



This Spring Term has been incredibly short because of the early Easter date; however, we have still managed to undertake a host of activities and events. The **ISI inspection** also took time out from our normal pattern; many thanks to all the girls and parents who contribute to the inspectors' evidence base. The oral feedback was very positive and we are expecting the final report to be published in April. All parents will receive a copy. The term started well with the news that JAGS girls had achieved a record number of **30 offers of places at Oxford (19) and Cambridge (11)** in the current round. Many congratulations to these girls and to all the Sixth Formers who are holding very good offers from their chosen universities. We wish them all success in their forthcoming A level examinations.

The **Art Department** mounted a most successful GCSE Art Exhibition in the Pavilion Café in Dulwich Park entitled 'Light, Colour, Space', from 22 January to 17 February. It included a very impressive variety of media from dry-point prints and collages to needlepoint and appliqué textiles. The visitors seemed greatly to enjoy the diversity of the work on display.



Our **PE Department** has had another busy and successful term, taking part in a host of matches and tournaments. Many congratulations to the U16 indoor hockey team who came 2nd in the South of England competition and qualified for the National Finals, where they played really well against very strong opposition and were placed 9th overall. The U13 hockey team came 3rd in their section in the Surrey competition. Similarly, the U12 hockey team played really well and



reached the quarter finals of the Surrey Tournament. In swimming, the U12, U13 and U14 teams did exceptionally well to win the London Schools Relay competition. The U12 team also came 2nd in the London Schools' Individual Competition. In February the Senior Freestyle Relay team and the Intermediate Medley Relay team went to the National Finals in Sheffield: the seniors were placed 11th and the intermediates 14th. In netball the U12, U13 and U14 teams qualified for the

Surrey County Finals. All teams played very well and both the U12 and U14 teams reached the semi finals. In the Southwark Cross Country competition both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams won: Ashleigh Campbell won the Year 7 race with Rebecca Stormer coming 2nd, and in the Year 8 race Ellie Webb came 1st. In the London Schools cross country seven Year 7 girls and four Year 8 girls represented Southwark. The Southwark team won in both age groups, with Ashleigh Campbell coming 2nd and Grace de Rome 3rd in the Year 7 race and Ellie Webb was 2nd in the Year 8 race. Congratulations to the Year 7 indoor football team who won the Alleen's invitational tournament. Many congratulations also to Bryony Gill (Year 10) who won the gold medal in the London Gymnastics Federation and has now qualified as one of the top 4 girls to represent London in the National Finals in Birmingham in April. Well done to Emma Van Oss and Madeleine Taylor (Year 11) for coming 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in the Surrey U16 Youth Epee at the recent county Fencing Championships. JAGS staff are not to be outdone by their pupils: many congratulations to JAGS Spanish teacher, Miss Clare Martin, on her stunning victory in the senior women's race at Swansea in February, thus winning the Welsh Senior Women's Cross-Country title. Please look out for Miss Martin and Miss Britten (History & Politics) who are both running in the London Marathon in April, with Miss Martin competing in the elite women's race. Our hockey and netball team are

undertaking a very exciting tour in South Africa during the Easter holidays and we wish them good luck in their matches and hope that they will have an excellent time.

Our **Music Department** has had another outstanding term. Well done to all those in the Holst Chamber Choir who performed at the **BBC Choir of the Year** second round in Basingstoke; the competition was very fierce and they were not chosen to progress further.

The first major event this term was the superb Music Scholars' Concert in late January, followed closely by our **annual JAGS Piano Festival**, which included almost 100 performances. The standard was very high and our adjudicator, Stephen De Pledge, thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The **A2 Recitals Concert** was an exhilarating evening in late February and the girls' strong support for one another as each performed was palpable. Our annual **Popfest**, where 17 feisty acts competed for the top prize, provided a lively contrast and a fun-packed evening. Our **Informal Spring Concert** has now become an established and popular event, involving a wide range of instrumental groups and choirs; it was good to see the very youngest girls playing alongside the more experienced. Well done also to the ten girls from Years 9 to 11 who successfully auditioned to play **chamber music** in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace during this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Awards ceremony in May. The brass quartet will play extracts from Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks as people come in, and strings and woodwind groups will play Mozart quartets and a Bottesini sextet during dinner. The girls will also play for two earlier events at King's College Hospital. Five chamber groups earlier took part in the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools. The term ended with the wonderful **Concert at St John's, Smith Square**, on 18 March; the whole evening was both brilliant and very moving. The choirs and orchestra performed Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, Seiber's Three Hungarian Songs, Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain, Kodaly's Hary Janos Suite. Many congratulations to all the girls and staff who were involved. Details of two exciting concerts in April are enclosed with this mailing.

