

The Standard

Newsletter and Mini-Prospectus • Spring 2011



A word from our Head
Miss Katherine Haynes

Inspectors find academic excellence and outstanding pastoral care

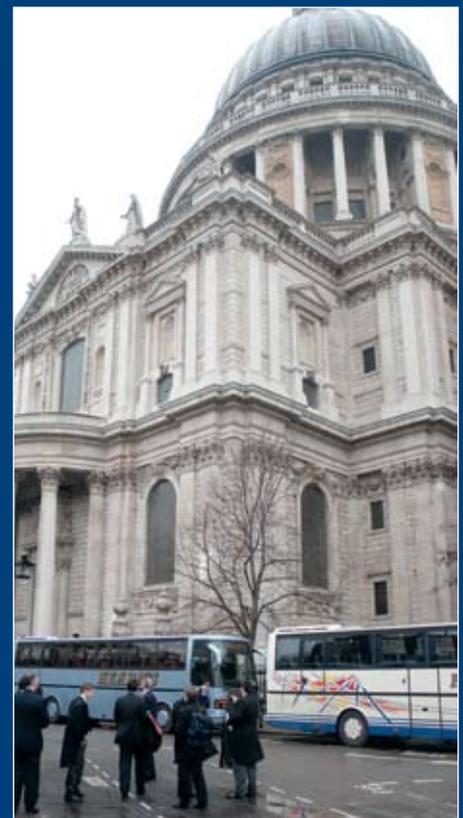
The publication of our inspection report provided a most encouraging start to 2011 for The John Lyon School. A team from the Independent Schools Inspectorate spent five days here last term and their report was fulsome in its praise, recognising the very many positive and successful features of our School, including the boys' academic achievement and personal development.

The inspectors highlighted 'excellent standards in sport and the performing arts', 'teaching which is good overall and often excellent', and 'excellent pastoral care'. I was particularly pleased with the latter comment, since we pride ourselves on being a 'family school'.



The Department for Education has also confirmed that the School meets all regulatory requirements. The new inspection framework that started this academic year encompasses more than 120 requirements and places a much greater emphasis on regulatory compliance. The School responded energetically to that challenge. It is perhaps fashionable to criticise the level of regulation in education today, but I find it helpful to see how we measure up against specified standards. If I were a parent, I would be delighted to see that the School has been given a clean bill of health and is a safe, secure environment.

Overall, I was pleased to see that what the inspectors found emphasised the School's aims. They recognised that we are an excellent School with an exciting future. The inspection report acknowledged that recent changes have given greater independence to the John Lyon governing body, while strengthening supportive links with the Harrow Foundation, resulting in 'an energetic approach to oversight of the school'.



The Foundation comprises JLS, Harrow School, the Harrow International Schools and John Lyon's Charity. Representatives of all these organisations assembled for another early highlight of 2011, the special service at St Paul's Cathedral celebrating the legacy of John Lyon and the life of the Foundation. With 2,200 boys and staff being transported from Harrow on the Hill to central London, we faced a logistical challenge, but it proved a memorable day, with our boys well represented during the proceedings, taking part in the combined choir and the Act of Commemoration.

Meet the School Nurse - Julie Hanyours

Julie Hanyours joined the School in September 2010 and has since become a familiar face at the School, based in the Welfare Office just inside the main entrance to the School.

The Standard: What's your background?

JH: I have been qualified as a nurse for 12 years, six of which I spent in A&E at two different hospitals: Watford and Stoke Mandeville. I then spent six years working for a GP practice in Watford. I am a Watford girl and I worked in the hospital I was born in and then in the GP's surgery that I went to as a child!

The Standard: Obviously you deal with medical emergencies, both minor and major, but what else does your job involve?

JH: I sort out medical supplies for School trips. I also speak to parents about

medication for their sons and I have to check stocks of emergency medication to make sure none of it has passed its expiry date. I am going to be helping with some PSCHE lessons for Year 7, looking at sexual health and puberty. I am quite looking forward to hearing what the boys have to say.

