

A very full year has gone by even more quickly than usual it seems. Once again the busy Summer Term has concluded the year on a high. This year was, as I said at Mrs Mascarenhas's Valedictory Mass, one of mixed emotions. There is always a tinge of sadness as we see Year 6 move on and we record the departure of staff from the school. This year we say farewell to Miss Michelle Cleary and Miss Stephanie Hughes. Our best wishes go with them as they move to other areas and we extend our thanks to them for their contributions to St James the Great over their year with us. We are also sad to see Mrs Mascarenhas leave us after 23 years loyal service to the school. I know she was very pleased with the send off given to her to mark her retirement. I am, however, greatly reassured by her promise to maintain strong links with the school. We wish her well in all her future endeavours. The term and year ended in the traditional way with our Leavers' Mass and Assemblies. Both provided different but excellent farewells to the children concerned and we wish them well in their new schools as follows:-

**Bishop Thomas Grant**

Adelia Aldred  
Shannon Ffrench  
Sophie Golding Spittle  
Kyle Hickey  
Stephen Tucker

**Coloma**

Olivia Abreo  
Elizabeth Cotzias  
Rebecca Desa  
Tashinga Garwe  
Sharaine McCallum  
Sinead O'Brien  
Chloe Payen  
Ego Uche  
Cristina Zenaó

**Old Palace**

Camilla Khoshokhan

**The Hayes**

Sophie McElhinney

**Thomas More**

Daisy Bause  
Rochelle Williams

**St Joseph's**

Micheal Gater  
Joseph Grech  
Peter Jones  
Sean Kelly  
Adrian Lemince  
Liam McCready  
Conor Reynolds  
Aaron Robertson

**St Philomena's**

Jessica Badu  
Leisha Boreland  
Amilia Csepregi  
Liane Da Cruz  
Rosie Flavin  
Stephanie Greenslade  
Charlotte Gumley  
Grace Humphreys  
Megan Humphreys

**Wilsons**

Steven Dodd  
Sam Elliott  
Edgar Khoo  
Alexander Stevenson

**St Gregory's**

Jack Hughes

**The John Fisher School**

Diarmuid Collins  
Mark D'Sa  
Adam Green  
Jordan Liard  
Robert Pollock  
Sean Rooney  
Daniel Wright

**St Philomena's**

Emilie Jones  
Sierah Mansaray  
Chenel Marshall  
Helen McManamon  
Nanette Turkson

**The London Oratory**

Lawrence Amajuoyi  
James Fownes  
Alexander Love  
James Rogers

**Virgo Fidelis**

Onyinyechi Egole  
Nyangi Pindi  
Rhian Steadman

**Westwood Girls' School**

Adrienne Khan  
Sherleta Wallace

I would like to thank everyone on the staff for their fantastic work over the year and for their support of all of this term's events/functions which place an enormous demand on their time. In this last two weeks in particular I do not think any of us have seen much of our homes. Sheila, Linda, Polina and Betty have responded to the regular catering demands during this time with great dedication and I would thank them for this. My thanks also to the Friends Association for their support and efforts over the year which has also been successful for them. By way of a final summary I would report on:

**SUMMER BARBECUE**

A great success with nearly 400 in attendance. Regretfully for the first time for some time I had to miss the event due to another commitment. It was good, however, to hear that everyone had a good night. Thank you to the Friends Association Committee for rounding off the year's social calendar so well.

**FOOTBALL PRESENTATION EVENING**

Again well attended. This evening recognised the success achieved by this Saturday morning group in producing not only a very successful school team but also in providing opportunities for all children to take part and develop great teamwork. My thanks again to the team of Dads, and Mum, who brave early Saturday mornings through the winter – it is appreciated.

**SPORTS DAY**

The consensus was that this was a great day, albeit the hottest of the year. Thank you to the parents for ensuring the children were well prepared for the day with PE kit, hats, sunscreen and water. I am grateful to the staff for ensuring the children were taken in and out of the shade as appropriate and to the Friends Association and parents for erecting the marquee and gazebos to provide additional shelter on the day. The picnic atmosphere over the lunchtime and numbers in attendance greatly enhanced the day – thank you. Those of you who took a school lunch appeared to enjoy the menu of the day – thank you to all kitchen staff for organising this. With only two minor sickness incidents reported from the heat I think all can be pleased. Thanks also to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong for organising the events programme so well. The final results were:-

Blue Team:	846
Green Team:	737
Yellow Team:	695
Red Team:	691

By way of a footnote to this day a small group of parents expressed to me some concern that the children were not under cover throughout the day. In the event of another scorcher we will keep this balance under review.

The Friends Association again came up trumps providing refreshment facilities throughout the day. Thank you.

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**IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN CRICKET?**

Do you want your son/daughter to play for their County/Country? Well this could be the first step to that dream. The Surrey Cricket Board are running Four Nation courses for 6 year olds to under 10's in October 2003. Application forms are available on request from Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong.

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**Mrs Mascarenhas's Retirement**

Mrs Mascarenhas has asked me to relay her thanks to everyone and accordingly I am happy to reproduce her letter to you all as follows:-

Dear Parents

Many thanks to all those who attended my Retirement Party. I was overwhelmed by the turnout and the warmth and sincerity of everyone. It was a truly memorable occasion and I will treasure the memories forever.

I would also like to extend my thanks for your generosity towards me. The Lladro gift together with the cheque was gratefully accepted. I will never forget you all at St James the Great and I hope that you will always be supportive of the school and your children.

I have been honoured to have worked at this school. The children are remarkable in every sense of the word. I will keep you in my prayers each day. Thank you once again for your friendship.

God bless you all.

Leah Mascarenhas

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**PARENTS' ICT CLASS**

We would like to confirm that this class will resume in September and details will be issued at the start of the new term.

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**OFSTED INSPECTION**

I have been advised that our school is due for its next inspection during the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003. I am waiting to hear from the lead inspector, Ms Pauline Lyseight-Jones, regarding the arrangements for the inspection, parents' meeting etc. Parental input into this process is very important and we will advise parents accordingly in the new academic year.

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**YEAR 5**

All Year 5 children have today been issued with the local authority's secondary information transfer book and preference form. Please take time to read through this information. You do not need to do anything at this time as details of secondary school open days will be issued with a supporting letter

early in the Autumn Term. You will also have an opportunity to discuss secondary transfer at the Autumn term open evening.

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**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Whether you are at home or abroad we send our good wishes to you for a restful break and on behalf of the staff I would extend a big thank you to you all for the many thank you gifts received.

