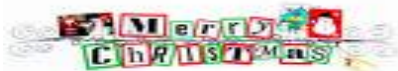




December 2009



As we near the end of a very busy term we have much to look back on with celebration and satisfaction. Thank you all for your support and may I wish you a very Happy Christmas holiday with family and friends. We look forward to an exciting new year in 2010!
Robert Dillow

SJHS Anthem

The photograph is of **Pierpaolo Tiano** who graduated in 1988 with **Edoardo Paluan** currently in Year 11. Pierpaolo has dedicated the basis of an Anthem to the school for our 40th Anniversary and Edoardo, one of our students with a passion for I.T. has produced a video to go with it. The DVD and Anthem had its premiere at the Gala Dinner and both Alumni were present to see it. Pierpaolo has recently moved back to Milan from Los Angeles where he will pursue his career. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opzrmd56Tuo>



40 Years of Sir James



Over 900 parents, students, friends of the school and performers joined together in the Leone XIII theatre at 19.30 on November 25th to celebrate the launch of the '40 Years of Sir James' DVD.



Anna Mazzaro and her Video Team must have been relieved to have arrived at this moment with the work completed and thrilled by the warm and enthusiastic reception given to this collection of Sir James memories in DVD format. This was an amazing feat by a team of parents who forged ahead, determined that the project would work. After hours of sifting through documents, videos, photographs, and interviews with countless ex students, parents and teachers, and after editing about 80 hours of material, the final product has been well worth it. We now have the school's history recorded in this priceless document.

With only a few hours practice on stage, miraculously, about 150 performers, dancers, singers and musicians, 'pulled it off' like real professionals. Amadeus, in his role as father and television personality, held the evening together assisted by Denise Wilkinson from Year 13 and Mattia Rappa from Year 12 as translators. The choirs sang pieces from 'The Lion King' and 'The Phantom of the Opera' accompanied by the school orchestra and at a certain moment, Fausto Leali, a parent and very famous singer, walked on stage singing 'Let it Be' to be joined by the massed choirs of Upper and Lower School.

The evening ended with the Birthday Cake and a round of Happy Birthday led by Mr Dillow, Ms Dean and the teaching staff who were present. And if this wasn't enough, the children were also given a wonderful spread of food by the committee – how they managed this as well I don't know but many thanks for everything!



Gregory Wright



Sir James' students graduate from UCL

Many of our current **Y13 students** are in the process of hearing from the universities that they applied to this term. It may hearten them to know that many recent Sir James graduates have recently completed their university studies. University College London (UCL) has been in touch to congratulate six of our alumni for gaining their degrees at UCL: **Costanza Capuano** and **Margot Radicati Di Brozolo** were awarded a BSc in Biomedical Science, **Gaia Funaro** gained a degree in Molecular Biology whilst **Shohei Maekawa** was awarded a BSc in Zoology. **Alessandro Gnocchi** and **Tomaso Treves** both were awarded a BA in Italian and Business Studies. We offer them our congratulations and wish them every success in their future careers.

Julie Walker



The Gala Dinner



The **40th Anniversary Gala Dinner**, was a great success and our thanks go to the team of parents who worked for a year to ensure the evening was such a memorable event. We were joined by a large number of Alumni and ex staff some of whom had flown in especially for the evening. We were especially pleased to welcome Christopher Leech, Principal of the Sir James for twelve years until 1996, and his wife Avril. We were fortunate and indeed honoured to have the Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, as our guest. The photograph below is of Letizia Moratti in the centre with some of our Year 12 and 13 students who were helping the organizing committee. They were a credit to the school and managed to sell €4600 of raffle tickets during the evening alone.



'Aperitivi' were served in one area of the Fondazione Pomodoro to the 500 guests. The Fondazione is a vast and impressive gallery space created from the old Riva factory in via Solari. A twenty strong Swing Band set the mood as guests arrived and the mingling of current and ex members of the school began. Dinner followed with the raffle, the auction, the speakers, the video and school anthem and then the cutting of the cake with Mr Biggs, Director of Music, leading us in the singing of 'Happy Birthday'. Red and blue lasers flashed across the walls where the swing band had played earlier in the evening as the bar opened and the dancing began. The event has raised over €40.000 and our thanks go once again to everyone who worked so hard for nearly one year to ensure we had an evening to remember.

