



# CHRISTMAS 2006 NEWSLETTER

*Cover designed and drawn by Christopher Marcantonio*

## CHAPLAINCY

At this time of Advent the theme of the Church's Readings is to 'keep awake and prepare for the coming' of our Salvation in the Birth of the Son of God – Jesus. A time of wonder. It has been a frantic and taxing term but, a bit like Christmas, the result has been 'outstanding'. Great.

The many activities of the term have been carried out with great enthusiasm, hard work and especially good humour by the lively pupils and students, the devoted staff and the loyal Governors. Enjoy your rest and your celebration at Christmas – but really for me every day at the JHN is like Christmas Day! A Christmas Blessing to you all and your families.

"God our Father, may the simplicity of the birth of Jesus your Son, remind us that we can readily discover him in the ordinariness of our daily lives and each other."

*Father Joe*



## SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Wow! What a year it has been. Christmas is now upon us and we have barely allowed the sand buckets and spades to be put back in the garages. But it is not hard to let go of the scanty salads of the summer and allow ourselves more stomach room for the brussels and turkey. However, there is much more to this time of year than food and gorge. But the very reason why we get together, adorn our houses with tinsel and twinkle lights has all but been forgotten.

If we are to really reflect on why we celebrate, we find ourselves thinking of a very different situation than we face at Christmas time. Uneasy thoughts come to mind: a poor little baby born in a cold, lonely stable, unknown to the world. The parents, poor and lowly, with mixed feelings of joy and uncertainty do not know what the future holds. Yet as they look on the face of their newborn baby they are comforted by the firm love that they have in their hearts for their son, they know that it will get them through whatever life throws at them.

How then did it come to all this mistletoe and music? Well, if we are to keep in mind the essence of the celebration then we can justify all the melody and mayhem. We need to keep it firmly in our minds that if Christ is to be born in a thousand cribs, placed in our churches, in our front rooms, in the canteens of our schools, it is of no benefit if He is not born in our hearts.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas full of joy and grace, and a prosperous New Year.

God bless.

*Miss J Corley*

# MERIT AWARDS

## Silver 1 (100 points)

Ashlyn	Augustine	8CP	October 06
Elizabeth	Brookes	8CP	October 06
Laura	Buckley	8EK	October 06
Louise	Edwards	9TM	October 06
Deanna	Houlding	8EA	October 06
Sonia	Kaspar	8KT	October 06
Oliver	Kilgallon	8EK	October 06
Antony	Kindell	8EK	October 06
Daniel	MacNally	8EK	October 06
Mary	McCaul	9EB	October 06
James	Minnock	8AW	October 06
Sarah	Mitchelson	8EA	October 06
Yasmin	Modeste	8AW	October 06
Laura	Mohan	8CP	October 06
Ciaran	Moore	8EA	October 06
Robert	Morgan	8EK	October 06
Tom	O'Brien	8EA	October 06
Alicia	Rowe	8EA	October 06
Harriet	Sisman	8RB	October 06
Nikki	Skutela	8EA	October 06
Shannon	Sloan	8RB	October 06
James	Small	8KT	October 06
Georgina	Tofis	8AW	October 06
James	Van Baars	8KT	October 06
Patrick	Anyadi	8EK	November 06
Anna-	Borzak	8EA	November 06
Krisztina	Checketts	8EK	November 06
Jared	Gerhard	8KT	November 06
Phoebe	Hawkes	8KT	November 06
Lily	Hayes	8BS	November 06
Emma	Hensman	8EA	November 06
Gabriella	Kingham	8RB	November 06
Joe	Lees	8BS	November 06
Rebecca	Mulligan	8EA	November 06
Cara	Pawlik	8KT	November 06
Ola	Stannard	8BS	November 06
Anthony	Ward	8RB	November 06
Betsy-Ann	Wright	8RB	November 06
Laura			

## Silver 2 (200 points)

Charlie	Byron-Grange	9TM	October 06
Charles	Daffern	9BD	October 06
Mickael	Hinman	9DC	October 06
Jose	Kalladanthiyil	9DC	October 06
Thandiwe	Tafireyi	9EB	October 06
Sebastien	Zander	8AW	October 06

Oliver	Ashwood	9RM	November 06
Natasha	Hass	9DC	November 06
Jack	Jose	9DC	November 06
Harry	Piper	8AW	November 06

Gold 1 (300 points)

Nicholas	Baker	9DC	October 06
Christopher	Davies	9RM	October 06
Faith	Miller	9BD	October 06
Rebecca	Croysdill	9MF	November 06
Lauren	Jones	9BD	November 06
Joseph	Pontari	9MF	November 06

Silver 3 (400 points)

Matthew	Bellia	9TM	October 06
Harriet	Butterworth	9BD	October 06
Elizabeth	Collins	9SM	October 06
Amelia	Costin	9TM	October 06
Martin	De'Ath	9BD	November 06

Silver 4 (500 points)

Megan	Allen	9BD	November 06
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## ART & DESIGN

What an incredibly busy term we have had. A very exciting week of lunchtime workshops launched the Special School Status. In the art department over 120 students took part in the watercolour, monoprinting, fashion and felt making workshops. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Sixth Form art students who volunteered to run the workshops, without whom it would not have been possible.

In the week prior to the launch Daniella D'Amico, Ashleigh Ibinson, Alex Osowski and Luise Erzingher visited Woolenwick Primary School to run watercolour workshops with all their pupils in their arts week. Our students were delighted with the work the pupils produced under their guidance.

Mrs MacDonald and myself were very privileged to attend a drawing weekend designed for art teachers at The Glasgow School of Art. This was a great experience and all our classes have benefited from our attendance on this course.

