

# THE STANDARD

The John Lyon School Newsletter  
and Mini-Prospectus

Winter 2006/07



## All on merit: We welcome the best *by Kevin Riley, Headmaster*

Since I arrived at The John Lyon School, I have been eager to reinforce our reputation as a high-achieving day school welcoming academically able local boys.

Applications have been strong this school year, with well over 300 boys applying for the 90 places available, which is a most encouraging sign that this approach is bearing fruit.

We are continually working to establish closer links with all our feeder schools. I visited 16 schools across Harrow and Brent during the Autumn Term, including five schools in the state sector, at each of which I was very warmly welcomed. Indeed, it was extremely good to visit a

number of state schools which have sent pupils to us over the years, but with which we have not hitherto had particularly close contact. It was also very worthwhile to visit, and re-visit,

**“Harrow School Foundation’s policy is to support The John Lyon School so that first-class boarding and day schools are to be found on the Hill.”**

many of the prep. schools which send us pupils at both 11 and 13.

We want to encourage applications from all sections of society and to emphasise the scholarship and bursary provision at JLS.

That provision is largely due to the support we receive from John Lyon’s Charity, which, like JLS, is part of the Harrow School Foundation.

This support, for example, enables the School to offer each year a number of virtually free places - two, at present - for gifted and talented pupils from less affluent backgrounds.

JLS was founded to serve the local community and today continues to fulfil this mandate: well over 80% of boys come from within a five-mile radius, and it is the Foundation’s policy to support JLS so that first-class boarding and day schools are to be found on the Hill.

## JLS football makes its mark

The reputation of football at JLS is growing around the country. The School team is enjoying a string of fine performances and two players have been selected for the Independent Schools Football Association national squad.

Director of Sport Spencer Leach said the 1st XI did exceptionally well to reach the last 16 of the prestigious Boodles ISFA Cup. After seeing off Forest School 4-2 in the first round, they ran in 2-1 winners against St Bede’s College, Manchester, before finally falling to Haileybury 4-2.

“What we have is some good players who have reached the top of the School,” said Mr Leach. They include Upper Sixth-formers Shane O’Neill and Theo Ohene *[pictured right]*, who have both won places in the ISFA A squad - the first JLS pupils to do so for some years. “We have created more time to train and practise, and have developed the boys’ tactical astuteness,” said Mr Leach. “They have responded very well.”

There are also promising signs at the other end of the School. The U12s have



been particularly successful, with a very impressive start to the season - far better than any JLS team at this level in recent years.

In other sports, badminton has been to the fore, with the U14s enjoying success in the Harrow borough competition, while the U12/U13 basketball team have excelled, winning an important match against Highgate.



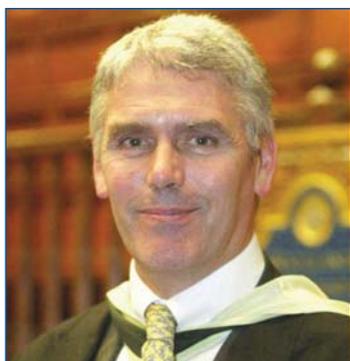
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## Meet a Teacher - Saaj Rana

The new Head of Science, Saaj Rana, arrived at JLS in September 2006. Evolution, rather than revolution, is definitely the order of the day for Mr Rana. "Science has long been a strength here, so I see myself as building on existing successes," he says.

He does, however, plan a few gradual changes: "I would like to bring an even greater spirit of scientific enquiry and to provide more science activities, perhaps including more external trips and visits that would help build on the theory taught in the classroom." Mr Rana sees scope to modernise science 'practicals' and also believes the new science GCSEs will provide greater academic rigour, providing JLS boys with a firmer foundation for A levels.

After his first term, Mr Rana has had ample time to assess JLS: "The staff are very hard-working and the boys a credit to the School; well mannered and well behaved. Teaching here with the small class sizes means you get to know all the boys very quickly by name and to recognise their individual strengths."

