

THE STANDARD



The John Lyon School Newsletter
and Mini-Prospectus

Autumn 2008

MOVING FORWARD, MOVING ON!

*by Kevin Riley,
Headmaster*

As I begin my final year at The John Lyon School, it is splendid to be able to say that the School's estates strategy is now firmly underway with the completion of our new Science and Drama building.

The building has been extremely well received and we are looking forward to the formal opening later this term.

At a time when school construction projects around the country have been disrupted as building firms suffer in the current economic crisis, I am delighted to be able to say that our new building project has been delivered on time, on specification and on budget.

We have considerably enhanced our Science and Drama facilities with this very substantial extension to our Main Building: not only do we now have six modern Science laboratories, but, perhaps more unusually, the School now has two very well equipped drama studios. Very few schools can claim as much. Taken together with our privileged access to Harrow School's professionally equipped Ryan Theatre, it means that our very successful Drama department now has the facilities it deserves.

One important benefit of the new building is that it has enabled us to create additional outside space by finally removing the temporary building on

Oldfield Garden, which I know has been greatly welcomed by our younger boys, especially the keen footballers among them.

Elsewhere in the School, I am pleased to say that the new 'deli' in the Old Building is terrific. We listened carefully to many views - especially those of our students - before making this change, so it is perhaps not surprising that it is proving to be a popular innovation.

Our new building: on time, on specification and on budget

For the future, we are now considering how best to move forward with our estates strategy. With the Governors, I am weighing up the pros and cons of whether we should proceed first with the

redevelopment of our Music block, or whether it would be better to concentrate on the repair and refurbishment of the Old Building.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for their kind wishes following the announcement during the summer that I will be leaving JLS at the end of this School year in order to take up a new post as Headmaster of Harrow International School, Bangkok. It is an exciting opportunity, not least because I will be remaining within the family of the Harrow School Foundation.



Science Celebration: Peter Drake, who achieved grades AAB in his Biology, Physics and Chemistry A Levels, is pictured collecting his results at the School in August with his mum, Sue, who is a JLS Science Technician. For more results news, turn to p8



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VIEWS FROM THE INSIDE

ANTHONY JEFFREY (GOODWIN SCHOOL)

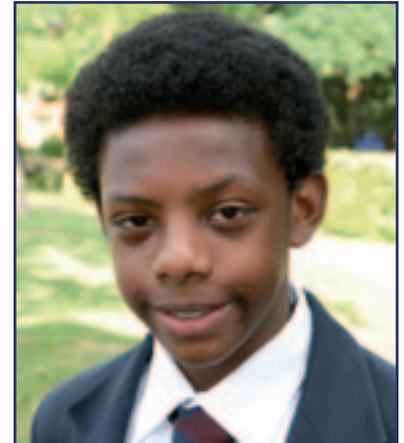
I came to JLS at the start of Year 7 and have just started Year 9. I came here with a Sports and Drama scholarship.

I chose JLS because I came here when I was playing with the Arsenal Football Academy and saw the Sports Hall and the football pitches. I've been playing for the Arsenal Academy for five years and I train three times a week. It's a big year for me because my current contract runs out this summer and my plan at the moment is to be a professional footballer, so I'm working and training hard.

I also play in the School team; we have had a very good season and won the Middlesex Cup. I had a small role in the School's production of *Wind in the Willows*; I would have liked a bigger part but I have to be realistic about the workload I can manage, so it's probably for the best. I used to play the oboe but have recently given that up.

The School is very understanding about my football commitments; I have a weekly meeting to discuss how to fit in homework. There is just a 'can do' attitude here; they want to help me do things, not place obstacles in my way.

My brother and sister are both more than 10 years older than me and are quite inspirational to me. My parents have also been very supportive in enabling me to have opportunities.



JAMES CALDECOURT (COTEFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL)



Having completed Year 12, I am now Head of School. I have a Governors' Academic Scholarship.