Some of our Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students had the opportunity to spend the day with a professional typographer. Josh Baker, one of our ex-students who gained a first class Honours degree in Graphic Design from Brighton a couple of years ago, came in to run the 'Find a Font' day. Students spent the day working with Josh in order to design a new alphabet. This was a really exciting day and we look forward to working more with Josh in the future.

All our Year 12 and 13 students visited the Design Your Futures UCAS Fair last month in order to help them consider degree courses for next year in the arts. We look forward to some very good feedback when they start going out for interview with their portfolios.

Next term we look forward to the Sixth Form art trip to New York during February half term. We will share our experiences of this trip in the next newsletter.

We have been very fortunate to have Ms Ward working in the department last half term. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm. Miss Cataldo joined us at the beginning of December and we welcome her and look forward to the work she will be doing with our pupils and students.

There are some very good exhibitions on over the Christmas holidays which are definitely worth a visit:

**Alan Fletcher (Graphic Design)**

Design Museum, Shad Thames, London until 18 February 2007

**The Designer Jewellers Group**

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London until 1 January 2007

**Boyle Family**

Construction, Calvin Street, London until 21 January 2007

**Picasso: Art of a Genius**

Dali University, County Hall Gallery, Westminster Bridge, London

**Valazquez**

National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London until 21 January 2007

**David Hockney Portraits**

National Portrait Gallery, St Martins Place, London until 21 January 2007

**The Photographic Portrait Prize 2006**

National Portrait Gallery, St Martins Place, London until 21 January 2007

**David Smith**

Take Modern, Bankside, London until 21 January 2007

**Sean Scully: Wall of Light**

Timothy Taylor Gallery, Dering Street, London W1 until 20 January 2007

Happy Christmas!

*Mrs R Fuller*

**BUSINESS AND ICT**

This has been a busy term with the introduction of two new courses for Year 12. They are the BTEC National Award/Certificate and AS Business Studies. The BTEC course is based upon coursework whereby students have to investigate various aspects of a business. Consequently, we would be grateful if any parents who own or run a business could find time to either talk to students or arrange visits to their organisation.



KS3 ICT courses have also been extended alongside the Department of Technology and we are shortly to see the benefits of a complete computer-based course for Years 7, 8 and 9 which is to be installed as soon as possible.

The successful GNVQ Intermediate ICT course run by Edexcel requires a suitable replacement by September 2007. Mr Maskrey is diligently investigating other exciting one-year courses for Year 12 students – watch this space!

Finally, as the term draws to an end, we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Mrs J Emery*

**CITIZENSHIP**

Well the citizenship programme has got off to a great start. It is amazing the feedback from the form tutors saying how much they have enjoyed spending quality time with their groups and getting to know their tutees in the fun activities and challenges of the programme.

Our school wants our pupils and students to succeed. Over the years PHSE, citizenship, careers education and work related learning have been important elements in this process although they have appeared under many different names and guises. They now feature formally in our curriculum.

The citizenship programme is designed to help students become active, informed citizens and confident responsible members of society. The work related learning aspect of the curriculum prepares pupils and students for, and enables them to make, a smooth transition to

working life. The Personal/Social/Health/ Education programme involves helping our pupils and students to become confident, healthy and independent individuals. All involve the pupils getting to know themselves, know what choices they have, know how to make the choices that are right for them and live with the consequences of their choices.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and dedication as this programme of Citizenship made its way onto the school timetable. It has been a great success thanks to your efforts.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas full of joy and grace and a prosperous New Year.

*Miss J Corley*

## **DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY**

Design and Technology at JHN just keeps on getting better and better. Since the last newsletter a lot has happened. The new department of Design and Technology introduced itself to all KS3 pupils at the beginning of the year through a number of meetings held in the school hall. They were, as always, very attentive and as we have seen, very keen to experience what the department was now able to offer.

As we all know Ofsted made an appearance which delayed many of our plans as efforts had to be redirected elsewhere. Not having a technician and with Mrs Sherman still on maternity leave, there was a lot to do and the pressure was on. I wish to take the opportunity to thank both Brian Dougherty, Peter Yule and Christine Watson for their support and encouragement to enable not only a new curriculum but to get D&T Extra (our collective name for the after school classes and clubs ) up and running with immediate success.

### **D&T Extra**

Short after-school courses on topics that we can't fit into the school timetable. These include:

- Cook – IT, a chance to cook recipes from famous TV chefs.
- Design and Make – IT, a chance to make a variety of products from Mobile Phone Pods to jewellery to bubble making machines.
- Engineer – IT, we have a range of engineering equipment and machinery which pupils can learn to use. This includes both manual and computer controlled machines.
- Fly – IT, is for those interested in modelling. This club is jointly run by a member of staff and a Year 10 pupil.
- Make – IT, enables those pupils who just like making things to do just that.

### **Young Engineers Club**

This club has been recently introduced and has two major challenges currently underway:

- The Greenpower Electric Racing Car Competition.
- The F1 in Schools Challenge.

### **Greenpower**

The Greenpower Team has a regular membership of about nine pupils from Years 7 to 10 who meet weekly. They are currently planning for the year ahead and doing a lot of research and model making. We also have a detailed Technical Specification to get our heads round.

## **F1 in Schools**

We have a group of Sixth form students working on the F1 in Schools challenge uncovering the high level technical skills, knowledge and management issues associated with a project of this kind, and they have made tremendous progress in such a short time. They are working towards a Gold CREST Award but are also very keen to leave a pathway for other pupils to follow.

