

THE STANDARD

The John Lyon School Newsletter
and Mini-Prospectus

Autumn 2009



TAKING JLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

BY MISS KATHERINE HAYNES, HEAD

After my first few weeks as Head of The John Lyon School, I am delighted to report that the new academic year has started well. With strong pupil numbers, some improved facilities, and some new teaching staff at the School we look forward to the term ahead. John Lyon enjoyed another set of excellent GCSE and A-level results this year, and the boys are to be commended for their hard work and effort.

At JLS we achieve excellence throughout the whole curriculum and in public examinations year on year.

We must also strive for the highest standards in every age group in the School, starting from when the new boys join JLS at age 11 or 13. High standards should extend into other important aspects of School life, too, such as boys behaving well, and looking smart in their school uniform. Coming from another successful independent boys' school, Warwick School, I fully understand the need to focus on high standards in all aspects of school life. The key to success is a civilised and purposeful school community that fosters high quality teaching and learning.

The level of applications for places at JLS remains strong. I am pleased to say that, notwithstanding the current economic pressures faced by independent schools, the academic profile of this year's new intake in Years 7 and 9 fully matches that of previous years. Boys who have gained places here have passed a rigorous assessment process and have proved themselves capable of succeeding in a competitive and academic environment. Several parents have already made clear to me their tremendous pride in their son's achievement in gaining a place at JLS. Our 'feeder' schools do an excellent job in preparing boys to

continue their school career at John Lyon. The challenge for us is taking these boys on to the next level.

Of course, the fact that we are able to attract so many high-calibre applicants is due only in part to our examination results. Our considerable reputation for high standards in both Sport and Drama extends beyond the local area and, indeed, across north London and beyond. This is evidenced by the strong interest we have in auditions for the female



New beginnings: Miss Haynes with some of the Year 7 boys on the first day of term.

roles in our annual Musicals from a number of girls' schools, including our partner school, Northwood College. In Cricket, we have just won the U15 Middlesex County Cup Final. As a participating school in the Harrow Independent and State Schools' Partnership, we value our links with locals schools too.



Miss Katherine Haynes
Head

Mrs Heather Cade
PA to the Head
Tel: 020 8872 8434
email: headspa@johnlyon.org



Mr Stuart Miles
Deputy Head
email: staff.miles@johnlyon.org

Mr Michael Gibson
Bursar
email: michael.gibson@johnlyon.org

Mrs Brenda Allanson
Director of Development
email: staff.allanson@johnlyon.org

Mrs Terri Hicks
Registrar
Tel: 020 8872 8443
email: admissions@johnlyon.org

The John Lyon School
Middle Road
Harrow on the Hill
Middlesex, HA2 0HN

Switchboard: 020 8872 8400
www.johnlyon.org

VIEWS FROM THE INSIDE

FREDDIE HERMAN (PINNER WOOD FIRST & MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Freddie is this year's Head of School. He joined The John Lyon School part-way through Year 8 and has an academic scholarship. He had been at a state school but was looking both for greater opportunity and challenge.

Looking back at my time at JLS I would have to say its key strength is not just academic excellence, but the breadth of opportunities it has offered me and its ability to treat all the pupils as individuals.

I've really enjoyed the drama here and took one of the lead roles in last year's major production *Oklahoma!* I play saxophone in two bands at the School and I've represented JLS at cross-country and swimming. Through JLS I've also taken part in a month-long World Challenge expedition to India, which included a community project in Jaipur.

I studied History, English, Maths, Chemistry and Critical Thinking to AS Level, but I'm planning to drop Critical Thinking. I'm hoping to go on to Cambridge next year to study History and then follow that with a Law conversion course.

I know that I would not be the person I am today if I had not come to JLS. Above all else I can say that I have been very happy here.



AMEER MIRZA (DURSTON HOUSE PREP. SCHOOL)



Seventeen-year-old Ameer has just started Year 13. After achieving 10 A and 2 As in his GCSEs and a distinction in his Institute of Linguistics qualification, he entered the Sixth Form with an Academic Scholarship and has been appointed as one of this year's Monitors.*

I joined JLS at the beginning of Year 9. It was definitely the right decision as I think the extra time really helped to prepare me. Quite a number of boys come to JLS in Year 9 so I wasn't the only one; the transition was pretty smooth and I made friends easily. I looked

at several schools, but I liked the friendly atmosphere here: it seemed cosy! I also liked the set-up and the facilities.

What I have found about JLS is that it grants opportunities and offers all kinds of pathways. The School will try to make the impossible possible; if you want to try something the School will try to facilitate it. They cater for us as individuals and want us to flourish.

