

The Standard

Newsletter • Summer 2010



Timetable for success: work on new building should start next academic year

The School's ten-year Estates Strategy is now moving forward, with work on the first of two major building projects expected to start within months. New catering and dining facilities are to be housed in a two-storey extension to Main Building. White's (the cricket-themed New York style deli) will move across from Old Building, clearing the way for that to be converted into the new Sixth Form Centre.

Two project launch evenings have been held with parents at which the plans were very well received. These two much-needed projects are expected to be completed in the next two years and will benefit many of the boys who are here now.

Subject to final planning approval this summer, the catering and dining facilities will come on stream in the next academic year, while the new Sixth Form Centre is expected to open in two years' time.

The new catering building is an exciting contemporary design, which will take into account the needs of all our year groups. It includes a landscaped plaza area and terraced outdoor seating, with weather protection from a canopy sail coming out to the edge of the terrace. White's will be relocated to the ground floor, where its distinctive design elements, such as the black and white tiled floor and large serving counter, will be retained.

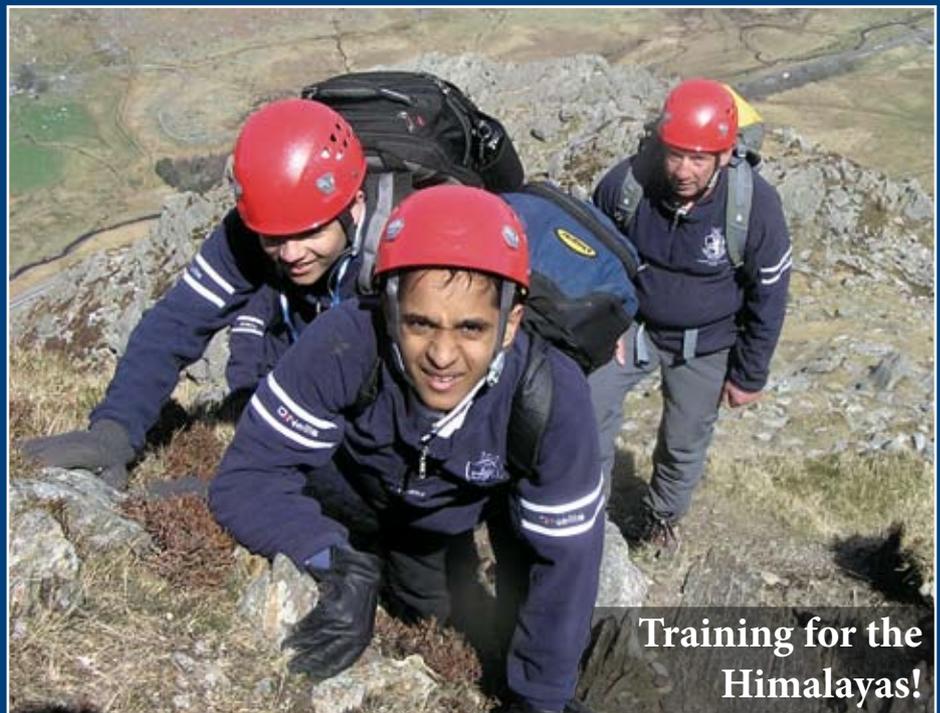
Old Building will be refurbished from its present mixed use into a dedicated new Sixth Form Centre. This will enable the Sixth Form to be relocated from their present accommodation, the listed Red House.

There will be a noticeable cachet to Sixth Form life here, housed in the charming setting of the original Old Building. There will be distinctive social spaces and quiet study areas.

The café will have a busy bistro atmosphere and the main vaulted and pillared space will incorporate seminar and computer zones. We shall have a new facility that any aspiring University student will be greatly motivated by.

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A word from our Head
Miss Katherine Haynes



Training for the Himalayas!

JLS Mountaineering Club members have spent the past few months in training for next year's Kala Patthar expedition.

