

THE STANDARD



The John Lyon School Newsletter

Spring 2007

PUBLIC BENEFIT : IT'S WHAT WE DO

*by Kevin Riley,
Headmaster*

Links between independent schools and their local communities are firmly in the spotlight as the Government considers whether such schools can justify their status as charities - and the concomitant tax benefits. The Charity Commission's consultation paper on the 'public benefit' that independent schools will need to demonstrate in the future has fuelled the debate.

At The John Lyon School, we are not frightened by the notion of public benefit. We see ourselves as part of our community and want to make a very positive contribution to it.

I have been developing links with local state schools and have visited many in the past few months. Our swimming pool and sports facilities are used by a number of local schools and clubs.

We are also constantly seeking fresh ways of engaging with the community.

For example, over the last year we have been very happy to allow the Salvation

Army to use the Boyd Campbell Hall for their regular Sunday services.

Our scholarship and bursary provision is already generous and we are actively looking at developing it further, so we can offer the opportunities afforded by a

JLS was founded in the 19th century to benefit the local community, and we will continue to do so.

JLS education to a greater number of bright, local boys, whatever their social and family background.

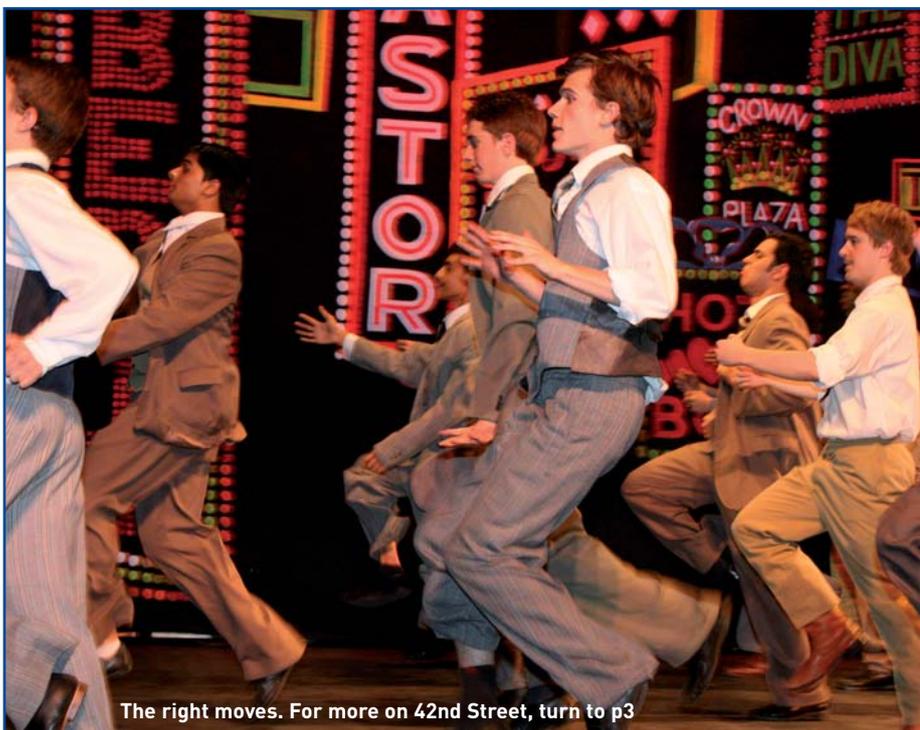
However, we are not helped in this regard by the Government. Having abolished the Assisted Places scheme, the Government has not replaced it with tax concessions, voucher schemes or anything of that kind. Instead it expects independent schools to do it all themselves. This is in contrast to several other countries where there are schemes giving Government support to

independent schools which offer something that state schools do not provide.

I am very proud of the work The John Lyon School does to support our local community - but that is not the full picture. The public benefit offered by JLS should be seen in the context of the benefit provided by the whole Harrow School Foundation - comprising The John Lyon School, Harrow School and John Lyon's Charity. The Charity in particular does excellent work supporting dozens of projects for disadvantaged people in North London.

Finally, looking ahead, our own Estates Strategy will not only develop facilities for the School itself, but will provide additional on-site parking that will do much to alleviate the problem of street parking and congestion on the Hill.

