



15 March 2007

Dear Parent

The inspection of the school has begun. We were visited last week by Christine Ryan and Graham Nunn from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. They helped us with our preparations for the full inspection, which will begin in May. The Inspectorate sets high standards, which we nevertheless hope to meet. I am sure that the report will celebrate our successes as well as making constructive recommendations about areas for improvement.

The new boarding house is almost complete. We are delighted with the design and we look forward to it coming into operation in the next few months. There will be room for 64 pupils in the new block, giving a total of 210 boarding places at the school. There is no plan to move away from weekly boarding for the foreseeable future and we hope to attract more weekly boarders from Seria, Miri and Labuan in the coming years.

We have tendered the construction of new changing rooms and the laying out of a multi-purpose field between the new boarding house and Sixth Form centre. We hope that work will begin on this project in April. Other projects are in the pipeline and we look forward to receiving approval to tender these soon. JIS is making major investment in its facilities and we hope that our cultural and sporting programmes will soon be second to none in the region. The quality of our extra-curricular programme is impressive and the activities scarcely fit into the academic week.

The structure of Fridays caused some debate this term. It is difficult to marry together the needs of all constituencies in our community. I am well aware that a later departure from school for the boarders on Fridays would not be popular. On the other hand, we must have enough time for prayers and lunch. We must also have Friday as a full working day so that we have time to deliver a high quality academic and extra-curricular programme. The school is used increasingly after school and at weekends and many pupils remain at school until late in the afternoon, even on Fridays. This brings with it challenges as well as opportunities which we will seek to manage effectively. For the time being we will not make any changes to our existing arrangements except to attempt to improve parking arrangements at UBD and streamline departures from the boarding house. If we have to lengthen the lunch hour, we want to be able to demonstrate that buses can still leave by 3pm. Next term I shall try to work out a proposal which caters to everyone's needs as far as humanly possible.

The school now has 1276 pupils and continues to grow. I have recruited five additional teachers for August and there may be additional appointments next term. We have also secured the services of a swimming instructor and lifeguard. Catherine Magrie is qualified to train and examine our teachers in lifesaving skills and this will allow them to keep their qualifications up to date. We hope to run lifesaving courses at JIS for all interested parties in the community.

Inevitably fees are set to rise in the coming academic year. The school must continue to balance its books, at least operationally, and costs have risen substantially over the last two years since the last revision. Loans for capital investment must be serviced, teaching resources must be upgraded, the buildings must be maintained and staffing costs must be met. I believe that a JIS education is still extremely good value for money.

The fee increases for Years 8 to 13 which will come into effect on 1 August 2007 are as follows:

Year Level	Fees per annum
8, 9, 10 and 11	\$13,920
12 and 13	\$14,580

The fees for the Year 12 18 months programme which began in January 2007 are as follows:

Type of Fees	Per Program B\$	Semester 1 \$ Jan – Jun 2007	Semester 2 B\$ Jul – Dec 2007	Semester 3 B\$ Jan – Jun 2008
Tuition Fee	21,086	6,618	7,178	7,290
Boarding Fee	21,065	6,600	7,175	7,290

A full schedule of the new fees is attached to this letter. Boarding fees are also under review. It is quite likely that the boarding house fees will rise to \$13,920 with effect from 1 August 2007.

Environmental Activities

On Wednesday 10 March Professor David Bellamy visited the school and spoke to over 700 pupils, including Sixth Form delegations from Maktab Sains and UBD. We were delighted to welcome them to the talk. Professor Bellamy is very well known to British and Australian audiences. He is an excellent speaker and our pupils were spurred on to even greater efforts to protect Brunei's environment. Many thanks to David Taylor at ISB and the British High Commission for facilitating David Bellamy's visit.

Over the weekend of 2nd March, 20 JIS students were privileged to take part in the Borneo Global Issues Conference held at the ICC. This year's conference coincided with the launch of the Heart of Borneo project by the governments of Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia. The students listened to presentations by David Bellamy and Nobel Laureate Wangari Mathai; in the words of the delegates themselves, 'This was the best ever! We can't wait until next year's conference!' Thanks to all concerned in the preparations, and especially to our delegates.

