

Dear Parents

I am writing this on a flight home from Kraków after my first visit to Auschwitz - mirroring the highly successful Parents' Trip earlier this month, which is itself a shortened version of the annual Year 12 Trip. As many of you will know at first hand, visiting the Death Camps is an intense experience; most JCoSS families will furthermore have relatives who themselves suffered or perished in the camps. I do not have that direct connection, but am conscious instead of the role of my own faith community in failing to stand up to Naziism at the time, and even giving it support. The trip was an experience that exposed powerfully for me the interesting tensions of leading a Jewish school as a non-Jew.

That inter-religious aspect, however, is part of the fabric of a visit to Kraków - at least when you do it the JCoSS way. Marcel Manson has led all three trips this year: his mother survived Auschwitz but his father was hidden by non-Jewish Poles during the war. The 4 local guides who showed us the museums and sites are all non-Jews. One of those museums is of course the factory of Oskar Schindler, whose protection of Jews earned him the official recognition of 'Righteous Gentile' from Yad Vashem (a theme we will explore in our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations this year). What is striking in modern Kraków is that Jewish cultural heritage is being vibrantly rediscovered, rebuilt, and championed not only by Jews (whose numbers are minute in Poland) but by non-Jews.

They are doing so not out of guilt (it was Germans not Poles who perpetrated the Shoah) but out of a sense that Jewish culture is part of what it means to be Polish. 10% of the pre-war population were Jews; in the 16th century 75% of the Jews in the world lived in or around what is now Poland. So while, tragically, we can scarcely talk of a Jewish community there now, the sense of the Jewish contribution to Polish identity is increasing. As has been made clear in political comments this year, and in the additional funding recently announced for security at Jewish institutions, the same awareness exists in the UK: Judaism is enmeshed in what it means to be British and all should rejoice at that!

Trying to draw a really clear line between Judaism and the cultures where it has settled is not only unwise but impossible. There is lots for Christians to ponder here too - their attention is increasingly focusing on how to be distinctive amidst secular culture and how to avoid being overly assimilated into the majority culture, as happened in the 1930s. The more I do the job of Headteacher at JCoSS the more I am struck by the similarities between the issues facing faith communities, rather than the differences. Controversial as it might seem to say so given Charlie Hebdo and Copenhagen, this is a time for people of religion to work together. Some argue that the Holocaust is an issue for *Europe* to come to terms with, not just one for Germans or Jews. Perhaps that is a process that has scarcely even begun in earnest.

And meanwhile, Pesach draws near, with its themes (as for Easter) of liberation, of the dangers of leaven and all that it symbolises, of the importance of hope, and of the power of the Almighty in defence of the oppressed. As I wish you a happy and hope-filled Pesach I would just caution students facing public exams this summer to meet the Almighty half way by ensuring they spend some time in solid revision. Whilst most are well on track, some Year 11 students still seem to lack the urgency they should have at this point, and might want to check that their sense of readiness is grounded and not just 'puffed up'.

I commend to you all that follows in this newsletter and thank you all for your support of the school and of your sons' and daughters' hard work this term.

Patrick Moriarty  
Headteacher, JCoSS

## Fantastic Purim at JCoSS

Students and staff at JCoSS celebrated Purim in wonderful fancy dress costumes, showing their usual high level of creativity. Congratulations to Mr Hardy for winning the staff fancy dress competition for coming as a real-life Pacman and to the Science faculty (aka the cast of Grease!) for winning the faculty competition. A big thank you to all the staff who showed off their amazing dancing skills again this year in the staff Purim video. Students took part in circus, drumming, drama and art workshops, a table quiz competition and a fundraising funfair run by students and representatives of all the Zionist Youth movements. As well as having a fantastic day, students and staff raised over £1500 for our chosen school charities. Huge congratulations to the pioneering students who starred in our first ever JCoSS Purimspeil - Adam Lee, Stefan Tucker, Gerry Sands, Charlotte Kurash, Tammy Berlinsky, Lara Stitcher, Jonah Baron Cohen, Cidney Miller, Maya Weigier, Jay Sands, Yuval Kaufman and Joanna Solden.



Click the link below for lots more photos from our fantastic day

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/131767177@N06/sets/72157651174403781>



## Informal Jewish Education News

**Norwood Party:** JCoSS students volunteered once again at the Norwood Purim party which takes place at JCoSS every year. Many thanks to the students who gave up their time and energy in order to make sure the party was such a success. Many of those students are logging hours for their Yoni Jesner award, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements in the summer.

**Election:** JCoSS held a mock Israeli election on 13<sup>th</sup> March, in advance of the real election which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. A team of Israeli scouts came to school, set up their hustings and campaigned hard as 'representatives' of all the major political parties. In the votes cast in school on the day, the Likud Party won by a narrow margin.

**First Aid:** Over 200 parents and students took part in free First Aid sessions run by Magen David Adom in school last month. MDA are one of our chosen school charities this year, and we are pleased that we are also able to benefit from the skills they are able to share with us, as well as fundraising for them.

### Parents' Journey to Poland

On March 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> this year a group of JCoSS parents took part in the school's first ever Parents' Journey to Poland. Based in Krakow, the group visited Auschwitz – Birkenau, Schindler's Factory and the Jewish Quarter of Krakow. "It was a highly stimulating and thought provoking trip, which offered parents the opportunity to have an important Jewish experience in a thoughtful and like-minded group", said Ms Levan, who accompanied the group.

### Yom Ha Shoah

Looking ahead, we are marking Yom HaShoah in school this year with a particular focus on the 'Righteous among the Nations' – those who risked everything in order to help Jews during the Shoah. If you have any family stories which you would like to share with us and which we might be able to incorporate into the ceremony, please do let us know.

### Rosh Chodesh

Our Rosh Chodesh programme continues with a pluralist programme of prayer and reflection for Key Stage 3 delivered by clergy and lay leaders from all the streams of our community. Our speaker programme for Key Stage 4 continued last month with a thought provoking and engaging assembly with Rabbi Benji Stanley from the Movement for Reform Judaism. We look forward to welcoming speakers from all the denominational streams of the community as well as from the Board of Deputies and the Israeli Embassy during the rest of the year.

Mrs S Levan

Informal Jewish Education Co-ordinator



## JCoSS KS3 Book Award 2015

I am delighted to announce this year's Book Award short list. As usual the titles are chosen by the avid readers of Book Club and we hope that the range of genres will appeal to all readers in KS3. This year we have also included a children's classic. Y7-9 students will be encouraged to read **at least one** of the short listed books and their English teachers will be monitoring their progress in library lessons.

After reading each book, students will complete a quiz card which they will submit in a prize draw. The more cards submitted, the greater the chance of winning a prize. This year's prize is a place on a fabulous trip to the Harry Potter Film Studios!



### KS4 Reading Challenge

Students in Y10-11 have been challenged to read 16 books by the time they are 16. Record cards for this challenge are available in the LRC with a list of suggested books.

Please encourage your children to participate in these reading projects.

Kate Lightman

Assistant Headteacher – English, LRC and CPD

## Democratic Engagement Programme by Denis Antor Year 9

A committed group of JCoSS students participated in the London Borough of Barnet Democratic Engagement Programme, joined Mr Abram at Hendon Town Hall to see local democracy in action. Denis Antor (Form Rep for 9B) reflects on his experience:

The first meeting we attended as part of the programme was a Full Council meeting and was by far the most exciting of the three meetings we attended. There has been a lot of discussion about libraries in Barnet and this was a critical moment for all involved. During the meeting, protesters from 'Save our Libraries' stormed into the council chamber after the council made an unpopular decision, causing the Mayor to run away to his study. Moreover, the councillors at the meeting made us feel excited, involved and at the edge of our seats as we were waiting to find out what had been decided. The protesters eventually quietened down as the Police arrived and the meeting was able to continue. The second meeting was a 'Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee' meeting during which the library conversations continued. It was disappointing as it seemed as though nobody was listening to one another and avoiding answering the questions. For me, the councillors were stereotypical politicians in terms of not answering questions openly and honestly. The final meeting was of the Communal Leadership Committee and was about equality in Barnet. This meeting was definitely better than the second one as meaningful conversations took place and representatives of the Metropolitan Police inputted into the conversation. The three meetings gave me an insight into the ups and downs of local politics and I look forward to our final workshop with officers from Barnet Council.

# Student of the Month

As part of our enhanced Rewards Policy we are determined to recognise publicly the excellent work and attitude towards learning exhibited on a daily basis by so many of our wonderful students. Each month, therefore, faculties nominate students for the award of ‘Student of the Month’. The award attracts 20 achievement points and as you can see from the list below, some subject areas have found that they have so many excellent students that they have felt compelled to issue the award to several in each year! Congratulations to all of the students below and thank you for helping to make JCoSS such a wonderful place to teach.

Daniel Garai-Ebner	7B	Maths
Benjamin Gottlieb	7N	Humanities
Eliana Jackson	7N	PE
Yuval Kaufman	7N	Maths
Charlotte Kurash	7N	Music
Georgia Stone	7N	Maths
Mollie Murray	7R	Humanities
Ariela Silber	7R	Drama
Benjamin Woolstone	7R	Jewish Education
Aran Haber	7S	Science
Benjamin Shaw	7W	français
Misha Vides	7W	Art
Lucy Ritter	7Y	Maths
Manny Smith	8B	Humanities
Max Rapp	8F	Science
Callan Stepsky	8F	PE
Evie Anticoni	8N	Jewish Education
Alyssa Jacobs	8N	Humanities
Josh Yonish	8N	Drama/Dance
Amelia Kurzer	8R	Art
Hannah Bentwood	8S	Maths
Nicole Clif	8S	Maths
Stefan Tucker	8W	Maths and français
Yoni Williams	8W	Maths
Denis Antor	9B	Jewish Education
Gil Krikler	9B	DT
Miriam Clifton	9N	Maths
Joshua Crampton-Shachar	9N	Science
Gessica Grew	9N	DT
Hayley Riback	9N	Maths
Daniel Turaev	9N	Maths
Maia Ansher	9R	Humanities
Noah Gershon	9R	Drama/Dance
Joseph Hodes	9R	Maths
Benjamin Felt	9S	Humanities
Joseph Solomon	9S	Science
Noam Solomons-Wise	9S	Music
Jonny Brown	9W	PE
Harley Morris	9W	English
Itay Yaniv	9Y	français

Zac Green	10B	Humanities
Daniel Rechnic Moreno	10B	Maths
Adam Aradi-Posylkin	10F	Humanities
Nathan Cohen	10F	Drama
Charlie Fink	10F	Science
Samuel Danker	10N	Jewish Education
Tilly Sawyer	10N	Maths
Abi Wander	10N	Music
Indigo Smith	10R	Maths
Michelle Klotz	10S	English
Ruth Launer	10S	Art
Arabella Shifrin	10S	Media
Aviv Silver	10S	Maths
Zac Landau	10W	Humanities
Zachary Levenson	10W	français
Isabelle Murray	10W	Science
Jade Smith	10W	Science
David Cohen-Morton	10Y	Science
Yasmin Arron-Gonzalez	11B	English
Romi Goodman	11B	Science
Joss Bogod	11F	Humanities
Kezia Lobatto	11N	Music
Jodie Rich	11N	Maths
Nathan Caplan	11S	Maths
Ella Dinner	11S	Science
Rebecca Jackson	11S	Jewish Education
Ryan Peltz	11S	Science
Jamy Bristol James	11W	Humanities
Gabriel Harvey	11W	Art
David Ross	11W	Humanities
Molly Schiller	11W	Maths
Raphy Attan	11Y	Maths
Jamie Rones	12F	Science
Daniel Subel	12F	Maths
Talia Samuels	12R	English
Benjy Zeffertt	12S	Maths
Nathan Graff	13B	Maths
Avital Nathan	13N	English
Daniel Arenstein	13W	Science and Maths
Joseph Cassidy	13W	Media
Danny Driver	13W	Science
Samuel Masters	13W	Science
Leah Nathanson	13W	Science



## Able and Ambitious at JCoSS – The Brilliant Club

This year 24 of our Year 9 and 10 students have been taking part in the Brilliant Club, a programme aimed at developing the independent research skills of talented and academically able and ambitious students in the fields of Science and Humanities.

The Scholars Programme is delivered by trained PhD students from a research university or institute, and involves two university trips and four in-school tutorials. The in-school tutorials take place over consecutive weeks and last for one hour each. The tutorials follow a course which has been designed by the PhD student around their own, cutting-edge research, and are designed to push the students to develop the academic skills they will need to secure places at highly selective universities. Students finish the course by producing an extended essay assignment, which is marked using criteria from the Key Stage above their current level and given a university-style grade (1<sup>st</sup>, 2.1 etc.), along with extensive feedback from their tutor to allow them to reflect on and improve their performance.

The two University trips - a Launch trip and a Graduation Ceremony trip - are at the start and end of the Programme and each is to a different Russell Group University. The Launch Trip this year was to St. Hugh's College, Oxford and students had the opportunity to spend a day learning about College and University life, having a tour of the facilities and meeting with current students who could answer questions. The day also involved a talk about admissions to the University and what highly selective Universities are looking for, meeting the PhD tutors, a study skills session and the first of the PhD tutorials.

Students enrolled on the Programme are progressing well with their in-school tutorials and are looking forward to attending their Graduation Ceremony to celebrate their successes once they have written their final assignments.

## Our Othello Trip

by Hannah Byrne-Smith and Alexa Sussman 8F

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015, two top set Year 8 English classes went on a trip to the Globe Theatre to watch Shakespeare's 'Othello'. The trip held many different experiences for many different people. For some it seemed confusing but others it was clear, (well as clear as a Shakespearean tragedy can get)! The Globe was incredible and the actual architecture was truly exquisite.

For those who do not know the plot of 'Othello' it is about a man (Othello) who is driven mad with jealousy and kills both his wife and then himself. By the end of the play nearly all of the characters are dead. But because this play is from Shakespearean times, people would have expected a song, dance and production for their money. And that is exactly what we got! The play finished with the characters reviving, then dancing and singing with each other.

All in all this was a great and memorable experience and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

We hope the Year 8's next year will be lucky enough to have this very special opportunity.

By Ben Conway 8F

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March some Year 8 students went to the Globe Theatre in London to watch 'Othello', a Shakespeare play about a well-respected black man who is plagued by jealousy. The play itself was excellent. It was well acted, and the crowd were (fairly) respectful. The play is about a man, Iago, who bears a grudge against Othello and gets revenge in the cruellest of ways, with Othello, his wife, Roderigo, and finally Iago himself dying along the way. The Globe is an amazing and historic place and it was overall a great experience.



## News from the PSRP

The Pears Specialist Resource Provision (PSRP) currently provides education for 36 JCoSS students who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition. Mainstream and provision staff work together to provide integrated and separated learning as needed by each pupil.

**After school Theatre Club:** Local theatre company Chickenshed and JCoSS have joined together to pilot an after school theatre club that is running weekly for the rest of this school year. A total of 25 students from Years 7 and 8 – including 10 from the PSRP – will be participating in this club and will work together to put a performance on in July. This is an amazing opportunity for mainstream and PSRP students to engage in teamwork and develop friendships at the same time.

