

newsletter

ניסן Nissan 5776

April 2016

Dear Parents

Yesterday I invited the Year 11 Boys' Football Team to my office in celebration of their 5-4 victory against Mill Hill County in the Barnet Plate Cup Final. It is the first time we have won this competition in the school's history: of course we rejoice at every victory, but a Jewish sporting success in a pan-Barnet competition is, well, all the more worthy of celebration. You can read the write-up on the back page if you've not already seen it on the JCoSS Sports Facebook Page, and you can perhaps imagine the volume of noise and testosterone that filled my office, doing rather better justice to the team's triumph than the "Barnet Plate" itself - in reality more like a small saucer.

You might have been more surprised by the scene a week earlier when most of the same group of boys were gathered in HaMifgash reciting Tehillim while their classmate Noah Baron Cohen was in intensive therapy following his collapse during a PE lesson. A few days before that, most of the team were on the All Weather Pitch for a PE lesson when it all happened; Mr White, whose actions saved Noah's life, is the team's coach. So you will appreciate that when the match report says "The boys won today for themselves, for Noah and for the school", it really means what it says.

I'm delighted to be writing this newsletter having heard the news that Noah will be coming home today, two weeks on. Full recovery will of course take time, but we share as a community great joy and relief at such wonderful news. The many responses I have read, received and seen from students, parents and others has brought home to me a new significance to the 'Co' in JCoSS. When the school was given that name, the point was to stress that we are a school for the whole Jewish community* in all its rich and pluralist diversity. But at the end of this past fortnight, and of this term, there is a new resonance for me, and for lots of those who have written to me: JCoSS feels like a school with community at its heart.

During this year I am meeting each form group one by one in a form time, to share something of the journey that has brought me to my role as Headteacher at JCoSS and to allow students to ask any question they want. The questions have been fascinating and searching: about the politics of academisation, about the school budget, about whether talent or ambition is more important to success, about the point of school uniform, about what I am most proud of at JCoSS and most want to change, about the school's awareness of mental health; and on the other hand about my favourite breakfast cereal, my car and where I buy my socks.

Perhaps the most searching question has been about what I actually do all day, to which the simplest answer is "I answer emails". But the issue is, what sort of emails, from and to whom, and with what kind of content and intention? The reason I enjoy being headteacher of JCoSS (another on the 'frequently asked' list...) is because all those emails, and indeed every other interaction I have, are in the end about the creation of community or character. In some cases that is more obvious than others (and of course we, and I, don't get every interaction right), but the distance between even the most routine and prosaic email and the reality of community life must be shorter in schools than in almost any other line of work. It's with that in mind that I have been recommending that students at least give consideration in their career deliberations to the teaching profession. They too could aspire to the best job in the world, if and when I am ready to give it up.

So as this excessively long term draws to a close and we look forward to celebrating freedom in all its senses, I thank you all for being the community of JCoSS, and for putting the community into JCoSS, seen especially in the words you have written and the prayers you have said for Noah and for us all over the past fortnight. We send the best communal vibes to all families in which students are preparing for public exams, and I wish you Pesach Sameach and a very good and liberating holiday.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

*(other Jewish schools are available)

JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Summer Term

Date	Time	Description
Tues 3 rd May	8.30am	First Day Back
Thurs 5 th May	All day	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) – lessons as normal
Wed 11 th May	All day	Yom Hazikaron (memorial day in Israel) – lessons as normal
Thurs 12 th May	8.30am - 2.05pm	Yom Ha'atzmuat (Israel Independence day) drop down day (details will be e-mailed). Please note early closing
Mon 16 th May – Fri 30 th May	All day	Year 7, 8 & 9 Assessments
Fri 30 th May		Last Day before Half Term

School Closes at 2.05pm on all Fridays in the Summer term

The second half of term begins on Monday 6th June at 8.30am

NB: We are closed for Shavuot on Monday 13th June

War horse review, by Ariella Kaplan, Year 7

As part of the English curriculum, a group of Yr7 students visited the New London Theatre to see the spectacular performance of War Horse in preparation for our new English topic on the play script. This play is based on the touching book written by Michael Morpurgo.

The story is about the strong relationship between a boy and his horse. When World War 1 starts Joey (the horse) gets sold to the British army and caught up in the war. Although not old enough to be in the army, Albert (the boy) sets off, determined to find Joey and bring him home.

We were first struck by the use of puppets to depict the animals in the story. Although they were realistic and dramatic, at times we couldn't help noticing the people controlling them.

The sudden gunshots surprised everyone and some of the war scenes were scary however the story was moving and brought many of us to tears.

I am so glad to have had this opportunity to see the powerful play and I really enjoyed being there with my friends. I feel that it was a great way to introduce the new English topic. Thank you to everyone who came with us.



Y9 Latin class visit to the Museum of London, By Octavia Molteno (Y9)

Earlier this term myself along with other Year 9 Latin students visited the Museum of London to learn about the history of Roman Britain, and to immerse ourselves in its culture.

Participating in three workshops throughout the day, we learnt about the fearless Queen Boudicca's resistance to Roman rule, wrote our own stories set in Roman London and we even got to handle original Roman artefacts dug up in the city.

This visit tied in perfectly with the unit we are currently studying in Latin, which focuses on Roman Britain. It offered us a powerful insight into the values, beliefs and lifestyle of the Romans and showed us how these were absorbed by those whose land they occupied for almost 400 years.



