

September 2007

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your daughters have had a relaxing and refreshing summer and I look forward to working with you to ensure that your daughters have a happy and successful year. Many thanks to the staff who gave up their time to take pupils on **trips during the holiday**. Our girls enjoyed another successful German Exchange, worked as volunteers with children and young adults with special needs in Romania, played and sang to large audiences on the Music Tour in Italy and broadened their knowledge on a Sixth Form History Reading Week. Back at home JAGS girls also worked on a two week project at Turney Special School, supporting the pupils in a variety of ways.

Some good news from last term arrived too late for inclusion in the newsletter. The three JAGS girls who were selected for participation in the **Intermediate Maths Olympiad** (chosen from the top 1% in the national Year 9,10 & 11 Mathematical Challenge) were all awarded Certificates of Merit – an excellent achievement for Sophie Garforth-Bles (Year 9 at the time), Harriet Conner and Julia Wedmore (then Year 10). Kaushiki Singh (then Year 10) was awarded a special two-week scholarship this summer to study in Madrid by the Education Department of the Spanish Embassy for her **excellence in Spanish**. Our Junior Athletics Team took part in the **English Schools' Athletics Track & Field Cup Final** at Chelmsford on Saturday 7 July. They were placed 8th overall, a very creditable national achievement. We also achieved some outstanding individual performances: Alicia Johnson-Cole won the discus, Katie Snowden won the 800m and Emily Watson won the 200m; Nkechi Nwobani came 3rd in the 100m and our 4 x 100m won the relay. Well done to all!

Once again we were delighted with our A level and GCSE results (although as usual we have made some requests for re-marks and have already received some changes). Many congratulations to all the girls and their teachers. At **A level** 80% of all our individual A level subject entries were awarded A grades and 96% A or B grades. 73 of the 106 girls in Year 13 achieved at least 3 A grades at full A level. Special congratulations to Charlotte Thomas who achieved 7 A grades in French (with Distinction in the Advanced Extension Award [AEA]), German (with Distinction in AEA), Religious Studies (with Distinction in AEA), Latin, Classical Greek, Mathematics and Critical Thinking. Charlotte was also commended by Edexcel for being among the top ten candidates nationally in French, German and Religious Studies. Two girls achieved 6 A grades at full A level: Josephine Fogden in French (with Distinction in the AEA), German (commended by Edexcel for being in top ten nationally), Economics, History, Mathematics and Further Mathematics and Anastasia Michayeva in German, Classical Greek, Russian, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Four further girls, Helen Browncross, Anna Lindsey-Clark, Imogen Parry and Sophie Renner gained 5 full A level A grades, with Helen and Imogen also being awarded an AEA Distinction and Anna a Merit. Katie Carpenter won a special medal from the AQA Examination Board as the top candidate in the country in the Languages, Arts and Performance category, based on her A level Drama marks. Katharine Kenny and Imogen Parry were commended by AQA for achieving one of the top 5 marks in the country for their A level Physics examinations. Lucie Robathan and Laura Burtonshaw were commended by Edexcel for being in the top ten nationally for A level Religious Studies and Lucie was also in the top ten for Religious Studies AEA. Outstanding achievements!

At GCSE, 88% of all our subject entries were awarded the top A* or A grades (54% at A*) and 81 of the 105 Year 11 pupils achieved at least 8 A* or A grades. Top performers were Zofia Bakowska who gained 11 A* GCSE, while Caitlin Burtonshaw, Nicola Ingram and Kiki Winter each gained 10A*. 27 girls achieved at least 8 A*. Nicola was commended by Edexcel for being in the top ten nationally for Chemistry and Physics and Alexandra Butterworth for being in the top ten for Double Award Science. Well done.

Congratulations also to Sophie Cole (Year7) and Alice Moseley (Year 8) who have been selected for the **U13 Surrey County Hockey Squad** this year.

The **James Allen's Community Orchestra** is holding its first concert of the year on Saturday 15 September at 7.30 p.m. in the Great Hall, Dulwich College. The programme includes Shostakovich's 5th Symphony and tickets are available on the door.

The **JAGS Parents' Association Social Evening & AGM** will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Holst Hall on Thursday 4 October. All parents are most welcome. The first of our **Parents' Seminars** this year will be on the topic of *Adolescent Issues* at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 11 October; all parents are welcome, but the evening will be particularly useful for Year 8 & 9 parents.

Our **New Dining Hall & Classrooms Building Project** has progressed well during the summer holidays. May I remind you that there is no parking at the front of the school for parents and that the only visitors' entrance is through the main Reception. We are very mindful of the need for extra safety and security precautions during the building project.

We are once again revising and updating our **website**. The address will remain the same www.jags.org.uk but we hope that the new site will be even more accessible and user-friendly. It will probably go live at half-term and should enable us to cut down on the amount of paper which we send out to parents.

We are pleased to welcome a number of **new teaching staff** this term: Miss Allgrove, full-time Religious Studies; Mr Byfield, full-time Biology; Mrs Harrison, part-time Geography; Mrs McCleave, part-time Religious Studies and Dance; Mrs Rosier, part-time Physics; Miss Turner, full-time Maths and our new Spanish Assistant Senora Panadero. Mrs Latham will not be with us this half-term and Mr Davies will be taking her Physics classes.

I look forward to seeing you all at forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely,