



Thank you for all your support throughout this half-term. I trust that you and your daughters will enjoy the Easter holiday and that those girls preparing for public examinations will be cherished and encouraged as they work through their revision schedules.

This second half of the Spring Term has been brief, but full of absolutely superb achievements, particularly in music and sport. I feel incredibly privileged to be Headmistress of such a wonderful school.

The Music Department has had an outstanding few weeks. The quality of the concert at St John's, Smith Square on 18 March was exceptional and the whole evening was both brilliant and very moving. It was a joy and a privilege to hear our Year 13 Music Scholar, Victoria Harrild, play the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto so beautifully. The choirs and orchestra performed Handel's Zadok the Priest and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms superbly and the concert ended with two rousing movements of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Many congratulations to all concerned. This was the final concert of many this term. Since my half-term letter we have enjoyed a Choral Evensong at Christ's Chapel on 25 February, the Year 13 A2 Music Recitals on 28 February, the GCSE Compositions Concert on 1 March, the Chamber Music Concert on 7 March and the more informal Spring Concert on 14 March. The latter featured our younger choirs and orchestras plus some wind and brass ensembles and ended with a Schubert String Quintet and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. There can be few other schools that have such a depth of musical talent and a range of performances. Many thanks to all our music staff for their commitment and inspiration which makes such high quality performances possible.

Not to be outdone, our PE Department has also enjoyed a very successful half-term. After their triumphs last half-term in the London Schools' Relay Championships, our swimmers have continued to do well and are progress-



ing through the rounds of various competitions. Congratulations to the U12 swimming team who were placed 3rd in the London Schools' Competition. In the Surrey Swimming Championships Alicia Manley and Ruby Curran Jones each won 2 medals while Hannah Cannell swam brilliantly and won an astonishing 12 medals. Many congratulations to the

girls, especially to Hannah who has won a place in the 800m freestyle at the National Finals in Blackpool in July. Our cross-country teams represented Southwark in the London Championships, the Year 8 team won



overall, with Katie Snowden gaining 1st place and Emily Watson 4th, while the Year 7 team were placed 2nd in their age group, with Elinor Webb coming 3rd individually. Well done to Julia Wedmore, Katie Snowden, Quinta Pusey and Hannah Cannell who are running for London in the inter-counties cross-country championship. The artificial turf pitch has certainly boosted our hockey players and the U16 team are to be congratulated on reaching then last 8 of the National Plate Cup, recently beating Lord Wandsworth College

and then Kent College. They will play the next round shortly. Our U12 hockey players are developing well and they reached the last 8 of the County Tournament before narrowly losing to City of London, Freemans. Very well done to Katie Rose who has been named as Captain of the Surrey U17 hockey team and has reached the final selection for the South of England hockey team. Our netball teams have also had a good season. The U12, U13 and U14 netball teams qualified last half-term for the finals of the Surrey tournament. Over 70 schools took part in the preliminary rounds and 12 schools qualified for the finals. All the teams played exceptionally well in terrible windy and cold conditions. The U12 and U14 teams came 3rd in their sections, narrowly missing qualifying for the semi-finals. The U13 team reached the semi-final and narrowly lost 3 – 2 in a thrilling game to the eventual overall winners. Congratulations also to Rhea Bhadressa who plays table tennis for Surrey and has now been selected for national trials.

JAGS girls frequently put on events to raise funds for charities and this term has been no exception. The most notable of these was the Diaspora multi-cultural evening, an enthusiastic and inspiring celebration of our diversity, held on 2 March, devised and produced entirely by the girls themselves. The evening's dazzling entertainment included our Gospel Choir, Indian song, Chinese stories, international poetry, scenes from Goodness Gracious Me, dances from many cultures including hip hop/ballet, Turkish, African, Bollywood and Flamenco and it ended with a Fashion Show. Many thanks to all the parents who contributed traditional ethnic



food and to the Sixth Form organisers, led by Jessica Ah-Kye, Nadia Osman, Panayiota Toumba and Kamilah Vidale-Ellis. We are proud to have raised over £1350 to support the work of the HIV/Aids charity, Avert, in their Tholulwazi orphan project in Kwazulu Natal, the South African province that has the highest rate of HIV infection.

Our French Debating Team of Charlotte Thomas and Josephine Fogden won the South East of England French debating competition, beating teams from Dulwich College, Highgate, Whitgift, Old Palace and Tonbridge. They took part in the National Finals on 19 March and??? Congratulations to Natalie Picken and Sarah Thornton (Year 8) who won 2nd prize in their class at the London Classical Association Latin and Greek Reading Competition.

JAGS girls once again had great success in the National Intermediate Maths Challenge, achieving 33 Gold, 38 Silver and 63 Bronze certificates. The Best in School certificates went to Nicola Ingram in Year 11 and Harriet Conner in Year 10. Harriet Conner and Julia Wedmore (Year 10) and Sophie Garforth Bles (Year 9) have qualified to sit the Olympiad paper. Sixteen other girls have qualified to sit the Kangaroo paper – congratulations to all these girls and our talented mathematics teachers.

Our History and Politics department have organised a wide variety of activities for their students recently. Thirty 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. Six of our Year 13 Politics students were selected to attend the inaugural conference of the Movement for European Reform in Brussels on 6 March, joining groups from other schools on Eurostar for a very early start! The girls heard speakers on a variety of issues facing the EU, including