Quite simply, The John Lyon School was founded in the 19th century to benefit the local community, and we will continue to do so.



The right moves. For more on 42nd Street, turn to p3

WINNERS! U12S TAKE THE CUP

The U12s football team rounded off a strong season in spectacular style by winning the Middlesex Kay Cup for the first time.

In an exciting final at Harrow School's Summerly Field, the squad recorded a 2-0 victory over St Ignatius, Enfield.

Head of PE Lee Garwood said: "They performed brilliantly. This is a phenomenal achievement for a small school such as JLS playing against very strong North London schools with significantly more pupils."

Having played for most of the season at eight-a-side or nine-a-side, Mr Garwood said the U12s had no problems stepping up to 11-a-side for the Kay Cup.

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VIEWS FROM THE INSIDE

THEO OHENE (ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL, RICKMANSWORTH)

I'm Theo Ohene, I'm 18 and I'm in the Upper Sixth. I came here into the Sixth Form, because Mr Leach [JLS Director of Sport] wanted me to try for a sports scholarship, which I got. I used to play for Fulham FC, where he was my coach.

I'm an attacking midfielder. I've always played football since a young age and I like sport generally. I had the U13 district record in Watford for 200m, although really I only run now on Sports Day.

I have focused on school football, because I thought we had a good chance of doing well here - and we have. The sports department is very good and I do have respect for them. The coaching is exceptional: everything is a step up from my old school.

There's also a very cosmopolitan atmosphere here, which surprised me, to be honest. It has broadened my horizons and I've learned more about Asian culture.

The School has taken me up to the next level academically. I'm studying Drama, History and PE and planning to stay in London for university. I live in Harrow. My mum's the headteacher of an infants' school and my dad works for Slough Council.

What would I improve at JLS? I think the introduction of females in the Sixth Form would be good.

- For more on Theo's football successes at JLS, turn to p8



BEN SEHOVIC (THE KING FAHAD ACADEMY, ACTON)

My name's Ben Sehovic. I'm the Deputy Head Boy and am responsible for Oldfield and the Lower School. I'm 17 and I'm doing A levels in Drama, Maths, Further Maths and Physics. I have applied to do engineering at Cambridge (Downing College).

I was born in Bosnia and we moved here in 1992. We live in Sudbury, close to the School games field. I've been at JLS since the First Year. I still remember my first day: my parents wanted me to move school; I wasn't too keen, but I came here and found it absolutely fantastic.

I've seen three Headmasters and it's certainly been interesting to see all the changes. The School has become a lot more academic and there are more activities and societies, too.

It's actually really interesting being a prefect, because I was a bit of a troublemaker when I was younger, so now I know when the younger boys are up to no good, because the excuses are identical. I like the way the School changes towards you. In the lower years, it's much more formal, but now, for example, in my Maths lessons with Mr Rimmer, we have cups of tea and biscuits.

One big area of interest for me is doing the lighting for drama. The Ryan Theatre, where 42nd Street is being staged, is fantastic. But we don't get it handed over to us until the week before, so I was in there programming the lights all weekend - in fact, all through the night as I was last year for Grease.

People are surprised to find out that my plan is to become an airline pilot, but I have wanted to do that as long as I can remember.



Photograph by Matthew Whitfield U6

42nd STREET: OUR FEEL-GOOD SHOW!

The Easter production of 42nd Street was perhaps the most ambitious JLS musical to date, with big dance numbers, rapid costume changes and complex lighting.

"It was a high-risk show, but it's really paid off: we had the best opening night I have ever had in terms of audience reaction," said Head of Drama Miss Deborah Gibbs. "It's a 'feel-good' show, and people have been saying our production is full of energy and joy."

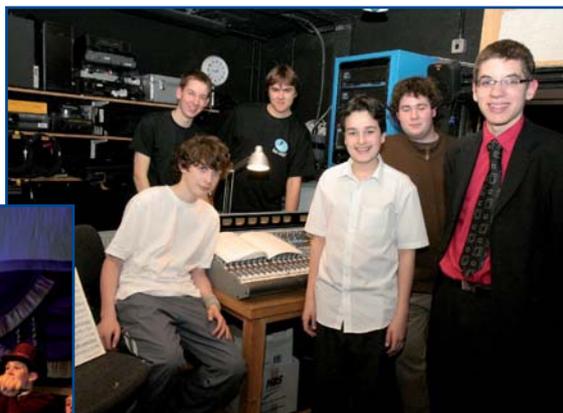
42nd Street tells the story of famed director Julian Marsh's attempts to mount a stage production of a musical, *Pretty Lady*, at the height of the Great Depression - a show within a show.