After being educated at St Alban's School and Birmingham University, Mr Rana has enjoyed a rapid rise in his seven-year teaching career. Following his first post at Dartford Grammar School, he moved on to Watford Grammar School where he became Joint Head of Science and was in charge of the school's specialist Science College status.

Mr Rana is married to Kim, an English teacher at Chancellor's School in Hatfield. They live in Watford. During his holidays, Mr Rana enjoys travelling. Recent trips have included visits to New Zealand and America, and a jungle trek in Borneo. Closer to home, he unwinds by riding his Ducati 800 Sport motorcycle, but he adds: "I am not a wet-weather rider!"



## Making music...from Thomas Tallis to the Beatles

Musicians from The John Lyon School and Harrow School combined to provide an aural treat at the Commemoration Concert.

The concert is held annually in Harrow School's historic Speech Room to mark the anniversary of the death of John Lyon, the Elizabethan farmer who founded Harrow School and later gave his name to JLS.

Highlights included the:

- Joint Orchestra playing the *Overture to the Marriage of Figaro* and the opening and closing movements of Shostakovich's *Jazz Suite No 2*
- JLS Male Voice Choir's performances of Thomas Tallis's *If Ye Love Me*, as well as the more contemporary *Somewhere over the Rainbow* and *The Rhythm of Life*, accompanied by Deputy Headmaster Stuart Miles
- Joint Big Band, firstly conducted by JLS Music Technology teacher Sean McWilliam in his own piece, *LA 1973*, then by his colleague, Oliver Druker, for *Groovin' Hard* by Don Menza.
- Joint Chamber Choir in a confident performance of Mozart's *Sparrow Mass*,

which was repeated the next day at the traditional Commemoration Service in St Mary's Church.

A collection was taken for the Bujagali Trust, a charity supporting educational projects in Uganda with which the Headmaster is closely involved.

One month later, the Autumn Concert [pictured] featured a variety of ensembles, including the First Form Choir, comprising an entire year group, which performed two songs. The grand finale saw all performers on stage - more than 200 boys - to perform the Beatles' *Hey Jude*. "A tremendous effort by everyone involved," says Mr Druker.



## The saucy challenge of a French farce

Head of Drama Deborah Gibbs wanted this year's autumn production to form the greatest possible contrast with the 2005 play.

She fulfilled this aim admirably in George Feydeau's *A Flea in her Ear*. Where Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is solemn and portentous, this 1907 French farce is both outrageous and uproariously funny, combining attempted adultery, cases of mistaken identity and a would-be murderer. *A Flea in her Ear* is widely considered to be the greatest of all French farces.

And yet great comedy is no easier to produce than great tragedy: indeed it may even be harder. "It's always challenging for young actors to take on comic adult parts," explains Miss Gibbs. "This play was particularly difficult because much of it is very fast-moving, with repetitive dialogue that builds on what has gone before, and there are some slower sections too: unless you get it all right, it's very hard work for the audience."

The play revolves around wealthy Victor Emmanuel - played by Nasri El-Sayegh - and his wife's unfounded suspicions that he is having an affair. Nasri also played Poche, a lowly hotel servant whose appearance is identical to Victor's. Atif Siddiqui had the part of Camille, Victor's nephew, who is delighted to have his speech impediment corrected with a silver palate. Stuart Onslow played Tournel, Victor's best friend and a notorious womaniser, while Nathan Ireland took the part of a lecherous doctor.

Miss Gibbs said the cast had all performed very well, with Nasri deserving particular credit for rising to the challenge of switching between two radically different characters at very short intervals during the play.

The production featured female actors from the Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth, and Heathfield School in Pinner.



## News in Brief - High Flyers

### Sam takes a bow

Second-former Samuel Horsley, who has a Music Scholarship, has achieved the rare honour of winning a place in the National Children's Orchestra to play the viola.

### Kishan in print

First-year Kishan Sheth's review of a new children's novel was published in both the *Harrow Observer* and *Harrow Leader* recently. Kishan described the space adventure, *Jerry and the Jannans* by Kenton-based BBC script writer Elly Brewer, as a "fantastic read".