**Year 11s get surveying:** As part of the learning available to PSRP students, some are taking ASDAN courses alongside GCSEs. ASDAN is a nationally recognised framework of accreditation accessed in thousands of schools and colleges; some courses are the equivalent to obtaining a GCSE. Students develop life and employability skills whilst expanding their knowledge base.

Currently two students are taking a module on 'Identify and Cultural Diversity' as part of their Personal and Social Development (PSD) qualification. One student has chosen to complete a surveying challenge to find out how many students in JCoSS speak a second language.

**Volunteering in the PSRP:** Mainstream students are encouraged to visit the Provision and to participate in the friendship circles and groups, and buddying opportunities. Here are some examples of some of the ways that mainstream students are building relationships with PSRP students:

Three Year 12 students have set up a girls' group in the PSRP. The aim of the group is to give students the chance to chat whilst playing games and having some fun. They are really enthusiastic about being part of this weekly group and feel that they are being informal role models for the younger students who attend. They especially enjoy seeing the PSRP girls around the school throughout the rest of the week and being able to chat with them as well as at the girls' group.

Five Year 7 students are spending afternoon registration with some Yr 7 PSRP students twice a week, to understand how mainstream registration can be a little overwhelming at times for some of the students in the provision.

One Year 10 student comes to the PSRP Year 7 classroom twice a week to buddy some students by playing games and chatting. His visits are clearly looked forward to and enjoyed by the students.

Five Year 11 students are coming to the PSRP weekly as part of a friendship circle for a Year 11 student who is new at JCoSS and was finding attending mainstream registration difficult. He is enjoying this group, and the visits and links are a success.



Year 9 recently visited the Science Museum to support their academic learning and social understanding and life skills. As well as continuing with science-based learning, the students spent time in the Launchpad – the interactive area – and two Year 9 students worked together to win a challenge. To ensure all students are fully included in the Jewish life of the School assemblies to celebrate festivals are also run in the provision. This is a picture of the Chanukah festival assembly. Students prepared for the assembly by making the decorations that you can see in the picture.





# Gender Equality Day by Adina Benson and Jessica Lichtenstern

On Wednesday, 11th March, the whole school came together to celebrate Gender Equality Day - with fantastic results.

The day opened with a Kvutzah session planned by the school's gender equality club, Shivyon, in which the students created campaigns to encourage body positivity and improve self-esteem. The session produced some amazing pieces of work - from posters, to raps, to 3D models - some of which will soon be displayed around the school. We had some excellent feedback about these sessions and we are delighted that everyone enjoyed it.

Older students participated in a very interesting debate, featuring a professional panel of diverse community members. They included our very own headteacher Mr Moriarty, Philosophy student and theatre director Paul Lichtenstern; Labour candidate for Finchley and Golders Green Sarah Sackman; Rabbi Rebecca Qassim Birk from Finchley Progressive Synagogue; and Alexandra Chalot, Managing Director of sports organisation Think Beyond. The students were completely engaged and asked some thoughtful, impressive and even controversial questions...some of which will be seen in our highlights video from the panel.

By lunchtime the whole school were into the swing and fun of the day - enjoying the music (with Ms Gustard even busting a move or two) and making the most of our photo-booth and silly props. Students and teachers were able to write their own aspirations for their future with regards to gender equality, which were all posted on a large board.

Overall, the day was a massive success. The members of Shivyon, were positively surprised to see how important the topic of gender equality was to our school's wonderful students and we really hope that it remains an important issue which we strive towards every day!



