

Dear Parents

The news this week of horrific terrorist attacks in Kuwait, France and Tunisia has been hard to bear. We began the calendar year with the attacks on Charlie Hebdo and in Copenhagen, and as the summer heat surrounds us, once again the destructive potential of religious extremism is all too clear. Amongst those most concerned for the future are moderate Muslims – that great majority who are tainted by the inevitable fear and suspicion that is jacked up each time someone does evil “in the name of God”.

The Jewish community knows all too well about living in the face of others’ fear and suspicion: the planned demonstration this Saturday – at least now thankfully relocated away from Golders Green – is another reminder of this. We continue to live in dark times for what I might call “people of good faith”.

In the midst of that darkness, this year has seen a growing number of interfaith initiatives which aim to bring some light and build real links that go beyond politeness. You will read inside about the JCoSS Interfaith Tent into which we have welcomed visitors from many faiths and students from many faith schools. The tent is symbolically modelled on the tent at Mamre where Abraham received three visitors and, as the Christian Bible puts it, “entertained angels unawares”. The story is common to the three Abrahamic faiths and the tent is thus a beautifully appropriate space for dialogue. And when better to do (apart from considerations of heat!) than during the Muslim month of Ramadan.

We believe this interfaith work is not only an important part of what JCoSS seeks to do, but also a very pragmatic contribution to the cohesive society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and (in case there was any doubt) this newsletter also makes clear that the school’s Jewish life is as strong as ever. We plan for further interfaith events, including an invitation for parental involvement, in the years ahead.

Now that exams are over for all years, the school is alive with other diversions: the superb JPA Comedy night was a resounding success, this week sees the School Production of Darkwood Manor and the Year 11 Prom at Forty Hall, and a welcome to next year’s Year 7 cohort. Sports Day is next week and the Year 9 Israel Journey and French trips are still to come too. As always I am in awe of the willingness of colleagues, parents and of course students to make all these events happen to enrich and inspire.

Attached to this newsletter is, as promised, a report on the Parental Survey we carried out recently and on the steps we will be taking to respond to it. I will report on the student survey in the final newsletter of the year.

With thanks as ever for your support

Patrick Moriarty  
Headteacher, JCoSS

## Ground-breaking Interfaith Tent at JCoSS

The Interfaith tent grew out of a chance comment from a student which raised concerns about tolerance and understanding within our community. We started to work with a Muslim educator to develop sessions for students about understanding Islam. These sessions were so positive that we were able to secure funding for a wider programme which has developed to include students and facilitators from a wide range of faith schools and organisations. We have called it 'Interfaith Fortnight' and all our KS3 students will have an encounter with one or more people from a different faith during the fortnight. We have welcomed guests from Ayesha Muslim Community school, St Michael's School, St Andrew the Apostle's School (Greek Orthodox), King Solomon School, Unity Muslim School, Eden Girls Muslim school, The Council for Christians and Jews, Rabbi Natan Levy, St Ethelburga's Centre, The 3 Faiths Forum and more. Activities have included graffiti art, storytelling, creative writing, arts and crafts, drama, and panels with faith leaders from across the community and from within our own school community.



## Rosh Chodesh

This month we welcomed speakers from Jewish charities and campaigning organisations to speak to students about the 'big issues' they feel passionate about. Representatives from 3 Faiths Forum, JCORE, The Living Wage Campaign, Keshet, Tzedek, UK Task Force, World Jewish Relief, Yachad and the Tzofim joined us for a thought provoking programme. Key Stage 4 welcomed Gillian Merron, Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews who spoke at their Rosh Chodesh assembly on the role of the Board and the values of democracy and representation.