The boys plan to summit the 5,545-metre peak in the Nepalese Himalaya at Easter 2011. It affords superb views of Everest and overlooks the Everest Base Camp, which the boys will also visit during the expedition with True Adventure Limited.

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Charity giving increases

This year John Lyon boys raised £7,000 (a £1,600 increase on last year) for their chosen charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

GOSH Schools Presenter, Ms Naomi Angel, came to a special assembly to receive a cheque from the Head. "With the help of John Lyon we will be able to fund more pioneering research work, special equipment, re-building, accommodation for parents and facilities for staff, all of which help us improve the quality of the care we provide for our children and their families," said Ms Angel.

Boys of all ages contributed, with the biggest single fund-raiser being the Sixth Form's fifth annual 24-hour 'gym & swim' event held in the JLS Sports Centre, which raised around £3,000.

In addition to the money raised for GOSH, boys at the School also donated a special ward trolley, decorated by the Art Department, to Northwick Park Hospital.

JLS is sponsoring a nine-year-old Senegalese boy, Laurent Thomas Thiaw, through the charity Action Aid. Deputy Head Mr Stuart Miles said: "We felt it would be good to take responsibility for supporting an individual child whom we can identify, rather than just a charity." Laurent Thomas lives in Tamcounda, one of the poorest areas of Senegal.



Sixth-Formers mentor disadvantaged children

JLS Sixth-Formers have been mentoring local younger children in an innovative Science project hosted by the School. Now in its second year, the SHINE Harrow Project offers weekly Saturday science classes in John Lyon's Science laboratories to Year 8 children from five maintained schools belonging to the Harrow Independent State School Partnership.

This year, the project has attracted more girls – 36 of the 52 children taking part. They are taught by teachers from five schools, who are assisted by John Lyon Science technicians.

"We are very proud of the project and the progress the pupils are making – and we are having a lot of fun!" said ISSP co-ordinator Miss Rachel Hughes, from Park High School.

Views from the inside

Rishvinder Chowdhry

(Stanburn Middle School)



Currently in Year 7, Rishvinder came to The John Lyon School in September 2009. He lives in Stanmore.

I came here because of the facilities, like the swimming pool. I wanted the sports and my parents wanted me to come here because it was good for study. I've worked hard so far and I've also got lots out of the School.

I play football in a midfield position in the A team. I have learnt new sports – mainly how to play cricket, because I didn't know anything about the game: they didn't play it at my old school.

I sometimes go to Art Club. I think PE and Maths are my favourite subjects. My brother, Tarandeep, is in Year 9 here – he enjoys it here too!

If I could change anything at the School, I would like there to be more sport in the week. We have five periods: I think we should maybe have eight or ten. For my career, I would like to do something that involves business or finance.

Daniel Orchard

(Roxeth First and Middle School)



Daniel Orchard is in the Upper Sixth and is the outgoing Deputy Head Boy with responsibility for Oldfield and Lower School. This term he has been completing A-levels in Mathematics, History and Philosophy & Ethics and plans to read PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) at Manchester University.

I have been at John Lyon since Year 7 and I live on the Hill. My dad, John Orchard, came here. Originally I did the entrance exam just to see if I would get in. It was a long shot – I wasn't at all confident about getting in!

I started out in the normal Maths set here and then moved up to the top Maths set for Year 7 – and have stayed in the top set ever since. It was really the same with English, too. Previously I had not had much encouragement, but when I came here I found the teachers were always offering me help and guidance.

I think I've really flourished at John Lyon: I got 8 A*s and 3 As at GCSE. The highlights for me have included gaining my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, going on the India World Challenge expedition and giving a speech in front of Geoff Hurst [Sir Geoff – scorer for England in the 1966 World Cup final – Ed]. I have been in School productions including *Oklahoma! Twelve Angry Men* and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. I've played in the Second XI and Third XI at football, gone on ski trips to the US and Italy, gone with School trips to Istanbul and Rome, been in the cross-country team and sung in the choir.