Upper Sixth-Former Nasri El-Sayegh enjoyed his swansong as Julian Marsh, while Richard Symonds played Billy, the leading man within *Pretty Lady*. Miss Gibbs paid tribute to them and their fellow Upper Sixth actors who have been involved in every production since she arrived at the School four years ago. "This group have always just gone for it and have been central to the development of drama at the School." She praised the crew for coping well with a demanding production, pointing out that four boys were required to 'fly in' each backcloth.

There were also plaudits for the female actors, who came from a number of schools, including the JLS partner school, Northwood College.



All photographs: Graham Ryder



NEWS IN BRIEF

CALLING ASPIRING ARCHITECTS

JLS is sponsoring an exciting architecture competition inviting pupils from across the Borough of Harrow to design the perfect school. The competition, which is co-sponsored by City architects Anshen + Allen, runs through the spring and summer. Participants will use Google SketchUp, a free yet sophisticated 3D modelling program.

"We run a Google SketchUp Club within the School and have some pupils who are very clever with 3D modelling, including a number who have put these skills to good use in GCSE and AS work," said teacher Sam Andon

RUNNING FOR THE BOROUGH

The highlight of the cross-country season was that three JLS boys - Fifth-Formers Louis Lavers and Matthew Barker, with Fourth-Former Luke King - were selected to represent Harrow at the Middlesex County Championships.

"Luke finished an impressive 19th in the Intermediates race, despite racing boys a year older than himself, so we are expecting that he should excel in the same race next year," said PE teacher Adam Jones.

BADMINTON FEATHER IN JLS CAP

The JLS U14 enjoyed a memorably successful season, remaining undefeated in league fixtures, winning all their friendlies and taking the U14 Borough Badminton Cup in convincing style, reports Ian Parker. The U16s also performed very creditably, finishing runners-up in the borough event.

JLS IN COSTA RICA

Old Lyonian Dan Morris is pictured (back row right) with street children in Costa Rica sporting football shirts donated by JLS boys. Dan is spending three months of his gap year football coaching in Costa Rica, before travelling to Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Thailand. On his return, he will read Geography at Durham University.



£4.4M TO START E



The John Lyon School's 10-year development plan - or estates strategy - has now secured major financial backing from the Governors.

Headmaster Kevin Riley said: "I am delighted to announce that the Governors have authorised spending of up to £4.4m to begin work on our estates strategy."

The money is for the first two projects of the strategy, which was set out in the

previous issue of The Standard. Project 1 involves the removal of temporary classrooms, the construction of an extension to the science block and the re-ordering of some internal spaces, while project 2 involves the possible acquisition of the Salvation Army building on Roxeth Hill.