My job is completely unpredictable. On some days, there are boys in and out all day long and if there is an injury on the playing fields at Sudbury, I might be called there, too. On others it is quiet and I am able to get on with my other tasks. The first three weeks of this term were the busiest because of the flu virus.

The Standard: And how are you finding it so far?

JH: It's been really good: the boys are definitely polite and nice, and the staff are



great too! In fact, the School overall has been brilliant. I have always liked working with young people, both when I was in casualty and in the GP practice.

Views from the inside

Daniel Fox

(Aston House School, Ealing)



Daniel, who is in Year 7, gives his impressions of his first few months at John Lyon.

The teachers and students are so nice – I love it here! I was really worried before I came that I would get lost as this is a big school compared with my last one – but I didn't. I've made lots of friends. The School bus stops right outside my door, which is great! Just about the only thing I don't like is the queue at Cloisters for lunch...but it's not too bad really.

Science is one of my favourite subjects because in my old school we didn't really do practicals. Also Music, because here we are learning musical theory properly and I am very musical, so I like that. I've been playing the bassoon for a few years and when I arrived here I started playing the electric guitar, too. I'm in the Wednesday Wind Band and I sing in the Motet Choir. I'm also in the Science Club.

Bhavesh Soneji

(Aston House School, Ealing)



Currently a Year 11 student, Bhavesh has been at JLS since Year 7.

I remember that the sports facilities here, and especially the Sudbury playing fields, were probably the best out of all the schools I applied for. That was important to me then, and still is, because I really enjoy sport. I am in the Middlesex U17 cross-country squad and I play as right-back in the School's First XI. I hold the Colts' intermediate School records at 1,500m and 800m and I run for the Ealing, Southall and Middlesex Athletics Club.

As well as sport, the English department here has been really good for me. When I first came here I was awful at English and I didn't enjoy it, but I have certainly progressed. My favourite author? Well, I enjoy TS Eliot, although we haven't studied him yet.

Badminton team wins borough title

The U16 badminton team got this term off to a successful sporting start when they triumphed in the Harrow borough competition. Year 11 boys Oscar Smyth, Bobby Gardiner and Arjun Puri, together with Year 10 team mates Alistair Shale and reserve Harsh Talati, now move on to the London finals.

The focus was on football during the autumn. In the U15 Rensburg ISFA Cup, the Year 10s saw off Aldenham and Chigwell School, before being knocked out in the third round by Brentwood School. The First XI also bowed out creditably in the third round of the Boodles competition, losing 4-2 to Bury Grammar School for Boys.

Life in the deep freeze!

Thirty-four boys braved temperatures that dipped as low as -11C around their tents, and -18C in other areas nearby, when they camped out in the Brecon Beacons as part of their silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award training.

The Head paid tribute to the boys: "Some parents were impressed that the boys were camping out in such low temperatures; I think it is testament to the boys' fortitude and to the expertise of the staff involved that they not only went ahead with the expedition but that all the boys successfully completed it." John Lyon's Head of Outdoor Education, Mr Ralph Durbridge, said the boys are now ready for their April unaccompanied practice in the Yorkshire Dales, which should prepare them for their assessment in August in the Lochaber Scottish mountain region.



Curriculum review – the way forward

Following a major review of the curriculum, a number of significant changes will be introduced in the coming months. Chief among these is an extension of each teaching period from 35 minutes to 55 minutes, with a concomitant reduction in the daily number of lessons from nine to six. As a result, the School day will end at 4pm on Fridays instead of 3.20. These changes will be introduced in September 2011.

The review was headed by Mr Saaj Rana, Senior Teacher (Academic), who is part of the School's Leadership Team: "We threw everything up in the air – looking at the subjects taught, length of the School day and extra-curricular activities. Our goal was to have a curriculum that inspires, challenges and stretches all students, that develops boys' knowledge and skills, and that raises standards of attainment and promotes excellence. There were also certain practical drivers, including the need to incorporate the launch of the Combined Cadet Force within the curriculum from April this year."