## Jewish Book Week

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015, JCoSS hosted a Jewish Book Week event to celebrate the stories of the 'righteous among the nations'. Sixty able and ambitious students in Year 9 were selected to have a two-hour workshop with the author Antony Lishak. Students then went on to produce their own writing inspired by stories that they had researched. A selection of writing was chosen and students worked with Ms Blitz on their content and delivery. Year 6 students from Akiva School were invited to present the writing that they had prepared during similar workshops at Akiva. Parents and grandparents attended a diverse afternoon presentation during which our students displayed their creative talents. Organisers from Jewish Book Week were in attendance and they were impressed by the standard of the writing of our students. Some of the students' work will be displayed on the Jewish Book Week website.





## Poetry Live- My experience of meeting Simon Armitage by Gabriel Harvey Year 11

It had come to the second break in the Poetry Live Event. As I watched Simon Armitage walk off the stage my and many other flickering hands in the audience drifted downwards and students parted to eat their lunch. However, I had different priorities.

Studying Mr. Armitage's poems now for the last year, I had many highly anticipated questions I wanted to ask him. What inspired him to write *Harmonium*? What is his technique when writing his poems? Ella Dinner, a fellow student at JCoSS and friend of mine, also had a question to ask him. So, along with a JCoSS staff member we went out the side doors, hoping to catch a glimpse of him. Other JCoSS students also came along and Mr Armitage was very happy to give us an 'exclusive' and answer our questions.

Being able to hear the reasons why he wrote certain things was thoroughly interesting and very inspiring. Altogether, I had an amazing time and had even become quite star-struck. Later in the day I also got to meet Grace Nichols and her husband, and told her how inspiring her poems are!



## Key Dates for 1<sup>st</sup> Half of Summer Term 2015

Date	Event	Time
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Students return to school	8.30am (Week 2)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.30 – 7.30pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Early closing 2.05pm – staff twilight	2.05pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Public holiday – school closed	All Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Early closing 2.05pm – staff twilight	2.05pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	External exams start (GCSE, AS & A level)	Ongoing
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 8 Parents Evening	4.30 – 7.30pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of school before half term	School closes at 2.05pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Students return to school after half term	8.30am (Week 2)

**Early closing on Fridays for Summer Term – 2.05pm**

# JCoSS Sports Round-up

Since September, JCoSS has entered 150 league fixtures for netball, basketball and football:  
We are delighted with the teams and their commitment and we feel the results speak for themselves!

## Boys' Football Barnet League

Year 7: reached the quarter Final  
Year 9: reached the Final  
Year 11: reached the quarter final

Year 8: Reached the Final (just missed out by losing on penalties)  
Year 10: Reached the quarter final  
6<sup>th</sup> Form: Reached round 3 in the Cup

## Basketball Barnet League

We are yet to win our first game but we have come close this season. Yr 8 achieved our highest points recorded and we are very proud of them.

## Netball Barnet League

Year 7 – Won the silver medal in the Barnet League  
Year 8 – They had an up and down season, but put in a great effort  
Year 9 - Reached the Barnet Final and finished 5th



## Girls' football Barnet League

This is the first year we have taken part in this competition and we have had a very good start. As we go to press, we are waiting for the final places to be sent from Barnet.

## Badminton Championships Barnet League

This year we won the Barnet Championships in both KS3 & KS4. The teams then went on to represent Barnet in the London Youth Games and both finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams.

## Maccabi League

We have also entered boy and girl teams in the Maccabi league for table tennis, badminton, football, basketball and girls netball. We are proud to say that we have won a number of these leagues:

Y7 Boys table tennis   Yr 7 Girls basketball  
Yr 7 Girls football   Yr 9 Girl football  
Yr 9 Girls netball   Yr 9 Boys Football

Congratulations to all the teams involved. Next term we will be participating in cricket and athletics. If you wish to become involved please see Mr Mitman or Mr White.

## PSRP Red Nose Day Cake Sale



PSRP students decorated cakes and sold them to staff and students, raising £126 for Red Nose Day and JCoSS-chosen charities







## World Book Day

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, we celebrated World Book Day with a Book Swap and a Book Sale.