Much of the success of D&T Extra is down to both staff and pupils but we have also had significant and unbelievable support from Herts SetPoint and MBDA Missile Systems. From a recent meeting we now have access to a team of young engineers, two male and one female, who will work closely with us in promoting engineering and achieving success in the various challenges. This combination of engineers and challenges will help us address and redress the myths surrounding the world of engineering. I must thank, in particular, Ian Williamson of Herts SetPoint for his enthusiasm and support; we both attended this year's Greenpower final at the Goodwood Race Circuit and returned totally convinced that pupils at JHN must have access to this and enter a team – it was a very inspiring day. I must also thank Gareth Humphreys from MBDA from his almost endless stream of suggestions, support and contacts.

## **Extended Opportunities at GCSE and A-Level**

We have also extended our range of examination subjects available at KS4 and the Sixth form. Adding to the current GCSEs of Food and Resistant Materials we have Combined Courses in:

- Food Technology and Textiles Technology
- Resistant Materials and Electronic Products
- Resistant Materials and Graphic Products

We are also pleased to announce that Engineering is now in place offering a double GCSE.

At A-level we continue to offer Product Design and Food Technology but we are now supporting the schools Specialist Status by being part of a Theatre Studies Higher Certificate Course (equivalent to two A-levels). Our part in this innovative course is to enable pupils who want to be involved in Theatre Studies but not performing, instead offering design and support to those who do. Pupils can follow modules in set design, lighting, set construction etc.

## **Examination Results**

Again this year came the proof that success comes to those who work hard. Pupils performed well in all our GCSE subjects of Food, Resistant Materials and Child Development. At A-level the picture is even better with some outstanding results. Well done to all those pupils and students.

## **Sixth Form Conference in London**

As last year all Sixth form design students enjoyed presentations from six leading product designers. They were both informative and inspirational.

The second part of the year will see much reinforcement and development of our position as we expand into new areas – I will keep you posted.

*Mr C Page*

## DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

September 2006 marked a significant moment in the development of drama at The John Henry Newman School. For the first time drama exists as a discrete subject and a separate department has been set up to oversee the development of drama across all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13. Thanks to all the past support from the English department who of course will continue to deliver an important element of drama within the English curriculum and with whom we hope to continue a close curricular relationship in the years ahead.

In line with the School's successful Arts Specialist status, Drama, along with Art and Music, will play a key role in enhancing the aesthetic imagination of our pupils and students in the years ahead. Over the next four years we will be seeking to build working relationships with other subject areas such as Dance, Design Technology and Business Studies as we develop new courses that will meet the career needs of our young people working in the Arts industry in the twenty-first century.

With that in mind in September 2007 we are hoping to introduce new BTECH courses not only in Performance but also in Design/Technical Support. This will enable students who have little interest in performance to access the other key areas of study and training. Thanks to Mr Chris Page, Subject Leader for Design Technology, who has shown great enthusiasm for these developments, and who will play a key role in their design and delivery.

A massive thanks and congratulations to the pupils from Year 10 who devised and presented an outstanding play on global warming called 'Hell and High Water' at the very successful Arts Specialist launch week (see Arts Specialism). Thanks are also due to those pupils in Year 9 performing arts who began this project in June 2006. In January 2007 we will begin work on another interesting project in conjunction with the Gordon Craig Theatre's Education Outreach department with those Year 10 pupils who did not get the opportunity to get involved with the arts launch project.

Well done to Year 13 Theatre students who presented their Unit 4 devised play *The Peony and Chrysanthemum*, also during launch week.

Also, something that has become an important part of the cultural ethos of the school: successful theatre trips. Scene Productions, a TIE company came into the school to perform *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* by Bertolt Brecht for all GCSE Drama & A Level Theatre students and followed this with a highly successful workshop for A Level students. Year 12 students went to Mumford Theatre Cambridge to watch a production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and GCSE students travelled to Watford Palace Theatre to see a highly acclaimed production of *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill.

Francesca Meaby, Laura Vickers and Kathryn Lagrue, former Drama and Theatre Studies students at JHN, have very kindly offered their time and enthusiasm to facilitate an after school Drama club from 3.20pm–5.00pm every Tuesday. All Year 7, 8 and 9 thespians are most welcome to attend. It's primarily a lot of fun but you will learn a few things too that might help you make future subject choices!

Congratulations to all students in Year 11, 12 and 13 who achieved such wonderful results in their examinations in August 2006.

Finally a very warm welcome to our new full time member of staff Ms Bridgeman-Williams who comes to us from a professional career in theatre, film and television. I know she will play an important part in helping the department provide the type of broad and balanced education that will equip our pupils and students to take their place in their chosen careers with confidence and success.

*Mr J Devine*

## ECONOMICS

It is a very busy end of term in the Economics department as AS and A2 students prepare for January exams. This is the first year that we have entered students for Unit 1 and Unit 4 exams in January and the thinking behind this policy change is that it might reduce exam stress if students have only two units, rather than three, to sit in June.

This is also the time of year when we think of prospective Year 12 students for 2007-2008. Have you considered making Economics one of your AS choices? Not sure what it's all about? You can come and have a chat about it with me, or e-mail your questions to [jhn-economics@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhn-economics@hotmail.co.uk). Have you seen 'Undercover Economist', Tim Harford, on BBC television this term? If you missed the programmes you might like to view them on YouTube to gain an insight into Economics and perhaps find inspiration for your A-level choice.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Mrs G Holt*

## ENGLISH

As we approach the Christmas holiday the English department looks back on probably the busiest, most active Autumn term most of us can remember. Earlier in December all pupils in Year 8 travelled to Canterbury amidst torrential rain to visit Canterbury Cathedral and The Canterbury Tales to cap a term seemingly full of trips. Together with the History and RE departments, the English staff organised this massive trip risking floods and the M25 on a Friday night. It was thoroughly enjoyable – if wet! As usual the pupils were fantastic!