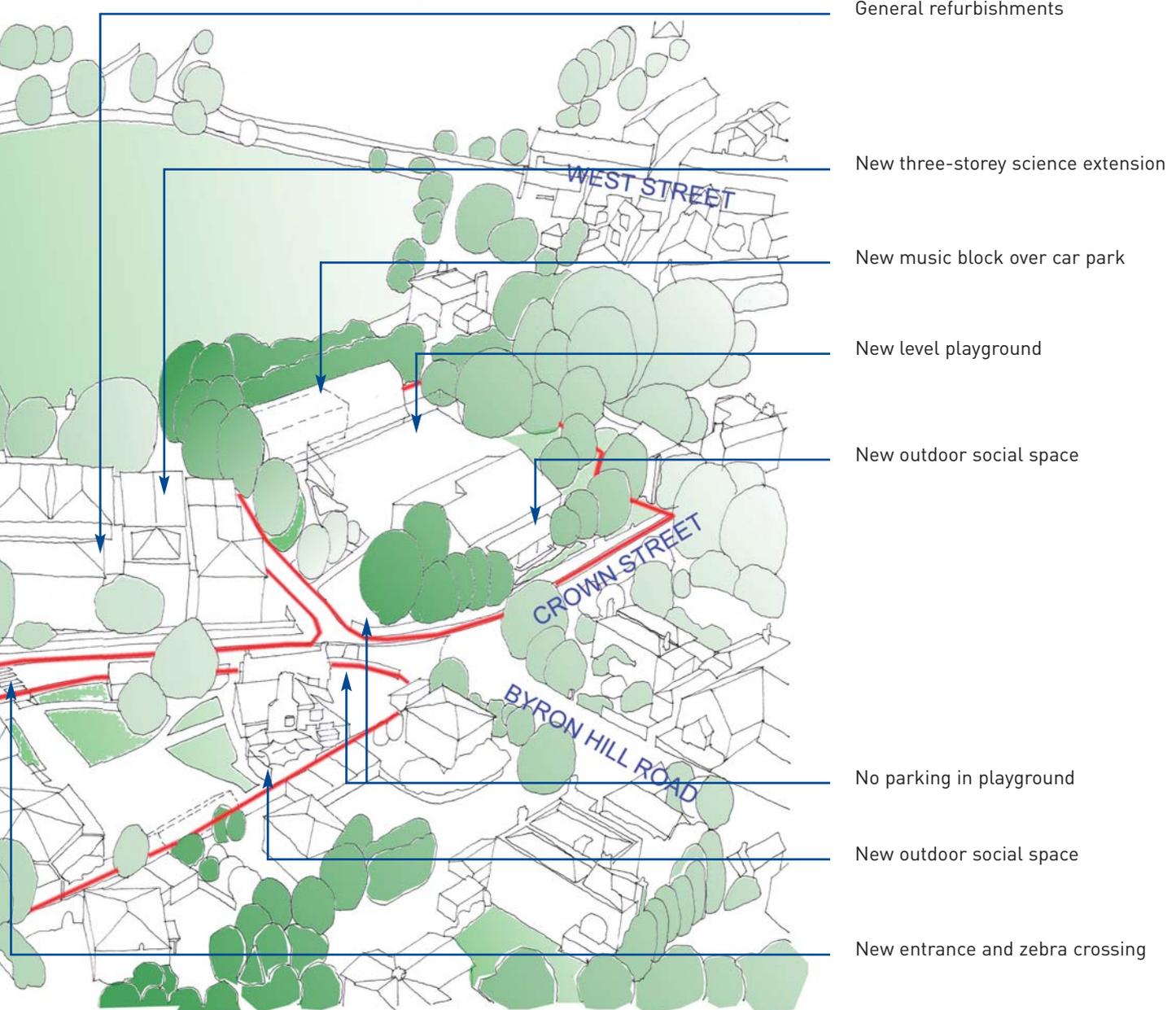
The School is confident of gaining planning consent for the science block extension soon, with construction work

likely to start during the summer.

The aims of the strategy include providing the School with the facilities necessary to create excellence in music, art, the performing arts and sport, while ensuring the most efficient use of the School site for all departments.

- The illustration above, supplied by the School's architects, Kenneth W Reed Associates, shows the scope of the strategy.

STATES STRATEGY



JLS BOYS BENEFIT FROM OLs' FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE

Over 100 senior boys and parents attended The John Lyon School's first-ever Finance Careers Evening.

Organised by Head of Careers Jo Morris and former JLS teacher Brian Holgate, the event featured five Old Lyonian (OL) delegates. They were introduced by the President of the Old Lyonian Association, Mike Christelow, of HSBC Banking, who was a pupil from 1966-1973.

Each delegate spoke about his current position in the finance world and the route he had taken to reach it. Then the

meeting broke up for students to ask their own questions. The event in the Boyd Campbell Hall also featured a stand from PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The delegates were (with their dates of leaving): John Marsden (1969), Venture Capitalist; Andy Marsden-Jones (1973), Regulatory Compliance; Paul Simons (1993), Investment Management; Matthew Ball (1994) Actuary and Des McEwan (1998), Audit Management.

Both the parents and boys who came were very appreciative. "We thought it

was a very useful evening," and "it is good for the JLS boys to see where people just like them had got to," were typical comments, while "please can we have more events like that on other careers?" was a frequently asked question.