### Simon soars in rankings

The professional tennis career of Old Lyonian Simon Childs has got off to a great start, with the 18-year-old from Iver teaming up with Iceland's Arnar Sigurdsson to capture the Monterrey Futures title in Mexico. The victory sent Simon, who left the School last summer, climbing 19 places in the British rankings to 39.

### Rugby success

Congratulations to JLS Fifth-former Oliver Harrison, who has won a place in the Middlesex U17 rugby team.

## Losing It All

The recent premiere of the new JLS film, *Losing It All*, at Harrow's Vue cinema was a great success, says Head of English, Dom Roy.

The film, which was co-directed and filmed by former pupil Eliot Haigh, features pupils Stuart Onslow, Sonny Flynn and Shane O'Neil in a gritty depiction of teenage life based around a 15-year-old boy's descent into chaos following the death of his parents.

Mr Roy, who wrote, produced and co-directed the film, added that further screenings at the School are planned for the Spring Term.

## The Details

### The proposals include:

- A three-storey rear extension to the existing science block, including a lift
- Creating a 47-space underground car park beneath the hard sports pitch, accessed via a new layby off Lower Road
- New music school on the Oldfield Garden (currently occupied by the temporary classroom block), which will also include underground car parking
- Converting the existing music hall into a dining area to feed the whole School, and demolishing the building between it and Middle Road so that a servery and kitchens can be constructed
- Turning the Old Building into an administration centre, to include the Headmaster's Office, Bursary and an attractive main entrance
- Creating a new entrance gate serving all the buildings on the Red House side of Middle Road
- Possible acquisition of the old Salvation Army citadel on Roxeth Hill - could be used as a music school or for catering if plans above are refused

# Taking JLS in

A major development project to give The John Lyon School the best possible facilities to provide a modern education will be gathering pace over the coming year.

The project aims to give JLS the facilities it needs to create excellence in music, art, the performing arts and sport, while making the most efficient use of the School site for all departments.

The process began with a detailed analysis of the space available by specialist firm Sprunt. It concluded that JLS does have all the space needed to meet Government education requirements, but that this space is not necessarily in the right places. Since then, Harrow architects Kenneth W Reed Associates, run by Old Lyonian Andrew Reed, have been working out the best way forward.

The Headmaster says: "What we are trying to achieve is a well thought-through strategic plan based on expert advice and on careful analysis."

After detailed consultation by the architects with the Governors, the Headmaster and senior teachers, a number of priorities have emerged:

- Improving the drama facilities
- Making better use of the Old Building
- Significantly enhancing the music facilities
- Providing better facilities for catering and dining
- Creating more flexible teaching space - a bank of generic classrooms in the centre of the School for use by any department



## Views from the Inside

### Stephen Bennett - (Roxbourne Middle School)

*First-former Stephen, a Music Scholar, lives in North Harrow.*

"Before, I was at Roxbourne Middle School. None of my family has ever been to JLS - I don't have any brothers or sisters. I'm also the only one in my year from my old school. I was really, really shy on my first day, but I made friends straightaway - I just joined in a game of football.

I like it here because of the sports and

music facilities, and I like the classrooms - they are quite big, and my old ones were really small. I get loads more homework, but I don't mind. My favourite lesson is games. I enjoy all sports, especially hockey.

My instruments are flute and piano. I'm doing grade V for both. I like playing jazz and rhythm & blues most. I'm in the Junior Band and Concert Band at School and also in Harrow Young Musicians."



### Michael Hoy - (Northwood Prep. School)

*Michael, aged 13, joined JLS in September 2006 and is a Sports Scholar.*

"Three of us came together from Northwood Prep., but I have also made lots of new friends.

Coming here was my choice and my parents', too. We also went to see Aldenham School, which is actually closer to my home in Pinner than JLS, but I think it's more friendly here.