Next term, the school's environment group is organising a series of events for Earth Day. The tree sponsorship and the tree planting scheme that was so popular last year will be one of the events, as will a beach clean up at Tungku Beach. Students will also be organising games on a recycling theme throughout the week. All of the activities will be aimed at increasing the students' awareness of environmental issues, both local and global.

Visit to Kuraman

Under the leadership of Jackie McLaren, one of our new housemistresses, some of the boarders visited Kuraman. This island is privately owned and is located about one hour by jet boat from the coast of Jerudong. The island supports two villages. The men scratch out a meagre living by fishing; the women sometimes find work in Labuan. Medical, dental care and schooling are almost non-existent. Children marry young and families are large. The life is one of subsistence, all be it on a beautiful tropical island. Over recent months various children and staff have been collecting clothes and other items to help the villagers. Many thanks to the Marine Centre staff at the Empire Hotel who provided free transport to deliver goods to the larger of the two villages. Jackie is hoping to repeat the journey next term, perhaps visiting the smaller of the settlements on the other side of the island. If you have any items you no longer need and would like bring them in to the Boarding House, the boarders will ensure they find a good home and make a real difference to someone in need.

Higher Education

UCAS: The great majority of our UCAS applicants already hold university offers. 80% of our applicants currently hold at least one offer from a 'Top 50' university, while 38% are holding at least one offer from a university in the top ten in the UK.

Higher Education Evening (January): Higher Education 'Passports' were prepared for the 135 members of Year 12 and distributed at the annual Higher Education Evening in January.

HE/Careers Carousel: In this annual event, all 370 students in Years 11, 12 and 13 had the opportunity to choose two HE or Careers talks from 35 alternatives provided by speakers from local institutions and businesses. Year 12 and 13 students participated in an additional session on writing personal statements.

Futurewise: Full reports from the Morrisby psychometric testing programme and one-to-one interviews were provided this term for the forty students who had enrolled in ISCO's Futurewise programme.

Music

The JIS orchestra consisting of 50 students gave an outstanding performance to the Korean Amway executives at the Empire theatre. The choir took part in a three day FOBISSEA Choral Festival at Alice Smith School in KL. 180 students from eight schools participated in the festival and after two very long days of rehearsing the students gave a polished public performance.

The term will end with the annual A Level Music recital in E5. The soloists, Nicole Ong (flute), Amarit Gill (violin), Evelyn Lee (flute) and Samuel King (piano) have been rehearsing hard to prepare for this.

At the end of term 30 students from the orchestra, jazz and concert bands will travel to Singapore for five days for the annual exchange with Tanglin Trust School.

The Kindergarten children have been learning about percussion instruments and singing songs about teddy bears, transport and Chinese New Year. Reception children have been learning about rhythm while playing a variety of percussion instruments and singing songs about dinosaurs. Year 1 pupils have been singing about famous stories such as "The Elves and the Shoemaker" and did an assembly performance of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". Year 2 pupils have been studying dynamics and duration, composing loud and quiet tunes on glockenspiels and chime bars, as well as discovering long and short notes on percussion instruments. Year 3 pupils have been learning about pitch, playing high and low notes on recorders, glockenspiels, chime bars and xylophones. Year 4s have been playing keyboards and learning about Chinese music. They composed a poem for Chinese New Year about dragons, which they set to music using a pentatonic (5-note) scale. Year 5s have been learning about Bruneian music and the Year 5 Gamelan Ensemble did a performance of "Dang Mengalait" in a Middle School Assembly. The Year 5 pupils are now studying hip hop music and writing a rap.

The Intermediate Orchestra has been rehearsing regularly and will perform their latest repertoire early in Term 3. The "Jerudong Singers" performed in the Whole School Music Assembly in Week 6 and are now concentrating on inspirational songs for the Celebration of Achievement Evening. All the Junior School Choirs have performed in assembly this term, singing songs from "High School Musical", fun action songs and songs about the jungle. They are now learning songs about conservation and recycling in preparation for the Earth Day assembly in Term 3.

