastricht University for parents, teachers and pupils.

We are encouraging them to be open-minded about studying abroad.

With our strong culture of giving to the wider community, it seems right that JAGS is one of the schools involved in a **national pilot project: The Big Give**, aimed at sowing the seeds for a life-time of giving. Philanthropist Randi Weaver came to JAGS in June with £1000 to donate. 18 Year 9 girls in groups



had chosen 6 charities to nominate for awards and presented them to the panel, which included me, the Bursar and our Head of Community Action. Everyone was a winner because the philanthropist gave a £25 voucher to each girl to donate to the charity of her choice. However, the most money went to the Wulugu Project, thanks to the impressive research done by proposers Priya Gupta and Rebecca Zhao. We all learnt important lessons from the philanthropist about assessing how charities use their resources.

We have continued to strengthen our **community partnerships**, working with local schools in different projects and at Athol House, a Cheshire Home. JAGS organised a special tea-party and concert here for Dulwich Helpline in July 2010; this summer Charter School hosted the party, with the help of JAGS Sixth Formers. A highlight was definitely Freddie Onslow leading the community singing with her accordion-playing! Head of Sixth Form and Community Action, Mrs Askew has developed a new link with Bay Tree Centre in Brixton. Several Year 12 girls have been trained and are now acting as peer mentors at the centre after school. When term ends here we are looking forward to the annual visit from Year 3 at our neighbouring primary school, Bessemer Grange, and from Year 10 special needs pupils at Turney School, who all enjoy pond-dipping here with the guidance of Botany Gardens Manager Mr Benson, helped by Year 10. Several Year 10 and Year 11 girls will be assisting at Bessemer during the school's Creativity Week. Sixth Formers will be working at Turney School for a

week of their summer holidays and Mrs Askew will be taking a group to Romania, joining local Sixth Form Romanian pupils and working with abandoned children on a two-week residential project.

At the end of the Spring term the whole school joined in sending tangible messages of support to Japan after its earthquake. We were delighted to welcome an international concert pianist and her group of Japanese musicians who gave a consummate performance in their **Concert for Japan** during Dulwich Festival Week. The Holst Hall bulged at the seams for the Festival's opening event - a lively, happy evening of singing by **local choirs**. It is good to welcome the local community into the school, especially those who would not otherwise know about us. Most recently **JAGS Choral Society**, together with the Dulwich Festival Orchestra, filled the Holst Hall in a towering performance of Verdi: *Gloria and Fauré: Requiem*. We were very proud of the magnificent contribution of three Year 12 soloists: Victoria Yee, Gemma Wells and Emma Simmons who more than matched the professional baritone. What a marvellous



opportunity for them all. Earlier, whole classes in Years 7-9 enjoyed singing together in the Form Song Competition, held just before half term.

Two more community music events at JAGS are still to happen in the next week: a **JAGS Alumnae and Staff Chamber Ensemble** concert on Sunday 10 July and the **Primary Schools' Singing Festival** on Tuesday 12 July. Internationally acclaimed, award-winning composer and conductor Alexander L'Estrange led a dynamic workshop for 200 local primary school children to learn and perform his song 'This is our world' to their parents last year. It was such a great success that we are repeating the experience this year. Before that the JAGS Alumnae and Staff Chamber Ensemble will be giving a free concert at 6.00 pm on Sunday 10 July. Do come and listen to

alumnae Jenny Lau, Charlotte Luddington, Jenny Macrae, Annis Lampard and current Y10 pupil Susie Lyness play *Mozart: String Quartet*, together with JAGS Music Staff Caroline Davis, Paul Brunner and John Flinders who will be playing *Dvorak: Piano Trio in F Minor Opus 65*. There will be a retiring collection for the JACMC.

JAGS girls enjoy occasionally entering national competitions, and we are happy to share good news of their results! The **Salter's Festival of Chemistry** national competition was won by our Year 8 team, comprising of Hattie Binny, Katherine Braybrook, Madeleine Capstick and Emma Chalmers, who had a memorable day involving forensic science and making fruity ice-cream! Two Year 11 Russian students were awarded prizes in a national **Russian essay competition**: Roshnee Patel won second prize and Freya Turner was commended. Congratulations, too, to Anjuli Kumar and Miranda Frizzelle, who were respectively KS4 and KS5 **Italian competition** winners for their film reviews written in Italian. JAGS has also won the 2011 **Good Schools Guide A Level Award** for the best point score at an English Independent School for Girls taking Italian at A level. Well done to the department.