"I would like to thank the Old Lyonians who made the time to give the boys a very interesting and stimulating evening. I hope it will be the first of several similar events," said Mrs Morris.

MEET THE BURSAR - NICHOLAS MARTEN

Nicholas Marten joined The John Lyon School as Bursar in September 2006. He has been a bursar for 18 years and has previously worked in three schools.

The Standard: What exactly is a bursar? What does your role entail?

NM: The bursar is responsible for anything non-academic - including finance, property, personnel, health & safety. I am a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT), along with the Head and the two Deputies.

The Standard: The job description sounds rather all-embracing. How do you learn all that?

NM: In my case, I had a career in local government first, during which I worked variously for an education authority, in finance and in personnel. I'm also involved in the Independent Schools Bursars Association (ISBA), which supports bursars in over 800 schools. I'm currently Vice-Chairman and likely to be Chairman in 2008.

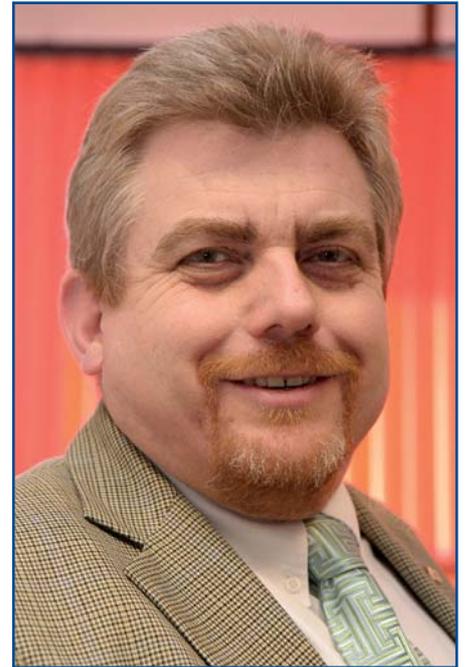
The Standard: So what kind of lead will you be giving the ISBA?

NM: I'll be trying to ensure that bursarship is recognised as a full career in its own right, not merely a second career, which is still some people's perception of it.

The Standard: And now that you've settled in at JLS, what are your priorities here?

NM: The Estates Strategy - our development plan - is obviously a major priority: my aim is to use my expertise as a bursar to move things forward, working closely with the Headmaster and Governors. It's certainly attractive to be a part of guiding the School at the start of a major period of development. I also want to try to update systems here. There are a lot of traditions in the way the School is run - some are fine, but others are, perhaps, not so good!

- Mr Marten's interests include sailing - he has a 19ft cruiser in Brixham, Devon - and rugby. A former hooker himself, he is a devoted London Irish season ticket-holder. He grew up in Somerset and attended Wellington School. He is married to Kate, who is a nurse. His son, Dominic, is in the Third Form at JLS, while his 17-year-old daughter, Izzy, is at college in Somerset.



ARCHERS TAKE AIM

The John Lyon School's archers spent the Spring Term training hard, with their sights set on retaining the prestigious Silver Arrow trophy for the 14th consecutive year this autumn.

The contest has its origins in the silver arrow that was shot for annually by boys from Harrow School. The practice was abandoned in 1771 because it had apparently been attracting undesirable characters to the Hill. It was resurrected in its present form, as a competition between the two schools, in 1986, since when JLS has won on all but three occasions.

Archery is taught as an option to senior JLS boys on Wednesday afternoons. Five of these boys currently belong to the Bowmen of Harrow, whose chairman and founder member, Robert Abbott, has instructed in the sport at JLS since 1980. He currently works with JLS teacher (and qualified archer) Emma Ingham, who is on maternity leave but has continued to help at the weekly sessions.

Mr Abbott praised the support given to archery by JLS: "We are a minor sport and in most schools, if it's not a ball sport you get pushed to the back, but not at JLS."

HEADMASTER TAKES A LEAD

Headmaster Kevin Riley represented the UK's Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference at the International Confederation of Principals' biennial convention, which was this year held in Auckland, New Zealand. The Easter convention was due to be addressed by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, and by speakers from around the world.

"The ICP is the only global organisation for head teachers and principals, so this convention is an excellent forum for sharing ideas and experience," said Mr Riley.