I enjoy sport and have played cricket for the School's Second XI and football for the Fourth XI. I'm part of the team that writes and edits the Lyonian magazine and I'm also part of the School debating team. Out of School my main hobby is cricket; I play for Ealing.

Last year, I took Maths, Economics, History, French and Further Maths at AS Level. I'm hoping to go on to read Economics at LSE or Oxford.

NEW FITNESS FACILITIES

The Sports Centre Fitness Suite has now re-opened after a major expansion and refurbishment programme. New cardiovascular and resistance machines from TechnoGym – the official Olympics supplier

– have been installed and a separate free weights room created.

"This work now enables full-class lessons to be taught in our fitness suite, as well as improving facilities for boys following individual programmes," said the Head.

Miss Haynes thanked a number of parents whose generosity made the project possible. The work is part of the School's

Estates Strategy, which last year saw the opening of the Science and Drama Building.

"We are committed to continuing the expansion and upgrading of facilities. One of the exciting projects on the Governors' agenda this term is the future of the Old Building," Miss Haynes added.

LUKE'S HEAVYWEIGHT PERFORMANCE WINS NATIONAL TITLE

Outgoing Headmaster Kevin Riley's announcement during Speeches that Luke Roach-Christie (pictured) had that day become National Shot Putt Champion in his age group capped a Summer Term of sporting achievement.

Luke, 14, threw a distance of 14.90m to take the title at the English Schools Championship Finals. Luke and three other boys - Anthony Jeffrey, Babatundae Adelekan and Sonny Flynn - had been selected to represent Middlesex. John Lyon had more athletes at the finals than any other school in the country.

There was notable success, too, in cricket. The U12 squad reached the Middlesex Cup Final, which they lost to Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet, by 17 runs. Then, in a match delayed until September, the U15s enjoyed the perfect end to their memorable season with a victory against Enfield Grammar to retain the county cup



for the third year in a row. The middle order showed a great sense of maturity and laid the perfect foundation for a late batting surge. With 137 to defend, JLS responded with four early wickets. A run-out by Warren Won ended an Enfield fight-back and regular wickets began to fall, Rishi Kotecha ending with 4-13. JLS victory won by 30 runs.



TRAINING THE TRAINERS

Parenting workshops established at JLS have gone from strength to strength since they started five years ago and now draw in parents from a number of other schools.

The first year started with two groups of ten parents each. During 2008-09, eight groups met weekly for eight weeks, with a total of 75 parents.

Counselling Psychologist, Grendon Haines, who oversees the programme, reports that the workshops are increasingly being led by parents who have benefited from the classes and then gone on to train as para-professionals. He is planning to run a second *Training the Facilitators* course soon. The following are just a few of the comments made by parents:

In my culture, it is normal for the girls to do the housework and the boys are not expected to contribute. After reading the section on 'responsibility', I changed my

approach and my son resisted at first but I was able to eventually win him over, much to the delight of my daughters.

The atmosphere at home is more relaxed; there are fewer problems. I guess I have changed.

I saw myself as a 'good' parent reminding my son not to forget his schoolwork. Now, I understand that I was coddling him and that he has to become responsible for looking after his own affairs.

MEET THE OFFICE MANAGER – MR RICHARD COOTE

Every organisation depends on its 'back room' team to keep things running smoothly. The Standard spoke to Richard Coote about his role at the School.

The Standard: Who and what do you manage?

RC: I oversee the work of the reprographics department, the receptionists, the porter and the office assistant. A lot of what I do is managing workflow – making sure that everything is done on time and ensuring there's no waste of time or resources.

The Standard: How difficult is it to prioritise?

RC: It can be challenging: it's a busy, professional, environment where many people are working under pressure of time. Requests for photocopying, or putting through grades and reports can all

be left to the last minute, which certainly makes it interesting when it comes to mailings. And, of course, everyone wants everything done immediately.

The Standard: How does the working environment compare with what you were doing before?

RC: I worked at Barclays Bank for 31 years, and spent my final year in the Complaints Handling section. In a sense the job is quite similar, with a strong focus on the customer. Here the customers are teachers, fellow administrative staff and pupils. I would say that the atmosphere at JLS is very friendly and positive. The boys are well-mannered, polite and courteous.

The Standard: What are your interests away from the workplace?