Clearly it's an honour to be selected as Head of School. I decided to let my name go forward and after a student vote I was short-listed. The process then involved an interview before a panel of the Headmaster, the Deputy Heads, the Head of Sixth Form and a member of the School Council. It's satisfying because I know I have the backing of both the staff and my peers.

I came to JLS in Year 7 and it was my first choice; Merchant Taylors' was too big and too daunting. Part of the ethos of JLS is that it is friendly and caring. I think the structure of the School promotes personal development; as an 11-year-old I was in Oldfield, which gave us a sense of security but still

allowed us to feel part of the School as a whole. Now, of course, I'm in the Sixth Form, so we are slightly set apart but very much integral in the School.

I'm studying Maths, Physics, English Literature and Politics at A Level; I might drop Physics this year. I would like to go to University, possibly to read for a Joint Honours degree, maybe English with Politics. I play piano, I'm involved in various bands and I support the School drama productions. I live in Ruislip, although I sometimes say I sleep there, as my life is lived in Harrow, as I'm either at School or staying with friends.

It's difficult to pick out only one or two inspirational teachers as so many have been influential; but I would have to mention Ms Waldron, who guided me through the early years. She was very key in instilling JLS values.

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE: NEW SCIENCE AND DRAMA BUILDING



The completion of the new Science and Drama building marks the first major step forward in the delivery of The John Lyon School's estates strategy.

The £3 million, three-storey building creates state-of-the-art facilities in Science and Drama. A concomitant benefit is that it has enabled the temporary building on Oldfield Garden to be removed, freeing up much-needed playground space for the younger boys.



"We are delighted with the new Science and Drama building, which really represents a statement of our intent as a School in terms of quality and of designing for the future," said the Headmaster. The building will be formally opened later this term.

The 10-year estates strategy, which secured financial backing from the Governors last year, will provide the School with the facilities necessary to create excellence in Music, Art, the Performing Arts and Sport, while also enabling the most efficient use of the School campus for all departments.

The Bursar, Nicholas Marten (*pictured, bottom, at the site with the Headmaster*), paid tribute to the builders, Apex Stephens, who, he said were "very sensitive to the special requirements of working on a school site".

The new building, together with related changes in the adjoining Main Building, has created six new science laboratories, two drama studios, three classrooms, three preparation rooms and four staff resource bases.

This summer also saw the creation of Whites Deli - a New York-style deli - in the Old Building, following a revision of the School's catering. Hot and cold sandwich fillings are available and boys can eat upstairs in the Cloisters, while there is also some downstairs dining space available. In good weather, boys are free to eat outside. Food is purchased through a cashless swipe card which parents can top up.

"We ran a focus group about catering based on the School Council, which produced some very positive suggestions," said Mr Marten. Expert advice in making the changes has come from specialist consultants MYA, based in Chalford, Gloucestershire.



NEWS IN BRIEF

SALTERS' SUCCESS

A team of JLS young scientists beat off 19 other schools to win the prestigious Salters' Challenge held at Queen Mary College. The team had to use forensic science to work out who had stolen silverware in an imaginary theft from a mansion. In the two-hour challenge, the team, comprising Stephen Bennett, Robert Gardiner, Sevan Keoshgerian and Arjun Puri, had to work out which of five mansion employees was guilty of the crime. The boys won £100 for the School.

WINNING COMBINATION

Boys from JLS enjoyed a string of victories in their first-ever joint football and cricket sports tour of South Africa. Following months of planning, practices and preparation, 40 Year 9 & 10 boys, accompanied by four staff members, went on the 16-day trip, with each age group playing four football and four cricket matches. They won 12 of the 16 matches.

BURSAR'S NATIONAL APPOINTMENT

The Bursar of JLS has been elected head of the organisation representing bursars at the country's top independent schools.