WINNERS! U12S TAKE THE CUP

(continued from p1)

The U12s secured their place in the final after emerging as convincing victors over Lea Valley High School in the semi-final.

Mr Garwood paid tribute to excellent performances from Tunde Adelekan, Scott Wilsher and Thomas Lamour-Johnson. He added that goalkeeper Sam Vaux pulled off some fine saves

"These First Years are going to be an incredible first team in seven years' time," he predicted.

Roll of honour - the winning squad:

1. Sam Vaux
2. Luke Roach-Christie
3. Tunde Adelekan
4. Scott Wilsher
5. Charlie Lee
6. Zaid Alkateb
7. Ben Swyny
8. Michael Christou
9. Arron Cummings
10. Nick Kerley
11. Antony Nicolas
12. Thomas Lamour-Johnson
13. Bobby Gardiner

MEET A TEACHER: PHILLIP MATTHEWS

Geography teacher Phillip Matthews joined *The John Lyon School* in September 2007. Before that, he taught at the *Perse School* in Cambridge, but sought a job in London because his wife, Angel, was studying at the *Inns of Court* in the capital.

He has enjoyed working with the Head of Department, Mr Shaw. "I have not previously been used to teaching every single year group, so that's been interesting," he says. "It's certainly been a lot of work, although that will get better in subsequent years."

Mr Matthews is unapologetic in demanding the highest standards: "The students like to know where they stand. I haven't got a lot of time to mince words. There are really able students here, as well as some others who undermine themselves by not putting in enough work, which I sometimes find

disappointing when they have so many privileges. They really need to focus."

He grew up in Brecon, South Wales, and boarded at Christ College, Brecon. "That was quite a tough environment - it set me up for life."

Since taking his first degree, in Geography, at Leeds University, he has spent most of his life abroad, which including living briefly with a tribe in New Guinea and trekking in the Far East.

He taught in schools in Japan and Hong Kong, and also worked for Longman, the educational publisher, in the former colony. "I then decided to go back into teaching because I missed it. I may come across to the boys as a bit harsh, but if I didn't enjoy teaching and being with them, I wouldn't do it."

Mr Matthews took a Master's degree in International Relations at Durham and a

PGCE at Cambridge.

Since arriving at JLS, he has started a Fourth-Year overseas field trip. This year's is to Macau, Hong Kong and Japan. He has been involved in the School acquiring GIS (Geographic Information System) this summer - a computer-based spatial information that "really brings maps into the 21st century".

A passionate rugby enthusiast, he runs touch rugby for the younger boys as part of their activities programme and would love to see the game played more at JLS.

He has played for the Hong Kong Police side and for Sharp Electronics. "I played on the wing and as a full back - I wasn't a bad player; my nickname was 'Fast Phil'." He is now toying with the idea of coming out of retirement.



SONGS TO SAVE THE RAINFOREST

JLS pupils were among the first in the world to hear the new single by chart-topping songwriter and former *Shakespeare's Sister* star Marcella Detroit during a special School event aimed at helping to save the rain forest.

Marcella is Patron of the London-based charity, Save The Amazon Rainforest Organisation (STARO), which chose JLS for its first-ever visit to a secondary school. She performed *Mystery to Me*, which is scheduled for worldwide release on 30 April. Pupils were so impressed with the concert and special assembly that they are not only supporting STARO but have since set up an eco-club, with support from Physics teacher Simon Gouldman.

STARO Chief Executive Jessica Hatfield said: "The presentation and concert were all about empowering people and telling them they can make a difference. We had a great response and now we are very keen to maintain a close link with the School."

STARO protects areas of Amazon secures areas of the rainforest for preservation through its Save an Acre and Save an Area programmes. It also creates sustainable

ways for the people of the Amazon to generate income.

Headmaster Kevin Riley said: "We are working to develop our links with the wider world, both through closer ties with the local community and through developing connections with the wider world, so it was excellent to have STARO here. Not only did they raise our awareness of the growing environmental problem of deforestation, but they did it in a fun, creative way, using great music to get their message across."

The visit was organised by Mr Gouldman, who is keen to develop boys' awareness of environmental issues. The eco-club is already looking at ways of increasing recycling at the School. "There are around 600 boys here and if we can change their environmental behaviour, they will then go out into the community and take those attitudes with them, which will make a real difference," Mr Gouldman said.