RC: I'm married to Celia and we have

three daughters aged between nine and 18. Inevitably I feel much of my time is spent as either a chauffeur or banker! I used to play a lot of cricket, and umpired one of the School games last term, but I've had to stop playing as my eyesight prevents me from catching the ball. When I do have time I enjoy being with my family,



WHAT MAKES THE JOHN LYON SCHOOL

After four successful years at the School, Headmaster Kevin Riley bade farewell to JLS at the 2009 Speeches.

Held in Harrow School's historic Speech Room, the ceremony on the Saturday after the last day of the Summer Term was followed by the traditional Association Day cricket matches.

Mr Riley, who took up his new post as Head Master of Harrow International School Bangkok later in the summer, looked back on a year that included a concert featuring the famous Black Dyke Band – “the finest School concert I have been to in 31 years” – triumphs on the stage and in football, athletics and cricket. He made a presentation to departing teacher Nick Parsons, former Head of English and editor of the *Lyonian* magazine.

There was also a tribute to Joe de Mello, who has worked on the School's support staff for many years and whose sons, Andrew (a JLS Governor) and John, have both gone on from the School to become professors at Imperial College.

The Chairman of Governors, John Hayes, who had taken up the post the previous September, told the audience of his history as an Old Harrovian and parent of Harrow School boys.



MAZDAK JOINS THE MUSICAL ELITE

Year 9 Mazdak Kamyab, who is a Music Scholar, has gained a place at the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music (RCMJD). Mazdak plays in the School Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band. RCMJD is a specialist term-time only Saturday school offering advanced training to the highest-calibre musicians between the ages of eight and 18.



SPACE SCIENCE CLASSES A BLAST!

JLS stepped in to host a special project aimed at giving disadvantaged children from local state schools a boost in science.

The SHINE Harrow Project, which offered Saturday science classes to 60 children in Year 8 for 12 weeks last summer, was a pioneering example of borough-wide co-operation between state and independent schools. It involved ten state schools, who form the Harrow Independent State School Partnership, together with JLS, Harrow School and St Helen's School.

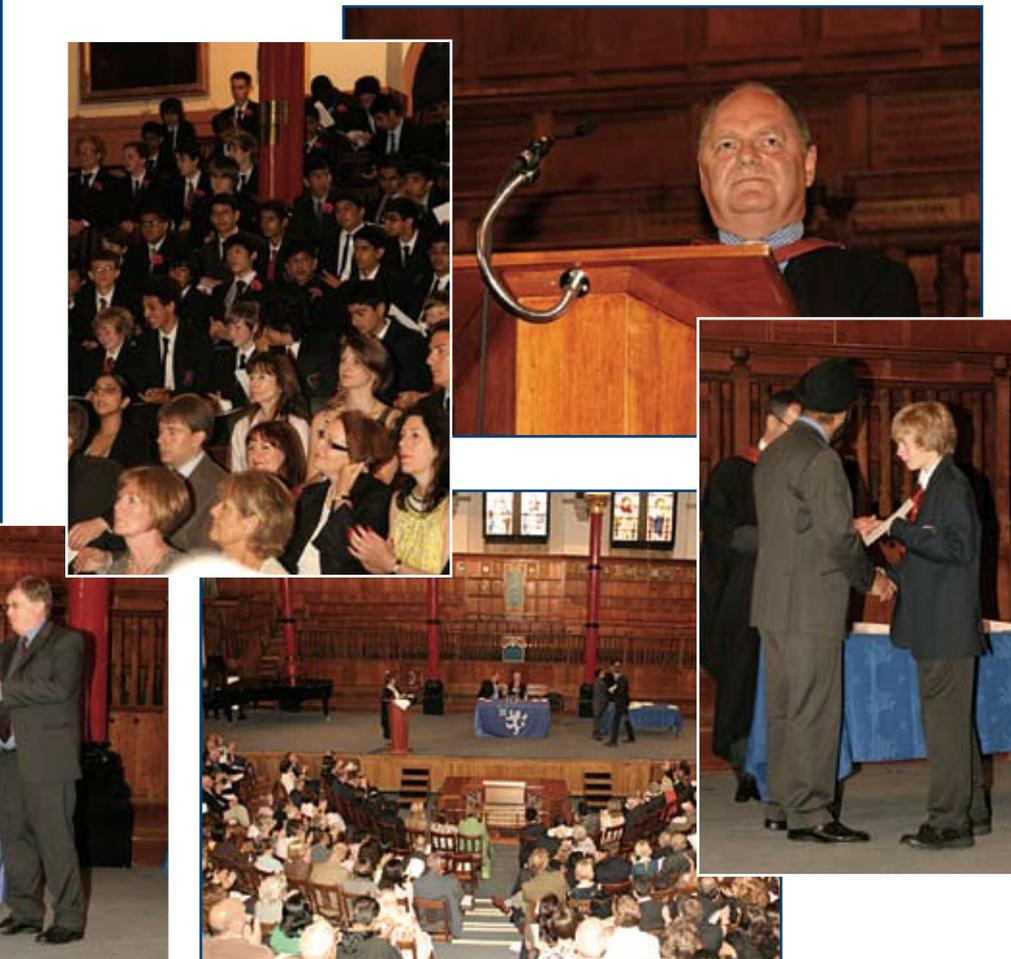
Taught by teachers drawn from the schools involved, the classes were hosted by JLS in its state-of-the-art Science and Drama Building opened last year. A number of JLS Science technicians provided support to the teachers, overseen by Head of Science, Saajan Rana.

