



Welcome back to the new school year! This is a special year for the school as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our foundation. There are many events planned over the year and you will be very welcome at them. The Python news will again look to provide a record of these events and we hope you enjoy the regular publication”
Robert Dillow



The 40th Birthday Party for the whole school was a great idea and a great success. A Birthday cake, over two meters high, suddenly appeared from under a white tent, while Mr Dillow lead the entire school in a round of ‘Happy Birthday to You’ . An eager group of nursery children were the first to receive their piece of cake and on and on the procession went until the cake was no more. But then it was time for the jelly which had been imported from the UK especially for the occasion. Many thanks once again to the ever present Friends for their contribution to the “festa”. Without them the party would not have been possible. Another huge thank you to our Year 12 CAS students who spent the rest of the afternoon organizing games for the Lower School children, they had a great time and will remember the day for many years to come. The Anniversary Year was launched in grand style so watch this space for coverage of the many more events to come.

Sir James Henderson



European Language Day 2009

Friday 25th September marked the celebration of European Language Day (officially 26th September) at the SJHS this year falling within the World Week of Peace promoted by the International Baccalaureate organization. There was a great deal of hustle and bustle as the ever vibrant MFL department got underway with an outstanding display of work carried out by the students of the Upper School. Students reflected on the importance of language learning. The television screens projected traditional costumes from 44 different European countries. Languages are truly alive at the SJHS. The Charity committee planned a mufti day and issued students with colourful stickers and lanyards for the occasion and raised a sum of over 480euros which will be given to a charitable organisation that brings education to children in lesser fortunate situations from us. A great event which will certainly grow even bigger in years to come! Do reflect on the following : “If we had the word, if we had the language, we wouldn’t need the weapons”. (Ingeborg Bachmann, Austrian Poet).



Lower School Students Council

The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been preparing for the Lower School Class Council. This Council is made up of 6 students from each Year group elected by their own class. These Councilors help at play times and participate in meetings to discuss school issues and events. Children were invited to prepare a poster and a speech in preparation for the voting. All the children who put themselves forward deserve praise and thanks for participating in this event. They have demonstrated their commitments to supporting a friendly and happy atmosphere. Congratulations for being elected and we wish you every success for your hard work this year!

*“It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be uneducated”
(Alec Bourne)*

University destinations

Last year’s Y13 were pleased to find that all their hard work was paid off not only by pleasing exam results but also by getting into one of the five universities that they had applied to. In the UK students are made offers of a place at university subject to them achieving certain grades so you are not certain of which university you will be going to until results day arrives. As August 20th arrived I’m certain there were some nervous people around (parents as well as students!). Our old Y13 students going to the UK are studying subjects as diverse as History of Art, Natural Sciences, Drama, Engineering, Languages and Business Management showing the range of talents that our graduating students have. They have gained places at a wide number of institutions including Cambridge, Kent, Nottingham, Kings, Goldsmiths, Southampton and Cardiff. Of course, a number of students remain in Italy to study – four of our students have begun their Business Management course in English at Bocconi whilst others are due to attend Statale and Bicocca. Four other students have begun their university careers in the USA studying at Duke, NYU, Bard and Providence. We wish them all every success in their studies and hope that they keep in touch with us all at Sir James.

Gap Year

Julie Walker

Daniel Beck and **Alex Monti** are now firmly entrenched in the mountains of Nepal where they are spending part of their gap year teaching sport and music in one of the local schools. Some of the most gifted students of the **Dalai Lama** attend the school. They are faced with overwhelming poverty, no electricity, poor hygiene and are living on rice and lentils – and of course dealing with the inevitable stomach distress! This will be an enlightening experience for the boys. "I CRIED BECAUSE I HAD NO SHOES, AND THEN I SAW A MAN WHO HAD NO FEET..."
The Sir James must seem a long way away!



The Head Student, Giulia Zecchini (centre) and the Deputy Head Students, Alessia Mortara (left) and Alyssa Macgregor-Hastie (right) explain the role of



the Upper School Sixth Form Council for this academic year.