Nicholas Marten was voted in as Chairman of the Independent Schools' Bursars Association (ISBA) at its conference in Edinburgh after serving for two years as Vice-Chairman. It is the first time a bursar at The John Lyon School has been appointed to the top job.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST AT CAMBRIDGE

Year 13 student Jathukishan Shasiharan spent part of his summer holidays at the famous Cavendish Laboratory summer school after being awarded a coveted place on the Senior Physics Challenge run by Cambridge University's Physics Department. The five-day event included intensive tuition, as well as general physics/research lectures and practical laboratory classes. "This summer school is for particularly gifted Sixth Form science students and is highly regarded by leading universities, so Jathukishan did extremely well to gain a place," said JLS Head of Physics Tom Mahon.

MEET A TEACHER - VÉRONIQUE BALAVEN



Véronique Balaven, who teaches French and Spanish, has just completed her second year of teaching at The John Lyon School and is enjoying her new role this term as Head of Year 7.

"Coming to The John Lyon School from the state sector was very interesting for me, I was very impressed with the facilities here, especially the language lab, which I had never had before," said Mme Balaven. "And the behaviour of the boys - so polite, so well-mannered!"

She teaches French and Spanish up to A Level ; all boys study French from Year 7 to Year 11 and choose between Spanish and German in Year 9. Last year she organised a trip to Paris for boys from Years 8 and 9 and a team-building trip for Year 7 boys to Normandy.

Mme Balaven thinks her teaching experience in primary schools will be a particular help in her new pastoral role this term; "I enjoyed teaching younger children when I was doing supply and feel confident that I can see where the Year 7 boys are coming from. JLS has a particular strength in making new people feel welcome; the School places a very high value on the pastoral side," she added.

Originally from near Quimper in Brittany, Mme Balaven moved to Leeds eight years ago to take up a post as a Languages Assistant, following the completion of her degree in English and Spanish. She decided to stay in the UK to complete her Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) rather than return to France, then worked in Glasgow for three years, followed by a year of supply teaching in London.

She is engaged to Thomas who is a Classics Teacher at a school in London and they are to marry next year. Her main interests out of School are film, and she likes to take a trip back home to France two or three times a year if she can.

END OF AN ERA: SPEECHES AND ASSOCIATION DAY 2008

In his speech, the Headmaster, Kevin Riley, paid generous tribute to the Chairman of Governors, Dr Owain Arwel Hughes, who is stepping down after 19 years as a Governor. He also honoured four senior members of staff who left this summer, having given a combined total of 100 years' service to JLS: Roger French, Bob Shaw, Graham Ryder and Patricia Waldron [pictured]. Old Lyonian Professor Paul Wilkinson, a world-renowned expert on terrorism, was the guest of honour. Later the same day, the traditional Association Day cricket matches were held at the Sudbury Hill playing fields.



MEET A GOVERNOR - MR ANGUS FRASER

Angus Fraser played first class cricket from 1984 to 2002, representing and captaining Middlesex and appearing for England 46 times. He is now cricket correspondent for The Independent newspaper as well as a regular contributor to BBC Radio's Test Match Special.

The Standard: What are your links with The John Lyon School?

AF: My son, Alex, is a pupil here; he has just completed Year 10. We initially considered the School for him as my brother was here for his final two years of school. We looked at other schools too, but were impressed with the scale of facilities here - particularly in Sport - while the School was small enough to retain an atmosphere of friendliness and intimacy. One or two of the other schools, although excellent in their own way, did seem impersonal and intimidating.

The Standard: How long have you been a Governor and have you any particular role?

AF: I've been a Parent Governor since November 2007 - since then I've covered England's tour to New Zealand and of course the New Zealand tour here and the South Africa team's tour. It does mean it's a little difficult to get to meetings, but I have made it to a couple and I know that as the governing body is reformed, following the end of Dr Hughes' term, the new Chairman, John Hayes, will be looking for a specific role for me.

The Standard: Do you have any other involvement with the School?

AF: I've helped coach cricket for two years - the team which is now U15 - they've done exceptionally well and have won The Middlesex Cup for two consecutive years. I've thoroughly enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm that the lads have brought to the game, it's been a pleasure to coach them.