The project aimed to make Science – and especially Physics – exciting and meaningful for girls and boys alike. The 12-week programme was called *Exodus from Earth* and focused on establishing a new colony on a newly discovered planet. Four simultaneous two-hour classes of 15 children each were held.

The project was directed by Park High School under the guidance of Sir John Rowling, from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Joint Project Co-ordinator and Park High School teacher Rachel Hughes said: “We were very impressed with the talent and enthusiasm of the children in the project and are incredibly grateful to all the schools involved for their cooperation and support. Planning and delivering the sessions was a blast!”

SCHOOL SPECIAL: SPEECHES 2009



He promised that JLS would become an increasingly important part of the Harrow School Foundation. He highlighted the School's 80th position in the Financial Times Top 1,000 Schools academic rankings. "As a parent of three boys, I quite like it when we as a School do very well...even though we don't really 'do' league tables!"

Highlights of the 2008-09 academic year included the completion of the Science Building on budget and on time. Praising the contribution of Kevin Riley, Mr Hayes introduced his successor, Miss Katherine Haynes, who was in the audience, as somebody "equally of excellence".

There was an intriguing dramatic interlude, with the School's leading actors wittily drawing on a number of recent productions.

Guest of Honour on the day was Old Lyonian Jagjit Chadha, Professor of Economics at the University of Kent, whose love for his subject stems from his Economics teacher at JLS, Ray Cobb.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from 2008-09 Head of School James Caldecourt.

MEET A TEACHER: MISS LYNSEY TWIST

English teacher Lynsey Twist is Assistant Head of Section in the Upper School and Head of Butler House. This is her fifth year at JLS.

"I first came here when I was taking my Post-Graduate Certificate of Education in 2004. When there was an opportunity to come back, I jumped at it!"

Originally from Newcastle, Miss Twist read English and Philosophy at Durham, graduating in 2000. She has a particular interest in American literature. She spent four years in the media, firstly in television production, then with an 'ambient media' company. "I came to the conclusion that media is more about who you know, not what you know, and it wasn't for me. I really enjoy teaching. The boys keep me on my toes – and I absolutely adored teaching my Year 7 class last year!"

"Parents send their sons here because they know they are going to be looked after. Pastoral care is not always about pulling up the naughty ones, but also about praising those doing well."

Miss Twist has taken over Butler House from Emma Slade, under whom it rose from fourth to first position - "Hers are big shoes to fill!"

- A Newcastle Utd supporter, Miss Twist also enjoys the theatre and music ranging from Oasis to Take That.



A WELCOME FROM THE HEAD, MISS KATHERINE HAYNES

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.

The John Lyon School has a richly deserved reputation for providing an excellent all-round education that combines high academic standards with excellence in sport and the arts.

JLS is a very successful School with consistently strong examination results and is one of the top 20 boys' independent schools in the country. The School is a friendly, accessible and human place. Learning is both broad and deep, and we offer a unique education that embraces opportunity and excellence both in and beyond the classroom. Sport, music, drama, societies and community projects all flourish and thrive. At JLS every pupil matters.

As part of the Harrow School Foundation we have strong links with Harrow School and share both facilities and expertise. With the support of the Foundation we have recently opened a new Science facility and second Drama studio, and further new buildings and projects are in the planning stage.

I hope you will find the accompanying information of interest. Please come and visit us and see the School for yourself. I look forward to meeting you.



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 Head and Deputy Head 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 Year 7.



CURRICULUM FOR 2009-10: OVERVIEW

GCSE – Year 10 and 11

All boys take the following core subjects: English, English Literature, Mathematics (IGCSE), Science (dual or triple award) and one language. Optional subjects are: Art/Design, French, Music, Spanish, Drama, Latin, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Philosophy, PE.