This year's Junior School and Year 6 production is "Bugsy Malone" which will be performed in mid-May. The students have been working very hard learning their scripts and the lively, jazzy songs. It should be a great show!

Sport

The Rugby teams' performances in the Brunei cup competitions are impressive. The Under 17 boys were runners up in their competition. They were beaten by an excellent SOAS team in the final, but they scored well nevertheless. The Under 15s won their competition with the tightest of margins, beating KB Pythons 25-24, in a game where the lead changed several times. Pictures of the finals are available on the school web site. The football teams have continued to play well and are unbeaten at this stage. Commitment from the players has been excellent.

There have also been house events in football and swimming this term. The swimming gala was split into two competitions this year: one competition for the advanced swimmers and a second for the less experienced. There were excellent performances all round. For the first time ever two houses tied for first place. Congratulations go to Blue and Green House. Congratulations must also go to the following students who were the best swimmers for their age group:

Years 6 and 7	Anderson Lim and Tiffany Liew
Year 8	Brendan Ho and Amanda Liew
Years 9 and 10	Samuel Wong and Maria Kho
Year 11	Edwin Silva Das and Ashleigh Martin
Years 12 and 13	Mike De Laat and Rebecca Cross

Our Netball and Basketball teams start the league programmes next term. Competitions will run at Under 17 and Under 15 levels.

Netball Funday

17 schools took place in this event, in four age categories. Our U/18 team were runners-up, losing by 1 point to ISB, but both the U/11 and U/15 teams won the trophy for their age group.

Photos of our latest sports events are available on the JIS web-site

Primary Athletics Day

On Friday 9th March the Junior School held their annual sports and athletics day. Kindergarten to Year 2 games were held in the school gymnasium. The races were very exciting and all the students and parents had plenty of fun. Green House were the winners.

The Juniors (Year 3 - Year 5) competed on the field in athletics events such as the javelin, high jump, 100m and relay. Despite the hot weather all the students competed enthusiastically and there were some memorable performances on the day.

Athletics Individual Champions

		Year	Boys	Girls
1 st	Red			
2 nd	Blue	3	Tim Wienecke	Nadia Brooks
3 rd	Yellow	4	Ryan Moran	Marina Isa-Kalebic
4 th	Green	5	James Lawrey	Apreetha Silva Das

School Trips

In February, fourteen GCSE and A-Level Drama students spent their half-term break in London, braving the cold weather. Excursions included a flight on the London Eye, an open-air sightseeing bus tour, a trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and a few hours of rubbing shoulders with the stars at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. Theatre visits included trips to long-running musicals Blood Brothers, Chicago and Les Miserables, as well as the award-winning Monty Python musical Spamalot and the hair-raising ghost story The Woman In Black.

The fifth annual Humanities trip to Singapore took place in February. 26 Year 9 students had the opportunity to improve their historical and geographical knowledge of Singapore and SE Asia. The students visited the Asian Civilisations Museum, the Battlebox, Fort Siloso, Chinatown, the Singapore Discovery Centre and explored the Singapore River. Of course, Orchard Road and Singapore's hawker centres were also on the itinerary. The students were excellent ambassadors for JIS.

A group of 18 Product Design students travelled to the UK for a study trip over the February half term. They visited universities, schools, a factory, an architect's office and sites of architectural, design and engineering interest. The schools and a university are interested in working on exchanges and joint projects. It was a great pleasure to meet up with several graduates from JIS now studying in London, and to sample the very special hospitality of Brunei Hall.

Sixteen intrepid AS Level Geographers set off to Temburong after lunch on Thursday 8th of March and managed to pack an amazing amount of activity into three and a half days, leaving the staff who accompanied them extremely impressed with their attitude and effort.

