

Dear Parents

Part of the distinctiveness of Jewish schools is our marking of the annual cycle of festivals. Colleagues who encounter it for the first time here have sometimes remarked how much it has entered their consciousness. Within only a few iterations of that cycle (and we have not yet completed five, even for staff who have been here from the outset) it begins to influence how one perceives the passage of time and the passing of seasons. The sense of a pattern that repeats and changes is part of the deep common experience of human beings, and we differ from the animals by this awareness of time and our capacity to mark it – an insight we were reminded of as we marked Rosh Chodesh on Tuesday.

This has all been in my thoughts in recent weeks as the nation's electoral cycle has turned again. On the day of the 2010 General Election, we were not even sure how many students would be in our first cohort and indeed JCoSS was some way off having a functioning building for them. The 2015 election day, meanwhile, saw that first cohort depart for study leave (with calm, good order and dignity, since you ask...) and they are now well underway with GCSE exams. It has been wonderful to see their support for each other grow in the last weeks, and the good humoured sense of purpose that pervades the year group. I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary hard work and support of their teachers and of the whole staff in preparing them for the exam season. We wish them all every success.

The building cycle continues too – work starts over half term to prepare the brand new 6th form Common Room and Study area into which the current Year 11 will move in September, along with the conversion of existing rooms into a new Media Studies area ready for our expanded 6th form curriculum. This is only possible thanks to the Trustees' careful stewardship of the funds raised by our original donors and especially thanks to the shrewd management of Mrs Armstrong our Director of Finance and Resources. She is less visible to parents than most of the senior staff, but deserves the gratitude of us all for the many and expert ways in which she keeps the JCoSS show on the road.

In the same vein of looking to past and future, I am also delighted to announce that thanks to Mrs Trup's tireless work (whilst on maternity leave, no less) we have secured a grant from Classics for All to kick-start the provision of Latin teaching at JCoSS. It will be offered as a language option for next year's Year 9 from September and as a GCSE option from the following year. Coming from a family of classicists, I have long been schooled in the benefits of learning Latin, and the way that it links the modern and the ancient worlds seems to me to fit especially well in a Jewish environment where tradition and innovation are such close partners.

You will see more of this theme on the pages that follow – the term so far has seen memorable and moving commemoration of Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron, as well as the best Yom Ha'atzmaut yet, including the honour of a visit from the Israeli Ambassador His Excellency Daniel Taub. You will see the achievements of several stars of the future – one which is not recorded is Zoom Rockman's inclusion in the Jewish News' "25 under 25" list of those most likely to influence the future of Anglo-Jewry. And I hope you will see, too, the way in which JCoSS proudly stands on the shoulders of giants and continues the best traditions of Jewish learning. I conclude with words from Pirkei Avot: "It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it".

With best wishes for the half term break, and Chag Shavuot Sameach.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher, JCoSS

Informal Jewish Education at JCoSS

Yom Ha Shoah

This year's theme on Yom Ha Shoah was the "Righteous among the Nations". A ceremony for the whole school marked the day, where we heard the stories of three teachers who had taken enormous risks for the sake of their students. There was also a display of students' design projects showing different people who had risked and given their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. It was a meaningful and moving ceremony for a very important day.



Yom Ha Zikaron

The week after Yom Ha Shoah the school gathered again to mark Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror) with a whole school ceremony prepared by our Israeli Scout Goni Sadan and a group of students. Ra'el Goodman, JCoSS Parent and Head of the Jewish Agency in the UK spoke to us about his own losses and memories around this sombre day.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

School marked Israel's Independence Day with a feast of blue and white – and a full programme of educational sessions. These were provided by a wide range of Israel-focussed organisations including the JNF, New Israel Fund, Yachad, the UK Task Force, CST, the Zionist Youth movements, the Jewish Agency Shlichim, the Israeli Scouts and Streetwise.

Students also participated in an effusive celebration of Israel's Eurovision history, complete with singing, voting and even some dancing.

The day ended with an inspirational speech from His Excellency Daniel Taub, the Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St James.



Bake Sale

A group of Year 9 students raised over £100 for Nepal by baking and selling cakes and cookies in the Heartspace.