- Over the last 18 months, Marcella Detroit has had hit records in the UK, Germany and Brazil with songs covered by artists such as Charlotte Church, Joanna Zimmer and Latin boy band KLB. Her fellow STARO patron, Luc Floreani, has written a special single, *Breathe*, for the charity.

JLS PROGRAMME FOR ÉLITE ATHLETES IS NATIONAL FIRST

The John Lyon School this term launched an innovative programme to help the cream of its young sportsmen balance the demands of sport and study.

The Junior Athlete Education (JAE) programme provides an extra level of pastoral care for the School's élite athletes - including those aiming for a career in professional sport - to help them manage the requirements of teachers and of their coaches.

Until now, programmes of this kind have only been found in specialist sports colleges: JLS is thought to be the first non-specialist, independent school in the country to introduce such a scheme. And, unlike sports colleges constrained by the National Curriculum, as an independent school JLS is free to be flexible and to try new approaches.

The School currently has tennis players at county level and above, boys at Arsenal's Academy and a national-level swimmer. Nine boys, all aged 11-16, are being inducted into the JAE programme.

Pastoral Deputy Headmaster David Rimmer and Head of Physical Education Lee Garwood have worked together to draw up the programme and oversee its implementation.

"Elite athletes need to be involved in the sport now: they cannot wait for five or ten years," said Mr Garwood. "Some of these boys may be putting two or three hours daily into their sport and this obviously has the potential to conflict with their academic work. What we are trying to do is use a system of pastoral care to help the boys liaise with their teachers in managing their training schedules," explained Mr Garwood.

Mr Rimmer added: "From my perspective, the programme very much resonates with the School's pastoral strength and its aspirations for each individual boy: we are trying to support individuals to enable them to maximise their talents."

In putting together the programme, Mr Rimmer and Mr Garwood have drawn on the example of footballer Ben Gill, who left the School three years ago at the end of the Fifth Year, having gained a string of A grades at GCSE. He left because he had an opportunity to join the Arsenal Academy full-time. Ben is now with Watford FC.

"To his great credit, Ben didn't miss a single training session at Arsenal between the ages of 11 and 16, but he tells me he was often doing homework on the way there and back," says Mr Rimmer. "On one, not untypical, day, he played in a house basketball game at lunchtime, then ran in a cross-country fixture for the School. He then went immediately to Arsenal's training ground, before getting home at 9.30pm, when he had to start his homework."

"Ben managed to cope because he was an exceptionally bright student, but that is not realistic for everyone. JLS is a selective school, which means that while all our students are able, the academic demands on them are high."

The programme's starting point is for boys to examine their training schedules and competitive matches over the coming months, so they can identify periods of potential pressure. Monthly training audits are planned.

Mr Garwood and teacher James Cure mentor the pupils, running workshops on topics such as how to present themselves to teachers - not always a natural strength for teenage boys! "Our role is to facilitate and guide the athletes to find their own solutions," said Mr Garwood.

Another key part of the programme is the forging of a strong link between the School, parents and sports coaches through consistent, ongoing communication. Email is an important tool here.

Finally, there is particular scope for flexibility from the start of the Fourth Year. "We might, for example, create four Learning Practice - or 'catch-up' - periods a week by suggesting that a boy takes seven GCSEs instead of our usual nine. That is all a matter of negotiation between parents, Mr Garwood and me," said Mr Rimmer.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS FOR THEO AND SHANE

JLS footballers Theo Ohene and Shane O'Neill have built on their achievement in reaching a national squad by scoring a string of goals and gaining international recognition.

Earlier this school year, the pair became the first JLS boys for many years to reach the Independent Schools Football Association squad. Since then, they have continued to impress, with Theo scoring a hat trick and Shane finding the net once in the ISFA's 5-0 drubbing of the Amateur Football Alliance.

Now both have been selected for the ISFA's April tour of Poland and are also in the preliminary selection for the association's first-ever international fixture, which takes place against a Scottish independent schools team at Altrincham FC on Sunday 22 April.



Theo Ohene heads to score one of his hat trick of goals against the AFA

Photograph used courtesy of ISFA.