

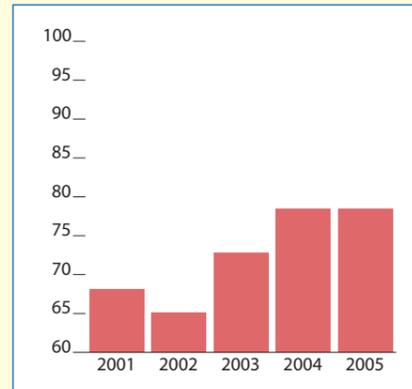
The John Lyon School - At a Glance

Examination Results

From an already strong position, The John Lyon School has improved its academic performance still further in the last few years, with public examination results following a steadily rising trend.

In 2005, well over three-quarters of all papers sat at both A and AS level were awarded A or B grades. Nineteen A level students (26% of the total roll) achieved straight A grades, with a further 16 achieving this at AS level. Individual success stories included Ilia Karmanov, who is believed to be 2005's youngest A level candidate nationally. He gained a B grade in A level Economics, which he sat at the age of 13. Ilia took the course at a local college, with additional help and

support from JLS. Remarkably, it is not even Ilia's first A level: he achieved a B in Computing when he was just 11.



Percentage of JLS students achieving A and B grades at A level

At GCSE, 95% of all boys gained A*, A or B grades in at least five subjects, representing an increase on previous years. Seventeen boys achieved straight A*s or As at GCSE.

The John Lyon School's 2005 production of *Anything Goes* staged in Harrow School's superb Ryan Theatre amply illustrated the excellence of our Drama and Music. Further justification for our fast-growing reputation in these subjects was provided by some quite outstanding examination results: all 50 boys who took Drama examinations in 2005 - at GCSE, AS and A level - achieved A* or A grades, while every one of this year's AS and A level Drama candidates achieved a mark of 100% in their practical examinations.

Subjects available at GCSE, AS and A (A2) level

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), 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 Mathematics, a course aimed at high-achieving mathematicians likely to continue the subject at A level, is taken alongside Mathematics GCSE at the end of the Fifth Year. AS level Science for Public Understanding is offered to a number of able scientists and is taken at the end of Year 11.

AS and/or A level (Sixth Form)

English Literature, English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, 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 also follow our General Education programme.

Admissions

At The John Lyon School, we usually admit boys at 11, 13, and 16. Typically up to 80 boys are admitted at 11; up to 16 boys at 13; and up to 10 boys at 16.

We base our decisions on entrance to the School upon reports from the boy's present or previous school, interviews and entrance examinations. We take special note of potential and achievement in music and the creative and performing arts.

In 2004/05, the School awarded scholarships and bursaries to a total value of £450,000.

Prospective JLS parents are welcome to visit our 2005 Open Days on:

- Saturday 8 October, 9.30am-12.30pm
- Monday 10 October, 2pm-4pm
- Thursday 13 October, 7pm-9pm.

In addition, during term-time throughout the year, we host forums for prospective parents. Places must be booked for both the Open Days and for the forums.

- The closing date for all applications for 11+ or 13+ admission in September 2006 is 30 November 2005.

THE STANDARD

The John Lyon School Newsletter & Mini-Prospectus

Autumn 2005



Letting fly! JLS 1st XI Captain Niraj Rughani releases another of his highly effective medium-pace deliveries in the annual match against Harrow School. This has been a challenging fixture in recent seasons, but this year JLS lost the game by just 16 runs, with Harrow 188-4 and JLS 172-9. More sport on p4 & 5.

JLS - A Step Ahead By Kevin Riley, Headmaster

In the last issue I wrote about the widespread dismay over the Government's failure to implement the recommendations of the Tomlinson Report on 14-19 education. The annual frenzy over A level results underlines the need for change and for a national system of assessment at 18 that is fit for purpose at the beginning of the 21st Century.

Discussions of whether A levels are "easier" or whether "standards have fallen" generate heat but little light. The QCA report commissioned by the Government in 2002 to consider comparability of standards over time concluded that it could not make a definitive judgement; however it did point out that one of the effects of the changes implemented in Curriculum 2000 was an inexorable move towards a 100% pass rate!