Angus Fraser is married to Denise and has two children, Alex, who's 15, and Bethan, who's going into Year 9 at Northwood College. He lives in Pinner and plays cricket for Stanmore Cricket Club along with several Old Lyonians.

Double Champions!

The John Lyon School enjoyed a spectacularly successful end to the 2007-08 cricketing year, with the First XI winning the Middlesex Cup for the third year running and then, a few days after the end of term, the U15s also becoming county champions. "This was a tremendous double achievement and marked an outstanding end to an outstanding year," said the Headmaster.



BEST TENNIS YET

Year 11 pupil Myles Golding gave his "finest display so far" during his visit to Hawaii for the ITF Boys 18 singles, according to his tennis coach, Clinton Coleman. In his first match he beat Brazilian Marco Kobayashi in straight sets but lost in three sets to the number 12 seed, American Will Oliver, who is two years older than him.

"The School has been excellent in allowing me to pursue my ambition to become a professional tennis player," said Myles. "Not only do they allow me time out to attend international tournaments, but they have allowed me to drop three subjects at GCSE, enabling me to concentrate on the core subjects and still fit in all the training I need to do."

RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Sonny Flynn, aged 17, has broken two long-standing JLS athletics records this summer. He broke the 26-year-old record for the 400 metres twice, recording a time of 51.10. And he broke the 28-year-old record for the 200 metres with a time of 23.1, a reduction of 0.4 seconds on the previous best.

"I started doing well in School competitions and got scouted by Harrow Athletics Club, and now I train with them three times a week. I do a combination of gym work and outside training. Fortunately most of the competitions I

take part in are at the weekend, but I know the School would be accommodating if any important events happened to coincide with a School day," said Sonny.

Athletics is definitely in the blood where Sonny's concerned, as his father was a top UK pole vaulter. And Sonny manages to combine the demands of his athletics training with a successful academic career at JLS. He is studying A Level Maths, English Literature, Drama and Biology and hopes to go on to University to read English or American Studies.



A WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER, MR KEVIN RILEY

Welcome to the mini-prospectus of The John Lyon School. I hope it and the newsletter on the preceding pages will give you a useful introduction to JLS and some insights into what makes our School so special.

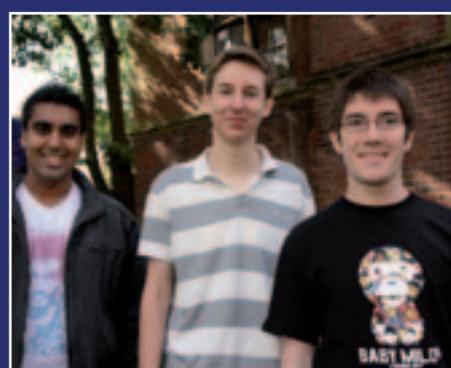
At JLS, which is an HMC School, we are aiming for excellence in all areas, building on our reputation as one of the country's top 20 independent

boys' day schools. In the first three years, we give boys a good grounding in all the major subjects. Building on this platform, our pupils go on to achieve excellent examination results at GCSE, AS and A level.

Alongside our academic success, we have a great reputation for pastoral care. We genuinely treat each child as an individual, with individual talents to be

nurtured and individual challenges to be met. Drama, music, sports and activities also play a very important part in the development of well-rounded students at JLS.

I do hope you will visit JLS or contact us to find out more. Please see our list of contacts on page 2 for details.



ACTIVITIES

In the first three years, boys take part in our extensive activities programme as part of their Friday afternoon timetable, while boys in all years have the opportunity to take part in clubs and societies before and after School, and at lunchtime.

Almost 100 activities are available each term. There are clubs designed to support boys in their studies, such as the 8am homework club and Medics, for Sixth-Formers planning to go into medicine. Sports are very well catered for, from cricket to badminton. Many clubs cover arts and drama or community service, such as the Motet Choir, funk band or Amnesty International group, while others are for those pursuing hobbies. An increasing number of activities, particularly for older boys, are held jointly with our partner girls' school, Northwood College.