Over the term both Year 12 and 13 students went to see a performance of 'The Alchemist' at the National Theatre with Simon Russell Beale and Alex Jennings. We also visited 'The Canterbury Tales (Part 2)', having seen Part 1 last term. Mr Smith organised a theatre visit for pupils in Years 9 and 10 to see 'The Woman in Black' and in November 200 Year 11 pupils travelled to The Central Hall, Westminster to listen to the poets in the AQA anthology – Gill Clarke, Simon Armitage, John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy and others. It was a superb day and a great preparation for the exams.

Pupils and students in Years 11, 12 and 13 are all involved in the preparation of coursework which will be due in the Spring Term. In preparation for their SATs, a theatre group will be visiting Year 9 pupils with a play 'Much Ado About Nothing' – provisionally booked for Friday 16 March. This company, 'The Heaven and Earth Theatre Group', has visited the JHN before to work on 'Macbeth' and they were very entertaining. On 22 January the AQA Board's Speaking and Listening Advisor will be visiting the department and this will affect both Year 10 and 11 students.

I would like to thank all the Year 10 parents who have contributed to purchasing texts for English and English Literature this year. The new regulations concerning 'clean' texts leave us with little option but to ask for this and it does help pupils to have access to the chosen set texts.

Last year was the most successful in the history of the English department regarding results at GCSE and Key Stage 3. AS and A2 saw some superb individual achievements and we have been able to introduce a new board for English Language and Literature.

Our success as a department derives from a lot of hard work from the pupils and students and the enormous support we receive from you, the parents. We really appreciate all your help whether supporting trips or through contributing to book purchases and would like to assure

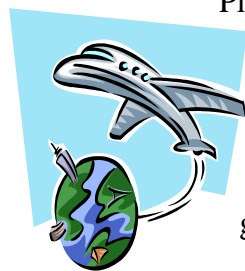
you that is it really worthwhile. Your assistance is making a big difference and contributes to and benefits the progress of our pupils.

On behalf of all the department I would like to thank you all and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Mr J Latham*

## **GEOGRAPHY**

We are currently in the thick of planning the Year 10 fieldwork trip to the North Norfolk coast for the beginning of May. This two day investigation provides the pupils with the required data to complete their GCSE coursework, based on either a tourism study of Sheringham/Cromer or an erosional investigation along the coast. We have also just booked the trip to Norfolk for 2008 as competition for large enough B&Bs is fierce!



Planning is also underway for the current Year 12's fieldtrip to the Isle of Arran in March 2007. They will fly via Easyjet to Glasgow and then fully test out the transport network of South-Western Scotland, using various minibuses, trains and buses. Upon safe arrival, the Lower Sixth will undertake various fieldwork exercises in preparation for their exam paper later in the year. We will be studying longshore drift on the coast, glacial scenery, fluvial characteristics on the River Chalmadale and taking a

closer inspection of the of the island's settlements and their role in the urban hierarchy. A good time will be had by all! Photos will appear on the school website in due course.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Shephard upon safely completing the New York City Marathon in a very speedy time. Along with other teachers, she raised large amounts of money for the KISS charity. There are rumours that she is planning to swim the English Channel in the not too distant future!



The whole department would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Ms C Forde, Mr M Sutton, Mr M Peacock, Mrs J Shephard, Mr C Tucker & Mr A Braithwaite*

## **HISTORY**

It has been a busy term for the department. The Year 10 trip to Rochester was a real success and the staff would like to thank the pupils for their hard work and superb behaviour. You were a credit to the school.

The Year 9 history trip to Belgium is now fully booked. By the time you read this all of you going on the trip will have received notification. Thanks for your interest and sorry if you are disappointed not to be going.

**HISTORY YOUR LEGACY?** Would you like to contribute a picture or painting to the new history display areas? Complete a painting and your work will be displayed – possibly forever. This could be your legacy to the school. The offer is open to pupils and students from Years 9 to 13 initially. If you are interested please see a member of the department. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Mr A Herzog*

# MUSIC

It has been a particularly memorable term for Music at the JHN in our first term as a specialist subject. We haven't had a separate Jazz Band from our Wind Band for some time so it was very encouraging to hear such accomplished solo improvisations particularly from Ed Maitland Smith and Marianne Lagrue at the Launch night for our Specialist Status. The Band consisting of Tom Ayres on Bass, Richard Maitland Smith on Drums, Ed Maitland Smith, Ben Hawkes and Paul Simmons on Trumpet, Marianne Lagrue and Jesse Gerhard on Clarinet with Tiphaine Brydniak on Alto Sax also performed a lively programme to the children of Woolenwick Primary School, Stevenage.

We had a magnificent response to our Trombone Jazz Funk workshop which took place during the specialist status launch week. Any one who heard the professional trombonists who have gigged with Radiohead and Robbie Williams could not fail to get the urge to try out the trombones on the day. Any one who wishes to be considered for trombone lessons on the three school instruments we have available should contact Mr P Wright.



As part of our specialism some of the older singers from our Upper School Choir gave a concert of songs from shows to the Senior Citizens on the Strathmore Wing of the Lister Hospital. Those attending included The Mayor of Stevenage and other hospital dignitaries. This was very warmly received and we have already been asked back to perform there again. There are plans for our Wind Band and Choir to sing both in The Stevenage Arts and Music Festival and Hitchin's Rhythms of the World Festival this summer.

Well done to Tiphaine Brydniak and Victoria Roberts on passing their Grade 5 theory exams. At present we are awaiting the results of our Instrumental Associated Board Exam entries which took place in early December.

We are busy preparing for our Christmas concert which promises to be an enjoyable evening. We have over 80 singers in our choir – bearing in mind that increasing numbers in the choir is one of our stated aims for the specialism we are well on the way to meeting this target.

We are planning to take the whole of Year 7 to a lunchtime concert from the London Symphony Orchestra in the New Year.