Consultation took place with staff members, especially Heads of Department, and the Student Council, while the approaches taken by other schools were also examined. "We quickly established that the existing 35-minute period is not ideal because it breaks concentration and because too much time is spent on travelling between lessons. A 55-minute period simply uses the available time better."

A further change is that from September 2011, the School will adopt the IGCSE for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. "We feel the IGCSE offers greater academic rigour and better preparation for A-Levels," says Mr Rana.

However, the review also underlined the success of much that the School already does. John Lyon's explicit emphases on Sport and the Performing Arts will remain in place. Other areas felt to be working well include the Activities Programme in Years 7 and 8. Recent improvements to the provision of Languages will be retained. All Year 7 boys will continue to study French and Spanish, with Latin added for all boys in Year 8. Latin will become a GCSE option in 2012. The off-timetable options of learning Greek in Year 9 and Critical Thinking in Year 11 will also remain.

- Classical Civilisation is being introduced into the curriculum. Turn to p8.

Revisiting History

A visit to the original trenches near Ypres formed just part of the Year 11 trip to the World War One battlefields. The 46 boys listened to a talk about a soldier's life in The Great War and had a tour of the Tyne Cot Cemetery where 47,000 Allied troops are commemorated. The boys also saw Vimy Ridge, the Newfoundland Trenches and the Menin Gate.

Music round-up

Musicians from JLS joined with their counterparts from Harrow School for the Commemoration Concert in Harrow School's Speech Room. The annual Autumn Concert gave the ensembles an opportunity to perform. In a series of lunchtime concerts many bands and soloists performed to an audience of local primary school children. The Motet Choir and Male Voice Choirs joined with girls from Heathfield for a joint choral concert.



Charity report

The School has worked tirelessly this year for its charitable causes, raising more than £2,700 so far. Fund-raising events included a Morris-dancing display, the mini-Christmas fair, a 'mufti' day and a Christmas Art Show, as well as activities at the Commemoration and Autumn concerts. This year's causes include the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Drama highlights

JLS students have enjoyed a busy programme of performance and theatre trips. The joint *Glimmers* venture with North London Collegiate School showcased A2 students' talents. Boys in Year 10-13 staged *Our Country's Good* – set on a convict ship. Younger boys developed a performance piece on the theme of choices.



Meet a Teacher: Mr Seth Bolderow

The John Lyon School's new **Head of Sixth Form**, who arrived at the start of this term, was previously Head of Classics at King Edward's School, Bath. He has already been responsible for breathing new life into the Year 11 taster morning, which was held early this term.

"This is a really exciting time to become the Head of Sixth Form at John Lyon," says Mr Bolderow. "As I've already been telling the current Year 11, 'You are going to be the senior year group when the new Sixth Form Centre opens in 2012.'

"In the meantime, it's about making the remaining time the Sixth Form spend in the Red House as enjoyable as possible. In fact, I've already learned that it's going to be quite a big moment for the students to move out of there: they are really quite attached to the Red House.

"What I have been brought in to do is raise academic standards even further in the Sixth Form and to make sure that our students are better prepared for going on to university and out into the world of work. I would like our Sixth-Formers to be independent thinkers, to be organised, able to communicate and good leaders – all those transferable skills that employers are looking for. Whilst the Sixth Form is at the end of their school career, our job is very much to encourage boys to look to the next step.

"I have been made very welcome by staff and pupils. Having taught at both day and boarding schools, I must say that I prefer day schools: boarding can be a rather sheltered existence and I prefer the vibrancy of day school life.

"I have been particularly impressed by the way pupils here have stepped up to volunteer their services at School events. There's no shortage of volunteers to talk to prospective parents: our Sixth-Formers are courteous, helpful and very keen to show off their School, which is nice."