Purim at JCoSS

What do Papa Smurf, Queen Elizabeth the First, Batman and Sherlock Holmes have in common? An easy question to answer if you were at JCoSS for Purim this year, when staff and students alike reached even higher standards of creativity in the fancy dress stakes. An orchestra from Israel, drumming, circus skills, a charity casino and a full megillah reading were just a few highlights from a day of incredible fun and learning. Students also raised over £2000 for our school charities, as well as for student led projects organised by the Alan Senitt leadership programme and the Shivyon (equality) society with the JCoSS Gay Straight Alliance.



Informal Jewish Education News

Students have been completing the latest Rosh Chodesh cycle of the year with representatives from a wide range of charities and Jewish community organisations leading study groups on 'hot topics' for years 7, 8 and 9. Years 10 – 12 had an extended assembly on activism, welcoming Arifa Nasim, a young Muslim campaigner for womens' rights.



We also welcomed the Merchavim Institute to school to speak to our 6th form. Merchavim facilitates a variety of programs in four main areas: art and shared citizenship; diversity in the staff room – the integration of Arab teachers in Jewish schools; spoken Arabic and Arab society; and shared citizenship courses and workshops. This was a key feature in the 6th form JE programme which offers a variety of courses on a wide range of topics to 6th form students, who are then able to pick the courses of most interest and relevance to them.

The JCoSS Parents' trip to Poland took place earlier this week. In its second year, the trip offers the JCoSS wider family a condensed opportunity to visit the sites and go through the educational experience that the students have on their trip. It was an intense and exhausting 2 days but once again an unmissable and unique event.



Year 10 Careers Conversations are well underway

From composer and astronaut to script-writer, oceanographer, Member of Parliament, M15 officer and just about everything in between, JCoSS current Year 10 students' career aspirations are wide-ranging.

Students' ideas about future careers are revealed in the Year 10 Careers Conversations now underway. These were previously known as Careers Interviews but we decided that re-naming them Careers Conversations is more student-friendly and better describes what they are.

Careers Conversations take place every year during the spring and summer terms with each student allocated 25-30 minutes one-to-one with a JCoSS Careers Adviser. The aim is to help students develop self-awareness by considering and identifying some of their strengths and interests, suggesting career areas these link to and encouraging them to start researching ideas. We don't expect students to have specific careers in mind at this stage though a number of them do.

Following the Conversation, each student receives a written summary complete with a list of websites they can use to start their research.

A number of students have said they already have part-time jobs. These range from volunteering in synagogue to sports coaching and event photography while others are proactive in developing their hobbies and interests to impress future employers e.g. making their own films.

"It is very encouraging to see many students are already engaged in thinking seriously about their futures", said JCoSS Careers Adviser Helen Lewis. "For those who aren't doing so yet, we hope these Conversations will kick-start the process. Just 5 -10 minutes spent researching careers now and then is valuable. Students can also find out a lot from talking to family and other adults about their careers."

Students can click on the link below to access the hundreds of Job Profiles on the National Careers Service website and start finding out about the different careers which interest them.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>

Stress Management with Year 9

This term, the organisation 'Jami' has been working on stress management with Year 9 students. They looked at the biological, psychological and behavioural symptoms of stress which encouraged some lively classroom discussions exploring not only how stress impacts on young lives but also reflecting on how stress affects others. Encouraging young people to be more reflective and empathic are life skills that help promote well-being. Year 9 also took away ideas for recognising and better managing stress; hopefully they can share some of those tips at home too! Thanks to Jami, the Jewish community's mental health service. Please visit www.jamiuk.org for more information.

JCoSS Science Week 2016 - Back To The Future.

The Science Fair was a great success, with an inter-house competition to create a futuristic science invention. The winner was Elaine Miller 9W who created a solar powered light up coat (see picture) 2nd place went to Erin Walfisz 7B who gave ideas for Human Cloning, Transport with balloons and a Zombie virus! In 3rd place were Charlotte Kurash and Millie Sherr 8N who created the self-writing pen.



Einstein's Birthday was celebrated during lunchtime with Doc Brown's Showcase of fun science experiments. These ranged from conducting putty made from household ingredients such as salt and flour to a 'magic' blue bottle whose contents changed from blue to clear depending on whether you shook it or let it stand still.



JCoSS Sport

Huge congratulations are due to the Year 11 football team who won the Barnet Plate Cup Final earlier this week. The final, against Mill Hill County High School was a tight affair with plenty of action: Tom Stepsky opened the scoring and on the stroke of half time Mill Hill equalised. Going into the 2nd half, Mill Hill scored two goals in succession, but the character of the JCoSS lads shone through and they came back with two quick goals of their own.

A pacey winger for Mill Hill ran through our ranks and put his team ahead. Josh Shack then replied with an outstanding free kick and then in the dying minutes Nathan Anders popped up from a corner and slotted home the winner. The boys held out till the end and have taken home the trophy!

Victory was especially sweet for the team because many of them are in the same PE group as Noah Baron Cohen and were with him during the traumas of last week.

A lot of credit goes out to the students who showed fantastic character and team cohesion to win today. The boys won today for themselves, for Noah and for the school. A great way to end their KS4 sporting lives at JCoSS.

Mr A. White
PE teacher

Squad:
Saul Fenton,
Gabriel Platt,
Holden Bril,
Aidan Raphael (C),
Theo Rifkin-Zybutz,
Ryan Gould,
Rafi Sofizade,
Nathan Anders,
Josh Burns,
Josh Shack (MOM),
Max Walker,
Tom Stepsky
Zacki Doumou.



Earlier this term, our KS3 netball teams competed in the next phase of their competitions. As they all finished in the top half of the group stage they were competing for overall champions of Barnet.

Year 7 girls: 3rd place
Year 8 girls: 3rd place
Year 9 girls: 6th place

Year 7 and 8 girls won and collected their bronze medals. Out of 17 Barnet schools the girls have done fantastically to finish where they have.

