Since we last wrote…

- We’ve run a further international teachers conference – amazingly, the fifth one.
- In 2015, six gap year students, will be volunteering in the St James family of schools around the world, supported by the ERT.
- And we’ve sponsored the retiring headmaster of St James North West to deliver a paper on Vedic Maths to the World Sanskrit Conference in Bangkok.
- Donations for St James Durban continue to arrive, thanks to energetic fundraising in the UK and around the world.
- The ERT itself has received many generous donations to help make all these things happen. Thank you! Now read on….

Good news for US donors

The ERT is now a member of the British Schools and University Foundation (BSUF). This means that US taxpayers can donate to the ERT tax-deductibly. BSUF charge no commission or membership fee – it is run by grateful American recipients of British education.

Just download the BSUF’s Donor Transmittal form from www.bsuf.org, and write ‘Education Renaissance Trust’ where it asks for your preference for support.

New Heads

Mary McKendrick has been appointed Headmistress of John Colet School, in succession to the founding head, Gilbert Mane. Thierry Clarisse has been confirmed as Headmaster of Erasmus School in Melbourne. We enjoyed seeing them both at the Lucca conference.

We wish them every success in their vital positions.

STUDY TO BE QUIET

By all accounts the fifth ERT International Teachers Conference, held in July at the Villa Boccella in Lucca, Italy, was a great success. 63 delegates came, from eight countries. There was a strong contingent from St James Junior School in London, head teachers and staff from other members of the worldwide family of St James Schools, and teachers from schools and countries not previously represented.

Paul Moss, ERT’s adviser on teacher training and development, led the conference. Here are his personal reflections on the event.

“There is a very poignant point when the conference actually begins. In the late afternoon of the first day the sound of the tyres of a coach crushing the pebbles on the drive of the villa heralds the arrival of the delegates.

People tumble off the coaches having started their travels in England, Hungary, India, Pakistan, USA, Trinidad and Australia.

A group of teachers swiftly forms and the conference takes off. This year it leapt into life with considerable energy and power.

Day by day real progress was made, the study deepened, the quiet became quieter, the simple joy of meeting colleagues in education enlivened conversation.

On the final night the study groups presented their work, with the traditional outrageous and perceptive play from the Sanskrit Department! And a cultured and intelligent recitation from the Classical Literature group and an exquisite exhibition of Art and Geometry.

Many thanks to all the delegates for their enthusiasm, the tutors for their direction and care, the head teachers for their company and companionship and to the spirit of teaching that brought us all together.”

Thanks to ERT Trustee (and master photographer) Alan Marshall for the images of Lucca.

The Education Renaissance Trust promotes schools and supports teachers around the world who provide a spiritually-based education. 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.
New to the family
Anria Ebersohn is the newly-appointed deputy head of St James School in Durban, South Africa.

After the Lucca conference, and being quite new to the St James family, she kindly wrote a special thank-you to Kim Brown and Francesca Levy in London, who did all the organising. Here are her impressions:

“… thank you so much for …a most memorable conference! … a truly special time for me; I loved every moment of it. I met so many special people, and made some wonderful friends!
The food was a real treat, the venue indescribably beautiful, the rooms… the wine… people from so many different backgrounds, all 'speaking the same language' … having a common purpose. I can't remember when last I laughed so much! And yet, the silence and tranquility spoke to the deepest parts of my soul.
Thank you.”

If we’re speaking of fund-raising…
You can now support us via PayPal!
There’s a button on the ERT website – go to the How You Can Help page and thence to Becoming a Donor (or click http://www.education-renaissance-trust.org.uk/help2.htm if you’re seeing this on line.)

Legacy news
Another marvellous legacy to the ERT will be coming from the estate of the late Jeni Turnbull. Jeni had been a most generous supporter since the first days of the ERT, and she took a lively interest in our work. So it’s wonderful that she’s remembered us in her Will.

The late Richard Watson also left his stamp collection to four charities, including the ERT. He’d begun collecting in childhood and returned to it in his final years (when medication for his cancer made sleep impossible). The collection is being sold in stages by a stamp dealer, and looks likely to raise £5,000 for the ERT.

If you’d like to help our work, could you be a regular donor?
Many ERT Friends now support our work through regular standing orders. Some sponsor bursaries for children at St James Johannesburg or help 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 contact details) and we’ll send you a form. One-off donations, large or small, are equally welcome! Or include us in your Will. Or (see left) find the PayPal button!