



To Read and So...

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JAGS Sports Club

JAGS Sports Club was relaunched in the New Year with the opening of the new pool. Other work is being done to upgrade our existing sports facilities, and more improvements and innovations are planned, including a café, later in the year. The Sports Hall has a new floor, and the fitness suite is being enlarged and re-equipped. The squash courts will be rebuilt, and the interior furnishings and lighting upgraded to match those of the pool. People with a JAGS connection – Old Girls, former members of staff, parents of former pupils – can join the Sports Club at preferential rates. To find out more and to book a visit call the Sports Club on 020 8299 4286.

There may be some short term and temporary work available at the Sports Club for bright, willing people. Local Old Girls, particularly those with Life Guard qualifications, who are interested should send a short CV to Alison Evans, our Community Enterprises Manager at AlisonE@jags.demon.co.uk.

The Annual Fund

Our First Annual Fund still continues. Details have been sent to all former staff, parents of former pupils and to many year groups of Old Girls: if you have not yet received Annual Fund material, it will be arriving in the next few weeks. Please do consider making a gift. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far: we have raised nearly £15,000 already, but we need everyone's involvement to make sure we hit our target of £50,000 and perhaps even surpass it.

The money raised will benefit the Scholars' Fund, finance new Sports Exhibitions for 11+ applicants as well as provide a number of improvements for both JAPS and JAGS, so please do support this first Annual Fund. Your gift really does count, especially as contributing through Gift Aid means a donation increases by nearly a third at no extra cost to you. The Annual Fund will close in July, but the earlier we receive gifts, the sooner we can put them to work.

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Congratulations

We were delighted to learn that **Brigid Gardner** (better known to many Old Girls as Mrs Davies) was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours' List for her services to education. Our warmest congratulations to her.

Olivia Horsfall-Turner (Head Girl 97-98) has been awarded a major scholarship from Clare College, Cambridge, where she is reading History, for post-graduate study at Yale. The Mellon Fellowship enables Olivia to study History of Art for two years, concentrating initially on mediaeval art and architecture.

TV Role for JAGS pupil

One of JAGS' talented actresses, Millie Findlay, played a major part in *Station Jim*, a delightful Victorian tale of steam railways, plucky orphans, warm-hearted teachers and villainous businessmen shown over Christmas. Millie was Alice, a sharp-witted and matchmaking orphan who encourages the budding romance between her teacher and Bob, the railway porter. Again Millie was working with famous stars of screen and stage, this time with Prunella Scales who played Queen Victoria.

Heather Venn

Recent leavers in particular will be saddened to learn of the death last October of Heather Venn, Head of Economics at JAGS 1979–2000. A full obituary will appear in this year's school magazine, but perhaps the finest epitaph is the number of JAGS girls who have gone on to read Economics at university, many achieving the highest standards thanks to Heather's inspired teaching.

Diary Dates

Friday, 8 March

JAGS Chamber Musicians perform in a Lunchtime Concert at St Martin's in the Fields, from 1–2pm

Monday, 18 March

Choral & Orchestral Concert at St John's Smith Square, London SW1 at 7.30pm. Works by contemporary composers, including Stanley Glasser's *Zulu Proverbs II*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, and the premiere of *A Concertino for 8 Soloists and String Orchestra*, by JAGS' Director of Music, Rupert Bond. Tickets from St John's Box Office on 020 7222 1061

Friday, 22 March

Reunion for Classes of 95 & 96 at JAGS, 6.45–8.45pm. Contact the Development Office if you were in these years and have not received an invitation.

Saturday, May 11

OGA AGM & Summer Reunion 11.45am. The OGA will be mailing details to members in late March.

Saturday, 6 July

Founder's Day. Reunion for the Class of 75. Details from **Amanda Doyle** at amanda.doyle@ukgateway.net

New Member of Governing Body

Nicola Meredith (née Sequira, JAGS 71–85) joined the Governing Body last November. Nicky qualified as a Chartered Accountant and is now a Management Consultant with Cap Gemini. She has been very involved with JAGS: she devised the current programme of Sixth Form careers' talks and is a member of the OGA Committee.

From the Headmistress

At last the first part of our dreams has come true! Girls are now swimming in our wonderful new pool. As soon as the contractors handed over the building, the Sports Club staff worked almost round the clock to get the pool ready for swimming, and on the second Monday of term, girls from both JAGS and JAPS swimming squads held hands and together plunged into the delightfully warm water, shortly followed by Anita Carpenter, JAGS' Head of Physical Education, and her colleague from JAPS, Robert Glassbrook, [pictured below]. The girls are thrilled with the special features of the new building – pleasantly warm showers en route to and from the actual bath, and the heated bench running the whole length of the pool are particularly welcome.



