

Wednesday 25th June 2025

Dear new Parents / Guardians,

You may have read the accompanying letter from Giles Goodfellow KC informing you of his retirement and my appointment to succeed him as Chair of Governors with effect from 1 September 2025.

I am acutely aware that I have inherited the mantle of a highly successful predecessor whose great leadership, energy and positive working relationship with our outstanding Head, have hugely enhanced and enriched the School, firmly establishing John Lyon as Northwest London's leading co-educational, all-through 2-18 independent school.

I have known John Lyon School all my life and I am excited to be taking on this role. I have always lived in Northwest London and spent seven happy years as a pupil at John Lyon from 1989 to 1996. An active member of the School's alumni community since, it has been a privilege to serve as a governor for the last nine years, most recently as Deputy Chair. I am a teacher and have been a Headmaster for the last fourteen years. All twenty-five years of my teaching career have been spent working in the London Boroughs of Brent and Barnet.

Mrs Hardy and her superb colleagues – teaching and support – are expertly securing continuous improvement at pace in all areas of John Lyon School's provision and facilities in Hindes Road, Middle Road and at Sudbury Fields. Investments have been made during the current year and significant works are scheduled for the forthcoming holiday period to support expansion to full co-education and extension of our early years provision. Governors share your commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for our children and we are, therefore, also investing in our digital transformation, science accommodation at Senior and the Susan Milner Hall at Prep. Replacement of fire doors across the estate and replacement of a significant number of windows are also required this summer to ensure safe and appropriately maintained accommodation for teaching and learning.

A priority for the Head and Governing Body is to ensure that John Lyon School derives maximum benefit from its enviable position within the Harrow Foundation, which includes Harrow School, John Lyon's Charity, and Harrow International Schools. I am delighted that the relationships with our siblings within the Harrow Family of Schools are stronger than ever. A significant number of John Lyon pupils have had enriching experiences through recent exchange visits, and, from September, our Sixth Formers will have access to a wider range of Advanced Level choices with additional courses on offer at Harrow School becoming available to them.

Tuition Fees from 1 September 2025

We have just completed our financial planning for the new academic year, and I am now able to confirm the tuition fees (which continue to be inclusive of School lunches).

Setting the tuition fees has required careful consideration of inflation for good and services required by the School, contractual pay awards which we must make to staff, as well as structural increases in our costs imposed by Government policy. Relentless effort has been applied to maximise efficiency in our operating model, and we remain committed to mitigating the additional burden of VAT to our John Lyon families. In short, our focus is squarely on fee affordability. We must also act as responsible charitable trustees, of course, thereby sustaining the long-term financial health of John Lyon School.

Head: Mrs Rose Hardy MA (Oxon)

John Lyon School

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Head of Prep: Mrs Sonal Chatrath MSc

John Lyon School

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The net tuition fee increase for the next academic year is 7% (except for the Nursery where it is 3%). We know that many families make difficult choices when investing in a John Lyon education for their children and that any fee increase represents an unwelcome challenge. With this in mind, we are keen to share the detail of our reasoning for the two components of the tuition fee-increase which will take effect from the start of the 2025-26 academic year:

1. An inflation- based increase.

Higher employer National Insurance contributions, the loss of business rates relief and a large rateable value increase materially increase our operating costs. Inflation rates affecting significant cost centres including catering, transport and estates management are much higher than Consumer Price Inflation (CPI). Our contracts for electricity and gas have come up for renewal meaning we are no longer able to benefit from lower than market rates for our utilities.

Taken together with contractual pay increases for some teaching staff and an uplift to the London Living Wage adding to our support staff costs, the costs of running the School will increase next year at a level materially above CPI. Many of you will be familiar with this challenge in your own workplaces and businesses.

We have offset some of the cost increases by achieving reductions through re-procurement, a reprioritisation of capital investment and more efficient deployment of our staff. It is essential, however, that we protect the nature and quality of the education, co-curricular and pastoral care which we offer at John Lyon.