A levels are different now from how they were first conceived 50 years ago, as they should be. The rise in numbers of students going to university has placed a strain upon the system; how can universities differentiate between the most able students? I was delighted to read that many admissions tutors are making increasing use of other factors as well as academic success. It reinforces our determination here at John Lyon to offer a rounded education, balancing academic work with a lively and stimulating experience outside of the classroom. It is good to see our boys obtaining excellent results and achieving places at top universities having participated in all that the School can offer.

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Views from the Inside

My name is **Pierre McIlwee**. I'm 14, I live in Northwood and I joined JLS in the Third Year. Before that, I was at Northwood Prep. I came here because I thought the School's pastoral care was absolutely amazing – no, really! They are just very nice to you. They don't treat you like a number, but like a person, and if you have a problem, they listen.

Also, it was because of the drama. Music and drama are pretty much my thing. I was involved in the big *Anything Goes* production at Easter. I play three instruments – drums, piano and electric guitar - and I'm in the orchestra, the salsa band and the choir.

My dad's English and Scottish, but my mum's French, and when I was young I always spoke French. In fact my first words were French: "Au revoir" - although I suppose that's two words! My favourite teacher? Well, Mr Gladwell has been an inspiration. Even though he is extremely strict, he is probably the best, because he makes the lessons fun.



Hi, I'm **Adit Ruparel** and I live in the Rainers Lane area. I was at Orley Farm School before. Like Pierre, I joined at 13+. In fact, I first met him at the entrance exam. The decision to choose JLS involved both my parents and me. I knew lots of people who had been here and I talked to them about it. I came to the Open Day and saw how nice it is here, especially the sports facilities. My brother, Ravi, is at Merchant Taylors'. The grounds there are amazing, but their gym is only the same as ours here, even though there are a lot more boys there.

I'm keen on cricket (I'm a middle-order batsman) and I think the sports here are really good. It takes time to get into the school teams, but I'm getting there now. Hopefully I'll be going to South Africa next year on the cricket tour. I also play basketball and badminton. The teachers here at JLS are close to you - they seem to know you well. My favourite subject is Maths, and Mr Clark is really good. He makes the lessons fun, so it's not all work.

Apart from cricket, in my spare time I work in my parents' convenience store.

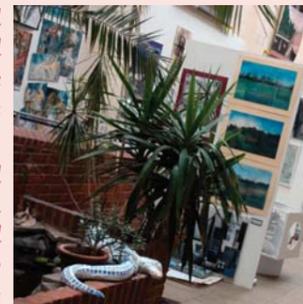
Art exhibition is the "best yet"

The third annual exhibition of GCSE and A level students' work was the best yet, according to Head of Art & Design, Miss Caroline Harrison. More than 100 paintings, sculptures and other artworks featured in the exhibition.

"There were some very ambitious paintings and some great urban landscape and fashion photography from students on our new A level photography course. I have also been impressed by the installation art from the Lower Sixth," said Miss Harrison.

The installations included a model of the School's own exhibition space, complete with sound, that was inspired by international artist Bruce Nauman's work in Tate Modern's Turbine Hall.

Among the students whose work was on display were 18-year-old Shin-Jae Bahk and Stephen Rhodes, also 18, who have both won places at the prestigious Central St Martin's College of Art & Design. Stephen also was placed in the top five out of 3,900 entries for this year's AQA A level Art & Design examination.



What a Challenge!

The Headmaster has successfully launched plans for a major JLS expedition to Uganda and western Kenya, to take place in the summer of 2006.

Twenty-two boys have signed up for the month-long expedition – an exceptionally good response for a school of our size.

Although co-ordinated by World Challenge Expeditions, the JLS expedition is bespoke and will include work on community projects involving Lords Meade Vocational College, near the Ugandan city of Jinja, which educates disadvantaged children. Mr Riley has developed strong ties with Godfrey Kiganga, the Headmaster of Lords Meade, whom he met in 1992.

"For the JLS boys taking part, the benefits do not just come when they are actually on the expedition," explains Mr Riley. "Much of the planning of the expedition will be done by the boys and they also have to raise their own funds, so over the next few months they will be learning hugely valuable lessons in terms of teamwork, money management and fitness."

A Summer of Music and Drama

The eagerly awaited JLS Summer Concert featured all the School's big ensembles, including the Orchestra, Salsa Band, Concert Band and the newly formed Big Band.

