



5 December 2007

Dear Parent

The Inspection report which was released to parents in August gave us much food for thought. In general we were delighted by the findings but we have also considered very carefully the main recommendations. I have agreed a new assessment policy with Heads of Faculty and they are doing their best to ensure that it is implemented. It was the case that we were not monitoring the quality of marking very effectively. I have appointed a new Academic Director, Wendy Isaac, to help with this from August 2008.

There will shortly be new curriculum coordinators for the Middle School in Humanities, English, Science and Mathematics. These colleagues will be responsible for the curriculum under the leadership of Ian Mehta, the Head of Middle School. We are also changing the management structure in the Junior School. From August 2008 the Year leaders will be replaced by school deputies, who will be responsible for two year groups. These appointments will be made in February.

Building

The new field is progressing well. The top soil is being laid and seeding will begin shortly. We expect that the new grass will be sufficiently well established for play by August 2008. The new pavilion looks very imposing.

Boarding

The new boarding house became fully operational this term and is currently occupied by 49 boys. Family annexes for a housemaster and a housemistress have now been completed and the original blocks, to which these annexes are attached, are currently being refurbished. We expect to have them back in operation by January. We shall then have plenty of capacity to take new boarders. I hope that some of the students, who are currently commuting from Kuala Belait and Seria, will consider the option of boarding.

A small team visited Miri in October for a presentation to new parents and a question and answer session with existing parents. We hope to arrange similar visits to KB and Seria next term. A team from the Labuan Offshore Services Authority visited JIS and the boarding house in September to see for themselves the boarding facilities we can offer to students from the island. A number of government scholars who live locally have also become boarders. We firmly believe that boarding prepares students for life at university and develops their confidence and self reliance.

We now have four separate 'houses': Ibis (Boys), Kingfisher (girls), Hornbill (girls) and Eagle (boys). They are rapidly developing their own identities under the leadership of John White, Jacky McLaren, Alvin Darwin and Julia Connolly.

There have been numerous activities in each house. All four houses have had outings to the Empire Hotel to try out various water sports, relax by the pool and sample the superb cuisine. Some tried kayaking; others braved the Flying Fish before dining at the Pantai restaurant or the Bunker Café. All four houses held a formal dinner at the Atrium Restaurant at the Empire or at Fratinis. Kingfisher girls held their 'Glam night' at the Empire's Li Gong restaurant. The girls were dressed up to the nines for the occasion and the boys looked very smart.

If you would like a look around our new boarding facilities or find out more about life as a boarder, do get in contact with John White (john.white@jis.edu.bn) who will be happy to help answer your questions or organise a tour for you.

News from the schools:

Junior

The Junior School has enjoyed a very busy term. There was Cross Country in Week Three with Peace Day and the Annual Coin Drop to follow. International Day was certainly the highlight. The parade was spectacular and it was great to see everyone dressed up in their international costumes. The Food Fair in the Kindergarten was a great success. Many thanks to all who helped with this. Internationalism was a key feature of the curriculum for that week in all year groups and many lessons had an international focus. Thank you to the Parent Liaison Group who provided coffee and cake. We also enjoyed a feast of music at the Junior Music Concert in November with excellent performances from many of our young, and very talented players.

The School Council enjoyed a weekend away on a Leadership Camp. There were team building activities and exciting adventures including white water rafting! Many children have been out of school on trips. Year 2 visited the HM Doulos, the world's largest floating bookshop.

The Junior School Council collected over 600kg of donations to send to our adopted school in the Philippines. The children have taken on board the idea of helping others and have done us proud with their generosity and kindness.

On the environmental front our Junior Eco Kids are leading the way in can recycling and promoting care and respect for the environment. Next term they will be selling reusable shopping bags to cut down the amount of plastic wasted each day.

The Perceptual Motor Programme is in full swing in the Kindergarten and the children are benefiting and enjoying the activities tremendously. The arrival of some new climbing equipment in the playground has added to that provision. Our youngest children have celebrated many local festivals, including Hari Raya, the Moon Cake festival and Deepavali. If anyone in the local community would like to speak to the children about any interesting topics and is available on a Tuesday morning, please contact rachel.instone@jis.edu.bn.

