

Dear Parents

The only thing in the world worse than being talked about, according to Oscar Wilde, is not being talked about. JCoSS has been talked about rather a lot in the Jewish press this past week: as well as an extended feature on the school in the Jewish Chronicle, (www.thejc.com/campus/education-features/150208) we have also launched our admissions policy consultation for 2017-18 which naturally provokes debate and interest, given the concerns within the community about the supply of places at Jewish secondary schools.

One place we were not talked about was in a Sunday Times article on the success of Jewish schools, and this despite having better results than some of the schools featured. The article, and the league table that prompted it, was picked up in the Jewish Press, which doubled the silence. The reason for our absence was simply that the Sunday Times did not have us on their radar: their league table relies on schools sending in their own exams data, which in turn relies on schools knowing how and when to do so. Some schools withhold the information on principle, some because they would rather not draw attention to their results (all of which means one should read such tables with caution). Neither applies to JCoSS: as more official statistics come in (such as 6th form value-added figures that place us comfortably ahead of prestigious local independent schools) we hold our heads up high amongst the other excellent schools in the Jewish community.

I am happy to say, however, that the newsletter that follows makes no reference whatsoever to exam successes, and instead focuses on all the other things that matter in education, and that makes JCoSS such a wonderfully rich community. The selection process for our new Student Senior Leadership Team, for example, was a phenomenal experience: the quality of the applications was truly impressive, and this was true well beyond the team who were appointed. So many students combined a desire and ability to lead with a desire to serve and to give something back to the community. Those disappointed may well wish at present that they were those being talked about, but they should be heartened by the fact that, such was the strength in depth, we could have easily appointed another whole team. Above all, the process was a wonderful display of Menschlichkeit, and it was a deep joy to see and hear that quality so well articulated and exemplified by the cohort who have heard us talk about it for the longest (though good, too, to have one newcomer to JCoSS on the team!).

I have enjoyed spending some time with each Year 7 tutor group this term (with a few to complete) and impressing upon them the importance of decent, good-hearted integrity to the ethos of JCoSS and the character of its students. It will not be long before they are taking their places at the top of the school and I can see already we will be in safe hands. They have also asked some excellent and searching questions of me in return. What makes JCoSS special, why did I want to work here, what are the high points and low points of being a headteacher, and (most searching of all) what I actually do all day? Several have also asked what my career ambitions were as a teenager, to which the answer is that they were not at all fully formed even by the time I left university...and that I think that was – and is for them today – a perfectly acceptable position to be in.

My further response is something that I came across this week and immediately wanted to pass on to you as fellow parents: rather than asking our children what job they want to do when they grow up, let us ask them instead *what problems they would like to solve* when they grow up. It is a much richer seam to mine: it is less likely to get a response based around salary, it avoids them having to make judgments over jobs that (like that of the headteacher) they may have only hazy ideas about, and best of all it will help to focus their minds on how we can engage with making the world more liveable for the future, not simply how we might spend our working days.

To return to Oscar Wilde, our culture encourages children to imagine that they should aspire to be “talked about”. Actually, at least as much good is done by those who are not talked about, and who are not bothered by the fact.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

APPEAL FOR PARENTS TO OFFER WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Calling all parents...the Careers Department at JCoSS is now organising a Work Experience programme for the entire Year 12 cohort, and urgently need your help in finding placements.

For the five days from July 11-15, the whole year group, which now numbers around 150 students, will be on work experience.

The current Year 12 is the first to have progressed through the school since it opened in 2010 and is by far the biggest group for whom we have had to find placements.

Work experience is a vital step in helping to prepare students for the wider world and we aim to offer students a selection of opportunities which are both interesting and inspiring.

Last year we sent a group of 30 Year 12 students.

One of those was Georgia Lester (pictured) who, thanks to a parent contact, completed her work experience with Haringey Police where she was introduced to various departments and their work, including the Drugs Team, Youth Offending, Counselling and Investigations. She said: "I got to talk to police men and women about their work and it made me decide that a career in the police force is definitely for me.



"I really enjoyed the experience. It was different to what I expected as I hadn't realised how varied the work was. I also learned what you have to do to get into the different careers – and how to apply."

We greatly appreciate the work experience parents have already offered to JCoSS students and hope as many as possible of you will come forward for the current Year 12.

Even if your son or daughter is not interested in working in the same areas as you, your offer of a placement would be valuable to another student who does.

