



### AFRICAN CHILDRENS' CHOIR

Last Saturday night saw SJP host an event unique in its history. Twenty five orphaned children from Kenya and Uganda performed a night of liturgical and traditional song as part of a nationwide tour to raise funds for children like them.

A full house of almost 400 people were delighted by the children's talent and candour. Though these children are poor materially, they made up for this in an abundance of spirituality. The aim of the event was twofold: to raise awareness of Third World life in Africa and to enable us to make a small contribution in alleviating their poverty.

Many thanks to all the host families who welcomed the children into their own homes for the week that they were here. My thanks are also due to Miss Jodie Stott (HOD Music) for making this wonderful event possible. We hope that this will be the first of many visits to come.

A date for your diary – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006  
Christmas Fair – **"Here Comes Christmas"**

Tickets for signed Everton and Liverpool shirts are now available in the build up to our big event, which will raise money for the running costs of our new College Minibus.

We are asking for your help in providing goods for our "bric a brac" stall. Have a sort out over half term looking for the following items in good condition: Games, DVDs, Books, CDs, Console Games, Ornaments. Please send in your goods with your son/daughter after half term and hand them in to Reception. We are not in a position to accept clothing.

Thank you for your support.

### SPORTS REPORT

#### Cross Country

Congratulations to Daniel James, Ryan Mullen and Vicky Hoey, who all represented the school in the Merseyside Schools Cross Country League last Saturday. Well done to Daniel who ran excellently by winning the U13 boys race, and to Ryan who finished 16<sup>th</sup>. Well done to Vicky who finished 37<sup>th</sup> in the girls' U14s. Let's increase the participation in this event next month. Training is on a Monday and Friday lunchtime.

#### Girls Football

Thirteen U13s represented the school in girls' football a week last Wednesday, in a Merseyside cup match away in Liverpool. Unfortunately the team found St Julie's too strong, however a huge amount of experience was gained and we look forward to the next match! Training is on a Wednesday lunchtime and Thursday after school 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Yrs 7,8&9).

### LEARNING TO LEARN

A packed Hall welcomed Andrew Newton last night for a powerful Learning to Learn session. In a thought-provoking presentation, our speaker entertained us while exploring important questions, such as, how the brain works, how our memories work and how we can make the most of our revision programme in the run-up to exams.

We will certainly remember to check those exam results next Summer!

## HEAD LINES

### ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING 2006/07

Following extensive consultation, I am pleased to report some changes in how we report your child's progress to you.

1. We intend to report six times per year, at the following times: November 06, January 07, March 07, May 07, June 07, July 07.
2. The reports will be in a revised format, providing you with more information. In particular, we will now report the level or grade your child is currently working at, as well as continuing to provide you with an end of year target and an end of Key Stage target. In addition, we will continue to report an effort grade.
3. We also intend to go back to "traditional" parental meetings, where you will have the opportunity to meet your child's subject teachers. We intend to do this according to the format used successfully over the last three years, i.e., by closing the College for the day for those pupils not involved in meetings. To this end, the College will be open for a Consultation Day on 8<sup>th</sup> November for parents and children in Years 9&10. All other Pupils will be on study leave for this day. This process will be repeated on 24<sup>th</sup> January for parents and pupils in Years 7&8.
4. In addition, we intend to send out to you a new type of report which we are confident will provide you with even more information on your child's progress. Our Learning Coaches are currently busy meeting with all of our pupils to develop what we call an Achievement Portfolio. The Portfolio profiles your child's academic progress to date and is based upon an interview with his or her Learning Coach, leading to an Achievement Plan. It is our intention henceforth to set termly targets for your child based upon his/her progress and to publish these targets to you each term, in addition to the six assessment reports. This will provide you with 9 separate pieces of information regarding your child's progress.
5. Along with each Achievement Plan published, there will be an invitation to you to visit the College to discuss your child's progress with us. You may take up this invitation at any time during the academic year.