PASTORAL CARE

We treat every boy as an individual, with his own talents, abilities and needs. We are also proud of the cultural diversity at The John Lyon School. By capping numbers at the School at around 600, we ensure that it remains possible for teachers to get to know every boy in the School. Parents are seen as partners with the School and are positively encouraged to get involved in their son's education at every stage.

The core of our pastoral care arrangements is the tutor system. Form tutors have most day-to-day contact with individual boys. They are overseen by the Heads and Assistant Heads of: Oldfield (Year 7) and the Lower School; the Upper School and the Sixth Form. Ultimately, the Headmaster and Pastoral Deputy Headmaster are responsible. Class sizes of 22-24 in the first three years, around 20 at GCSE level and 12-14 in the Sixth Form help ensure that pupils cannot get 'lost in the crowd'. Teachers are urged to be firm but fair, and to support, rather than punish, boys who are struggling with their studies.

BECOMING A JLS BOY

At The John Lyon School, we recognise that when it comes to choosing a school, first and foremost parents want an environment where their child is happy, safe and secure. Only in such an atmosphere can boys develop and thrive.

From Year 7 onwards, we focus on creating an environment where everyone is treated with respect. Visitors to JLS are struck not only by the courtesy boys show towards their teachers and towards adults in general, but by the way form tutors and other staff take each boy's concerns seriously. We nurture an atmosphere of mutual respect among the pupils: where else would you see a Sixth-Former hold a door open for a Year 7 pupil, for example? Indeed, our Sixth Form prefects support the pastoral work of tutors in Year 7 (known as Oldfield), particularly during the early weeks. As

boys adjust from the routines of prep. or primary school to life at JLS, prefects are on hand to help out, perhaps making sure a boy's bag is packed with the correct books, or simply providing a friendly, listening ear.

Boys joining at 11+ come from a very wide range of schools, so all are equally well placed to make new friends. Our Friday afternoon activity sessions give boys ample opportunities to develop friendships in a relaxed environment. For the first term only, membership of the Year 7 Choir is compulsory - we have found the cheerful Wednesday lunchtime practices to be a great way of binding a new year together. We also ensure that the increasing number of boys who join us at 13+ can fit in easily. After the first two years, all our classes are reorganised, which means the new

arrivals are not left isolated and can swiftly make friends.

Right from the outset, we expect boys to work hard and do their best, but at the same time we are careful not to overload them with academic pressure. At 11, a boy receives homework in three subjects each night. However, no more than half-an-hour should be spent on each subject: if their son is unable to complete a task, parents can simply write a note to the teacher. A Year 7 parents' evening held three or four weeks into the Autumn Term gives parents an opportunity to check their child's progress in the core subjects. A similar evening is held towards the end of the Year 7.



CURRICULUM FOR 2008-09: OVERVIEW

GCSE - Year 10 and 11 English, English

English Literature, Mathematics (IGCSE), French, Spanish, German, Latin, Science (dual award or triple award), History, Geography, Religious Studies, Drama, Music, Art and Design, Physical Education.

All pupils continue with PSCE and Games.

Good linguists may take French GCSE a year early; outstanding mathematicians may be entered for the A/O Additional Mathematics examination.

AS and/or A (A2) level - Sixth Form

English Literature, English, Language/Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, French, Spanish, German, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Economics, Critical Thinking, Drama, Music, Music Technology, Art and Design, Physical Education, Politics.

All boys continue with Games and an enrichment programme.

THE CURRICULUM

JLS is unashamedly an academic School, dedicated to helping boys realise their full potential and go on to secure places at good universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Many opportunities exist to stretch able students by enabling them to study in greater depth. These boys are supported by our Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator.

There is a strong academic core to the curriculum. Up to the end of Year 11, boys are required to study not only English and Mathematics, but also Science and at least one modern language. All boys take at least nine GCSE subjects, although we prefer to focus on the quality of grades achieved rather than merely the number of GCSEs taken.