Musical Futures lessons are proving very popular with our Year 9 pupils – if any parents have old CD players not being used we can always put them into service in these sessions as the pupils get the chance to copy CDs of their choice on electric guitars, bass, drums and lead vocals.

I would like to remind all pupils that using your own personal music headphones in our keyboard computer suite in Room 10 is much more effective, not to say more hygienic, than using the school ones supplied – so please continue to bring your own if you know you are likely to use Room 10.

I would like to remind all GCSE and A level Music candidates that composition and performing coursework should continue over the Christmas break – what better way is there of celebrating Christmas than with joyful music making?  
Have a wonderful Christmas!

***Mr P Wright***

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It has been an extremely busy term for the Physical Education department. As we said *Bon Voyage* to Mr French, we welcomed back Miss Hunt from her travels. Extra-curricular activities have once again thrived throughout the season. JHN has experienced great success in many areas and we now look forward to the District Swimming Gala and Dance Display after Christmas.

We would like to thank Mr Squire for all his help and support over the last two terms. We wish him the very best of luck in his new school after Christmas. At this time we look forward to welcoming back Mr French from his tour of Australia.

## ***North Hertfordshire District Cross-Country Championships***

The annual district cross-country championships were held at Fairlands Valley in November. The inaugural primary schools championship was held in the morning and the secondary schools in the afternoon. Both events were set up and organised by the JHN PE department with the invaluable help of the Community Sports Leaders from Barclay, Nobel and TAS schools.



The morning arrived with the rain falling heavily and wind blowing – perfect cross-country weather! After setting up, hundreds of very excited primary school pupils (from 12 schools) arrived at the course. Community Sports Leaders Chris Bridger and Anulika Oligboh led the pupils in a warm up before each race. The weather didn't dampen the spirits of the runners and the Mayor awarded the medals to the top three boys and girls in each age group.

We had an excellent turn out in the afternoon, despite the continuing bad weather, and achieved some fantastic results for JHN. James Macey, Year 9, was crowned District Cross-Country Champion and Anthony Parrinello came 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition. The team of Year 9 Girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> and The John Henry Newman School took the overall 3<sup>rd</sup> position out of 16 schools.

Congratulations to all involved.

## ***Netball***

This year JHN are hosting both the netball league games as well as the District Tournaments. On Wednesdays and Thursday all the schools from North Hertfordshire and Stevenage descend on the netball courts to play a series of matches.

JHN have had an incredibly successful start to the season. The Year 7 team, have played and won 4 matches in the Stevenage League, and are undefeated:

JHN v Barclay School	won 6-4
JHN v Nobel School	won 3-2
JHN v Marriotts Sports College	won 13-2
JHN v Barnwell 'A' School	won 16-0

The Year 8 team have played two matches in the North Herts League Division 1, and have won both:

JHN v Knights Templar Sports College	won 7-6
JHN v Hitchin Girls School	won 14-7

The Year 9 team also remain undefeated in the North Herts League Division 1:

JHN v St Christopher's School	won 13-3
JHN v Hitchin Girls School	won 24-3
JHN v Fearnhill School	won 19-3

They have also had an outstanding start in their first National Schools Tournament where they played against some of the top schools in Hertfordshire. They beat Chaucy School and St Mary's to reach the final where they played Goffs School but, unfortunately, lost 6-11. Due to their outstanding performance the team have qualified for the regional final in February. We wish them the very best of luck.

In the North Herts League Division 1, the Year 10 team achieved the following results:

JHN v St Christopher's School	won 8-4
JHN v Knights Templar Sports College	won 11-4
JHN v Hitchin Girls School	lost 7-8

The Year 10 team also played in the District Tournament and won the 'Plate' competition against Fearnhill School. Congratulations.

Unfortunately, there is no Senior league in the district but there was a tournament held back in September. The JHN team, involving players from Years 11, 12 and 13, reached the final against Princess Helena College but, after a hard fought match, just lost out to a slightly stronger team. A very good match, well played girls.

### ***U15 District Netball***

The trials for the U15 District Netball squad were once again held at JHN in September and this year we enjoyed our highest number of selections. Congratulations to:

Gemma Hennessey	Y10	Ij Oligboh	Y10
Megan McDevitt	Y9	Lauren Jones	Y9

District training is held at JHN on the following dates:

Monday 22 January	4-5.30 pm
Monday 29 January	4-5.30 pm
Monday 19 February	4-5.30 pm

The tournament will be held on Monday 26 February, 2-4pm.

### ***Rugby Report***

Rugby is continuing to grow from strength to strength with the number of boys participating after school increasing year after year. Year 7 has proved to be the largest group with over 30 boys attending practice. We have also benefited from the expertise of Mr Squire. The Stevenage Rugby Development Officer has also been helping with practice along with Mr Bowser who has been a great help with developing the teams.

The combined Year 9 and 10 team had a narrow victory over St Christopher's. The bulk of the fixtures will be played in the New Year with a new competition for the Senior boys playing evening fixtures at Hitchin Rugby Club.

Practice will continue with Years 7, 8 and Seniors (Years 11, 12 & 13) on Monday after school and Years 9 and 10 on Tuesday.

## **Football**



### **Year 7:**

The JHN Year 7 football team started the season in a positive manner with over 40 pupils turning up for trials. Mr Anderson had the hard job of whittling down the numbers to a 15-man squad. Thank you to those pupils who did attend the trials.

To kick-off the season the boys went into their County Cup game against Enfield Grammar School, a very strong and organised side who had already played six fixtures prior to this meeting and will progress into the later stages of the County Cup. Once the game was under way, Enfield Grammar netted the first goal and with outstanding off-the-ball movement, and lack of concentration from JHN, they scored another 5. The second half saw some good pressurising from strikers Ben Draper and Aaron O'Connor that won a number of corners. All credit to Enfield who played very well.