We need to start arranging placements THIS TERM so would appreciate if parents could get back to us as soon as possible. Look out for reply slips which we will be sending out soon. In the meantime, you can contact **Ms Lewis at JCoSS Careers:** hlewis@jcross.barnet.sch.uk or **Mrs Robinson, 6th Form Administrator:** srobinson@jcross.barnet.sch.uk

Coach Services Information

If your child subscribes to the coach service and would like to travel using a different route (for example to go home with a friend), they should go to Reception between 1.00pm - 1.30pm a minimum of two school days' before they wish to travel. If the change is for a Monday, your child must ask no later than the Friday before. Alternatively, parents can send an email to transport@jcross.barnet.sch.uk to make a request, using the same notice period.

For students who do not subscribe to the service, single journey passes can be purchased at the cost of £3.50, providing there is availability on the coach. The same procedure applies - 48hrs notice must be given and students must make payment at the same time as booking the travel pass.

New Student Senior Leadership Team

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the results of the recent Headboy and Headgirl process. After a fantastic hustings, followed by interviews with Mr Moriarty, myself and Mr Kennedy, I am pleased to announce that we have made the following appointments:

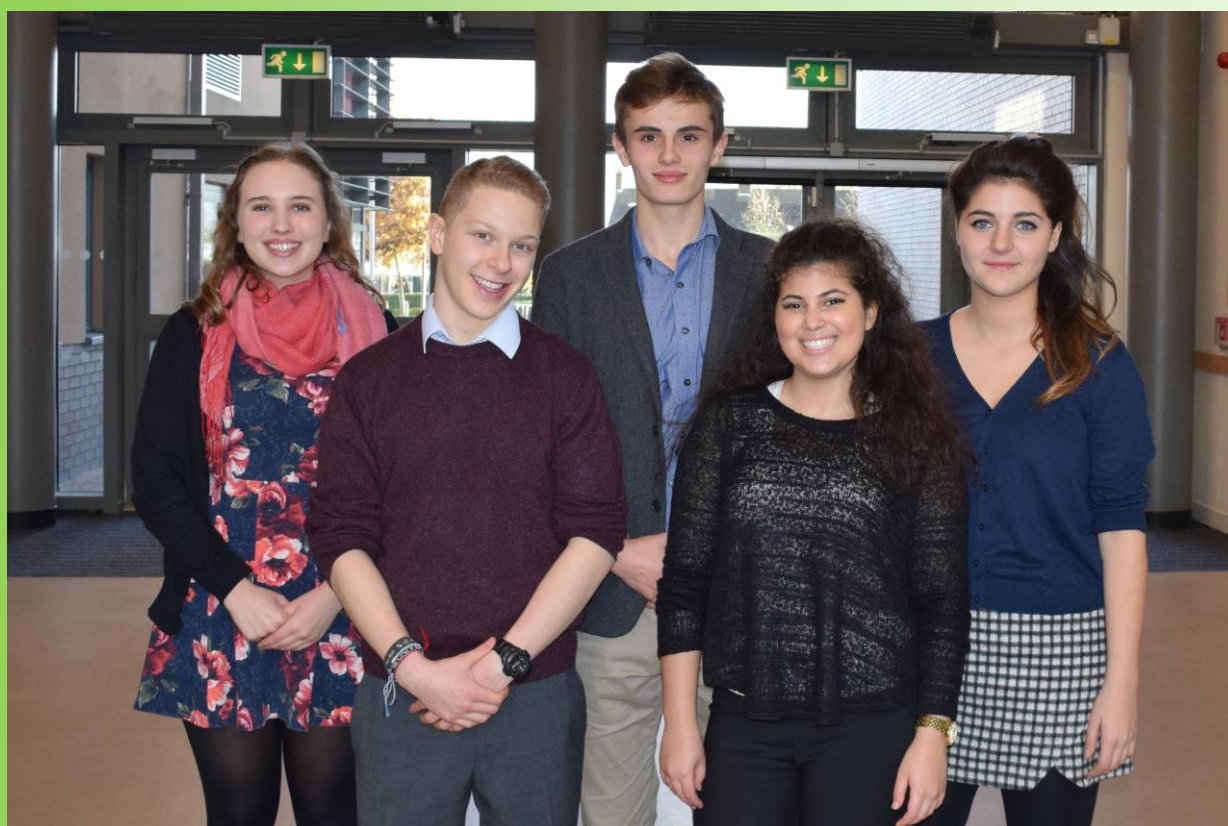
Headboy: Nikita Ostrovsky

Headgirl: Jamy Bristol James

Deputy Headgirls: Isabelle Aron, Kezia Niman; Deputy Headboy: Daniel Golstein

Mr Lorrimer

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Key Stage 5



Parent Governor Election

Following the Parent Governor election earlier this month, both Martine Brent and Jonathan Gold have been elected as Parent Governors. Thank you to all the nominees who stood for election and thank you to all those who participated.