I think the key to the School's success is the strength of the teachers: they are committed and personable; you can approach them if you have a problem. There's a strong core of Heads of Departments. You could say I am a big fan of the School! Miss Gibbs has been particularly influential; she's quite an inspirational character. I think the new Head will make a significant impact too. She's given a couple of motivating addresses in assemblies and she's clearly committed to a drive towards even greater academic excellence.



Music mystical, festive and fantastic: The annual Choral and Orchestral Concert at St John's Church, Greenhill featured a professional orchestra – including some JLS boys – who played the Shostakovich *Festive Overture*. Joe Wadsworth of Year 10 played the Finzi clarinet concerto and the choir performed Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and Rutter's *Gloria*. The Male Voice Choir and Flute Quartet also performed. "It was a fantastic concert with a lot of high-quality music-making," says JLS Director of Music, Miss Anna Wilby.

Estate Strategy – continued from page 1

In addition to these developments, the School has also secured new office premises in nearby Byron Hill Road in a former church used latterly as architect's offices (pictured below). From September, this building will house our Admissions Office, Development Office and Bursary – executive departments which do not need day-to-day contact with current pupils. This will release valuable additional teaching space within the main Middle Road campus, while also providing these three departments with quiet, private waiting areas.

- Developing the School: turn to page 7



The catering and dining extension

Meet the Chef Manager – Mr Peter Sheridan

Peter Sheridan joined the School in August 2009 and is in charge of White's, John Lyon's New York-style diner.

The Standard: Have you always been in catering?

PS: I've been a chef now for 34 years and have worked at locations including restaurants and diplomatic buildings. At the American Embassy we had three kitchens, one for an American diner, so it seemed familiar when I came to White's.

The Standard: It's quite unusual for a school to have a diner. How well do you think it works?

PS: It's been very successful from day one. We get through a high turnover of boys in a short period of time, which is good because the boys want to be in and out quickly so they can be with their mates. The Sixth Form suggested a queuing system in the spring: I was sceptical at first, but it works quite well.

The Standard: So it's fast food; does that mean it's junk food?

PS: No. We use as much fresh food as possible, and all the lunchtime food is freshly prepared each day. It can be difficult to get this age group to eat healthily; we try to provide menus that

will be popular with the boys. We do breakfasts with a sausage or bacon roll. We always provide a vegetarian option and we don't use pork and rarely use beef at lunchtimes.

The Standard: What's your typical working day like?

PS: I work from 7 till 3. It's quiet ... and then it's very, very busy! My day involves organising the team – there are seven people – and cooking. As well as the normal service times of breakfast, mid-morning break and lunch, we also do cricket and football lunches, and we prepare food for parents' evenings and PFA events.

The Standard: What challenges do you face?

PS: The summer can be difficult. If it's hot, it can catch out our suppliers and it can be hard to get enough ice cream or bottled water, for example.

The Standard: Are you looking forward to having a new building?

PS: It's always nice to move into a new environment: it gives you an opportunity to try new ideas and to reach new customers.



- Mr Sheridan is married to Annette and has three grown-up boys, one of whom is a teacher. They live at Datchet, near Windsor. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, gardening and DIY.

Active at JLS - It's great outdoors



Training for the Himalayas - continued from page 1

The aim of the expedition is to develop leadership and teamwork skills. To this end, the boys have already undertaken a basic scrambling course on Y Lliwedd in the Snowdon Horseshoe Range, together with an expedition across Tryfan, also in Snowdonia (pictured). They will be climbing three 4,000-metre peaks in the Swiss Alps in August 2010 as well as carrying out further UK challenges.



Duke of Edinburgh: a golden year

Six Gold Awards this year confirm The John Lyon School's place as one of the leading independent schools in London for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School has a long record of involvement with the scheme and is proud of its status as an Operating Authority for the awards. The Duke even opened the JLS Sports Centre in 1997.