After careful consideration, we have decided that our tuition fees will increase by 3% from 1 September 2025.

2. Effective VAT Rate for parents.

The imposition of 20% VAT has presented an exceptional affordability challenge for existing and joining families. We have sought to mitigate the burden in two ways:

- A. We are recovering VAT on some elements of our costs, and we will continue to pass this on so that the effective rate of VAT that the Government has decided to impose will never reach 20% for John Lyon families.
- B. We have absorbed part of the VAT impact in the short term. Whilst the government charged you VAT on the school fees at 20% from January 2025, the fees you paid (inclusive of VAT), for the current academic year, increased by only 9%, with the School absorbing the additional cost of this overall 20% tax rise. This 9% is what we term the 'Effective VAT Rate' for parents.

Our stated intention remains that the additional proportion of the VAT to be passed on to parents will be phased-in gradually and represent only what is necessary to maintain the long-term health of the School and our ability to invest to improve the quality of our education. As such we can confirm that the new Effective VAT Rate for parents from the start of the new academic year will be 13%. The School will again absorb the balance of the costs created by this overall 20% tax rise.

Whilst we must mechanically charge VAT on tuition fees at 20%, we will continue to apply a discretionary discount for the next academic year, such that when VAT is applied, the effective cash cost to parents will be termly school tuition fees plus 13%. This is for tuition fees only and excludes any additional items chargeable to parents. We hope this continuing subsidy demonstrates our commitment to helping John Lyon families navigate these challenging times.

We will review the Effective VAT rate for 2026-2027 and subsequent years as part of our ongoing financial planning.

Overall, the 3% inflation-based tuition fee increase and the move to a 13% Effective VAT Rate for parents corresponds to a **7% net tuition fee increase for the 2025-26 academic year for Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior** and a **3% fee increase for Nursery**.

The table below summarises the position for tuition fees from 1 September 2025:

Basis	Nursery	Pre-Prep	Prep	Senior
Termly School Tuition Fees 2024/25	£4,200	£5,127	£5,834	£8,090
CPI increase at 3%	£126	£154	£175	£243
Termly School Tuition Fees 2025/26	£4,326	£5,281	£6,009	£8,333
Discretionary Discount Academic Year 2025/26 only (all terms)	n/a	(£308)	(£351)	(£486)
<i>Adjusted Termly Fees</i>	<i>£4,326</i>	<i>£4,973</i>	<i>£5,658</i>	<i>£7,847</i>
VAT at 20%	n/a	£994	£1,132	£1,569
VAT Inclusive Tuition Fees payable	£4,326	£5,967	£6,790	£9,416
Effective VAT rate for Parents – VAT Inclusive versus Termly School Fees	Not subject to VAT	13%	13%	13%

Please remember that we offer a school fee plan which allows payment in monthly instalments and a Fees in Advance Scheme. If you are interested in either, please contact our Bursar.

We will continue to help as much we can so that as many pupils as possible continue to benefit from a John Lyon education. **If you have any concerns about your ability to pay fees, please get in touch with the School** and arrangements will be made for you to discuss your individual situation with Mrs Hardy.

Closing Comments

I am confident that the fees at John Lyon School are exceptional value for money and are very competitive. The School enjoys a richly deserved reputation for providing an excellent all-round education and pastoral care of the highest order. This will be protected to enable our pupils to thrive and remain equipped with all they need to succeed at School and beyond.

I would like to thank all John Lyon parents for their estimable support for their daughters and sons and for the School, and to pass on my best wishes for a happy summer holiday. The Autumn term will be busy and productive, and I trust that all pupils will throw themselves into the many and varied activities that will be available to them. I look forward to seeing you at some of the events available to parents such as the performances of 'The Little Shop of Horrors,' which promises to be another impressive musical production.

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Enright
Incoming Chair of John Lyon Governors – Autumn 2025