The Student Council is a central part of the school community. It allows

students and staff to have better communication. The Council is involved in every aspect of school life from sporting events to charity events. Our main objectives are: to provide the pupils with a range of events throughout the school year; to support staff in the smooth running of daily activities and to raise awareness about current issues in school. This school year the Council is larger as two new positions of Treasurer and Head of IB have been introduced. We also have two Year group representatives from Year 7 to Year 12. Prefects are selected from Year 12 and their role is primarily to support the staff each day as they monitor students during breaks and lunchtime. It is a very important team of students and it offers them the opportunity to get to know the younger children as they supervise them daily. We have decided to set up an Inter-House Competition this year. Each house will compete not only in sporting events but also in charity and music events. We have decided on 3 main charities to help this year, each assigned to a house, which are the Esther Benjamin Trust (EBT), ANT and Orphan-Aid Africa. We hope to see a lot of events both old and new this academic year and look forward to the maximum involvement of the students in making this the best year yet!



Y8 Science Trip to Montecatini



On Tuesday 22nd September Y8 went on a science trip to Ca Soldato field study centre near Montecatini, north of Milan. Students got to see salamanders, frogs and toads and searched the streams for signs of life, finding baby newts and dragonfly larvae amongst other creatures... until a swarm of hornets decided to interrupt proceedings! Apart from this it was a fun and educational day for all. Keep an eye out for the best student report of the trip which will appear on the website soon!



Congratulations!

We offer our very best wishes to Vicki Thew and Sam Rowley who tied the knot during the summer holidays, also to David Steadman and Lyndsay who followed suit. We wish them long and happy marriages!



The Homeless World Cup

From Sunday 6th September to Sunday 13th September, the homeless world cup took place. 48 national teams were competing for the Cup. This wonderful organisation is also a charity that helps the homeless to re-integrate into society and start living a normal life. This fascinating tournament is always considered a major event for whatever city it is located in. We were lucky that the last edition was held here in Milan so we could thoroughly appreciate good football as well as great fun. The next homeless world cup is going to be held in Copacabana beach, Brazil, where the organisation's aim will be reaching 100,000 homeless people. Football can change lives.

Giovanni Zoboli 12A

Y7 Induction

To get used to life in the Upper School we followed a specially designed 3 day Induction Programme. One of the first activities was a treasure hunt. The teachers divided us up into groups, and we raced around school finding the answers to various questions. We became familiar with the building by doing this. Mr. Dillow met us all in the hall and we had an SOS session, which gave us the opportunity to ask anything we weren't sure about. Mr. Dillow talked to us about friendship, co-operation and respect. This made us realize that if we all work together and co-operate things go better. Another highlight was the Science Challenge. We had to create and make a parachute for an egg, and drop it out of a second floor window without it breaking! These are only some of the activities we did during the three days of Induction. The experience as a whole was not just great fun, but it helped us in so many ways, and made it much easier to cope with Upper school.

Coming Up

By Nicholas Enderle & Matilde Cedrone 7A

14th October : Hall **BOOK FAIR** - 16th October : h. 18.30 Dining Hall : KS3 **HALLOWEEN DISCO** - 17th October: **U14 BOYS & GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT** at the ASM - 21st October: Lower School **HARVEST FESTIVAL** - 23rd October: Upper School **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**- 6th November: **BONFIRE NIGHT** at Schuster



Year 9 Geography Trip to the source of the River Lambro.

Two sunny days in the beautiful Triangolo mountains! After discovering the source of the mighty River, Lambro students got down to the tough business of measuring every aspect of it – depth, width, velocity, gradient, bed load size and shape. These measurements provided evidence to test their hypotheses and complete their geographical enquiry.

Recommended Reading

The **Key Stage 3 Reading Group**, has had its first meeting. If you would like to come to the second one on 19th October, after school at 15.30 in the Library, please purchase this book: *The Great War begins. A...* Fourteen-year-old Anax thinks she knows her history. She'd better. She's sat facing three Examiners and her grueling five-hour examination has just begun. If she passes, she'll be admitted into The Academy - the elite institution that runs her utopian society. But Anax is about to discover that for all her learning, the history she's been taught isn't the whole story. And that The Academy isn't what she believes it to be. The reader is about to discover a provocative novel of dazzling ingenuity. There is no charge for this group, however Miss Lillie, the school librarian, would like every student who attends the club to donate a book to the library. Students are free to attend as many of the meetings as they can, attendance to all of them is not obligatory. The reading group is currently for KS3 only. If students from KS4 or KS5 are interested in joining a group, they should see **Miss Lillie** who is willing to organize another meeting at some point during the week.