Thank you to the students who brought in a great selection of 'pre-loved' books and we are delighted that a total of 96 books were swapped.



Fabienne Viner-Luzatto came to school at break time to sell her new cookbook: "Steamer, the Cooking Wizard". If you missed a chance to purchase her book, please log on to her website:

<http://www.homecookingbyfabienne.co.uk/>

**Bookbuzz competition:** Congratulations to the winners of the competition who received their prizes during assembly.

A display of some of the best entries can be viewed in the LRC.

## **Carnegie Shadowing Event**

Every spring, CILIP (The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals) invites reading groups in libraries to get involved with shadowing. The children 'shadow' the judging process; they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist and engage in reading related activity online.



For more information: <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowingsite/what-is-shadowing.php>

These are the shortlisted titles for this year's Carnegie Award:



We are looking forward to starting the Carnegie Shadowing Group to discuss these books after the holidays.

## Year 9 and 10 careers fair by Jack Ansell Year 12.

‘Mummy when I grow up, I want to be an astronaut’. This commonly heard statement is usually the drive that children use to keep their imaginations alive as they progress through primary school, on to secondary school and finally into university. Of course everyone knows that a child’s dream to be an astronaut can quickly change with new experiences they encounter as they grow up, and that childish imagination develops into a more reachable goal.

As the Year 9s and 10s ventured around the JCoSS fair, it was clear to me that their initial dreams that they’d kept since they were of young ages, had now developed into newer and brighter ideas that they could pursue after GCSEs. I firstly spoke to a small group of year 10s who were speaking to a Senior Officer in the Metropolitan Police. As he engaged their minds and ideas into the life of a detective, he mentioned that ‘there’s a whole world out there to choose your future vocation. I know that I’d never thought in a million years that I’d be a policeman, but now I am: I can agree it’s the job for me as it opens your eyes to the life of law and order’. By this single statement, it was clear to me that this small group of year 10s now had a better insight into a more unique vocation not thought about in younger years.

Another key finding of this Careers Fair was the number of students who wanted to pursue a life in medicine but had no clear idea of what it was all about. I spoke to Dr Riback and asked for his insight into the world of medicine. ‘It’s no picnic being a doctor. It took years of hard work at university to gain the qualification that I needed to become a real GP. But more significant is the drive you need from a young age. At some point you can feel that this job will be a real handful, which it is. I’m glad I stuck with this dream and one key piece of advice I’d have to give is: when in doubt, just look at the world and think: “if I do this, think of all the people I could save”. That is the key to medicine’. I’ve personally never seen a group of year 10s so amazed at the philosophy of the average GP. After seeing their eyes widen at Dr Riback’s words of wisdom; it was clear that they needed to do their research if they ever want to seek a career in this area of society.

A very common statement used by many of these prestigious workers was ‘start from the bottom’. Whilst chatting to the Chief Editor of the Sun magazine; she explained to me that Dominic Mohan didn’t hire her for her skills, but for the dedication she gave to being a journalist. She started by working for the weekly Borehamwood newspaper from the age of 16. She worked her way up through unpaid jobs towards the top job of being the chief editor; ‘it was hard but worth it’. The Sun is one of the UKs most well-known tabloid newspapers and it was clear to me as an amateur journalist that many people who are most high-placed in society have started from the bottom.

As the students left the fair, the number of comments that included words such as ‘I never knew’ and ‘wow’ were astronomical (if you’ll pardon the pun) which shows that the fair was a success. I know now journalism may look like fun and games when you get there, but it’s only a reward for the work you put in.



**On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Yom Hasnoan UK are bringing together the largest gathering of UK Jewry in recent history to remember the Holocaust, as over 120 communal organisations join the 'Remember Together - We Are One' commemoration to mark the 70th Anniversaries of the Holocaust.**

**TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS VISIT: [www.yomhashoah.org.uk/nationalevent](http://www.yomhashoah.org.uk/nationalevent)**