• Originally from Norfolk, Mr Bolderow was educated at Norwich School and Exeter University, where he read Classics. He took his MA, also in Classics, at St Anne's College, Oxford. Before moving to Bath, he taught at Blundell's School in Tiverton and at Uppingham. His partner, Charlotte, currently runs an art centre. "I used to be a keen rugby player, but now I'm looking to take up Fives again – a sport I haven't played since I was at Uppingham."



The John Lyon School Sixth Form experience

"The new Sixth Form Centre will be so much better, with greatly improved facilities, plenty of space, new décor - and it will put the Sixth Form at the heart of the School, instead of across Middle Road. I hope it will be possible for the Sixth Form Centre to be a really attractive venue that is used outside of School hours.

"Being a Sixth-Former at The John Lyon School is a very different experience from attending a Sixth-Form College. Here, we have opportunities for leadership and working with younger pupils; a really diverse range of Sport, Music and Drama; and strong links with Sixth Forms in other schools, such as Northwood College, Heathfield and The Royal Masonic School for Girls."

Mr Bolderow



Estates Strategy: Catering extension work to begin this spring

The last few months have seen considerable progress with the School's ten-year Estates Strategy.

Planning permission for Phase I of the new Sixth Form Centre Project has now been granted. As a result, work on the catering extension (pictured above left) is due to start in April this year.

Phase II, which will see Old Building refurbished into the Sixth Form Centre, is therefore now scheduled to begin in early 2012, with completion due in September 2012.

During the autumn, the Admissions, Bursary and Development offices moved into the Wireworks building in nearby Byron Hill Road (pictured left).

"Our drive towards improving our facilities through the Sixth Form Centre Project has put a focus on also using space in the main School to best effect to improve our learning environment. To that end, we have moved some administrative functions out to the Wireworks," says the Head.



Class of '08

In Spring 2008 The Standard interviewed six Year 7 boys about their reasons for choosing JLS and their first impressions of the School. Last year we caught up with them in Year 8. The boys are now Year 9 students and have been talking about their views and aspirations.

Dishanth Satkunarajah
(Weald Middle School)

Dishanth is 13 and has two brothers and two sisters.

There's been a surprising amount of change in Year 9. All the sets have been mixed up because of the new boys who joined the School this year. I think it's about 40 extra students. I've been lucky because I've stayed in the same set as my friends. I'm still not really sure about which GCSEs to choose for next year. I'll almost certainly do RSP but I don't know what else. It's hard because you tend to like subjects where you like the teacher - and you can't be sure you'll get the same teacher next year. I'm really happy that the School is improving the dining facilities; there are still problems with pushing in, but looking at the plans I think it's going to be much better. I'm still in the football and cricket teams for the School and I've done my Grade II drums, so life's pretty full and good fun.

Oliver Teh
(Mount Stuart Primary School)

Oliver is 13 and has one brother in Year 11 at JLS.

It's been interesting having the new boys join. It's not like when we were all new in Year 7; most of the boys joining in Year 9 have been in prep schools so they're quite mature. And they've done things in different ways so they bring a new perspective and new energy. I think the work's harder in Year 9; it gets harder every year because teachers expect more. It's partly to do with getting us ready for GCSEs but I find the assessments quite stressful and don't always do as well as I know I could. In terms of choices, I don't really know, but I'm enjoying Geography and I'm considering RSP, History and maybe Drama or Music; I'm working towards Grade III piano outside School. I'm finding I mix more with school friends out of School now I'm older - travelling a couple of miles isn't so much of an issue. I'm already thinking I would like to stay here for Sixth Form and then go on to be a radiologist.

Alex Aristides
(St Bernadette School)

Alex is 13 and has an older brother and sister. He is at JLS with a Sports Scholarship.