At a Gold Award presentation at St James's Palace, Upper Sixth-Formers Mitesh Hathiramani, Saneel Patel and Krishan Mistry (pictured) received their awards from the Earl of Wessex. Daniel Orchard, Mustafa Al-Bustani and Amir Farooqi, who are also in the Upper Sixth, are currently awaiting a palace presentation date.

A further 34 boys have applied to start their Gold Award - a higher total than at many much larger schools.

The Head, Miss Katherine Haynes, said: "Our six Gold winners deserve tremendous congratulations. Gaining Gold is a really significant achievement,



requiring dedication and considerable effort over a sustained period."

The Gold Award programme includes voluntary work over a 12-month period and a gruelling four-day expedition, as well as physical and skills challenges and a five-day residential activity.

During an expedition in Snowdonia in February, the 34 boys currently working towards the Gold Award overcame snow and ice, as well as low cloud and poor visibility, which presented navigational challenges.

Wet, wet, wet - and fun, fun, fun!

The School's Canoe Club has continued to grow since teacher Mr Martin Vickery launched it just over three years ago.

Open to boys from Year 9 and above, the club has around 25 members, who enjoy a busy programme of events.

Recent Canoe Club trips have included an introduction to whitewater kayaking on the River Dart in Devon, a visit to Nene Whitewater Centre in Northampton and a week with a specialist coaching and holiday company, Kayakojacko.

Regular trips along the Thames are another highlight. "We get on to the river at Kew Bridge and the tide takes us into central London, where we have lunch and then go back again," says Mr Vickery.

Closer to home, there are sessions in the JLS swimming pool on Mondays and Fridays, where boys can learn how to roll safely and also enjoy playing kayak polo. The School owns six polo boats, six whitewater boats and a kit van.

Last summer, four pupils gained their

instructor qualifications from the British Canoe Union, while Mr Vickery himself is a Level 2 coach and expects to gain his Moderate Water Endorsement soon.

"I started canoeing at school in Tiverton, Devon, where there was a river at the bottom of the school grounds," he says. "Later I ran the Canoe Club at Exeter University. I've also spent three months following the snow melt, starting in Italy and going upwards into the mountains".



Vietnam preparations

The team heading to Vietnam on the JLS True Adventure Expedition in the summer holidays have been continuing their preparations. A quiz night held at the JLS Music School raised £300 and was well attended by parents, friends and staff.

Oscar Crehan, Samuel Horsley, Daniel Itcovitz, Jeyam Emmanuel and Rahul Gandhi, together with Team Leader Mr Ralph Durbridge and teacher Mr Martin Vickery, leave for the month-long expedition in July.



Meet a teacher - Mr Phillip Matthews

Mr Matthews has been at the School for four years and is Head of Geography.

Before JLS, he had taught at The Perse School, Cambridge, and had taken his PGCE teaching qualification in Cambridge at Queens' College. A conventional enough path for a teacher, one might think. However, his career before the PGCE was more than a little exotic.

As well as spending some time in the Army, he worked for five years in education publishing as a senior editor, based in Hong Kong. "I got bored with that job eventually, but in the process I learned an awful lot about my own language – about the present perfect tense, for example.

"Prior to that I had taught on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme and had also taught History and English in Hong Kong. I was at a girls' school, but I prefer teaching boys: when you tell them off they take it on the chin and move on.

"What I like about The John Lyon School is that we get a well rounded group of

students – there's a healthy dose of those good at sport and those who are strong academically, and the boys show character. I can honestly say there is not one boy in the School whom I've disliked."

Mr Matthews succeeded Mr Bob Shaw as Head of Geography on the latter's retirement. He paid tribute to his predecessor: "If I ever know half as much as he knew, then I will have achieved something in life!"

Mr Matthews has made a number of changes, including switching from the Edexcel examination board to AQA. Numbers taking the subject at AS and A2 have doubled, while a third Geography class has been added in both GCSE years.

Another key to the growth of Geography at JLS has been a focus on high-quality trips. New trips include a Year 10 visit to Malham Tarn in North Yorkshire, which included potholing. Last October, the A2 group climbed Mount Etna in Italy. And Mr Matthews also runs a Year 10 trip to his old stamping ground, the Far East, in alternate years.