6. Throughout the year we will also be holding a "Take your work home day", when pupils will be invited to take home all of their books and work in a bag provided by the College. You will be invited to sample your child's work and our assessment of it and make comments on how you think we can help your child to meet his or her targets.
7. Please also look out for our new Website, which will be launched in early November 2006 at [www.stjohnplessington.com](http://www.stjohnplessington.com). Our Website will contain a wealth of information for parents and pupils and, not least, our interactive Learning Programmes, which as usual will contain web links to resources that will aid your child in wider research.

I hope that the improvements in assessment and communication outlined above will enable your child to fulfil his or her academic potential at the College.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our warmest congratulations go to Emily Case, Year 9, who was presented this week with a certificate for her calmness and determination under pressure. Emily came to the aid of a man who suffered an epileptic fit on Ainsdale Beach. Well done Emily! The College is very proud of you.



### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tom McKeown from Year 11, who has been selected to play for Cheshire U16 A Team as Tighthead Prop. He is the only boy from this area to be selected for the A Team. This is a tremendous achievement. He is currently attending trials for Sale Academy. We wish him every success. Well done Tom!

## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTS SOLVING REAL WORLD PROBLEMS

Each September a new worldwide challenge is announced, relating Robotics to real world issues for 9-16 year olds. This year the theme is Nanotechnology and the ICT department are looking to put together a team of 10 pupils to enter the North West Regional Tournament to be in early December. We will be looking for two pupils from each year group.

The team will work together to build a robot and program it to fulfil the tasks that the challenge demands. It is a timed event and the more tasks the robot completes, the more points are awarded. The team will also need to research an aspect of Nanotechnology and to present their findings in an imaginative way to a panel of judges.

Pupils who feel up to the challenge and who feel they can work well with a team should ask Mr Harvey or Mr Leicester in the ICT Department for more details on how to apply. We are looking to get the team together for this in the first week after the half term break.

### THEME FOR THE WEEK

Outward signs of faith have been a hot topic in the news these last few weeks. There have been disputes over the wearing of veils by Muslim women or by wearing a cross as a piece of jewellery by Christians. These disputes can be upsetting to people of faith who feel that these symbols are important.

The wearing of crosses as an item of jewellery by Christians has been a hot topic in the news these last few weeks. Some people who are allowed to wear jewellery in their workplace have been asked to remove a necklace in the shape of a cross. Many have felt very hurt that this outward symbol of their Christian faith has been criticised.

While faith symbols are important, we should not seek to be recognised as Christians by the mere fact of wearing a cross around our necks. Our outward symbol of our faith should be the way we behave, the way we treat people... the way we live out our life of faith. That is much more difficult that wearing a piece of jewellery.

*Heavenly Father,  
We pray that our faith will be visible to other people  
through our deeds and words.*

*Amen*

### WINTER UNIFORM 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006 – APRIL 2007

Many thanks to you all for supporting the introduction of our new uniform this half term. Pupils and Students have worn their uniform with great pride and I have received numerous letters singing the praises of our Pupils and how smart they look. I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention that after the half term break our Winter uniform begins.

For pupils in Years 7-11, the V-necked jumper becomes compulsory. Pupils may wear either the full sleeve version or the tank top version. These are available through our usual stockists.

A further reminder that it is school policy for an outdoor coat to be worn. Please note, hooded or tracksuit tops are not allowed. Tights are optional for girls – black or navy opaque, or they can continue to wear socks if they so choose.

Thank you, once again, for supporting the College in our efforts to make our children the pride of the Wirral.

### NUMERACY BRAINTEASER

Some boys and girls have £32 between them. Each boy has £3 and each girl £5. How many boys were there?

Answers to Miss Hodges in B12 by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006.

All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for W H Smiths.

### HOUSE POINT CORNER

	Weekly total as at 13/10/06					Overall Total To date
	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	
<b>Bernadette</b>	20	40	40	11	13	547
<b>Bosco</b>	24	45	52	19	11	562
<b>Hume</b>	19	34	406	18	6	467
<b>Kolbe</b>	17	33	38	20	14	574
<b>Romero</b>	40	41	24	16	20	550
<b>Teresa</b>	23	51	25	14	7	534