

October 2011

Dear Parents

As this busy half-term draws to a close, we are all looking forward to the break. Some pupils are already on study trips to Russia and Salamanca; others are preparing for Duke of Edinburgh's Silver and Gold Award expeditions in the Peak District. Whether you are at home or away, we hope you will enjoy the two weeks.

We have had an extraordinarily full half-term. The **highlights** have included the Fashion Show (which raised over £1,200 for our Romania project), a day visit from the South African Sparrow Choir, Senior House Music Concerts, Junior Inter-house Drama Competition, our Music Scholars' Concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Book Week, Languages Day and the JAGS Invitational Biathlon.

Individual girls have continued to achieve **stunning successes**, regionally, nationally and internationally, in a very wide range of activities. The details of all our news are on our website www.jags.org.uk, along with the calendar and other information, which is constantly updated. However, I must mention the huge pride and excitement we all felt when Katie Snowden (Year 13, Mary Lines Sports Scholar) brought the 800m Commonwealth Youth Games Gold Medal into an assembly – she is a world class athlete and deserves the highest congratulations. We are very fortunate to have a number of girls in GB squads at the moment, for example, Sophie Parkes (Year 11) for triathlon and tetrathlon, and Annie Boyle (Year 11) for sailing. Two JAGS girls have also been commended as Foyle Young Poets, chosen from a field of over 7,000; poems by Agnes Martin (Year 8) and Rosalie Wells (Year 11) are now to be published in the Foyle anthology. We wish every success to Claudia Moore-Gillon (Year 12), our Holst Music Scholar, who is playing Vaughan Williams, *The Lark Ascending* at the launch concert of the Malcolm Arnold Festival on 21 October in Northampton.

Our formal **Annual Report 2010-11** is now published on the website, please use the link: http://www.jags.org.uk/jags/about/annual_report. Should you need a hard copy, please contact the School Office.

We will be using JagsPost and the website for information about arrangements in case of **snow** in the next few months; we may also send text messages, so please ensure we have your correct contact details.

If your daughter is in Years 10-13 and wishes to be entered for an **additional language GCSE, AS or A-level examination** in a home language or one studied outside of school, please complete the form recently sent out via JagsPost.

Inconsiderate **driving and parking** by JAGS parents in the immediate vicinity continues to be a source of concern to local residents. One has reminded me that under Section 243 of the Highway Code, it is "an offence to park/wait/stop across someone's drive". May I urge you to exercise care, courtesy and consideration.

We are continuing to work towards potential Major Donors to start the fundraising campaign for the **James Allen's Community Music Centre (JACMC)** and we rely on the support of the local community for this project. We are about to advertise a new post of Development Director to head up this campaign and to drive forward our other development needs, such as fundraising for additional Bursary places. The advert and details will also be placed on our website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Diary Dates for the next half-term

Wednesday 2 November: JAGS 'Macbeth' production, part of Shakespeare Schools' Festival, 7.00 pm at the Broadway Theatre, Lewisham

Friday 11 November: PopFest at JAGS

16 November: Orchestral Concert, 7.00 pm at St Barnabas

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November: Art Fair at JAGS

7, 8, 9 & 10 December: JAGS (with Dulwich College) 'Sweeney Todd' production, Prission Theatre

13 December: Choral Concert, 7.30 pm at St Barnabas