Karen Lewis

Middle School

The Middle School had a very productive term. Numerous trips and co-curricular activities have complemented classroom learning. Middle School Council members attended a leadership camp and many of the Year 6 students went to Darwin. Year 7 geography students went to Tasek Merimbun in the Tutong District as part of a Geography trip. This beautiful area is ideal for studying the flora and fauna of Brunei but also for observing the Dusun culture. There have also been house events, activity afternoons, socials and a broad selection of ASAs.

The Middle School demonstrated their commitment to the ideals of Peace Day by creating a Peace Banner. On International Day Middle School activities began with an assembly. Later in the morning Year 8 listened to Waleed Ali and Grahaeme Henderson (see below); Year 7 were involved in a chalk-drawing competition using flags of the world to make a tutor group logo; and Year 6 enjoyed parent speakers talking about their different cultures. All enjoyed the food fair and the concert in the afternoon.

Ian Mehta

Upper School

Year 11s have been focusing on their preparation for examinations. They should ensure that they are ready for the Internal Examinations which will occur in Week 3 of next term. We expect them to take these exams seriously as they provide useful feedback about progress and also the actual experience of a public examination. In PSHE, we have explored strategies of coping with stress and techniques of relaxation.

Year 10 show great promise. Many students have taken AQA Science Modules this term. As a year group, they have quickly adjusted to the demands of coursework and a more challenging curriculum. A number have clearly benefited from the extra help provided by our homework clubs.

The Student Council have been very active in the Upper School. An exciting new development was a Leadership Camp in Temburong, which offered the Council the opportunity to work together on a series of

challenges that require team work and methodical planning. After a taxing weekend, students returned to civilisation exhausted but with a new found sense of purpose and camaraderie.

A number of events deserve a special mention. Athletics Day was a resounding success particularly because of the high levels of participation. The Secondary School Social on November 29 was very well organised by the Student Councils. Staff and students had a wonderful time. International Day was the best yet, combining rich pageant and music with thought provoking speeches and delicious food. As part of their work on coasts, Year 9 Geography students did exciting fieldwork at Berakas beach. The focus of their investigation was the impact of management strategies on coastal processes and landforms.

Peter Flynn

The Sixth Form

The new Sixth Form Council attended a two day Leadership Camp in Temburong in October. This helped the students to develop their leadership skills and to perform effectively as a team. They have also been busy with fund raising events, particularly for Peace Day and the Student Social. Of course in the classroom the focus has been on preparing for the modular examinations in January.

In the PSHE programme we have had sessions on identity, self awareness and independent living. This is an important part of the curriculum which allows our students to explore issues beyond academic subjects.

Football and volleyball tournaments, together with a house quiz and the Athletics Carnival, have all have been keenly contested this term. The Music Festival on the last day of term is also eagerly anticipated.

Students are fully involved in the school's ASA programme and they also provide community service in school through the Make a Difference (MAD) programme, offering classroom support, administrative support and coaching.

David Hobday

Professional Development

We do our best to ensure that we keep abreast of educational initiatives in Britain and in international schools. Dr Barry Meatyard visited the school in late October to lecture on Gifted and Talented children. In November, Bev Cox, the Chief Examiner for AQA Science, briefed the science faculty on the new A-levels and GCSE Science, in particular the ISAs which are replacing coursework. The English Faculty received four days' training from Peter Thomas, the Senior Examiner for English Literature at AQA. Peter also worked with students in Years 9 and 10 and delivered a session on questioning techniques to the whole faculty.