We are now planning a day to celebrate the official opening at the end of term, when we hope that our grounds will look their best with spring flowers and blossom and, if we are lucky, some sunshine. We intend to invite some Old Girls who were keen swimmers at

school, and to involve former, as well as current, pupils in the actual ceremony. Our pool is not just for our pupils: we will be sharing it with some local primary schools and with the local community through the re-launched JAGS Sports Club. Further refurbishment of the existing Sports Hall will soon take place so that everyone benefits from fully-integrated sports facilities of the highest standard. If you are an Old Girl, former member of staff or parent of a former pupil, and live locally, why not consider joining JAGS Sports Club?

With the completion of this key first phase of our building programme, attention now turns to the conversion of the old pool. We have applied for planning permission to use the space for a new Refectory and also to provide more urgently needed teaching rooms. We are in the very happy position of being a highly sought after school, but national changes in the Sixth Form curriculum, the demand for smaller classes and different styles of teaching (as featured overleaf) mean that we have been outgrowing our space. I hope that we will be able to show Old Girls some of the ideas for the proposed new facilities at their Reunion in May, when they will also have an opportunity to try out the new pool.

Our quest to replace the old Government Assisted Places Scheme with our own James Allen's Assisted Places goes on. We shall provide 14 more of these new Assisted Places from September 2002, offering full fee assistance where necessary, including uniform, transport costs and extras. We were delighted to be able to offer our first Sports Exhibitions to next Autumn's Year 7 intake. A new Sixth Form Scholarship for Economics in memory of Mrs Heather Venn, who sadly died last October, is also in the process of being established.

The school is in very good heart; our full inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate finishes on 15 February and the written report is awaited. Our Staff have worked enormously hard to ensure the school's success and they are extremely grateful for all the support which members of the wider school community, such as the readers of this newsletter, provide. Thank you most sincerely on behalf of them all.

Manion Gills

Information & Communication Technology at JAGS

ICT (Information & Communications Technology) in the classroom is a major theme among educationalists and politicians at the moment. ICT is an integral part of the school from the computer controlled library system, to the new whiteboards in labs and teaching rooms, as well as cable-free connections to the school network in some areas. Highlights from some of the departments are featured here.



Pupils start learning about computers in the **Pre-Prep at JAPS** and show enthusiasm and skill in a remarkably short time. Recent visitors to a Reception class this term were impressed with one four year old who could tell them exactly how the colour printer was linked to the computer and how the class was learning from the program about the parts of the human body. In addition to the classroom computers, the Pre-Prep pupils have new personal computers in their own Library, enabling them to acquire excellent foundations in both understanding and using computers as tools for learning.

Moving to **JAPS Middle School**, girls discover a computer-training room which is the envy of any educational establishment. The wooden desking was carefully designed to suit both younger pupils and adult trainees, so that the room can be

used for courses as well as daily teaching. Monitors are angled and recessed into the desk tops so that no-one strains her neck to look over the top at the electronic whiteboard. The teacher can help pupils from her laptop via the network and she can also project work onto the whiteboard, enabling all pupils to see at once the work under discussion.

JAGS Music Department has wholeheartedly embraced ICT as a valuable tool for music-making.

Although not a substitute for **traditional** compositional methods, two software packages make the whole business of composing more instantaneous and rewarding. *Sibelius* is a professional score-writing package, used by Years 8-13. On top of the obvious ability to notate a composition to a very high standard, *Sibelius* lets the user listen to her score, isolate particular parts, transpose passages and try out new ideas which can then be kept or deleted at will. The Department also uses *Cubase* software, which relies less on notation, using a more graphical representation of the music that is ideal for the younger pupils with less theoretical knowledge. *Cubase* employs VST (Virtual Studio Technology) which allows pupils to compose backing tracks on the keyboards then multitrack vocals and live instrument performances over the top, just like a real recording studio.

Our **Modern Languages** Suite employs a computerised audio system, linked to PCs equipped with sound and video cards and Internet access. *Divace*, part of

Tandberg's 'virtual language laboratory' is used with an interactive language learning program ranging from beginner to advanced levels. Voice recognition enables learners to participate in role-plays, either alone or in pairs, and to practise their pronunciation. The system also offers a wide range of exercises for practising listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Digitilisation means pupils can access any audio file instantly or transfer video to their workstations, and so benefit from using the language lab independently.