We moved into our District Cup game against Barnwell on the back of a convincing win against St Christopher's School. JHN kicked-off and straightaway were playing slick football, which they play too infrequently. A corner was floated in by Callum Green and was clinically volleyed home by Matt Duncan, 1-0. Further good passing followed and Ben Draper scored a second goal. With a little lack of concentration by JHN and a bit of luck that favoured Barnwell, the joy was short-lived as Barnwell got back into the game. Three quick goals were scored by Barnwell and the game ended 3-2 to Barnwell.

Well done to all the boys who have participated this season. They are: Conor Alexander, Daniel Barcroft, Jamie Barr, Declan Brady, Harry Buhagiar, Ben Draper, Matt Duncan, Callum Green, Jack Green, Michael Hetherington, Jamie Isted, Chris McColl, Jake Nixon, Aaron O'Connor, Jimmy Roberts, Danny Simpson and Michael Tuck.

*Report by Daniel Barcroft, 7BW*

### **Year 8:**

The team have made a promising start to the season with a win against Thomas Alleyne School. Unfortunately success was short-lived and the team were defeated by Barnwell in the District Cup and Hemel Hempstead in the County Cup.

### **Year 9:**

The team are currently undefeated in the friendly matches and look forward to retaining the District Cup. We wish the team good luck in their matches that begin in the New Year.

### **Year 10:**

We look forward to the team's first District and County fixtures after Christmas.

### **Year 11:**

The team has been extremely unlucky this season losing in both the District and County Cups.

### **Senior:**

The magnificent team are undefeated so far this season and remain strong contenders in both the District and County Cups.

### ***Dance Display 2007***

The PE Department are organising this year's Dance Display which will take place on the evenings of Thursday 1 and Friday 2 February 2007. As usual the proceeds will be going to KISS.

This year's display is **SHOW STOPPERS** based on musicals and will include pupils and students from all the year groups. Work began back in September when a variety of workshops were set up and led by our fantastic Sixth Formers and dance teachers. The workshops ranged in style from Modern through to Ballet and were inspired by Musicals such as 'Fame', 'Billy Elliot' and 'Chicago', to name but a few. The work that has already been done looks great and we are really excited about the forthcoming performance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sixth Form Dance Committee for all their hard work and commitment. Tickets for this year's display will go on sale at the end of January. We look forward to seeing you all on the evening!

### ***The School Sport Co-Ordinator Partnership***

This year the JHN PE Department have joined the Stevenage Schools Sports Partnership. This has created many new and exciting opportunities for both our pupils and students, and our primary school pupils.

Our Junior and Community Sport Leaders have thoroughly enjoyed assisting at some of the primary school sport festivals. Our Year 10 and Year 12 leaders have been a real credit to the school at these events and have gained valuable experience working with young people.

Upper school basketball players have also benefited from free weekly coaching and a 5-a-side tournament. We hope to extend funding for this activity and intend to increase opportunities in this area after Christmas.

Our feeder primary schools have already benefited from the initiative having received valuable INSET on delivering gymnastics, as well as gaining funding for equipment and resources. With support it is hoped that our primary schools will extend the time dedicated to physical activity in order to promote healthy lifestyles amongst our youngsters.

It is our vision that through PE the already strong links that exist between JHN and local primary schools will continue to flourish.

***Mrs J Mackin & PE Department***

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We have had a very busy and action packed term in the Religious Education Department. We were delighted with our OFSTED inspection and our fantastic examination results across all the Key Stages. Open night was very busy and we were very pleased to welcome Alex Lang from Stevenage Borough Council to help us promote the topic of study on 'Fair Trade' which is covered both in Year 8 and revisited in Year 10 when the class looks at Religion, Wealth and Poverty.

I would like to thank Miss J Corley for all the hard work she has done to promote Citizenship throughout the Religious Education Programme and beyond. Some of our Year 10 pupils have been studying 'Social Harmony' and exploring Church teaching about how we must respect people of other religions while our Year 9 pupils have been looking at similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity. Some of our Sixth Form students and Mrs Nadia Nour gave their invaluable support to our curriculum by sharing their experiences.

Pupils in Year 8 engaged in an interesting unit of study on stewardship of our environment and came up with some interesting findings as to how local shops and businesses are working to be more environmentally friendly. They have also enjoyed their visit to Canterbury and explored the cathedral as a place of Christian worship.

Year 7 pupils have settled in well and are eagerly awaiting their friendship days in January at London Colney where they will explore the idea of 'community'.

We are once again planning to take a group on pilgrimage to Lourdes next Easter with some of our special friends with severe learning difficulties so we will need to explore some ways to complete fundraising activities to help us on our way.

May I once again take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with all our work and wish you a happy and holy Christmas.



*Mrs M Wright*

## **SCIENCE**

We start by saying g'day to Mrs Elliott who is currently half way round the world teaching in Australia for 3 months over the Christmas period. She has kept in contact with regular emails and is still keeping things ship shape! A big thanks to Mr Camilleri who has stepped into Mrs Elliott's shoes whilst she has been away and has been as reliable as ever.

A big well done to the two new members of the department, Mrs Thompson and Dr Lancaster, who have not only survived their first term but made a big impact.

Also this term Mr O'Connell, Miss Gilley and Mrs Taylor donned their wellies and waterproofs and led a hugely successful A-level Biology field trip to Wales. They returned not only wet but with some excellent results and pieces of coursework from the students. Visit the school website to view the pictures.

The Chemistry department are half way through a series of A-level practical exams, so good luck to those about to embark upon them and well done to those who have already completed theirs.

This term has been the start of our new vocational A-level, Applied Science, it has got off to an excellent start. It has seen the students go on many exciting visits including EADs Astrium, The McMullens Brewery and The Lister Hospital.