Alan Senitt Programme

The group have done some amazing work on their project. The programme, which develops leadership skills in an interfaith context with students from other North London schools continues to go from strength to strength at JCoSS. They have launched the #iamwhoiam campaign which aims to inspire self-confidence and increase self-esteem. They have started with an online campaign, run a fundraiser and will be delivering a session to a local youth group.

Rosh Chodesh

Students celebrated the start of the month of Iyar with moon shaped cookies and prayer sessions run by clergy and lay representatives of all the different Jewish denominations. Huge congratulations to Dora Hirsh and Miriam Clifton who became the first JCoSS students to run an in-house JCoSS tefillah (prayer) session.



Volunteering for Jewish Blind and Disabled Charity

A massive thank you to all the JCoSS students who gave up their Sunday to volunteer for Jewish Blind & Disabled, helping to give out information packs to spread the word about their important work. We are really proud of you all.

Sam Cohen, 7Y (and his little brother Jamie) volunteering for Jewish Blind and Disabled

Jewish Care Chanukiyah Competition

Congratulations to the following students whose designs have been shortlisted for the Jewish Care chanukiyah competition. The competition is to find a design which will be made into a permanent outdoor chanukiya for Jewish Care's Wohl Campus in Golders Green. The shortlisted students will visit the Jewish Care campus and meet service users and managers as well as the manufacturers who will make the winning design a reality.

- ❖ Adam Caplan 9Y
- ❖ Hannah Harris 9S
- ❖ Isaac Lobatto 9S
- ❖ Darcy Tish 8B
- ❖ Carl Freedman 7F
- ❖ Isaac Curiel 8R
- ❖ Yoav Ginsbourg 8N
- ❖ Eve Fantoni 9Y
- ❖ Adam Lee 9F
- ❖ Joe Solomon 9S
- ❖ Hannah Kieve 9B
- ❖ Ella Nourmand 9R
- ❖ Rose Inwald 9R
- ❖ Evie Raphael 9B

A group of Year 8 students took part in the first event of our new JCoSS Interfaith twinning programme, undertaking a joint field trip with peers from Unity Islamic Girls School. The students from both schools visited the North London Mosque and Finchley Reform Synagogue, acting as hosts and explaining the key features of their own places of worship. The groups spent time together getting to know each other and comparing schools, facilitated by staff from our IJE and Jewish Education teams as well as teachers from Unity. We are very excited to see how this unique and innovative programme develops.

High Holy Day Appeal from Noah's Ark (JCoSS' school charity)

It's that time of the year where synagogues start the selection process for who their beneficiary charity will be for 2015 High Holy Day Appeal.

Some synagogues prefer that the charity recommendation is put forward by members while others ask charities to fill an application form. Whichever, the method, we need your help! Can you help Noah's Ark raise funds and awareness by recommending Noah's Ark to your synagogue?

If you are able to help please feel free to contact Punyapriya Singh, Community Fundraising Manager at Noah's Ark Children's Hospice on 020 8449 8877 or email psingh@noahsarkhispice.org.uk

Carnegie Shadowing Group

A group of dedicated readers in Y8 and Y9 are currently busy working their way through the Carnegie shortlisted books and writing reviews for inclusion on the Carnegie website. The winner will be announced in June. Writers and judges follow reviews on the website to see what the people who really matter (the teenage readers) really think about the books. If you would like to find out more or would like to read the students' review please click on this link: <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/grouphomepages/index.php?GroupID=10571>

If you would like to encourage your children to read, here are the shortlisted books from this year:



The archive on their website provides more reading recommendations.

Double winner for JCoSS Y10 student in North London Music Festival

We are delighted to announce that JCoSS student Abi Wander, Year 10, participated in the North London Music Festival in two categories on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th May, winning them both. She won the Musical Theatre category by singing 'Gimme Gimme' from 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', beating off fourteen competitors from a variety of private and local state schools. She also won the Classical category the following evening! We are delighted that Abi's talents have been noted by the judging panel as she is a regular singer in the JCoSS chamber choir, Fourteen, and is currently studying for her Grade 8 Classical Singing qualification.