My favourite teacher is Mr Jones, because he is my form tutor and because he takes PE. I really enjoy sport, especially cricket. In my old school, I was in the First XI, and I am captain of the Eastcote Cricket Club team for my age group. I also play tennis and enjoy football - I play in attack and I'm in the U13 A team here.

When I'm older, for my job I would like to do something involving sport."

# to the future

Further aims include: upgrading play and social areas; an end to parking on both the playground and Middle Road; upgrading the Boyd Campbell Hall and making improvements to Sudbury Hill playing fields.



"We are seeking a pragmatic approach with sensible ambitions and good business planning, yet one that will meet the needs of the School well into the 21st century," the Headmaster adds.

A number of proposals have been drawn up to achieve these aims [see panel left]; some require planning permission or listed building consent. The precise nature of the final project and the order in which it is carried out therefore depend on which elements receive consent from the planners. Areas going before the planners this winter include: the car park and lay-by off Lower Road; the science block extension and the new music school on Oldfield Garden.

"The science extension is likely to be the first construction project to go ahead, since this will help create the flexible classroom block that will make it easier to schedule the rest of the project," explains the architect, Mr Reed. "Next could come the changes to the dining facilities, whether these are created on the Red House side of Middle Road or further down the hill at the Salvation Army building."

- The Standard will carry further reports and updates as the project develops.

## News in Brief

### Old Lyonians' website launched

The new website for the OLA is now live at [www.oldlyonians.org](http://www.oldlyonians.org). The site is designed to help former pupils keep in touch with the School and each other.

### Rallying round for local families

JLS helped the Salvation Army in Harrow with its Christmas appeals in aid of disadvantaged local children, collecting around 400 toys and £700.

### Helping our local hospital

JLS sixth-formers have raised £400 for Northwick Park Hospital. Nathan Ireland, Kamal Patel and Nikunj Patel, who all hope to read Medicine at university, presented a cheque.

### Partnership development

The partnership between JLS and Northwood College continues to develop. The boys and girls got together last term for events including a joint careers fair, Oxbridge interview exercises, a disco for the first three years and meetings of JLS's prestigious Union.

## Meet our Receptionist Mrs Sheila Berryman

**Sheila Berryman's** friendly face is one of the first that visitors to JLS encounter. Here she talks about her role, which she job-shares with Ann Smyth.

**The Standard:** How long have you been at JLS?

**SB:** Since April 2006, but my eldest son, Michael, was a pupil, so we've been involved with the School for a long time. [Michael was one of eight successful Oxbridge candidates in 2006. He won a place at Wadham College, Oxford, to read law.] Michael came on a scholarship after a friend recommended the School and was really, really happy.

**The Standard:** How do you find job-sharing?

**SB:** It works fine for a receptionist, because every day is different, so the hand-over isn't usually complicated. For me, it's the ideal job, because I have time to do what I want to do, like going to the gym and writing essays for my counselling course. That's just for my own interest really, although I suppose I do use counselling informally all the time.

**The Standard:** You probably meet more people than anyone else at JLS. What is that like?

**SB:** People are generally friendly. You never know what is coming through the door, but I find a smile always works well. And the boys are lovely!

- Mrs Berryman lives in Eastcote with her husband, Pete, who works in IT. Their younger son, Matt, is at school in Buckinghamshire.



## Get Animated in Maths!

Following a three-week visit to India, Mathematics teacher Sam Andon has created Flash computer animations that will not only reinforce lessons at JLS but also boost education in the developing world.

"I went to India to get help creating educational animations using Macromedia Flash," explained Mr Andon, whose wife is Indian. "During my visit, I talked to young programmers. I trained teachers in how to use IT to teach mathematics, visiting Bombay International School and the JB Petit High School for Girls."

"The outcome is that we have created ten animations which we can start to use this term," he says. They cover interesting topics for which there is no time in the curriculum. "One example would be the etymology of 'trigonometry'. If I covered that in class, it would take at least ten precious minutes, but in 45 seconds of animation, it's possible to convey the same information - and in a way boys are more likely to remember."