I've made a lot of new friends this year and retained most of the old ones. It's refreshing having new faces, new talents, new ideas. I feel everything is progressing nicely for me. I'm still the captain of the

U14 A soccer team and play for Forest Utd out of School - we narrowly missed out on promotion last season. Drama's going well; I was the lead role in the Junior production of *Oliver* and I was Milton in *Our Day Out*, which I was really pleased about as that was a whole-School production. I'll be auditioning for a part in *Lord of the Flies* for the summer. I'm really enjoying Geography and I'm going on the trip to China and Hong Kong in April. I love the culture and can't wait to experience it. There is more homework in Year 9, but I'm finding it quite manageable. It's still my plan to go on to University to study Law; then either become a barrister or journalist.

Jacob Theato
(Donnington Primary School)

Jacob is 13 and has one sister. He has a Drama Scholarship.

It's been really hard work in Year 9, partly because I was quite ill so had a lot of catching up to do. I haven't finally made my mind up about GCSE choices. I love Drama and I enjoy Art, History and Geography. I'd like to do Psychology as well. I'd like to stay in the Sixth Form and do Art and History; I'm planning on going into animation so I think History will be important for historical accuracy. I've enjoyed the changes this year - although some of my closest friends are now in different sets I've always had friends across the whole year. I think the new boys seem more confident and some of them are really funny. I'm auditioning for *Lord of the Flies*. I'd really like a speaking part this time; I don't want to be in the chorus. Out of School I'm spending a lot of my time preparing for the Scout Jamboree in Scandinavia. We've been having camps and there's another one coming up in Scotland. I reckon that'll be cold but it's great fun.

Joshua Neil
(Marlborough First & Middle School)
Joshua is 13 and has one older sister.

I feel like quite a lot's changed this year. We're set differently in Maths and Languages, and of course we've got 40 new boys - one of them, Bikram, is so funny. It's much better in PE because there's more choice unless you're in one of the teams. If you're in a School team, like soccer, you have to do soccer, but for me I could choose combinations like basketball and swimming, or swimming and badminton. Last year you had to do half a term of everything. I still don't know what GCSEs I want to do. I like Art but I'm still trying to work out which subjects I like and which teachers I like. It's quite difficult not to be influenced just because you like a teacher. I still think the best thing about the School is its great facilities for things like PE and Art. We've just had a load of new oil pastels. I don't know what I'll do after School; maybe something with IT because I'm good with computers. I don't worry about it too much; life's fun, that's what counts.



l-r: Jacob Theato, Oliver Teh, Dishanth Satkunarajah, Joshua Neil and Alex Aristides

A Welcome from the Head, Miss Katherine Haynes

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.

The John Lyon School has a richly deserved reputation for providing an excellent all-round education that combines high academic standards with excellence in sport and the arts.

JLS is a very successful School with consistently strong examination results and is one of the top 20 boys' independent schools in the country. The School is a friendly, accessible and human place. Learning is both broad and deep, and we offer a unique education that embraces opportunity and excellence both in and beyond the classroom. Sport, music, drama, societies and community projects all flourish and thrive. At JLS every pupil matters.

As part of the Harrow Foundation we have strong links with Harrow School and share both facilities and expertise. With the support of the Foundation we have recently opened a new Science facility and second Drama studio, and, as detailed on page 4 of this newsletter, further new buildings and projects are in the planning stage.

I hope you will find the accompanying information of interest. Please come and visit us and see the School for yourself. I look forward to meeting you.



Activities

In the first two 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 before and after School, and at lunchtime.

More than 70 activities are available each term. There are clubs designed to support boys in their studies, such as the 8am homework club and Medics, 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, while others are for those pursuing hobbies. An increasing number of activities, particularly for older boys, are held jointly with our partner girls' schools.

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 (Year 7) and the Lower School; the Upper School and the Sixth Form. Ultimately, the Head and Deputy Head 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 actively 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 Year 7 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. We nurture an atmosphere of mutual respect among the pupils: where else would you see a Sixth-Former hold a door open for a Year 7 pupil, for example? Indeed, our Sixth Form prefects support the pastoral work of tutors in Year 7 (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, 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 Year 7 Choir is compulsory - we have found the cheerful Monday lunchtime practices to be a great way of binding a new year together. We also 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 reorganised, 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 Year 7 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 Year 7.