International Day and Peace Day

This was our best international day to date; we believe we have now got the formula right. The day started with the traditional 'parade of nations' in the Junior School. Pehin Yahya, the Minister of Energy, spoke to year 12 on Brunei's energy prospects; Mr Waleed Ali, a leading Moslem intellectual in Australia, spoke on globalisation and identity; Dr Ruth Adler, the Australian High Commissioner, gave a talk to year 13 on Australian Foreign Policy; Mr Tareq Mahmood, the CEO of HSBC in Brunei, spoke on banking issues in the region; Mr Justin Friedman, the Deputy US Ambassador, spoke to Year 8 on US foreign policy; and Dr Grahaeme Henderson, the CEO of BSP, spoke to year 8 and 11 on oil and power management in Brunei. In the afternoon there was an outstanding concert by our school musicians, at which a cheque to help the victims of landmines was presented to His Excellency, Mr Nan Sy, the Cambodian Ambassador.

In September we celebrated the UN Peace Day, promoted by the Peace One Day organisation, and there was a focus in school assemblies on a range of regional conflicts.

History students created displays and presented assemblies on Peace Day and Remembrance Day. For World Peace Day they made more than 500 origami peace cranes in conjunction with the Hiroshima Peace Park. For Remembrance Day they gave an assembly looking at the role of Commonwealth troops in WWII.

Drama

In November the Upper School and Sixth Form Drama students went to Singapore to enjoy the musical productions of Scrooge and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Languages

Closer relations with the Alliance Française are being established. In October, students studying French at AS and A Level spent the afternoon at their offices in Jalan Telenai. Boarding House students were also given the chance to taste some excellent French cooking during the Alliance's open house during Hari Raya.

Many students from Junior, Middle, Upper and Sixth Form Schools took part in a variety of quizzes and activities in the week preceding International Day. Students were rewarded with various prizes as well as some free tickets for the French Film Festival. The year 9 Foreign Language Malay group went on a trip to Kianggeh and Kampong Ayer in October. The Asian Languages Faculty organized many events and competitions during the International Day week.

Sport

We have been delighted by the enthusiasm shown by the students this term. Participation has been excellent. The range of sporting ASA activities has been significantly widened.

The Eighth Annual Jerudong International School Football Fun Day was held on Sunday 4th November under the auspices of the PTCG. Over 900 students from ten local government and private schools competed. Thank you to all parents who attended or donated books or food. Year 10 and 11 Food and Nutrition pupils baked over 300 muffins for sale at the event.

The boys Under 18 team managed to get to the final of the 7-a-side football competition in Phuket. They were narrowly beaten 1-0. The boys played superbly throughout the tournament. Rugby is prospering. In Singapore our team beat Tanglin 45-0, but lost to the Anglo-Chinese School. The boys played some excellent rugby and showed great character against ACS, battling through to the end against a very strong team. The season begins in earnest next term. School teams were winners in the Under 13 Cricket Festival organised by Brunei Cricket Association. At the time of writing the U13 FOBISSEA team is in Vietnam.

The House system has complemented the sports programme and thanks must go to the House Leaders who have ensured that these events have provided high levels of competition. Athletics Day was an outstanding success. Cross-country, football and athletics are all flourishing in the Middle School.

Next term we start our league programme against a number of local schools. We have been working to ensure that the Secondary Sports Association can develop and provide a league structure in a range of sports. Fixtures in boys football, basketball and netball all begin at the end of January.

Music

This was another busy and productive term for the Music Faculty with several major performances and another successful round of Trinity College Music Examinations.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the International Day Concert with over two hundred students performing in the gym. Students performed on a wide range of instruments including Gamelan and African drums; there were massed choirs and a pipe band. A diverse range of musical styles was experienced by an appreciative audience. Many congratulations go to Samuel King for his superb performance of Shostakovich's 2nd Piano Concerto.

Other events this term included the Junior Music Recital Evening, Y11 GCSE music trip to KL, an open rehearsal with the Cadaques Orchestra from Spain, special performances by the Drumline and String groups and the FOBISSEA music festival at the Empire Hotel. The term ended with performances by the rock bands at the 6th Form social, JIS idol and finally, on the last day of term, the House Music festival.

Next term promises to be an exciting one with the Music Faculty's Empire Gala Concert scheduled for Saturday March 8th and the orchestra's annual music trip to Singapore scheduled for 14th – 19th March 2008.