International Award

Twelve Gold Award students have been working hard to secure sponsorship and help establish the award at this level, both at JIS and within Brunei for the first time. Brunei Shell Petroleum, DST and Grand Motors have all agreed to give sponsorship, allowing the students to focus their attentions on training and preparation for their trip to Kenya in June, where they will complete the Expedition and Residential service elements of the programme. Recently the students completed a weekend training exercise in the Temburong area, working on their map skills, walking fitness and camp craft. During the last weekend of January a number of Year 10, 11 and sixth form students embarked upon the final expedition for the International Award Bronze Level. The expedition took place amongst the swamps and forests near Bukit Udal, south of Tutong. In small groups accompanied by a local guide and another guide provided by MonaFloraFauna Tours Brunei, the students crossed various forms of challenging terrain, encountering many different forms of Bornean wildlife from vampire pitcher plants to green pit vipers. They camped out amongst the trees, entertained each other with a high brow talent show and then braved the torrential downpour on Sunday morning. All the students did very well, including one who returned from Malaysia just to join us. Our thanks go to Jungle Dave and all at MonaFloraFauna Tours for their invaluable assistance.

Debating

Our JIS Malay Debate Team made its first appearance at the Brunei Inter-School Debate Competition on 7th and 8th March 2007 held at the SM PAP Hjh Masna, Lambak. The competition was open to all students in Year 10, 11, 12, and 13. The first encounter was with the defending champions, Maktab Sains (Maktab Sains Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan). They did not win, but they put in an excellent performance. Hakeemah Ariffin in Year 10 was chosen as the best speaker in the competition on 8th March. Our Year 10 debaters' egos have been boosted and they are now determined to be the champions in the near future.

News from the schools

As usual the Junior School has been very busy this term. All the students enjoyed the Underwater Disco which was organised and run by the School Council. Proceeds from the disco continue to support our Animal Adoption Scheme. At the moment we are the proud 'parents' of an orang hutan, a tiger, a panda, a rhinoceros, a dolphin and an elephant! We are looking forward to Earth Day next term too.

We have had Athletics Day for Kindergarten to Year 5 and the children have been involved in a Food Focus Week highlighting the need for a healthy lunchbox. Children from Year 2 upwards were enthralled to hear about the exploits of Sir David Bellamy when he visited the school last week. Our new Mouse Class is going well and numbers are set to rise after the holiday. We have therefore appointed a new teaching assistant to support this class. Individual year groups have been on a variety of trips this term and our junior classrooms are looking particularly bright and colourful at the moment with lots of children's work on display.

In the Middle School 38 new students joined us in Term 2.

There has been the normal eclectic range of topics covered in assemblies with students taking a leading role. We have had traditional dances from home countries, modern dancing and countless individual musical items.

We have had Parent-Teacher Interviews for the whole of Middle School. There were many constructive conversations. The Year 8 Parent – Teacher Evening was combined with a Year 9 Subject Choice Presentation. All of the students in Year 8 have made their choices and we will now use this information to help to plan for next year.

Please note that 21 – 25th May will be the week of the Middle School Internal Exams (including the Year 6 SATs).

Years 7 and 8 and Foreign Language Chinese Language students visited the Chung Hwa School in Bandar on 2nd February 2007 as part of the Chinese New Year celebration. The students had the opportunity to watch a Chinese Calligraphy demonstration by a local calligraphy master, Mr. Yu. The staff and students also had a chance to meet staff and students from other schools in Brunei.

Life continues to be eventful and entertaining in the Upper School. We have had a number of lively assemblies but the most impressive had to be the show put on by the Latin American students. Once again we were reminded of how culturally rich our student body is, and how remarkably willing they are to organise such events.

Year 10 recently enjoyed a visit to Tungku beach. A combination of good weather, tasty barbequing and entertaining games made this a very pleasant afternoon. The Year 9 Activities afternoon took place on site. The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the treasure hunt which saw students dashing around the school in search of elusive clues.

Life in Year 11 has been very busy as students prepare for their GCSE examinations. Coursework deadlines have caused some stress. Parents are reminded that Year 11 students can seek extra support in the homework clubs, run after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Mr. Bourbon and Mr. Flynn. Parents will receive the Final Report during the forthcoming holiday and we ask you to read this carefully. Teachers have been at pains to provide students with specific advice which will help them with their revision programme and examination preparation.

