

The Seagull



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HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

School closure

On reflection, I can honestly say that the last few weeks have been the most challenging I have ever experienced during my career. The issues that we have faced have moved so rapidly and had such major implications that they have demanded all my experience and the commitment of my staff to ensure we meet the needs of all members of the JRCS community.

Without doubt one of the hardest things has been to support students with the uncertainty about their futures when the Summer examinations have been cancelled. We are doing everything possible to make sure that our Year 11 and our Year 13 students have access to high quality revision materials whilst they are not in school. The Government have not yet made it clear what form assessment will take for these students, but it is of paramount importance they continue to work and revise hard at the current time.

We are, however, open over the coming weeks to support students and families who need us at this time. We are also open to all students who are in receipt of Free School Meals at 12:30pm every week day during term time. If you wish for your son or daughter to come into school to eat at this time please email their name and form to office@jorichardson.org.uk

Please make sure that you keep an eye on our website and follow us on Twitter at: @JRCS_School so we can keep you updated over the coming weeks.

One of the hardest things to do over the past few days has been to say a premature

goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We hope to see them back in school before the end of the summer term to give us an opportunity to celebrate their time at JRCS in a proper fashion.

Finally, I want to personally thank the fantastic members of staff at JRCS who have done everything within their power to make sure that all our students have everything they need at this difficult time. So many of them have gone and will continue to go above and beyond in the efforts they have made to ensure that our students get the very best care, guidance and support.

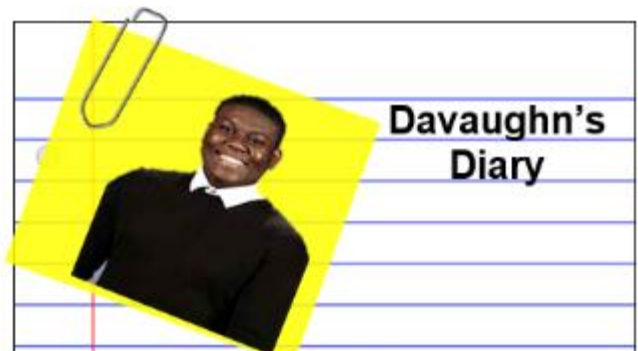
This may be the last Seagull for a while and I wish you all good health at this difficult time.

Best wishes.

Mr Smith
Headteacher



GENERAL NEWS



Farewell (for now hopefully)

All things must come to an end; unfortunately, this has come about too quickly. I would have never thought that my last year of staying at this school would come to an abrupt end like this. It seems so surreal and sudden to possibly end of my school career in this fashion after seven years of attending

here. Going from Year 7, being giddy about this secondary school life and going all the way to GCSEs in Year 11 thinking that it is the be-all and end-all. Finally, my Sixth Form life has been the best two years in my school life. I've had too many good memories in this school as well as a few bad ones (we do not focus on those) from school trips to banter with friends, but that all seems to come to an end without any of the Year 13s, or Year 11s for that matter, and we haven't made peace with it yet.

With school closing (but legally staying open) due to the Coronavirus, to be honest the whole of 2020 has been madness, with WW3 threats and the Australian fires, and the deaths of legends such as Kobe Bryant, Pop Smoke who only started to blow up this year and is 20 years old. The virus taking a turn for the worse as well as locusts plaguing East Africa right now and storms coming from nowhere, as well as the panic shopping. It seems inevitable that the Government had to take action and close down schools because of this pandemic.

I'm trying not to make this any more sentimental than it already is and on behalf of all the Year 13 students, I would like to give my thanks to all the teachers who have taught us over these years and a special thanks to Big Mr Smith for supporting us (me in particular) over these years and a special thanks to our Head of Year Miss Campbell, our Head of Sixth Form Mrs Wren as well as Mrs Evans for being like parents to us and taking us through our final school career journey before going our separate ways. God permitting, I hope that this won't be my last article for The Seagull, but for now, sayonara.