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.

Oliver Abrahams	7B	IJE	Daniel Deasy	9W	Maths/Spanish
Lily Lisberg	7B	French	Dora Hirsh	9W	Spanish
Joshua Bowman	7N	French	Asher Kelvin	9W	French
Jamie Saffer	7N	French	Max Schindler	9W	English
Jamie Berger	7S	French	Jessy Giller	9Y	Spanish
Aaron Maurice	7S	French	Yaniv Gerber	10B	English
Dana Goldman	7W	French	Ofek Kochavi	10B	Maths
Shoshana Kelvin	7W	French	Adam Aradi-Posylkin	10F	French
Misha Vides	7W	English	Olivia Lever	10F	Jewish Ed
Jack-Tyler Ariel	7Y	Maths	Rebecca Hill	10R	Maths
Katie Mcaree	7Y	Maths	Joey Nunes-Dinerstein	10R	Media
Tammy Rose	8B	French	Maeve Silver	10S	Spanish
Felicity Kelso-Russell	8F	English	Roy Kurtzbard	10Y	Spanish
Louis Rogove	8F	French	Sophie Irwin	11B	Spanish
Alyssa Jacobs	8N	French	Danielle Viner	11N	Maths/JE
Louis Ware	8N	Maths	Rebecca Jackson	11S	Spanish
Isaac Curiel	8R	French	Zak Jackson	11W	Maths
Nicole Clif	8S	Jewish Ed	Rebecca Ware	11W	French
Tali Jackson	8S	French	Joshua Samuels	11Y	English
Sam Holden	8W	French	Daniel Subel	12F	Spanish
Joshua Hennes	8Y	French	Freddie Gerrard	12R	Maths
Scarlet Rose	8Y	Maths	Rosie Ferner-Cornhouse	12S	Media
Lauren Abramson	9B	Spanish	Eve Goldman	12S	Spanish
Joshua Gordon	9B	French	Josh Harris	12S	Jewish Ed
Zoe Sorsky	9B	French	Talia Sofizade	12S	English
Joshua Crampton-Shachar	9N	French	Zach Cohen	13B	Spanish
Noa Goldman	9N	Maths	Hannah Gotkine	13B	Jewish Ed
Shira Frankl	9S	Jewish Ed	Daniel Graff	13B	Maths
Jade Leveson	9S	French	Nicole Segal	13B	English
Mikaela Noy	9S	Spanish	Naomi Stein	13W	Spanish

Tal Cohen, 8W makes the final of the Radio 2 '500 Words' Competition

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Tal Cohen, 8W, who has made the final of the Radio 2 '500 words' competition.

Tal's story, 'Sleeping Beauty' has been selected from tens of thousands of entries as a Top 50 story. She will be going to St James's Palace for the live final, on the 29th May, hosted by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall. Six celebrities will narrate the winning stories, which will be announced during the show. After the show has finished, all guests will attend a special reception with the Duchess.

On behalf of the whole JCoSS community, we wish Tal the very best of luck and look forward to hearing all about it on her return. To read Tal's story, please go to the "latest news" section on the JCoSS website.

MFL News

There has been a great deal going on in the MFL department this term.

Year 10 pupils went to Spain with Mr Fernandez, Ms Santos, Ms Hoskins, and Mr Marco.

Abi Wander told us all about it: "¡Hola! On the 22nd March, myself and a group of Year 10 students studying Spanish visited Andalucia. We travelled around Sevilla, Córdoba, Málaga and Granada visiting interesting and historical castles and museums as well as so many other exciting attractions. Personally, the highlight of the trip was watching a flamenco show. This included traditional dance and music. Overall I can confidently say that everyone had an incredible time on the 2015 Spanish trip.....¡Gracias Señor Fernandez and Señora Santos y los otros profesores por un viaje fantástico!"



We have also been learning about French culture and entertainment whilst speaking lots of French at the same time! The Year 8 French classes of Ms Long and Ms Santos studied some paintings by famous Francophone painters, such as Magritte, Degas and Cezanne and then recreated their works in water colour. The results are magnificent, revealing new talents – they almost look authentic!