"There was a really nice atmosphere at the concert, our final big musical showcase of the school year," said Director of Music Miss Jo Rowley Jones. "I was particularly impressed by the Big Band, which played numbers including the jazz classic, Sing, Sing, Sing, and the Peter Gunn theme.

There was some interesting choreography from the Big Band, too, while our Salsa Band goes from strength to strength."

Other recent musical highlights at JLS include sixth-former Mark Johnson winning a prestigious scholarship for a four-year degree course at one of the world's top contemporary music colleges, Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mark, of Kenton, had already impressed Berklee's teachers during a five-week course at the college last summer, partly funded by a bursary from JLS. He will be following in the footsteps of some of the most influential names in the music industry, ranging from producer Quincy Jones and jazz saxophonist Branford Marsalis to guitarist James Valentine of

chart-toppers Maroon 5.

"I can't wait to get back there!" said Mark. "They have fantastic facilities and opportunities to play with some great musicians."



Mark only started playing the electric guitar seriously when he was 15. He has played in several bands at the School.

Following the older boys' involvement in *Anything Goes* at Easter, it was the Lower School pupils' turn to shine in the summer term. Thirty boys took part in a successful one-hour drama production featuring parts of John Godber's *Teachers and Shakers* plays.

The end-of-term house drama contest for the first three years took on a new format this year, with the day of competition followed by an evening performance by the winners.

Also in the last week of term came the Sixth Form performance evening. After rehearsing for one day only – "that's what Elizabethan actors would have done," said Director of Drama Miss Deborah Gibbs – the sixth-formers and some invited girls staged *Prize Fighter*, a one-act play written by Miss Gibbs.

News in Brief

Young Scientists' Success



Lower sixth-formers **Narin Hengrung** and **Jaymit Patel** spent much of their summer in a

science laboratory after winning coveted places to take part in holiday research programmes at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). Narin, of Northolt, also reached the final of the Mill Hill-based institute's prestigious Human Biology Essay Competition with his 1,000-word composition on proteins.

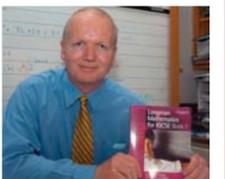
Working alongside leading scientists, Jaymit, of Wembley, explored genetics by examining fruit flies, while Narin looked into how lymphocyte white blood cells recognise foreign cells – an important part of the body's immune system.

Writing Talent

Pupil Omar Butt, of Harrow, wrote a screenplay called *Home*, which beat off hundreds of entries to come first in the Writing for Screen category of a London-wide organised by the East Side Educational Trust. Omar's prize included having excerpts of his work displayed on buses in London and the opportunity to be coached by renowned screenplay writer Mark Norfolk.

JLS Maths at the Forefront

Head of Mathematics Mr Bill Waite is pictured with one of the first copies of the new Edexcel International GCSE text book that he co-authored. Mr Waite wrote sections on calculus and set theory. Along with other leading independent schools, JLS pupils now sit IGCSE Mathematics, which is based purely on examination performance. "We switched from conventional mathematics GCSEs because they have some quite obscure elements and too much emphasis on statistics," said Mr Waite. "The reaction has been favourable, particularly because the absence of assessed coursework lightens the load on boys during their GCSE years."



Meet the Caretaker Mr Martin Purcell

The Standard: What's your background and when did you start at JLS?

Martin Purcell: I was site manager for Beazer Homes and then had my own building company for seven years until it hit financial problems. My father-in-law, Ian Brodie, is a technician in the



JLS Art department and he helped me get some work here on a self-employed basis. Then the caretaker's job came up – the official job title is Premises Manager – and a few people suggested I should go for it. I started officially on 1 April, 2005.

The Standard: What progress have you made so far?

MP: When they brought me in, I worked flat out for two or three months – there was so much to do. As well as my normal work during the week, I spent the first three weekends doing up the caretaker's lodge, begging and borrowing items from around the School. It's now properly set up as a workshop. I look after the School's eight cleaners and I have one assistant, Sherby. With their help, I think standards are better now; site security has certainly improved.

I get good feedback from the staff, because I try to do jobs they tell me about within 48 hours. There are still challenges, though. The heating system has five different control rooms and boilers. Some are prehistoric and can be a bit temperamental!

