



# REPORT

ISSUE 34

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EDUCATION RENAISSANCE TRUST

JULY 2019

## Since we last wrote...

- ❖ We've continued our 2-year grant to fund St James Johannesburg's (wonderfully efficient) Executive Head.
- ❖ Paul and Penny Moss, our education consultants, have visited our family-member schools in Melbourne, Sydney and Johannesburg.
- ❖ Funded by ERT, two teachers from the Alma Mater School in Budapest spent 2 days with St James School in London.
- ❖ We sponsored a St James Prep School, London, pupil to join her class's Bushcraft week.
- ❖ We also sponsored two boys at St James Senior Boys School on their Year 10 trip to Italy.
- ❖ We continue to support Little Stars School in Varanasi, India with grants for teachers and for its students' hostel.
- ❖ We've agreed to sponsor a post-graduate intern in the St James, London, Sanskrit Department.
- ❖ We continue to receive generous donations and legacies to help make all these things happen. Thank you!

## Good news from Ireland

Last year the trustees agreed to pay the first year's salary of the head of John Scottus School's proposed new pre-school. With the proviso that 15 parents signed up, ensuring the school's success.

They've done better! 18 children will be starting school in September, under the care of Elizabeth Dempsey, headmistress.

The school will combine pre-school and primary reception class in a beautiful purpose-built wooden building in the grounds of John Scottus's re-located secondary school outside Dublin.

## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Alan Marshall has been a valued trustee of the ERT for many years. He is also an expert professional photographer. He and his wife Valerie are currently busy with a major book project for the ERT: a book of telling images of the whole St James family of schools around the world.

Each school will be asked to contribute some text about itself, and every school will get a copy. For the schools we support, the fact of belonging to this unique world-wide family is special. Not least to prospective parents.

So far, Alan and Valerie have visited Trinidad, where Alan took photos at the Renaissance School and its nursery school partner the Children's House. At the end of May they were in South Africa, visiting the two St James's in Johannesburg and Durban, as well as Masibambane College, Johannesburg.

They will go on to visit Erasmus School in Melbourne, and John Colet School in Sydney, Australia, as well as Ficino School in New Zealand. In Europe they will go to the Alma Mater School in Budapest, Hungary, and John Scottus School in Dublin, Ireland, and of course the founder St James Schools in London. They also intend to visit Little Stars School in Varanasi, India, newest to the family.

So it promises to be a wonderful book! Here is a sample image: two pupils in Mr Jones's geography lesson in St James School, Johannesburg.



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Registered Charity No.10624790

The Education Renaissance Trust promotes schools and supports teachers around the world who provide a spiritually-based education. This ERT newsletter REPORT is published twice a year, to keep friends and supporters in touch with our work. If you no longer wish to receive it, please contact the editor, Hugh Venables.

Under new data protection regulations we are obliged to let you know what data we hold about you. The ERT database contains names, addresses, and if we know them, phone numbers and email addresses. If you are a donor, we also keep a record of your donations. This information is held on Hugh Venables' computer which is protected against virus attacks. We do not share your data with anyone else.

## BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS

delegates to the ERT's ninth International Teachers Conference will be packing their suitcases and looking out their passports.

'Education & Freedom' runs from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at the glorious Villa Bocella, near Lucca, Italy. As usual, it is led by Paul Moss, ERT's inspirational education consultant, with an impressive team of tutors and catering volunteers.



This year's conference is the biggest yet, with over 70 taking part. Almost all the St James worldwide family of schools are participating, together with colleagues from other schools in the UK and representatives of the Independent Schools Association. Delegates will have chosen a subject group to join, from Art, Classical Studies, Sanskrit and Speech & Drama. They will take what they gather from these sessions and the conference as a whole back to their classrooms in September. We'll bring you a full report of the conference in the next newsletter.



Geometry tutor Tom Bree

## Absorbing the ethos

Dora and Viola, teachers at Alma Mater School in Budapest, recently spent two days at St James Prep and St James Senior Girls School in London. Afterwards they wrote: *"We were amazed by the calmness and collectedness of the very safe, loving and supported atmosphere we have never met before in any schools. We learned a lot, and we just hope more of our colleagues will get the chance to visit St James. The teachers in St James are very welcome to visit our school in Budapest!"*

## AN OPEN DAY IN JOHANNESBURG

In May Paul and Penny Moss, ERT's education advisers, spent a week at St James Johannesburg, at the request of the school's governors. They wrote this article for the school's newsletter.

*"We have just returned from a week in St. James Johannesburg. As foot soldiers and representatives of the ERT we are privileged to visit the schools around the world to offer advice and support. Our week ended with an Open Day but the entire week was one of openness and life.*

*Ms. Counihan, the Executive Head and Mr. Kala the Academic Head are a formidable and positive force. With the full support of the staff, Governors and parents they have set about building upon the great work of the two former Heads, Mr. Steyn and Mr. Grace.*

*As soon as we walked into the building we were almost overwhelmed by the order, brightness and beauty of the building.*

*Excellent displays, clear signs, well mounted work by the children and a clear sense of life, vitality and energy.*

*The well-established philosophical ethos of the school has been given the platform to shine, inform and delight.*

*One cannot help but remember the words of Jesus:*

*'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works.'*

*We so enjoyed the week, visiting every classroom, attending assembly, watching hockey and just spending time with this vibrant school community.*

*Open Day was a fine manifestation of the very best of this innovative school. Children danced with grace, sang in harmony and recited words of significance and quality. Well done Governors for supporting the vision, the teachers for their devotion to the children, the parents for their willingness to attend events and the Heads and administrative staff for their diligence.*

*It's a fine school, offering the finest education and producing fine pupils. On Open Day we stood on the new lawn and looked around. We were happy, impressed and at ease. Both of us felt privileged to be allowed to be at the heart of a great school."*

## And here's how they celebrate Fathers' Day!

St James Johannesburg celebrated 'Dads' Day' by inviting the Junior Prep dads (and some mums) to come in to school for a working morning. They helped with the makeover of two needy jungle gyms. Bev Counihan, the Executive Head writes: 'much gratitude is due to the steady and loving friends'.

It looks as if everyone enjoyed themselves!



## CAN YOU HELP US?

Many ERT Friends now support our worldwide work through regular standing orders. Some sponsor bursaries for children at St James Johannesburg or help with the development of St James Durban. Others donate to the wider work of the ERT. The Chancellor kindly increases every donation from a UK taxpayer by 25%, via Gift Aid.

Contact us (see overleaf for details) and we'll send you a Gift Aid form. One-off donations, large or small, are equally welcome, cheques or cash!

You can now support us via [PayPal](#). There's a button on the ERT website – go to the *How You Can Help* page and then to *Becoming a Donor* (or click <http://www.education-renaissance-trust.org.uk/help2.htm> if you're online.)