"Overall things are going really well. Last year we had 100% A grades at AS and A2, with a very good number of A* and A grades at GCSE."

- Mr Matthews grew up in South Wales and gained a scholarship to Christ College, a boarding school in Brecon. He took his first degree at Leeds University, followed by a Master's in International Politics at University College, Durham.

CCF renaissance at John Lyon

After a gap of 34 years, a Combined Cadet Force is to be re-established at The John Lyon School.

The John Lyon CCF will be attached to the Harrow School Rifle Corps, with teacher Mr Phillip Matthews in charge of the JLS contingent. It is planned to start the CCF in the 2011 Summer Term, initially for boys in Year 10.

"I hope the new CCF will generate a sense of responsibility and *esprit de corps* among John Lyon boys," said Mr Matthews. "It will help the School and it's very good for our role in the community on the Hill. We started thinking about having a CCF here last summer and made some enquiries to the MOD.

"It's not just about marching and shooting; boys learn a healthy mix of military and leadership skills, problem-solving and quick thinking. It also gives them an appreciation of the role of the Armed Forces," added Mr Matthews, who attended Sandhurst and became a Second Lieutenant. "At 19 I held Royal Artillery officer sponsorship at Leeds University Officer Training Corps, where I

commanded the gunline of three 105mm light guns.

"My short spell in the Army taught me a lot about self-discipline, not giving up easily and about loyalty. I think those are really important traits because we have a society that is all about 'me' and 'what are my rights?'; we have completely smothered the notion of 'what are my responsibilities?'"

The CCF will hold one training weekend each term, with one-and-a-half to two hours' training each week and an annual week-long camp in the summer, as well as weekends on which boys will be able to learn rock-climbing, canoeing and advanced shooting skills.



These pictures show the School's CCF during the 1950s. The larger image shows the President of the Old Lyonian Association, Mr Woodbridge, presenting new instruments, with Headmaster R F Boyd Campbell looking on. The John Lyon Cadet Corps was formed in 1911 and became The Lower School of John Lyon CCF in 1948, when CCFs were established nationally.

Audience acclaim for A Chorus Line

The John Lyon School's annual Easter musical, *A Chorus Line*, proved another hit with its near sell-out audiences during a three-night run at the Ryan Theatre.

"It was very successful, with some excellent performances and fantastic lighting," said Director of Drama, Miss Gibbs. "It's a very

different type of show from what we have done in recent years, but there was a very positive reaction. The whole point of *A Chorus Line* is that the characterisation is more developed and three-dimensional, rather than the cardboard cut-out you often get in other musicals."

Drama highlights of the Summer Term include a Sixth Form play written by Miss Gibbs and the Lower School production, *Treasure Island*, which is being staged in the last week of term by Drama teacher Miss Vicky Levinge in the Boyd Campbell Hall.



Photographs of *A Chorus Line* taken by Mr Graham Ryder

Developing the School

Director of Development, Mrs Brenda Allanson, explained the role of the Development Office in delivering the School's ten-year Estates Strategy in a series of special meetings for parents.

The first Estates Strategy project, a £3m Science and Drama Building, was completed in 2008. The next two projects, which are inter-dependent, involve firstly the construction of the new catering extension to Main Building and then the conversion of Old Building to a Sixth Form Centre.

"The Science and Drama Building was funded entirely by the School," said Mrs Allanson. "Likewise, the catering extension will be paid for from School funds. The second element, the new Sixth Form Centre, will also certainly go ahead, but the exact scope of the project will depend on how much money can be raised.

"Large donations to the Sixth Form Centre Project will be both vital and very welcome but we should not underestimate the importance of smaller, regular amounts. Everyone – parents and Old Boys alike – can play a part in making this project a success."