All pupils continue with PSICHE and Games. Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial programme. Boys taking triple sciences receive one period a week of Critical Thinking. Some Year 11 boys also study for the A/O in Additional Mathematics.

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

Four AS levels are usually taken in Year 12, followed by 3 A2 Levels in Year 13. Subjects available are:

English Language, English Language/Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, French, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Economics, Critical Thinking, Drama, Music, Music Technology, Art/Design, PE, Government/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-level, 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.

STRONG PERFORMANCE AT A-LEVEL AND GCSE

A near-record 95% of A-level taken at The John Lyon School were awarded grades A-C in the summer of 2009. 82% of grades were As or Bs, with almost half the A-level taken being awarded the top grade (49%). Fourteen of the 67 boys in the Upper Sixth, or 21%, achieved straight As. These high-flyers included two pupils who are Oxbridge-bound: Deputy Head of School James Corcut, of Pinner, who will take English at Downing College, Cambridge, and Tim Smith, also of Pinner, who will read Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) at Jesus College, Oxford. James also gained a merit in his Advanced Extension Award paper for English. Among the other straight-A students was Jack Turton, who secured the top grade in four subjects: Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics.

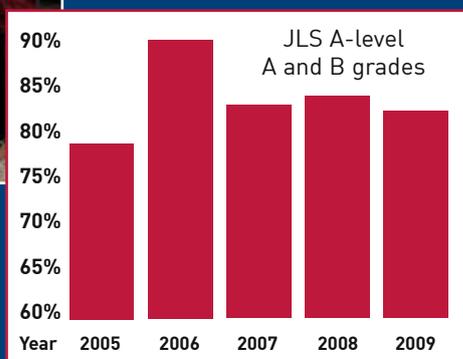
The Head commented: "Over the last four years, A-level results at JLS have reached a consistently high level and this year's results maintain that positive trend,

further justifying the School's ranking in this year's Financial Times Top 1,000 Schools league table as one of the top 20 boys' schools in the country. "The results are even more impressive when you take into account that many of these boys achieved top grades while participating at a very high level in School sports, drama or music. Passing examinations is, of course, important, but it is such breadth of achievement that is increasingly valued by leading employers."



At GCSE, the School's largest-ever Year 11 achieved three times the national average number of top GCSE grades. A total of 65% of the 973 GCSEs taken by the 104 Year 11 boys were awarded an A* or A grade – the national average is 21.6%.

The proportion of boys at the School achieving the Government's benchmark five A*-C grades stood at 99%, well above the national figure of 67.1%. GCSEs were taken in 22 subjects (including the PE short course, which is equivalent to half a GCSE) and boys took an average of 9.4 GCSEs each.



ADMISSIONS

JLS is an academically selective school. In September 2010, we expect to award places to up to 66 boys at 11; up to 30 boys at 13; and up to 10 boys at 16. A very small number may 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 strengths in music, the creative and performing arts and sport.

JLS is committed to widening access for local families, enabling the sons of those who could not otherwise afford the fees to benefit from a top-quality independent school education. For 2009-10, we awarded bursaries to a value of £434,689 and scholarships totalling £187,426. Over time, it is planned to minimise expenditure on scholarships in order to make more funding available for bursaries.

SCHEDULE

2009-10 Open Day - no booking required (Forums are held for prospective parents throughout the year)	Saturday 10th October 2009
Closing date for 11+ and 13+ applications for admission in September 2010	Friday 27th November 2009
Deadline for all scholarship and bursary applications for September 2010	Friday 27th November 2009
11+ examination for entrance in September 2010	Saturday 9th January 2010
13+ examination for entrance in September 2010	Saturday 16th January 2010
Sixth Form Open Morning	January 2010 (check www.johnlyon.org for date)
Closing date for 16+ applications for admission in September 2010	Sunday 31st January 2010

CURRICULUM NEWS: SCIENCE

The School's decision to offer its most able scientists the opportunity to take separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics was amply vindicated by this summer's impressive results.

JLS is unusual in offering triple Science: most schools offer the Combined Science dual award (Science and Additional Science). A total of 45 boys – 43% of the Year 11 group – took this more challenging option. All 45 secured an A* or A grade in Biology, while in Chemistry and Physics 43 of the boys gained the top grade, with two awarded a B. Head of Science Saajan Rana said: "These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of our Science staff and technicians, to the students' commitment and to our new state-of-the-art facilities. Science is popular, enjoyable and successful, as these results prove."

The remaining 59 Year 11 boys at the School all took the dual award. Results here were also good, with all boys awarded A*, A or B, except for one Additional Science C grade.