JAGS girls frequently put on events to raise funds for charities and this term has been no exception. This year our annual multi-cultural evening was entitled **Viva**; it was an enthusiastic and inspiring celebration of our diversity, devised and produced entirely by the girls themselves. Girls of all ages performed dances from Africa, India, Spain, America and the UK, and music from Russia, China



and Ireland was played and sung, along with gospel, a selection of jazz and an instant Japanese lesson. A wonderful time was had by all and over £1,400 was raised for the African Harvest Help charity. A few weeks later we were treated to a superb concert by our **Gospel Choir**, again organised entirely by the girls themselves. The sheer energy of the performances and the beauty of the often unaccompanied singing were inspirational and we were pleased to welcome representatives from the South African Sparrow Schools, the charity supported by the choir. At both these events we were able to sample food from many different countries lovingly cooked and donated by girls and their families.

Yet again JAGS girls performed very well in the **UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge**. 209 girls from Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the challenge in February and the girls received 23 gold, 35 silver and 46 bronze certificates. Katrina Ferron (Year 11) was awarded the 'Best in School' certificate and she also qualified for the Maclaurin Olympiad paper. 4 girls from Year 9 qualified for the Grey Kangaroo paper and 7 girls from Years 10 and 11 for the Pink Kangaroo - a superb achievement! Three Year 12 girls attended a day conference about 'Maths in the City' at Goldman Sachs and a group of Year 10 enjoyed a 'Mathematics in Action' day at Imperial College, London.

Our **History and Politics Department** have organised a wide variety of activities for their students recently. Forty Year 12 History students enjoyed a four day trip to Rome in February, seeing the sights of the Ancient City and the Vatican as well as learning about Mussolini's Italy to complement their AS studies. They were fully immersed in Rome's many attractions, both cultural and culinary, and proved

that blue skies and sunshine are not always necessary in order to enjoy the Eternal City. Recent History and Politics Societies' talks have included those by Professor Jonathan Phillips from Royal Holloway, University of London, on the 'Muslim Response to the Crusades' and from Dominic Grieve, the Shadow Attorney General, on 'Liberty and Security: Can they be reconciled?'. Our team entry for the National Youth Parliament Competition has just been recorded and the outcome will be known in the summer. 64 girls from Year 9 will be visiting the First

World war Battlefields at the end of the Easter holiday and we wish them an enjoyable trip.

Many interesting activities have also been arranged by the **Modern Languages Department**. This year's visit from the European Theatre Company posed the question "Are we vert yet?" to Years 7, 8 & 9. Throughout the performance, pupils took part in a range of ways to bring to life the story of Cendrine and her environmentally unfriendly sisters. With singing, dancing and plenty of opportunities to take part, pupils made recycling decisions, made recycled music and even made recycling history by doing it all in French! The Spanish department worked hard to organize an innovative Latino Day to which Year 9 pupils from a number of Southwark state schools were invited. The students enjoyed workshops on Salsa dancing, Flamenco dancing, Hispanic art and theatre and shared a selection of Spanish food. Japanese students participated enthusiastically in a very energetic Taiko drumming workshop. Girls studying AS French in Years 11 and 12 participated most successfully in a range of language-related fun activities with a parallel group from Dulwich College. Meanwhile we welcomed a group of German girls from Nuremberg who were visiting their exchange partners at JAGS for one week. The German girls enjoyed the sights of London, including trips to the London Dungeon and the Aquarium, and a tour round the Houses of Parliament. Our return visit to Nuremberg will take place in the summer holidays. During the Easter holidays parties of JAGS girls and staff will be visiting both Russia and Montepulciano, Italy, and we wish them very happy and successful trips.