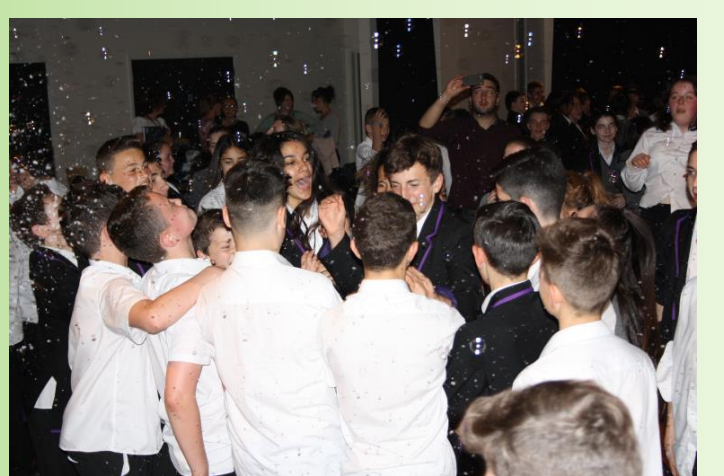
# Bnei mitzvah programme

Last week, Year 8 students were all invited to our annual B'nei Mitzvah celebrations and we were delighted by their behaviour and willingness to join in. The event recognises within school the journeys that our students have made in their home communities, and the hard work they have done.

We had the honour of working with The Together Plan (TTP) who work to empower socially and economically vulnerable communities in the Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students learnt about their peers in Belarus and their reasons for wanting a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students compared these with their own, exploring the similarities and differences in their motivations.

This wonderful piece of learning was followed by a celebratory disco! Students danced, drank and ate to the funky tunes of Captain Fantastic and great fun was had by all.

Debbie Kaye, Year 8 Learning Co-ordinator and Victoria Rose, Informal Jewish Education Coordinator



## Pride Week at JCoSS

The Rainbow Jews Exhibition, which deals with a wide range of ideas around Judaism and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, was displayed at JCoSS during Pride Week – and was the first time it has been displayed in Jewish School.

“As an outward-looking school, we are delighted to be involved in Pride Week” said Informal Jewish Educator Ben Abram. “JCoSS endeavours to share as many Jewish narratives with our students as possible, and this is one of a wide spectrum of perspectives they are offered. We don't tell them what to think; our job is to give them the tools to make their own informed decisions.”

Surat-Shaan Knan , the founder of the Rainbow Jews project, added: “I'm extremely pleased to see the exhibition in a school environment. On our UK tour, we have been at universities, libraries and community centres, and that's fantastic, but I feel it's crucial to create awareness around equality and diversity issues among young Jewish people. After all, we're looking at the next generation of community leaders.”

For more information please go to: [www.rainbowjews.com](http://www.rainbowjews.com)



## To all Year 11 Students and Parents



The JPA are in desperate need of JCoSS uniform and PE Kits to resell in our Uniform Shop during Parent Evenings next year, so please don't throw anything away! Please bring them into school in a bag marked “Uniform Donation” and give to Student Services. We would also love to receive all your personally bought GCSE revision books so these can be resold too.

Of course books belonging to JCoSS must be returned to the school directly. We understand the curriculum will be changing for some subjects, but please donate the books and we will check with each Faculty before selling on.

**Sharna Nothman and Julia Levene**  
**JPA Co Chairs**



## Year 7 Girls Football Team meet Arsenal Ladies

The Year 7 Girls Football Team took part in a two day programme with Arsenal Ladies earlier this month. They enjoyed a ground tour of the Emirates stadium with many photo opportunities along the way. The following day Ciara Allan, who coaches for Arsenal, and Jemma Rose, a first team player and England U23 captain ran training sessions and spoke about life as a professional footballer.



### Year 7 and 8 cricket

JCoSS 102-6 beat Finchley Catholic 65 all out

JCoSS 140-9 beat Ashmole 77-7. Aaron Maurice was man of the match with bowling figures 2-2-0-2.

### Athletics

Year 7 and Year 8 attended an Athletics Barnet League Meeting earlier this month.

Year 8 put in a very good performance all round. Joe Purton and Rio Rosenberg set a new Year 8 1500m record, as well as Jess Nathan setting a new 1500m record for Year 7.

Chiarra Whitefield set a new 800m Year 8 record and Harry Green set a new discus record.

## Year 7 Trip to the iMAX

It was a muggy and overcast Wednesday in New Barnet. 70 excitable students (and 8 excitable teachers) boarded a coach, eagerly anticipating the long-awaited (and much talked about) trip to see a mysterious film at the iMax in Waterloo. I remained tight-lipped about the film, despite intensive and advanced attempts by students to break my resolve. Fortunately, I did not relent and the surprise remained.

