



Dr. Niall C.W. Nelson

## From the Headmaster

I am writing nearly three weeks after the October 1 bombings in Bali. Our hearts go out to those who lost loved ones or suffered injury that dreadful evening. All right minded people must surely condemn in the strongest terms the depravities of the few who visited such carnage on the innocent.

Our High School students organized a thoughtful and moving ceremony in honor of the victims one morning break the following week. And later that same day, many of us gathered to remember JIS teacher and coach, Jamie Wellington, who lost his life in the Bali bombings of 2002. The tree planted near our sports fields in Jamie's memory is flourishing and provided a fitting backdrop as student musicians played and faculty members shared their fond recollections of Jamie.

Following the bombings, JIS carefully reviewed its security arrangements, short-term and the medium/long-term, as we do after every incident, or when new information comes to light. We rely heavily on the advice and counsel of security experts in the various embassies and private companies in Jakarta and beyond.

We also have our own in-house expert in the person of John Rogers, our new Director of Security. John joined us as our second Director of Security (replacing Richard Grezl) in July and comes with a wealth of experience in police, army and private security work.

A British citizen, John served for three years as Security Advisor to Exxon Mobil in Aceh. Prior to that, he was Head of Operations (Deputy Superintendent of Police) for CISCO in Singapore. Other engagements include serving as Company Commander for a Gurkha regiment in Hong Kong and a host of earlier appointments in Asia and Europe in securing high-risk areas and premises, consultancies and security audits.

Those of you who have not had the chance to visit JIS in recent years might be truly surprised at the changes to our exterior necessitated by security considerations. We have developed a hard carapace to deter anyone who might have negative intentions towards the school and its inhabitants, but this has inevitably caused inconvenience in terms of access and parking. We regret this and are always on the lookout for ways to ameliorate the problem, but security has to be given the highest priority in the current climate.

Inside the gates of our campuses, school life continues with its positive and purposeful beat. I visit many schools in my work, but rarely see campuses that even come close to matching Cilandak, Pattimura and Pondok Indah for their landscaping, ambience and sense of tranquility. And we are delighted to welcome alumni back to visit us whenever possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Niall Nelson".

Flowers and tears again for Bali at the Dragon fountain