A party of keen Latinists took part in the annual **Latin Reading Competition** run by the Classical Association for all schools in London. Antonia Skinner and Laura Roberts from Year 8 enacted a scene from the Cambridge Latin course, Holly Plumeridge (Year 10) recited a poem by Catullus, and Nicola Ingram and Zofia Bakowska (Year 12) delivered an antiphonal poem by Horace. All the girls gave excellent performances in a challenging competition, congratulations to Holly who won 2nd prize in the pre-GCSE group. Many other exciting events have taken place this term. Design Technology GCSE and A level students went on a special visit to the Jaguar and Morgan car plant in Coventry. Sixth Form Economics students visited the Bank of England Museum. The whole of Year 8 spent a very successful day at Kew Gardens. Year 7 girls and older pupils have visited a number of London Art Galleries and numerous theatre trips have been arranged. Science students have travelled to lectures outside of school and attended special sessions in school, including a special Year 13 A level Biology day. The Sixth Form have enjoyed a variety of visiting speakers, including



presentations on accountancy, dentistry, Gap year environmental projects and work with street children in Peru. Holocaust Memorial Day was recognised in the usual, very powerful way, at JAGS with a special assembly given by the two Sixth Formers who had visited Auschwitz, Laetitia Lloyd-Davies and Victoria Pearce, and workshops for all Year 11 pupils with Holocaust Survivors. Year 11 RS GCSE students also spent a day visiting "Jewish London". Thank you most sincerely to the staff for giving up their time to enable the girls to participate in such interesting ventures.

Good luck to our intrepid Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants and our Sixth Form Geographers who are undertaking expeditions and field work during the Easter holidays. The annual '**walk to school week**' will begin on Monday 28 April. There will be a prize for the form that increases the uptake of cyclists and walkers during that week. If you normally drop your daughter outside the school perhaps you would care to drop her at the end of Turney Road so that she may join in and walk to school. Our **Annual History of Art Lecture** will be on 1 May at Dulwich Picture Gallery and details are enclosed with this mailing. We are endeavouring to keep our **website** (www.jags.org.uk) as up to date as possible with news and information about past, current and forthcoming events. Please do try to check it regularly if you have access to the Internet.

Our many events would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of our support staff team and we are especially grateful to the school-keepers for all their help throughout the term. Thank you, too, for all your support. I trust that you and your daughters will enjoy the Easter holiday and that those girls preparing for public examinations will be nurtured and encouraged as they work through their revision schedules.

Marion Gibbs

Information from JAGS Governors:

Thank you to all those who attended our “Meet the Governors Evening” on 28 February and to all who submitted offers of help. The notes from this meeting are now on the school’s website: www.jags.org.uk under information/news for parents. If you are unable to download these notes from the website please contact John Reid, Clerk to the Governors, at the school and he will send you a paper copy.

The **new building** is progressing very well and should be ready for use in the Autumn Term.

The level of **fees** for the academic year 2008-9 was set at the Board Meeting in March. The termly fee for JAGS pupils will be £4,095. Any parent who is in genuine financial difficulty should contact John Reid, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, to discuss possible ways forward.

Reminders for Parents

Following our recent Internet Safety Evening for Parents it became obvious that girls are neglecting our Internet Safety Code. Social networking sites such as bebo, facebook, piczo and myspace are now commonly used by teenagers, but they should make sure that they “lock” their personal pages and that they do not post inappropriate images of themselves, or identify themselves by giving out personal information. We take very seriously the protection of the school’s good name and are not prepared to tolerate inappropriate language or unpleasant comments posted on web pages which are openly identified with JAGS. It is worth noting that Internet pages often remain accessible even when they have been deleted and many universities and employers now trawl for information about applicants.

As you know, traffic around the school is very heavy. If it is necessary to drive your daughter to and from school, please remember that Great Spilmans - the road opposite the school - is now clearly marked as a private road and therefore not available to parents for stopping or turning. The double yellow lines opposite the school must be respected; the police carry out spot checks.

May I remind you that girls are not allowed to have mobile phones or other electronic devices with them during the day at school. If they need to bring a mobile phone, ipod, camera etc. for a particular purpose, it must be deposited in the School Office for safe keeping and collected at the end of the day. We cannot be responsible for such items elsewhere.

Key Dates

Thursday 10 April

Term begins for girls

Thursday 8 May

Chamber Music Concert

Half Term Holiday

Monday 26 - Friday 30 May

Monday 16 June

Year 12 Evening for Parents and Girls

Tuesday 17 June (also 18 and 19)

Junior Production

Friday 20 June

Jazz Night

Friday 27 June

Founder’s Day Half- Holiday (from noon)

Saturday 28 June

Year 13 Leavers’ Ceremony 10.00am
Founder’s Day events in the afternoon

Tuesday 1 July

Founder’s Concert

Wednesday 2

Sports Day (morning only)

Thursday 3 July (full day)

End of Term for Girls