We also learnt French through games with Ms Fagnoul. She created fun games such as French Snakes and Ladders and this made learning French both fun and educational.



Barnet Lit Quiz Competition

Congratulations to Sam Cohen, Ava Paydon, Jessica Cohen, Lauren Jiminez and Zac Richards who represented JCoSS in the Barnet Schools Lit Quiz competition against 5 other Barnet schools, and put in a very strong performance.



Jessica said: "The quiz was extremely fun. It was a fantastic opportunity to participate and meet students from other schools. Although we didn't win, it was great to take part. Sam said: "I really enjoyed the Lit Quiz. It was a bit nerve-racking; one of the questions was 'who wrote the "Skulduggery Pleasant" series?' We were a bit disappointed that we didn't win but at the end of the day, it was just a bit of fun!"

Scholastic Book Clubs

The spring Scholastic "Teen" leaflets have been distributed to students in Years 7 to 9. If you wish to purchase books from the Club, you can either pick up a leaflet from the LRC or browse the catalogues online: <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/icoss>. All books are reduced in price and the school gets 20% of all orders over £10 in tokens to buy new books for the LRC. The deadline for ordering books is **Tuesday 2nd June**.



Volunteering Opportunity for children aged 14-18: Summer Reading Challenge in Barnet Libraries

A message from Lucy Merritt / Service Development Librarian:

"We are now recruiting young people aged 14 – 18 years to help us run our annual summer reading challenge in Barnet libraries. We ask for a commitment of just 8 hours in total over the course of the summer holidays.

If you are interested, you can email lucy.merritt@barnet.gov.uk, phone **020 8359 4411** or visit our website on <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/libraries/teenage-library-services.html>, for an application form and further information.

Application Forms must be returned by **Monday 15th June** and volunteers will be invited for an informal chat before the summer holidays."

NB: The help you will provide could be accredited towards a volunteering scheme and Barnet Libraries will be happy to provide an employment reference.

Competition from "First News": win a family trip to Disneyland Paris

Write a short story of no more than 500 words around the theme of "Strange Events & Peculiar Happenings". The winner of the National Young Writers' Awards will receive £500 worth of books for their school and a family trip to Disneyland Paris, as well as a special visit to their school from Jonathan Meres, author of "The World of Norm" series.



This competition is open to children aged 14 years and under. The deadline is **Friday 5th June 2015**.

For more information, log on to <http://www.explorelearning.co.uk/youngwriters>

Year 8 English

This term in English our class is focusing on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

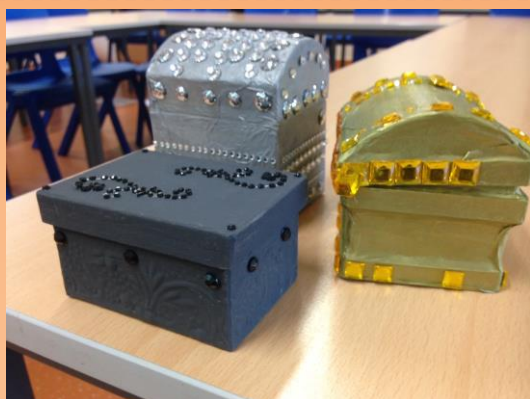
To get an understanding of the Globe Theatre, (Shakespeare's Globe), our teacher set our class the project of creating a model of the theatre. Students made their models in many different materials, from cardboard to clay. Some students decided to make their model from edible resources such as cake and biscuits!

The project was enjoyable, interesting and we learnt a great deal along the way. We hope that future JCoSS students have as much fun as we did.

by Evie Anticoni and Evie Liebling Blitz 8T2/English



Mrs Sasto's English class created these beautiful caskets from the Merchant of Venice, each containing a riddle to win the heart of Portia. 8t1 used a variety of imaginative resources, including beads, glitter and even Lego, to bring the play alive.



Year 12 visit to Keat House

On a glorious day at the end of April, the Y12 English Literature students visited Keats House in Hampstead. We had a highly enjoyable and informative tour of the house during which we learnt about Keats' life discovering some fascinating details such as the fact that he switched from a medical career to become a poet and that he was in love with the girl next door. Later the curator gave us a helpful revision session on the poems that we are studying for our AS exam.