Pupils from Years 7 and 8 achieved 15 gold, 46 silver and 59 bronze certificates in this year's **Junior Mathematical Challenge**. Over 235,000 pupils from across the UK sat the JMC in May, with roughly the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze. Approximately 1200 of the top students are invited to sit the follow-on competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad Round. Congratulations to Qi Quan Wang (Year 7) who was awarded the Best in School Certificate and who was invited to sit the Olympiad. Her result is as yet unknown.

This year's theme for the **Young Art Exhibition** held at the Royal College of Art in aid of Cancer Research



UK was 'Every Picture Tells a Story'. Well done to Sidonie Wilson, Abigail Karas, Katharine Higgs, Gemma Wells, Harmony Osuocha, Emma Simmons and Harriet Neale whose work was selected for display and to Iona Thompson whose work was commended. The prestigious Rector's prize

went to Amber-Lily Fraser, Year 13. The DT department is celebrating news that Francesca McClymont was awarded 2nd place for her design of a laminated reading chair for children in the **National School of Furniture Summer Show**. Well done, too, to Aggie Martin, Year 7, one of 6 national winners in the **UK Children's Map Competition** ('Living in a Globalised World') run by the British Cartographic Society. Her design will be entered into a global competition, representing the UK. She has won the school a subscription to an ICT package worth several hundred pounds.

The **Junior production** (Years 7-9) this year was 'Alice', adapted and with additional material by Mrs Billington, and co-directed with Mrs Norton-Smith. "Alice is undergoing an identity crisis", they said, and the shockwaves of her journey of discovery rippled and shivered through the audience each night. We



thought we knew the story and loved meeting familiar tea-party characters like Kings, Queens and the Tweedle twins, but along with the hypnotic Cheshire Cat and the spaced-out Caterpillar there were introductions to flapper girl flowers, talking trees, birds, animals, fish, fruit and vegetables of distinction! It was brilliant fun watching the five Alices find their way through the puzzling and dangerous world, and seeing how the ensemble changed direction so skilfully. Well done to all!

The PE department has enjoyed some remarkable individual and group achievements in this short term. **Sports news** is carried on our website each week. Please look there for details of outstanding individual performances at the **Kent and Surrey Athletics Championships**, and also at the **London Schools' Athletics Championships**. Well done to our teams who have performed brilliantly this season. We have certainly raised the bar in our athletics results. Well done to the Year 7, 8 & 9 athletics teams who all convincingly won the **Southwark Athletics** championships the week before half term.

Many congratulations to both the junior and intermediate track and field teams who won the Regional finals of the English Schools' competition and go on to the **National Finals** in Oxford on 9 July. Our



Junior team won this event last year and became national champions - we wish both teams luck this year. A special mention must go to Ella Balinska who threw a fantastic 33m in the javelin - she is now ranked 7th in the country. Congratulations to Yemisi Sofolarin, Natasha Sinha, Angharad Seaton and Sophie Parkes, who were chosen to represent London in the **English Schools' Championships**. Yemisi finished in 2nd place with a new Personal Best of 34.05m in the discus.



Despite having to focus on her public examinations, we are delighted that Year 12 Katie Snowden has kept her training going and is representing **Team GB** in the **800m** at the **World Youth Championships** in Lille this week. A terrific achievement - we wish her well and news will follow.

In other sports, congratulations to Juliet Edey in Year 9 who has represented London and Kent in Water Polo this season. She has also recently attended Great Britain trials and has been selected for the England Talent Programme development water polo squad for 1996/97 born girls.

The **tennis** teams have also enjoyed success, winning almost all of their inter-school matches. The U13 top couple, Emma Rosier and Emma Brown reached the semi-finals of the Surrey Schools' Tennis Festival. In **rounders**, Year 7 and Year 9 won the St Dunstan's tournament. The whole of Year 10 tried their hand at adventurous pursuits including climbing and abseiling, orienteering, high ropes and team-building activities for a day at Hindleap Warren in Surrey, some of it in thunder and lightning storms! The Year 12 Community Sports Leaders Award group organised a dance workshop and display for Year 5 pupils at Dulwich Hamlet School. JAGS pupils attended a PE Day for our pupils together with those from our partner schools in the **Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership**. On the last full day of term, the PE department organised a highly successful **Sports Day**, adding points to the House totals for the year.