Just a quick reminder for Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils to ask Father Christmas for exam revision guides, but failing that they are available at the Physics prep room all priced £3.50.

Mrs Elliott would not be happy if we forgot the formal request for ice cream tubs and old tea towels!

We leave you with a quick Christmas science fact. For Father Christmas to deliver all his presents on time he has a little over two ten-thousandths of a second to get between each of the 842 million households in the world. To cover the total distance of 356 million km in this time means that his sleigh is moving at an average of 2,060 km per second, that is 6,395 times the speed of sound!!!

Have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*The Science Department*

# **SOCIOLOGY**

As the Autumn term draws to a close students in Years 12 and 13 are preparing to sit exams in January. I would like to wish them the best of luck and would encourage them to revise thoroughly during their Christmas holidays.

In the latter part of the Summer term two students, who are now in Year 13, went to a school in North London to carry out interviews and observations of some Year 9 pupils. In return, we welcomed some of their Sixth Form students to our school and they carried out interviews with some of our Year 9 pupils. I would like to thank all of the pupils who took part, as the Sixth Form students from both schools gained valuable research material which they are now using to write their A-Level coursework.

The Year 12 Sociology students have coped extremely well with their first term. They have produced some excellent pieces of work, in particular some wonderfully poignant powerpoint presentations on the plight of poor children around the world.

If you would like to know more about Sociology have a look at the notice board outside the Common Room or, better still, come and talk to me!

Enjoy your Christmas holidays!

*Mrs J Younger*

## **SPECIALIST STATUS**

### **Arts Specialism**

Our first year of designation has got off to an excellent start. There has been excitement in the school surrounding the Arts. Trips have been organised, workshops run and visiting theatre groups have performed. Our aim was to launch our status with an official arts week involving a number of activities.

### **Woolenwick Junior School Workshops 2-3 November**

A number of our Sixth Form students, along with some Year 11 pupils, visited Woolenwick Junior School in order to run a number of arts workshops as part of their expressive arts week. On the first day they worked with the Year 4 pupils teaching them how to paint using watercolours and to use mime and improvisation in drama. The following day the Year 6 pupils were treated to a salsa, jazz and gumboot dancing workshop along with a drama workshop focusing on mime and expression.

During both afternoons Mr Wright and the school jazz band set up in the junior school hall and entertained the whole school with an afternoon of jazz. This involved teaching the pupils about the different instruments and encouraging them to take up playing the different musical instruments.

Many thanks to all the pupils, students and staff who were involved in this successful partnership.

### **Launch Week 6-10 November**

The week started with an altered timetable. This enabled all the pupils to have a 1 hour lunchtime in which to enjoy a programme of workshops prepared for them by the Sixth Formers and staff. The workshops ranged from fashion and felt making to street dance and

salsa with lots of other activities in between. Over 300 pupils were involved in the activities and over thirty Sixth Formers planned and delivered their specialist workshops.

### **Launch Evening Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

The official launch was held on the Tuesday evening of the launch week and was an excellent event. Our sponsors from the parent body, governors, staff and industry were invited to attend an evening of dance, drama, art and music.

The evening began with a reception in the dining rooms whilst giving our guests the opportunity to enjoy a number of pieces played by the school jazz band and view the art exhibition of GCSE work. This was followed by a drama production written and performed by the Year 10 Drama students. The thought provoking performance was based on the effects of global warming on our society. After a brief interval, in which our guests once again had an opportunity to enjoy the artistic and musical talents of our students, the evening was rounded up with an amazing dance display created by Heather Gordine and her consortium of students from Letchworth schools and The John Henry Newman A-Level students. The dance involved solos, pair and group dances from, to a name only a few, 'Les Misérables' and Matthew Bourne's 'The Nutcracker'.

Many thanks to John Devine, Phil Wright, Ruth Fuller and Heather Gordine for inspiring the students to produce an excellent evening of entertainment for our specialist status launch.

*Miss W Hunt*

## **ATTENDANCE**

To promote pupils' awareness of the importance of their attendance, we have introduced an Attendance Profile to form part of a monthly year group Assembly. This indicates the top tutor group for each year group who has achieved the highest attendance percentage. To promote the introduction of this new profile each year group now have their own personal mascot – chosen by themselves:

Year 7	Kermit the Frog
Year 8	Sully (from Monsters Inc)
Year 9	Rubber Chicken
Year 10	Monkey
Year 11	Barbie & Ken

The results so far:

September:	Year 7	7BW	with 99.79%
	Year 8	8EK	with 98.54%
	Year 9	9EB	with 98.31%
	Year 10	10JE	with 99.13%
	Year 11	11MC	with 99.29%
October:	Year 7	7DT	with 99.76%
	Year 8	8EA	with 97.32%
	Year 9	9MS	with 97.25%
	Year 10	10JE	with 97.75%
	Year 11	11AC	with 98.44%
November:	Year 7	7DT	with 97.99%

Year 8	8EA	with 97.24%
Year 9	9RM	with 99.25%
Year 10	10LL	with 97.47%
Year 11	11JD	with 97.82%

For those who have achieved 100% attendance we have also introduced a half termly draw where those picked are given a voucher of their choice. Each year group receives £25 and for the Lower School this is split between 5 pupils.

Year 7:	Matthew Smart	7BW	£5
	Lucy Conn	7DT	£5
	Susan Baby	7AI	£5
	Joseph Weaver	7EH	£5
	Karen Johnson	7BW	£5
Year 8:	Patrick Walsh	8BS	£5
	Benjamin Caruso	8CP	£5
	Jianne Amante	8EK	£5
	Claudine Dignadice	8EK	£5
	Luke Andrews	8EA	£5
Year 9:	Rachel Carter	9RM	£25
Year 10:	Danielle Cameron	10CD	£25
Year 11:	Amy Steyaert	11MC	£25

Well done to all of those winners this term. Keep up the good work!