Mr Andon added: "The first benefit of this work is to enrich teaching and learning at JLS, but I am also aiming to give away the software for free as an act of charity."

# 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

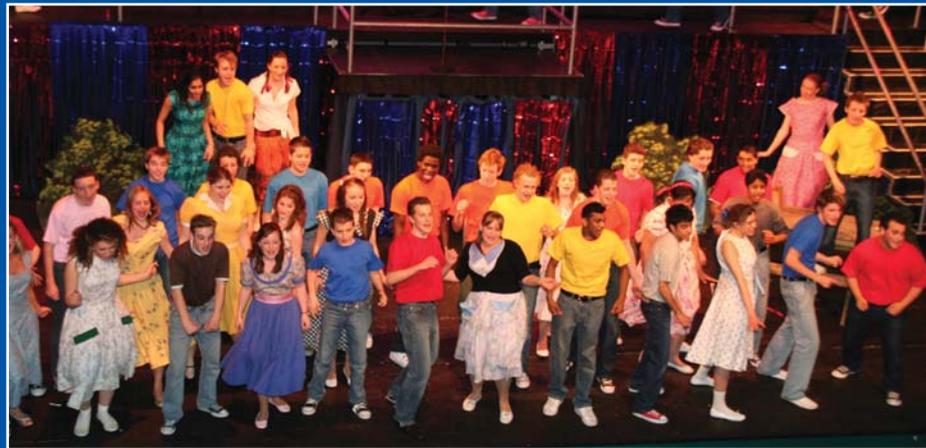
boys' day schools. In the first three years, we give boys a good grounding in all the major subjects. Building on this platform, our pupils go on to achieve excellent examination results at GCSE, AS and A level.

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.

*Kevin Riley*  
Headmaster



## 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 meeting before and after School, and at lunchtime.

With almost 100 activities available each term, the range is enormous. There are clubs designed to support boys in their studies - for example, the 8am homework club and Medics, which is 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. Perhaps most of all, the accent is on having

fun and pursuing hobbies and interests, from bridge and chess to tap-dancing, railways and karate.

## 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 (the First Year) 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 the First Year 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, treating every child as an individual.

We also nurture an atmosphere of mutual respect among the pupils: where else would you see a sixth-former hold a door open for a first-former, for example? Indeed, our Sixth-Form prefects play an important part in supporting the pastoral work of tutors in the First Form (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.

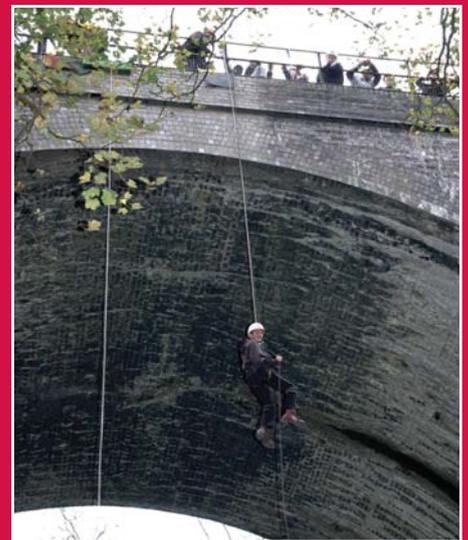
Boys joining at 11+ come from a very wide range of schools in both the maintained and independent sectors, so all are equally well placed to make new friends. Our Friday afternoon activity sessions give boys ample opportunities to develop friendships in a relaxed environment. For the first term only, membership of the First Form Choir is compulsory - we have found the cheerful Wednesday lunchtime practices to be a great way of binding a new JLS year together.

We also take care to 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 re-organised, 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 First Form 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 First Year.



## 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. 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 for the first five years. Up to the end of the Fifth Form, 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.

## 8 Mini-Prospectus

# The John Lyon School at a glance

### Best-ever A level results

The John Lyon School is celebrating the best A level results in its 130-year history. Eighty-nine per cent of all A levels taken in 2006 were awarded A or B grades - an 11 per cent increase on the already-strong 2005 results.