Key Dates for 2nd Half of Summer Term 2015

Date	Event	Time
Mon 1st June	Students Back to School	8.30am
Mon 1 st – Fri 12 th June	Year 7, 8 & 9 Exams	All day
Tues 16 th June	Soloists Music Recital	Evening
Mon 22 nd – Fri 26 th June	Year 10 Exams	All day
Mon 29th June	Early Closing for Staff Training	2.05pm
Tues 30 th June & Wed 1 st July	School Play	Evening
Wed 1 st July	Year 11 Prom	Evening
Thurs 9 th July	Sports Day	All day
Wed 22 nd July	Celebration Evening	Evening
Fri 24th July	Last Day of Term	2.05pm

Early closing on Fridays for Summer Term – 2.05pm

Walking to school - Safety Notice.

Please remind your children to walk with their friends and ensure that they keep their mobile phones and any valuables out of sight. Even though the evenings are brighter we continue to advise students not to walk through Victoria Park on their journey to, or from school, especially if they are alone.

JCoSS Sports Round-up

Yr 8 Boys participated in a 5-a-side football tournament at the power league Mill Hill, playing against a number of local schools. They finished 5th, after winning 2, losing 2 and drawing 1 game. The team was Ben Andrews, Dom Murphy, Grant Birke, Max Aston, Callan Stepsky and Jack Warren.

Yr 7 boys also participated in a 5-a-side tournament at the power league. They played 8 games against local schools, and won the bronze medal. Well done to Manager Mr Brimah. Boy of the tournament Lior Soloman-Wise and goalie Benjamin Mallandain. The team was Aden Brazil, Izzy Fishman, Sammy Kebede, Jamie Richardson, Benjamin mallindain, Lios Soloman-wise and Zach Burke.

We are delighted to announce that the Year 7 Girls football team made it through to the Barnet Borough Final earlier this week. After a well matched game, JCoSS were defeated by 4 goals to 1, however we are very proud of them for receiving the Runners Up Medal.

The team displayed huge progress and skill, with standout performances from Ariela Silber in goal, Captain Eliana Jackson in midfield and Jessica Nathan in defence. The JCoSS goal was scored by Lucy Cooper. The team was Lucy Ritter, Lucy Cooper, Laura Solomon, Joanna Solden, Jess Nathan, Eliana Jackson, Dana Goldman, Ariela Silber, Shoshana Kelvin, Lulu Rose and Amy Sussman was a non playing member of the squad due to injury.

The team is looking forward to building on their success and playing in the Middlesex league and National Cup competitions next year.



Poetry By Heart Competition – Finalist Dana Nitzani, 11F

After winning the local round of the Poetry by Heart Competition, Dana Nitzani 11F, accompanied by her parents and Mrs Cipriano, participated in the national final held over a weekend at Cambridge University. Although she did not win the final, she gave a fabulous performance of her chosen poem and was a credit to the school. She definitely held her own against the competitors who were mostly older than her, coming from a range of sixth forms from across the country, including top independent schools.



Please Vote!

Please click the link below to view a brilliant anti-smoking video which has been created by Year 9 students Ellis Prodromou, Denis Antor, Adam Marks and Joshua Crampton-Shachar. The film has been entered into the Barnet Cut Films competition and we would be delighted if you could take the time to vote for it.

This is an important message to get across to all students, and the students concerned have done the job admirably.

Thank you for your support

<http://competition.cutfilms.org/Video/View/da77124d-0e0c-4757-aa48-a45abe87052a>

JCoSS Ensembles

If your child would like to participate in any of the JCoSS ensembles, below is a reminder of the days they meet at lunchtime (12:55-13:20)

- Monday: ABRSM help (HBR)
- Tuesday: Strings (HBR)
- Weds: Musical Theatre (singing) (MAM with Abi Wander-Yr 10 student leading), woodwind ensemble (SWL)
- Thursday: Jazz Band (SWL)
- Friday: JCoSS 14 choir (auditioned) (HBR), guitar club (TLE)