"A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together." (Garrison Keillor)

Lower School Christmas Shows



The annual series of Christmas Concerts in the Lower School heralds the end of term and the Christmas holidays. Every afternoon since mid November, the school hall has been filled with excited children practicing their words and songs on the stage with their class teachers directing their every move, hoping that they will remember everything on the day. 'Speak louder', 'shout to the back wall of the hall', move like this – as teachers wiggled about trying to get the children to copy them and not be too shy - could be heard and seen every day if you passed through the hall. You definitely can't have too many inhibitions as a Lower School teacher especially when you have to take to the stage in the end of term assembly! What a variety we had this year as Year 1 imagined what a 'Spaceman's Christmas' might be like while Reception performed 'the Witch with the Wobbly Wand'. Nursery worked incredibly hard to be able to invite their parents to join them for a 'Christmas Sing-a-long'. There is no doubt that the children remember these moments and treasure them for years to come. Thank you to staff, parents and of course the stars of the show, the children.

Saatchi Gallery Sunday Telegraph Art Prize winner

More than 22,000 entries were received for the Saatchi Gallery / Sunday Telegraph Art Prize for School 2009 and included among the winners was Katie Lewis whose entry was awarded third place in this prestigious competition. Katie's painting was inspired by Francis Bacon and Michelangelo and was part of her GCSE project for which she gained an

A* just before she left the school in June, 2009 to carry on her education in the UK. Ms Shears, who taught her during her last year in classes after school and who had entered her work without her knowing, was so thrilled by her success that she went to London to see Katie receive her prize of £1000 and collect £5000 for the Art Department. The picture is of Katie receiving her prize from and Anthony Gormley.



The Upper School opened its doors to parents and friends on Wednesday, 2nd December for the annual Open Evening. You can read Julie Walker's article on the event by clicking on <http://www.sjhschool.com/download/UpperSchoolOpenEvening2009.pdf>



U18 Boys Football Sir James vs British School of Prague 6-1



Another brilliant success of the U18 boys in a test-match in preparation for the ISST Bonn tournament. The Prague team appeared unsure and didn't manage to keep possession of the ball. Under the leadership of captain Matteo Prestinoni, the team kept the pressure high on Prague's defence. Finally, with the opponent team squashed in their half, Sir James managed to score reaching the brief break with a heavy 4-0. The second half was easier to control thanks to the score. However, the Prague team didn't give up and managed to score a goal, the only small mistake of an almost perfect defence. Sir James managed to maintain a high rhythm throughout the whole match because of the availability of more players, whereas Prague had brought just 11. Nonetheless, the final score reflected the good preparation of the Sir James team and allows them to look positively towards the upcoming tournament.

Sport News and



The Lochness Marathon

On the weekend of November 28th/29th our senior boys and girls football, basketball and volleyball teams were hosted by the Lyceum Alpinum in Zuoz, Switzerland. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all in a weekend which combined sport, culture and some wonderful hospitality on behalf of the Lyceum community. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the school and Messrs Watson and Heseltine even managed to triumph in the inaugural SJHS Eton Fives Tournament.

A BIG thank you to all the staff and parents who sponsored Mr Johnston for the Loch Ness Marathon in October. Together we managed to raise over 1000 euros for CLIC Sargent, a charity supporting children with cancer.

Duke of Edinburgh International Award COMO



On the 3rd and 4th of October, students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh International Award spent the weekend walking in the hills around Como. On Saturday the Bronze participants navigated a circular walk starting and ending at the top of the funicolare at Brunate. The silvers walked further and were



rewarded with a luxury boat trip back to Como. On Sunday all groups successfully found their way to Chiasso on time to catch the train back to Milan. Well done everyone! Let's hope the great weather is

repeated on the next expeditions in February and March!

YEAR 12 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE DAYS PART OF "IB CORE OF THE HEXAGON WEEK" JANUARY 11 TO 15 2010

On Thursday and Friday, January 14 and 15 we will be holding all-day sessions on foundational issues in scientific knowledge. We shall be having as a special guest presenter, Mr Andrew



Macle hose. Andrew Macle hose holds degrees from the universities of Oxford, London, and Wales, and has at various times taught IB Economics, History, Philosophy, Business and Theory of Knowledge. He has served as a teacher, IB Coordinator, Principal, or Headmaster at schools in seven countries (including founding a school in Pakistan), given lectures and workshops in 20 others, and organised numerous IB conferences and summer schools for students and teachers. Andrew Macle hose worked with the founding generation of the International Baccalaureate and he has had a profound impact on the development of the Theory of Knowledge programme through several decades. He is an inspiring lecturer and wonderfully creative personality.

CHRISTMAS READING

The Upper School Library has just received a huge number of new books from the new Darren Shan book: Hells Heroes, to Meg Cabot: Being Niki, Cecelia Ahern: The Book of Tomorrow, My Sister's Keep by Jodi Picoult, The Enemy by Charlie Higson, Andy McNab books including Brute Force and Seven Troops and books by Linda Grant, Michael Jackson biographies as well as a host of other books. Come up to the Upper School Library to check them out for yourself.