Upon arrival students were met by a welcoming committee from the iMax team and were whisked into its plush atrium and given a very warm welcome by our host. After some schmooze, photo ops and much-needed water we entered the screen – apparently the biggest in Europe and the size of 5 double-decker busses!

Following the drum-roll's crescendo, I finally revealed the title: The Lion King. This was met with much applause. The students (and teachers) thoroughly enjoyed the film (schluf) – even singing along to the classic tune: 'Hakuna Matata'.

Lunch and some more photo ops followed and the students were heaped with praise by all the iMax staff for their delightful behaviour and attitude. This trip couldn't have gone ahead without the wonderful JCoSS staff and the students made it their business to thank them too. A seamless tube journey and long walk in the sunshine back to JCoSS ended a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable day. Well done students!

Mr de Jong  
Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator

## Classics Week: The Greeks and Romans come to JCoSS

*Who were the Greeks and Romans? Why do they still matter? Questions to be tackled head on during a week-long celebration of all things Classical.*

From September, Latin will be offered to students in Year 9 as a second language option and as a GCSE option from the following year. To accompany the launch of JCoSS's Latin Department, the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup> will see the entire school retracing the West's roots back to their Classical origins.

The message: the influence of Classics (i.e. of Greco-Roman culture) is everywhere - once you start to look! From amazon.com to the Olympics, from Argos superstores to the Zodiac – the languages, stories, institutions and concepts of the Greeks and Romans are fundamental to our lives today. With myth-making competitions, exciting drama workshops, an array of lunchtime-activities from Roman board games to soothsaying, and perhaps some high-profile guest speakers too, we expect that, by the end of the week, students will have a very good idea of who the Greeks and Romans were and of why they still matter profoundly.

## Reminder to Parents and Students

Please remember to empty all lockers at the end of term and remove locks.  
Please do not leave anything behind as the school will be having a forensic clean during the holidays.



## Year 10 Students to participate in the British 10K London Run

Instead of putting their feet up after their exams, friends Joe Rogove (10S) and Samuel Danker (10N) will be putting on their running shoes and gearing up for the British 10K London Run on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. They will be running right through the centre of London, passing some of the city's famous landmarks, including Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and 10 Downing Street.

Joe is raising money for Teens Unite Fighting Cancer, which helps make sure that young people with cancer gets the support they deserve. 'I am lucky enough to be able to help in a small way,' says Joe.

Samuel is fundraising for the Anaphylaxis Campaign, which supports people with life-threatening allergies. 'As someone with severe food allergies, I know what a worthwhile cause this is,' says Samuel.

If you would like to sponsor Joe and Samuel, please visit their Just Giving pages:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Joe-Rogove/>

<https://www.justgiving.com/Samuel-Danker/>



JCoSS is now hiring our facilities for Bar and Batmitzvahs.

The Main Hall and Heartspace can be used for your functions, plus

- Use of Kosher Meat kitchen
- Use of Multi Media presentation screen
- Use of portable staging
- Sound System available

Contact Jenny Cohen, ext 3029 for more details

# Year 9 Students win The Barnet Cut Film Awards

We are delighted and proud to announce that Year 9 students Ellis Prodromou, Adam Marks, Denis Antor and Josh Crampton did fantastically well at The Barnet Cut Films Awards at Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley earlier this month. Their anti smoking film 'Stamp It Out Now' won three awards including the top award of Overall Judges' Choice, beating 69 films that entered the competition.

Awards received were:

Overall Popular Choice Award Winner  
Judges' Choice 12-15 years Award Winner  
Overall Judges' Choice Award Winner

From 3rd July for a week their film 'Stamp It Out Now' will be shown at the Phoenix Cinema before the main films. To watch the film, which is 2 minutes long, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/1EXuZ3U>

445 films entered the competition nationally and their film 'Stamp It Out Now' is amongst the final 15. The boys will be attending The National Cut Films Awards at BAFTA headquarters in London on 1<sup>st</sup> July and we wish them the very best of luck.



## Robert Shrager Memorial Lecture



A wonderful evening was had by all who attended the Robert Shrager Memorial Lecture earlier this month. Lord Finkelstein, associate editor of the Times entertained the audience of parents, Trustees and members of the community, with a hugely interesting and amusing talk on the (real) rules of politics. We hope to see you there next year!