The Standard: Do you like the job?

MP: Yes, I enjoy dealing with the staff and the kids. I support Chelsea and I was the staff team goalkeeper in the match against the Sixth Form. So I have a lot of banter with the kids about football, especially with the Man Utd and Arsenal supporters: every Friday during the season it's: "Soon, sir, we'll be the champions!"

- Mr Purcell was born and bred in Pinner, where he lives with his wife, Sue. She works at Whitmore High School in Harrow as a teaching assistant. He has three children: Claire, aged 21; Laura, 17, and 14-year-old Shane.



Sport's Starring Role

Sport at The John Lyon School is in the ascendant, with a new Director, additional PE teachers and a string of encouraging match results.

Since Mr Spencer Leach arrived at JLS as Director of Sport in January 2005, the School's 1st XI has reached the final of the Harrow borough schools' U19 football competition, while the summer term saw the U14s and U14s winning places in their respective cricket county cup finals.

In tennis, Myles Golding and Avinash Murthy reached the final of the Bowl Cup, the U15 doubles competition open to all independent schools. This was a remarkable achievement. Traditional end-of-term events such as the house tennis competition and Sports Day using the magnificent athletics facilities at Harrow School brought the summer term to a successful sporting close.

There was further success during the holidays, when one of the star batsmen at JLS, Kabir Toor, achieved a well-deserved call up in the England U15s in August and scored 123 against Guyana. Other highlights of Kabir's sparkling season included 102 no against Mill Hill and 122 no against Westminster for the JLS 1st XI, as well as 209 for Middlesex U17s v Wiltshire.

"We do want to strive for excellence and give gifted boys such as Kabir all the support they need," said Mr Leach. "At the very same time, we make sure that all the boys have an opportunity to get involved, even those who may not be natural sportsmen. It's about ensuring that boys enjoy their sport, while also pushing them on to achieve their full potential."

Changes in the new school year include the expansion of the PE department with the appointment of two more full-time PE staff from September 2005. The School has also expanded its Sudbury Hill playing fields by taking over an additional three acres that were previously rented out. And Mr Leach, the former Head of Education at Fulham FC Youth Academy, plans to establish JLS as a base for a Fulham Development Squad, increasing the opportunities for pupils.

- The School made its excellent sporting facilities available to local boys and girls aged 8-14 at its first-ever Sports Camp during July.



Meet a Teacher - Miss Anna Mullin

When it comes to teaching history to boys, there's nothing like an Inter Continental Ballistic Missile to grab their attention, according to Miss Anna Mullin, Head of History and Politics at JLS! Miss Mullin has found the weaponry of the Cold War and, indeed, the muskets of the English Civil War to be particularly effective ways of engaging Lower School boys' interest in the subject.

Of course, once their attention has been well and truly gained, they will soon discover many topics that are equally fascinating, if a little less explosive. "I think boys are inherently interested in history," she says. Her straightforward approach perhaps goes some way to explaining why History is the most popular choice among the GCSE options at the school.

Miss Mullins came to JLS three years ago after teaching history at Liverpool College, an independent co-educational school.

"I like the boys here at The John Lyon School. They're a good and lively set of kids who will try anything once!" she says. "When I came here, I was the only woman under the age of 30, but now there are quite a few, so I've certainly seen some changes. The current improvements to the Red House are also very welcome, but there are one or two other changes I would still like to see. I personally would like an interactive white board, for example!"

- Miss Mullin's family comes from Dublin, but she was educated at a convent boarding school at Alderley Edge, Cheshire. Now living in South Kensington, her interests include supporting Manchester United, playing classical guitar and, over the past few months, learning sign language so she can use it with her father, who is deaf.



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 further details.

Activities

At JLS, we believe that drama, music, sports and activities play an essential part in the education of our pupils.

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.

Becoming a JLS Boy

At The John Lyon School, we recognise that when it comes to choosing a school, parents first and foremost want an environment where their child is happy, safe and secure. Only in such an atmosphere can boys develop and thrive.

From the First Form 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.

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 and their parents. They are overseen by Senior Tutors, who report to the Heads of Oldfield (the First Year) and the Lower School, Upper School and Sixth Form and, ultimately, to the Pastoral Deputy Headmaster and the Headmaster.

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.

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 two Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators.

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.