While in the Sixth Form, JLS offers an extensive range of traditional academic AS and A levels, alongside newer subjects such as Psychology, Music Technology and Critical Thinking. The School stands out for its flexible approach: we try not to let timetable clashes prevent Sixth-Formers from studying their preferred subjects.

EXCELLING AT GCSE AND A LEVEL

A third of A level candidates at The John Lyon School achieved straight A grades this year, as the School celebrated another very positive year.

84% of grades at JLS were As or Bs. This year's results mean the average total of A and B grades over the last three years stands at more than 85%, further cementing the School's reputation as one of the country's top independent boys' schools.

Headmaster Kevin Riley said: "Firstly, I must congratulate our boys and their teachers on a truly excellent set of results - the second-best in the School's history. I am particularly proud at the calibre of students at The John Lyon School: many combine tremendous focus and ability in the classroom with a dedication to playing a full part in other aspects of School life, including sport and the arts.

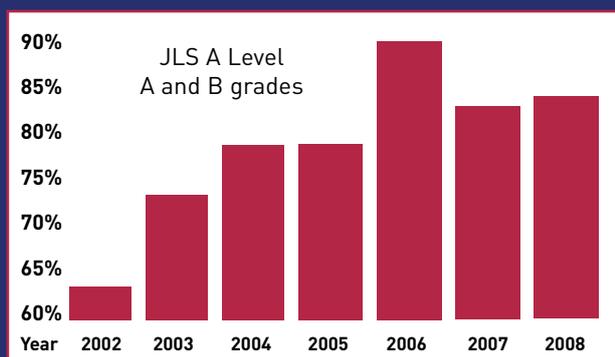
"Passing examinations is, of course,

important, and we are happy to be known as an academic School, but I believe - in common with many top employers - that the very best candidates can demonstrate good A level grades and evidence of achievement in other spheres."

This year students achieved the best GCSE results in The John Lyon School's 132-year history.

The largest-ever Year 11 at the School improved further on last year's impressive results. 91% of all grades awarded were A*, A or B.

All 100 pupils taking GCSEs achieved the Government's benchmark of five passes at grades A*-C, with seven boys gaining at least nine A* grades apiece.



ADMISSIONS

The John Lyon School is an academically selective school. In September 2008, we expect to award places to up to 65 boys at 11; up to 30 boys at 13; and up to 10 boys at 16. A very small number of boys can be admitted to other years.

We base our decisions on entrance to the School upon reports from the boy's present or previous school, interviews and entrance examinations. We take special note of potential and achievement in music, the creative and performing arts and sport.

At present, 140 boys benefit from financial assistance from the School. John Lyon's Charity funds the equivalent of two free places per year and, in total, some £440,000 is allocated annually to support bursaries and scholarships.

KEY ADMISSIONS DATES

2008-09 Open Day - no booking required (Forums are held for prospective parents throughout the year)	Saturday 11 October 2008, 10am-3pm
Closing date for 11+ and 13+ applications for admission in September 2009	Friday 28 November 2008
Deadline for all scholarship and bursary applications for September 2009	Friday 28 November 2008
11+ examination for entrance in September 2009	Saturday 10 January 2009
13+ examination for entrance in September 2009	Saturday 17 January 2009
Sixth Form Open Morning	January 2009
Closing date for 16+ applications for admission in September 2009	Saturday 31 January 2009



CURRICULUM NEWS: ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

Significant changes in the way boys' work is assessed are being introduced at The John Lyon School.

The changes follow a major review of assessment practices including feedback given by parents. "We need as a community (by which I mean students, teachers and their parents) to focus on our core activity - learning - more deeply," Mr Stuart Miles, Deputy Head, explained.

The School will be placing a heavier emphasis on 'formative assessment', also known as 'assessment for learning'. This focuses on what each student needs to do to improve his performance, rather than awarding each piece of work a mark or grade, which is known as 'summative assessment'.