Please remember to contact me on the number below or to leave a message of absence:

[hamiltonc@johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hamiltonc@johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk)  
**01438 791982**

**This number is for attendance/absence use only.**

I hope you all have a really lovely Christmas.

*Mrs C Hamilton*



# JHN ASSOCIATION

*"Give a little... achieve a lot!"*

At the beginning of September the Association was busy organising their first event, a Sponsored Bikeathon at Fairlands Valley Lake. With just over 90 bikers turning up, the morning went well. We would like to thank all those who turned out and for the many sponsors who generously donated. Leukaemia Research jointly helped organise and publicise the event and we thank them for their energy and support. Money raised on the day was shared with the charity and ourselves.

In November came the Annual Craft Fair, an event which has grown in popularity every year and goes from strength to strength. Again many thanks for everyone's support and efforts.

We will be hosting our annual Quiz Night in January so keep **Saturday 27 January 2007** free. This event is very popular so please book your table early (flyers will be coming out at the beginning of next term.) If you would like to book even earlier you could ring Rae on **01438 229277**. Tickets will be £5 each and this includes a light supper.

The Association would like to thank all those in the school community who have supported us in so many ways during the past year, especially all the "new" parents who responded so positively to a request for help at the Bikeathon, Craft Fair or Parents' Evenings. A thriving Parents Association is a reflection of the special nature of the school and the positive spirit of the parent body. Although money is very much needed in the school's drive for a new building, the Association is not only about fundraising. It is keen to provide a variety of opportunities for those connected with the school to come together and enjoy each other's company. Naturally this involves a lot of hard (but very rewarding!) work so we are very keen for new, active committee members (and new ideas!) to join us at **8pm** on the **first Wednesday in term of every month**.

## **JANUARY QUIZ**

Saturday 27 January 2007

*LOOK OUT FOR THE FLYER EARLY NEXT TERM*

£5 a person (maximum team size of 8)

Enquiries to Rae (telephone 01438 229277)

*Mrs R Sherry*  
*JHN Association Chairman*



# SCHOOL OFFICE

## *Office Telephone*

Please be advised that the use of the office telephone is for emergencies only. There is a pay phone for pupils to use (requires 20p).

## *Transport*

Spot checks on the buses are becoming more frequent. Please ensure that all pupils have their passes with them **EVERY DAY**.

**For queries regarding transport we ask that you contact the relevant County direct:**

**Hertfordshire: 01992 556765**

**Bedfordshire: 01234 228431**

**Public Transport: 0870 608 2698**

## *Contact Details*

Please remember to advise the School Office as soon as possible if there are any changes to pupils' personal contact details.



The Office wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Ms J Heasman*

# WEB & E-LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

**The School Website ([www.johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk](http://www.johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk))**

Our school website continues to be well-used – our web logs show an average of 3,500 visits each month and we are fast approaching a grand total of 60,000 'hits' since the website was launched in 2004. As we go into 2007 a full audit of the site is planned and we hope to introduce some improvements that will make the site easier to navigate. As a part of this process we asked site users to send us feedback and I would like to thank everyone who replied - your suggestions and requests have been noted! Also coming in the New Year is a series of 'subject gateways' which will provide targeted resources for our pupils and students and, with our other web developments, form a part of our expanding e-learning provision.

Several of our e-learning pilot projects are now underway. In particular our GCSE, AS and A level Music students and our AS level ICT students have been using a virtual learning environment to support their studies. We plan to include more subjects and key stages as we go into the New Year. Thank you to those who continue to use our website associate link for Amazon.com when ordering books, CDs, DVDs etc. This link generates a small income - especially at this time of year - so do please keep on using it.

*Mrs J Lagrue*

## **CURRENT PUPIL**

Benedict Craft has qualified for the major section of the London Junior Chess Championship.

This Championship has been running annually since 1924. It is the most prestigious chess tournament for juniors in England. For the U12s this congress is held on 28-30 December. To qualify for the minor section of the tournament you have to get either 3.5 or 4 points out of 6. To qualify for the major section the requirement is 4.5 points or more out of 6. The qualifying events are held regionally throughout the United Kingdom.

I entered the Barnet and Finchley congress (which is a qualifying event) on 29 November. I won the congress with 5 out of 6 points. I was chuffed with this result because I came ahead of Daniel Land and Gabriel Lessof who both play chess for the England junior chess squad.

One day I hope to be selected to play chess for England. The requirement for England selection is to get two half norms (half norm = 50% of the possible points + ½ point) at two of the following chess tournaments: Young Masters Event (Millfield, July 2006), British Championship (Swansea, August 2006), British Rapidplay (Halifax, November 2006), London Junior (December 2006), Junior Squad (Wycombe, April 2007).

***Benedict Craft (7RH)***

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# THE JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL TERM DATES

**Academic year 2007 / 2008**

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The school term dates below are provisional and are an 'envelope' of 195 days, which include 190 pupil days and 5 INSET days.

## *PROVISIONAL SCHOOL TERM DATES*

### **PUPIL DAYS**

#### **Autumn Term 2007**

Monday 3 September to Friday 21 December

*Half Term – Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October*

#### **Spring Term 2008**

Monday 7 January to Thursday 20 March

*Half Term – Monday 11 February to Friday 15 February*

#### **Summer Term 2008**

Monday 7 April to Tuesday 22 July

*Half Term – Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May*

### **INSET DAYS:**

Monday 3 September

4 INSET days - dates to be confirmed

**N.B. School finishes at 12.30 p.m. on the last day of each term and at 12.30 p.m. on the afternoon of Open Evening and Presentation Evening**