All pupils, but especially those considering applying to Art School, benefit from computers in the **Art Department**. Foundation and Degree courses expect students to work in many different areas and disciplines: painting, drawing, textiles, photography, printmaking, graphic art, sculpture, computer art and animation. The computer is an exciting tool for the artist; it is like discovering a new range of paints or pigments and the notion of drawing with light is an attractive one. Computers can help plan, investigate and visualise an idea and are especially useful in processes such as making repeated patterns, tonal and compositional variations, investigating colour, and reducing and enlarging images. A fine artist handles the medium completely differently from a graphics specialist because they are using it for different reasons and with different aims. However, it is important to realise that a computer cannot replace any drawing skills, practical or conceptual: it can only be used satisfactorily if the user already possesses these skills. Pupils have an ever-increasing range of environments and possibilities in which to create and investigate visual solutions. As a visual medium, the computer has a rightful place within the art curriculum, both as a tool and as a means of expression.

In **Design & Technology**, an appropriate understanding of ICT is necessary for all pupils who must become adept at acquiring new knowledge and new skills and appreciate the benefits and pitfalls of using ICT in their work. Much of our Design work involves aspects of ICT in one form or another. Girls use specialised programs like *Macromedia Dreamweaver* for Web design, *Techsoft Design Tools* for Engineering drawing and simple Computer Aided Design-Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD-CAM) applications. The use of *Pro/Desktop*, a professional 3-dimensional design package is part of a Government initiative to modernise design and technology teaching in schools where professional CAD-CAM software is available. Year 9 pupils are introduced to *Pro/desktop* and we encourage GCSE and A Level students to use it within their coursework projects. CAD involves the creation of a design using a computer. CAM uses a computer to control the operation of a manufacturing tool. This may be a "computerised" version of the traditional lathe or milling machine, but equally it may be a sewing machine, a vinyl or laser cutter, etc. It is an exciting time for us all and the girls really benefit from designing with computers as well as pencils, and making products using CAD driven software, as well as traditional hand and machine tools.



However, the understanding and use of computers in education and the workplace are not confined to the pupil syllabus. Since JAGS aims to be truly a learning centre, **staff** at JAGS and JAPS are taking a new computer course. The European Computer Driving Licence shows that holders have successfully demonstrated a knowledge of basic information technology and competence in using a computer. As the name implies, this is an internationally recognised qualification in managing computers and using common applications. Both teachers and non-teaching staff are taking the course, which is run in small groups mixing proficient computer users and complete beginners together.

The **Development Office** could not function at all without ICT. Over 7,000 names and addresses are held on a sophisticated database from which we can communicate directly by letter or email, recording all contact with our alumnae, their parents, and former colleagues. Email is becoming more and more vital to our work, as we can contact groups almost instantaneously and receive their answers equally swiftly. Much less intrusive than a phone call and more informal than a letter, it comes into its own when we need to contact people on the other side of the world – no more worrying calculations about time differences. If you've just acquired email or changed your address, let us know. We can search the database for individuals or groups; year lists can be provided for reunions, and schoolfellows traced through maiden names or relationships to other Old Girls. Photos can be scanned and sent off to the other side of the world, or just as far as the Archives. This newsletter is produced on our desk-top publishing system, then emailed direct to the printers who return proofs electronically for checking. Transformed into portable document format at the click of the mouse, it can then be posted on to the school's Web site.

JAGS Overseas

OGA members may recall an enquiry in last year's school magazine asking if there were any JAGS Old Girls in Hong Kong. **Alison Carter**, (83) who works at the University there offered to act as a contact if people would like to get together. Email her at alisonjcarter@hotmail.com

We were able to get two schoolfellows back in touch across two continents recently. **Kerry Cameron** (née **Hobdell**, Class of 71) contacted us from her home in Argentina as she was about to visit Australia and wanted to get in touch with an old schoolfriend from her year, **Deborah Miles** (née Selvum-Holley). We rang Deborah who was delighted to hear that Kerry was coming to Australia. Happily she too had an email address, so we could pass it on and they plan to meet up during February.

If you live overseas and have email, please do let us know as it is wonderful to be able to contact people easily and quickly (not to mention cheaply!) We'd like to know if those abroad would be willing to let us give their addresses and phone numbers to JAGS girls who are travelling on gap years or while at university (or indeed later in life). It would be good to let them know of other JAGS women all over the world, in case they need a friendly voice.

Wartime History - help wanted.

Mrs Corrine Barton, Head of History & Politics, is using her Sabbatical this summer to research JAGS during Wartime. JAGS' Archives have a wealth of useful information, much of it supplied by Old Girls. If you have memories of schooldays in Dulwich during the war, evacuation to Sevenoaks or elsewhere, which you have not shared with us, please contact her or the Development Office if you would be willing to help. Mrs Barton would like to interview some people and record their memories for her oral history teaching. Her email address is corrinebarton@aol.com