- If you would like to discuss giving to the Sixth Form Centre Project, contact Mrs Allanson on 0208 872 8428 or staff.allanson@johnlyon.org

Study weekend en route to success

If you are about to sit a French oral examination, where is the best place to spend the preceding weekend?

The John Lyon School's French Department gave the obvious answer by taking six Upper-Sixth boys to Boulogne for three days of total immersion in French language and culture.

Teacher Mrs Véronique McBratney said: "This was quite an innovative idea, which we thought would be the ideal way to get the boys' brains 'into gear' for their French A-level oral."

The group headed off to a gîte in the School minibus. As soon as they reached French soil, both teachers and pupils spoke only French.

They visited cafés, went shopping, held discussions and revision sessions and even devised a quiz for the JLS Year 8 group due to visit Boulogne a few weeks later.



"It was intensive but quite relaxed at the same time. Most important of all, the boys said it helped them in their oral," said Mrs McBratney, who also thanked Mr Paul Sturgess, the minibus driver from the School.

Development Office events

- The *Fifty Years On* reunion – part of the Development Office's alumni relations programme – brought 14 leavers from 1960 back to the School, including one from the US and one from France. They enjoyed tea and coffee in the School's Mall Gallery, attended a Sixth Form Union meeting and had lunch with the incoming and outgoing Heads of School and their teams. Most took part in a Lower Sixth careers event: included in their number were engineers, accountants, bankers and one who had switched from microbiologist to Anglican priest.

In an email to Mrs Allanson after the event, OL Peter Thompson praised current students: "They really put themselves out to make us feel welcome and never once did anything other than to show themselves in a good light. The sports facilities now are magnificent and...we are all proud to say we went to John Lyon and of the way you have all have taken it forward to make it so much better in every way."

- The second in the successful series of Business Breakfasts launched earlier in the year took place at the Grand Saloon of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on 29th June, with Geoff Atkinson as speaker – a comedy writer whose credits include *Spitting Image* and *Bremner, Bird and Fortune*. His son, Bertie, is currently in the Sixth Form.

- A Careers Evening for Years 10 and 11 involving a number of Old Lyonians took place on 23rd June.

Big games – and some Big Game – on the South Africa Sport Tour

Forty boys from Years 9 and 10 played some excellent sport and enjoyed the spectacular sights and sounds of South Africa during an Easter cricket and soccer tour.

During the 12-day visit – the sixth since the biennial sports tour to South Africa began in 2000 – the boys played fixtures in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, before finishing the trip with a stay at the Kariega Game Reserve.

“It was a successful tour in every way: we covered everything the boys wanted to cover in South Africa, and the arrangements made for us, including the accommodation, were first-class,” said the organiser, Mr Ian Parker.

Tour captain Scott Wilsher reported that the U15 cricketers got off to a fine start, with an emphatic victory over a Western Province side that included “...Tom Deacon taking an incredible 6 wickets for 13 runs”. The U14 soccer side enjoyed

particular success, winning three and drawing one of their four games.

With South Africa in the throes of World Cup fever, the John Lyon party visited football stadia in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, the latter being the venue for England’s group-stage games. They also climbed Table Mountain, watched penguins at Boulders Beach and enjoyed ‘brais’ (barbecues) on several occasions. During the final days, they saw lions, buffalo, rhinos and elephants at the game reserve and relaxed on the beach at Kenton-on-Sea.



Sporting brief

The cricket season has begun well for The John Lyon School this term, with the 1st XI recording a seven-game unbeaten run at time of writing.

“They achieved a particularly pleasing win against Harrow School,” said Mr Parker. “Having been set a challenging target, the team showed real character and there was an impressive 96 from Michael Hoy.”

At time of writing, the 1st XI have reached the semi-finals of the County Cup. The U15s have won five of their first seven games and are in the final of the county 20/20 Cup and the quarter-finals of the normal County Cup.

In athletics, Luke Roach-Christie is currently ranked as England’s national number one for shot putt in the Year 11 age group, even though he is only in Year 10. A number of School athletics records have also fallen this term.



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