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, including Oxford and Cambridge. Many opportunities exist to stretch able students by enabling them to study in greater depth.

There is a strong academic core to the curriculum. Up to the end of Year 11, 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-level, 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.

Curriculum for 2010-11: Overview

GCSE – Year 10 and 11

All boys take the following core subjects: English Language (IGCSE), English Literature (IGCSE), Mathematics (IGCSE), Science (Science and Additional Science or Separate Science) and one language. Optional subjects are: Art/Design, French, Music, Spanish, Drama, Latin, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Philosophy, PE.

All pupils continue with PSICHE and Games. Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial programme. Boys taking Separate Science receive one period a week of Critical Thinking. Some Year 11 boys also study an application module from the AS course.

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

Four AS levels are usually taken in Year 12, followed by three A2 Levels in Year 13. Subjects available are: English Language, English Language/Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, French, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Economics, Critical Thinking, Drama, Music, Music Technology, Art/Design, PE, Government/Politics.

All boys continue with Games and an enrichment programme.

A-level achievements secure good university places

One in ten of all A-levels taken at JLS in 2010 was awarded the new A* grade, while 93% were at A*-C.

The School also recorded a 100% pass rate (A-E) for the fifth consecutive year. Nineteen pupils, a quarter of the Upper Sixth, achieved straight A or A* grades in their A-levels, up 4% from 2009. The mathematicians performed especially well, with 10 A*s for A-level Mathematics.

JLS pupils were largely successful in gaining their university places, notwithstanding the national pressure on places this year. They included:

- Three pupils who won places to study Dentistry at university and one to study Medicine, maintaining the School's reputation for putting boys on the path to a medical career
- Four boys who are to take degrees in Mathematics, three in Engineering, seven in Economics, four in Business, two in Politics and one each in Law, Architecture and Accounting
- Many pupils joining leading universities, such as Bristol (two), Durham (one), Warwick (seven), Manchester (four), LSE (two),

Nottingham (four), UCL (five) and Southampton (three).

Two-thirds (66%) of all GCSEs were awarded an A* or A grade - compared to just 22.6% nationally. Eleven boys had straight As or A*s. For the third consecutive year, 99% of boys achieved the Government benchmark of at least five A*-C passes including English and Mathematics.



Admissions

JLS is an academically selective School. In September 2011, we expect to award 60 places at 11+ and 40 places at 13+. Applications may be considered for other years if places are available. We base our decisions on entrance to the School upon reports from the boy's present or previous school, upon interviews and upon entrance examinations. We take special note of strengths in music, the creative and performing arts and sport.

The John Lyon School is committed to widening access for local families, enabling the sons of those who could not otherwise afford the fees to benefit from a top-quality independent School education. Each year, the School makes available significant levels of funding to support bursaries and scholarships. Over time, it is planned to minimise expenditure on scholarships in order to make more funding available for bursaries.

Schedule	
Open Day	October 2011
Deadline for all scholarship and bursary applications for September 2012	November 2011
11+ & 13+ examination for entrance in September 2012	January 2012
Closing date for 16+ applications for admission in September 2012	January 2012

Curriculum news: Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation is to be introduced from September 2011 as an AS and A2 subject.

The introduction of the new subject, which will be taught by the Head of Sixth Form, Classicist Mr Seth Bolderow, and Head of Classics, Mr Paul Cowie, is part of the recent curriculum review and represents a broadening of the curriculum at Key Stage 5, that is, in the Sixth Form. "Classical Civilisation is the study of Greek and Roman culture, and therefore includes elements of History, Archaeology and Art History. We are building on the success of the introduction of Latin - and, to some extent, the off-timetable Greek option - lower down the School," says Mr Bolderow.



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