It has been another busy term in the Sixth Form. January was dominated by the AS Level and A2 Level external modular examinations. We welcomed 16 new JIS students onto the 18 month A Level course in January and they enjoyed a team building/science activities trip to the Empire Hotel as part of their induction to the school. We have seven Ministry of Defence cadets in the Sixth Form and we were proud to see these boys graduate from their military training in February.

We have followed the theme of 'People who changed the World' in our Sixth Form assemblies and we have had some fascinating talks on Earnest Shackleton and George Bush. The Sixth Form Student Council has been busy with fund raising events this term: Valentine's Day Rose A Grams and Candy Grams and the Sixth Form Social at the Empire Hotel. We have presented cheques to Sukadamai School in Kalimantan and to the 'And Albert' Foundation, supported by Professor David Bellamy.

Counsellor

Jane Pyrgos has been delivering a programme of child protection training to all staff in school. A summary policy is available on the website in the 'parent folder'. A parent workshop 'Parenting Challenges from a Counselling Perspective' was held in Panaga at the end of January. More than 40 parents attended a session which looked at the effects counselling approaches can have if applied to parenting practice. The success of the workshop was largely due to the tireless enthusiasm and practical help from parents Jayne Eliassen and Sharon Bray, and our thanks goes to them. Miri will see the next parent workshop, to be held on Thursday, 3rd May, 6 - 8.30pm with a focus on emotional literacy and boarding. Full details will be circulating shortly.

PTCG

The PTCG has been busy this term. On Thursday, 8 February, the annual PTCG Quiz night was held at the Royal Brunei Yacht Club, Kota Batu. Special thanks to our Quiz master, Andrew French, who put together an entertaining and challenging quiz for staff and parents. Our thanks to the Empire Hotel for sponsorship of prizes. A parent forum was held on Wednesday, 28 February. The PTCG holds the meetings to allow parents an opportunity to discuss issues about the school. The third event, Netball Funday, was held on Sunday, 11 March. This girls-only competition is growing bigger every year. 12 schools participated this year. The support from parents was encouraging. Thank you to Pizza Hut for their sponsorship of this event.

Forthcoming events

International Science Competition 2007

The annual International Science Competition will take place on Tuesday, 24 April 2007. Entry forms with more information are available from tutors or the Science faculty. This is a very prestigious International competition that gives pupils the opportunity to compete against other students from all round the world.

Design and Technology Conference

JIS will host a Design and Technology Conference later this year. In conjunction with FOBISSEA and the Ministry of Education, the D&T Faculty will be inviting D&T teachers from all over South East Asia to join us and share good practice in Design Education from Primary to Sixth form level. Leading Design education speakers and equipment suppliers from the UK and other countries will be joining us in this exciting new venture for FOBISSEA.

Higher Education & Careers Conference at JIS July 2008

JIS will host a three day conference in July 2008, led by Simon Clarke, Regional Director of ISCO (Independent Schools Careers Organisation). Its purpose is to provide challenging and stimulating 'work experience' across a range of fields for students in this region. FOBISSEA and local schools will be invited to send delegates.

Ski Trip

18 students (Years 7 to 13) are very much excited about the prospect of skiing down the Swiss pistes, as well as visiting the city of Geneva. Many of the students involved are complete beginners and some have never even seen snow before! The journey starts on 16th March for 10 days, and the snow forecast is very favourable.

JIS Open Golf Tournament 2007

Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club, Jerudong on Saturday 14th April. The cost is B\$100. Tee off at 7 am. Details and entry forms are in the JIS Newsletter or available in the school Stationery shop. Entry forms with payment are due by 11th April. The JIS Open Golf Tournament 2007 is a PTCG event and is proudly sponsored by the DST Group.

Not bad for ten weeks. I wish everyone a very happy holiday.

Yours sincerely

John Price
Principal/Chief Executive