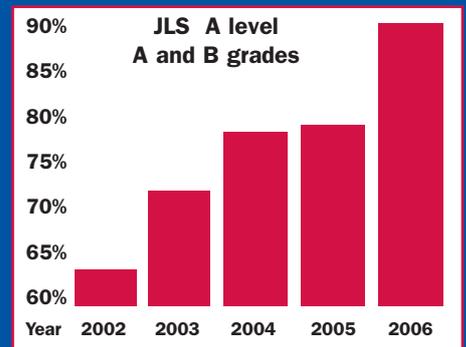
The Headmaster highlighted the fact that these "truly exceptional results" were achieved by boys who also took part enthusiastically in demanding sport and arts events. "We knew this Upper Sixth was a particularly talented year group, but the real joy for us was to see them fulfil that talent so spectacularly. With so much talk nationally of the falling numbers of candidates for the 'hard' A level subjects, it's especially pleasing to note that these are among the subjects in which we have really excelled. For example, 44 boys took Mathematics A level and, remarkably, every one of them received either an A or B grade," said Mr Riley.

The results lifted JLS an impressive 61 places in the Daily Telegraph's



influential A level league tables.

2006 was also a strong year for GCSE results: all 85 candidates achieved the national benchmark measure of five A\*-C grades. Just over two-thirds (68%) of GCSEs taken were passed at A or A\* grades, with all boys taking Drama and Religious Studies GCSEs achieving A or A\* grades in these subjects.



### Admissions

The John Lyon School is an academically selective School. In September 2007, 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 reports from the boy's present or previous school, on interviews and on entrance examinations, taking special note of ability in music, sport and the creative and performing arts.

At present, 140 boys at JLS benefit from financial assistance from the School. John Lyon's Charity funds the equivalent of two free places per year and, in total, some £400,000 is allocated to support bursaries and scholarships.

### Key dates

Our main Open Day takes place in October each year. In addition, each term we host forums for prospective parents. The end of November is the closing date for all applications for 11+ or 13+ admission for the following September, and for all Scholarship and Bursary applications.

Entrance examinations are held in January. Those for admission in September 2007 take place on:

- Saturday 13 January 2007 for 11+
- Saturday 20 January 2007 for 13+.

For further information, please visit the School website, [www.johnlyon.org](http://www.johnlyon.org), or see our full prospectus pack. For all admissions enquiries, please contact our Admissions Office on [admissions@johnlyon.org](mailto:admissions@johnlyon.org).



### Well served!

Food served by the School's new in-house catering team has proved a hit with both pupils and their parents. Since September 2006, a team led by John Hill has been providing high-quality, café-style food, taking over from an external catering contractor. "The new team are offering a real variety of traditional and international cuisine, with excellent curries and very good vegetarian food. All the menus comply with the Government's latest healthy eating guidelines," says the new JLS Bursar, Nicholas Marten. "The break-time service has been a particular hit, providing food ranging from bacon rolls to fruit and doughnuts."

### Curriculum - Overview

#### GCSE - Fourth and Fifth Years

English, Mathematics, English Literature, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics as a double award), History, Geography, Drama, Music, Art & Design, Religious Studies, PE. Following on from the first three years, all pupils continue with Social, Personal and Citizenship Education (SPACE), and with activities and games. Good linguists can take French GCSE a year early and then study for the Institute of Linguists' Diploma in the Fifth Form. Additional Maths, a course aimed at high-achieving mathematicians, is taken

alongside Maths GCSE at the end of the Fifth Year. An AS level in Science for Public Understanding is offered to able scientists and is taken at the end of Year 11.

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

English Literature, English Language & Literature, Maths, Further Maths, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Economics, Psychology, Critical Thinking, Computing, Drama, Music, Music Technology, Art & Design, PE, Religious Studies, Government, Politics. All boys continue with games and follow our General Education programme.