The end of term has its own rhythm, especially in the Summer when we see the culmination of activities for the year. On the morning of **Founder's Day** we held our very special annual Leavers' Ceremony for parents and teachers of Year 13 girls, to mark their significant and varied contributions to the life of the school and to the wider community, and to wish them well. Mary Francis CBE, LVO, our Chair of Governors, provided several inspirational pieces of advice in her speech and set the girls a fine example, recently beating an otherwise all-male shortlist to be awarded the accolade of top Non-Executive Director of the Year. A glorious afternoon followed with alumnae, parents and friends joining the girls to tour displays in the school and for events - everything from snail-racing and ice-cream making to rocket-launching, busking and musical performances on the stage in the main arena. The energetic Dance-Off between Houses raised the tempo before the whole school community gathered in front of the giant screen for **The Big Sing**. We surpassed ourselves with very little rehearsal and created a three-part harmony of rounds that even Director of Music Mr O'Hara thought was passable. The massed adult and junior choir belted out 'Thank you for the Music', not exactly as Abba might have sung it, but the point is we were having fun and doing something together. This reflects the spirit which we hope will pervade the **James Allen's Community Music Centre** when it is built for enthusiastic local people to make music. It is now 20 years since our 250th anniversary of James Allen's founding of our school. I wonder what he would have made of our efforts.

At this time of year we inevitably have to say farewell and thank you to a number of **staff**. Three very long-serving teachers are retiring: Mrs Blake (Italian), Mrs Hanner (Biology) and Mrs Hawting (History & Politics) - we wish them a long and happy retirement. Miss Evernden is moving on to be Head of English at Channing School and Ms Little (Chemistry) is moving to the West Country with her family - we wish them both every success. We also say farewell and thank you to a number of temporary staff who have been covering maternity leaves and short-term vacancies: Mrs Allen (French), Mr Clark (Music), Mr Kelway (English), Miss Ravetto (Italian) and Mrs Thompson (Chemistry). Mrs Barber, our senior Science & Chemistry technician, has retired after many years here and Mr Strong has given up his post as our Botany Gardens Manager.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, John Reid, our **Bursar and Clerk to the Governors** for the past 23 years, retired in May. He is an extraordinarily humane and generous spirited man, in the tradition of James Allen, as well as a skilled accountant and manager, and we wish him well in his retirement. We have been delighted to welcome Sarah Buxton to JAGS as our new Bursar and Clerk to the Governors. A Cambridge

Classicist, accountant, experienced Bursar and previously Financial Director of a national charity, she brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to the school and has rapidly become fully involved with the life of our community.

We hope that all those involved in the forthcoming **choir and orchestra tour to Italy** will have a wonderful time. JAGS will be busy with young people from all over South London, even in August, with **South London Youth Orchestra** courses, the **JASSPA** 'Once On This Island' Drama course and many sporting activities for local children and adults. We are fortunate to have such wonderful facilities and very willing to share them. I hope the holidays will be relaxing and refreshing for you all, whatever the summer holds for you.

Marion Gibbs



James Allen's Girls' School
registered charity numbers: 312750/1124853
www.jags.org.uk



Notes for Parents

School uniform

SchoolBlazer are once again running a free postage and packaging offer over the summer to encourage parents to place their online orders early for school uniform. This promotion will run until Monday 18 July. Telephone enquiries: 01832 280011 or 07973 521204.

As you know we have made a concerted effort this year to ensure that the girls' skirts are worn at a respectable length. It is important to maintain the progress we have made and I would ask you to ensure that your daughter's skirt is still an appropriate length in September. New skirts should be worn on the knee and old-style ones should be no more than 10cm above the knee. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Car Parking and Pupil drop-off and pick-up

Every new parent signs a form agreeing that they will behave with care and courtesy when driving their car and parking in the vicinity of the school. However, we still receive complaints from our neighbours about thoughtless behaviour, including parents who block their access to their driveways. In the morning, the school car park is not available for dropping-off pupils. It is too dangerous while staff and catering delivery vehicles are driving in, as blocking the entrance can cause a problem for traffic on the main road and girls who are dropped in the car park are putting themselves into the path of oncoming vehicles. Parents may park in marked bays in the car park after 4.15 pm to collect their daughters.

School Crossing Patrols (Lollipop People)

Thank you to all those who signed petitions and joined the demonstrations in recent weeks to protest about Southwark Council's decision to axe the Crossing Patrols in this part of Southwark. We were delighted to learn that they have been given a one year reprieve. However, we need the lollipop people for life (in several senses of the word) and not just for one more year. A campaign will continue.

Bilingual pupils

Pupils who fluently speak and write a modern foreign language at home and who wish to take public examinations in that language without studying it in school must inform Ms Sanchez, MFL Coordinator, in September as suitable arrangements have to be made in good time. Reminders will be sent to parents and pupils in September.

Rules and Regulations; PSHCE; School Policies.

We regularly update our rules and regulations and school policies (including PSHCE) to reflect any changes in practice and to include any new regulatory requirements. All of these documents are to be found on our website under Governance and Policies.

2011-2012 School Calendar

The 2011/2012 school calendar will be posted on the website on Thursday 7 July 2011. Hard copies have been distributed via Form Tutors for your daughters to bring home.