Penan

This term has brought increasing awareness of the plight of the Penan. Students from the JIS Helping Hands ASA are involved in an initiative to teach Penan children to read while their parents are receiving treatment at Limbang hospital. The Penan families stay in a hut nearby. During their stay families are also taught about basic health care and dental hygiene.

Each visit gives an opportunity to buy the handicrafts that the Penan make from rattan and bamboo. The Helping Hands team has been involved in selling these items at the school. All profit goes towards buying essential goods, equipment and food for the Penan.

Future initiatives will include producing greeting cards and gift tags, sending crafts back to New Zealand and the UK to sell and a raffle which will hopefully fund the purchase of a washing machine for the hut.

We now have the support of the local council and the social welfare department in Limbang. This is a significant step forward and bodes well for the future. The long-term goal is not to provide charity but to empower the Penan to help themselves. In the interim JIS students, teachers and parents are helping to provide the necessary support.

International Award

A presentation evening was held in October to congratulate our Year 13 Gold Award team on climbing Mount Kenya last July. Alvin Darwin had produced a marvellous DVD of the expedition and representatives from Shell, the major sponsor of this expedition, were present to make the awards. Bronze and Silver award expeditions took place later in the term. At the end of November Helen Olds and Jill Lopez took the 2008 Gold International Award group to Temburong. They walked 35km over two days and climbed Bukit Patoi. The group is shaping up well for the expedition to Kenya in July 2008.

Environmental Awareness

The Junior School Eco Kids and the Upper School Environmental Awareness ASA students have been working hard this term to raise awareness about recycling. We have a central recycling area at the canteen under a large banner and are able to recycle aluminium cans, plastic water bottles, and paper. We have placed paper recycling boxes in most classrooms. We successfully recycled most cans on Football Funday and the students are continuing to participate enthusiastically in the Junior and Middle School recycling competition held every Thursday morning. The Upper School students created and electronically distributed an information pamphlet outlining the reasons why we need to recycle and are working in partnership with the younger students to organise the recycling centre. The Eco Kids' next campaign will be to raise awareness of the destructive impact of plastic shopping bags. We will be selling stylish and reusable JIS Eco Kids grocery shopping bags in the near future. Please support us in this next campaign.

Higher Education and Careers

In November three Senior Tutors from Cambridge came to the school to interview JIS applicants and those from Maktab Duli. They met with senior officials from the Ministry of Education and undertook to visit Brunei for the next two years to interview applicants. Representatives from the University of Queensland (Australia), Queensland University of Technology (Australia), Monash University (Malaysia) and the University of British Columbia (Canada) have visited the school this term. The Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University (UK) will visit the JIS campus during December. Nine students are applying to US universities. The 'Careers Focus' this term has been on business and related subjects. There have been visits to the school by Baiduri Bank (Banking & Finance) and a JIS alumnus, Keeran Janin, (Entrepreneurial Skills for Brunei).

PTCG

The Parent Teacher Community Group (PTCG) has a new chairperson Sally Booley. She has kindly agreed to take over from Martin Walley, who has now been posted back to the UK.

The PTCG held a very successful family barbecue on Sunday 28th October 2007 at the JIS Boarding House. Football Funday is of course a PTCG event.

Next term we have the PTCG Quiz, the PTCG Golf Tournament and a Parent Forum. Please support these events. Details will be follow early next term.

Dates for 2008-2009

Academic Year 2008-2009, dates for Term 1 :	
Term Starts	Monday, 25 th August 2008
Half-term break	Saturday, 18 th to Sunday, 26 th October 2008
Term Finishes	Friday, 5 th December 2008

Term 2 begins on Monday 5th January 2009.

Next term

Term two begins at 7.40am on 7th January 2008. The Boarding houses will re-open at 6pm on Sunday 6th January 2008 (5pm for Miri parents coming by car). Car park stickers for next year can be collected from our Student Centre or Junior School office.

Thank you once again for all your support. Allow me to take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

John Price
Principal and Chief Executive