Davaughn Year 13

LIFE

Last week Princesa attended a LIFE Course at Barking and Dagenham Fire Station. She was there for four days where she learnt how to safely use the equipment of the fire services, put fires out, rescue people and perform the recovery position. Along with all these skills, Princesa also learnt many valuable life skills including leadership, communication and teamwork, which she displayed throughout the entire week. On Thursday all of the students involved had a passing out ceremony where they demonstrated to family members, teachers

and friends what they had learnt. I had the privilege of going along to watch Princesa in her passing out ceremony.



Well done Princesa, keep up the good work!

Miss Jones
PE Department

Cooking Club



Last week the students made Thai green curry with rice. The students were amazed at all the different components that went into the curry such as coconut milk and Thai fish sauce, kaffir lime leaves, basil, and green curry paste. They really enjoyed the session on this Asian dish.

The week before last the students cooked the Italian dish carbonara. A little history of the dish: The whole story of the origin of this dish

and its place in cucina romana is vague. The origin of carbonara is much discussed, yet no one really knows. There are several competing theories, but all are anecdotal. First, although thought of as a typical Roman dish, the name is said to come from a dish made in the Apennine Mountains of the Abruzzo by woodcutters who made charcoal for fuel. They would cook the dish over a hardwood charcoal fire and use penne rather than spaghetti because it is easier to toss with the eggs and cheese.

The students really enjoyed this dish and there was a great deal of positive feedback from the parents. Thanks again to Ms Deboo and Mrs Moffatt for their support and well done to the students for doing so well.

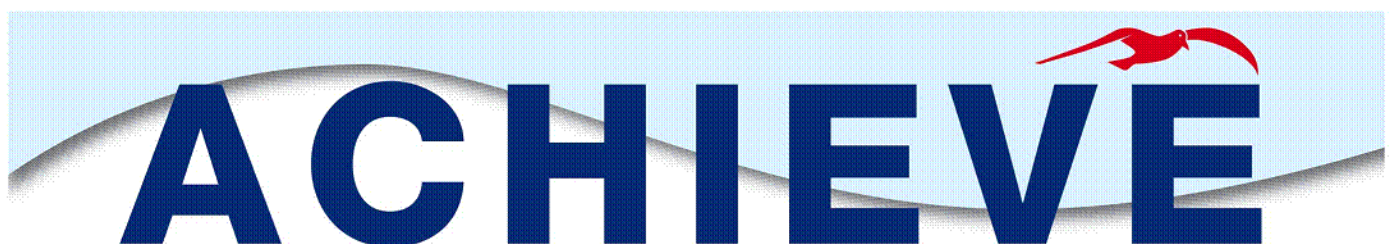
Mr Hargraves
Food and Catering

Cross Country



Year 7-10 took part in Borough Cross Country last week. Year 10 Girls achieved 3rd overall, while the Year 7s performed excellently on their first time at the event.

Mr Coupland
PE Department





JRCS 200 word challenge

Read It

synthesise

Define It

1. To combine/piece together different elements
2. To pull together information from different sources.

Digging Deeper:

Synthesis is a skill you already use in many of the subjects you study in school. In chemistry, synthesis is the process of using elements or simple compounds to form more complex substances, e.g. combining sodium and chloride to form sodium chloride. When you read, one of the skills you actively use (perhaps without realising!) is to synthesise information from different parts of the book or passage. To synthesise is to build a new whole by combining different information, facts, or components. Note the grammatically correct British English spelling of the word, which ends in 'ise' rather than the American English 'synthesize'. Either spelling would be recognised and understood in English, but the two different endings reflect the 'house style' of English used in the two different countries.

Draw It

On the whiteboard/paper/ mini whiteboards

Use It

1. The exam required students to **synthesise** information from two sources.
2. The drug was first **synthesised** in 1945.

Link It

Report back next week: how did you find ways to link this word to your learning in different subjects?

Deconstruct It

Stems from the Greek root words:

- *syn* – 'together'
- *tythenai* – 'to put, to place'