Shirley Paul

Clerk to Governing Body

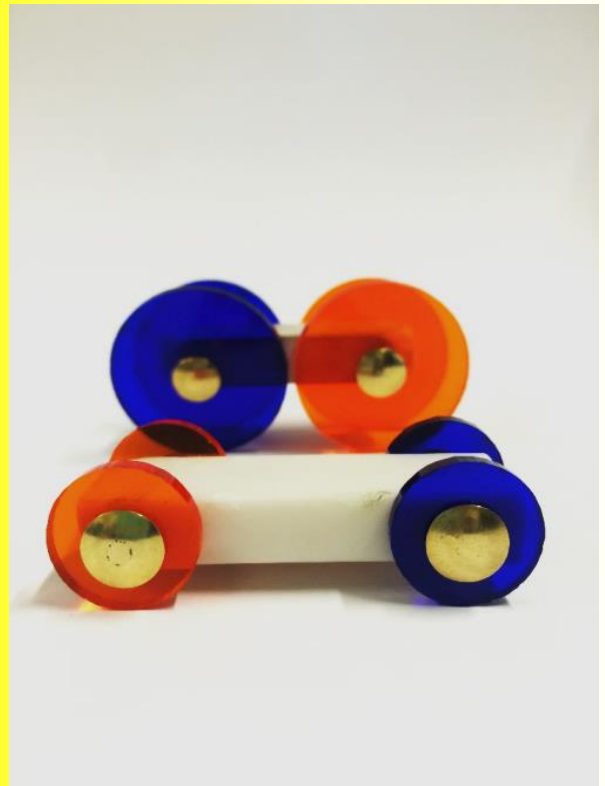
Design Ventura Competition 2015



Well done and congratulations to team '*Eracers*', Year 9 winners of the Design Ventura competition 2015. Team '*Eracers*' consisted of Josh Yonish, Stefan Tucker, Joseph Pollack and Sam Holden, who were all selected to represent JCoSS with their fantastic design idea. The design is a set of wheels that you attach to your eraser that you can then change so that it can move.

This has now been sent to The Design Museum to represent JCoSS. Well done to the other two teams that took part in this year's competition with Team '*Triiii*': Olivia Gold, Eliana Stern, Hannah Byrne-Smith, Darcy Tish & Jonina Grayson-Lee. Along with Team '*Grip Strip*': consisting of Octavia Molteno, Poppy Flack, Teanna Parmar & Isabella Montana.

Miss Coard Design & Technology



Visiting Author

Miriam Halahmy visited JCoSS earlier this week to work with Year 10 Able and Ambitious students, during a writing workshop. Students wrote a short story, which was then discussed and developed during a two hour workshop. Miriam Halahmy was particularly impressed by the quality of the students' writing. This is the first of a series of creative writing workshops for a variety of students of different abilities called 'Writers in Residence'.



Zoom's First Solo Exhibition

Zoom Rockman, Year 11, a very talented writer and cartoonist, held his first solo exhibition at Westminster Reference Library in Leicester Square. Amongst many guests was our very own Mr Moriarty.



Informal Jewish News at JCoSS

Mitzvah Day JCoSS students celebrated Mitzvah Day in a variety of ways this year, with students volunteering across and beyond the Jewish community. Baking for the homeless, creating a party for Norwood service users and collecting for a food bank, were amongst the projects undertaken. In school, students collected arts and crafts materials for the Save a Child's Heart Centre in Israel and created get well cards for their patients to colour in.



Rosh Chodesh – We celebrated Rosh Chodesh Kislev in school with the usual wide range of services and prayer options. Students in Keystage 4 heard from Rabbi Roni Tabick in a special extended assembly which explored ideas around how we can take the best from all traditions at this festive time of year. Rabbi Roni also spoke at our new Rosh Chodesh Lunch and Learn on the topic of demons in Judaism.

Yom Rabin – The 20th anniversary of Rabin's death was marked by special assemblies all week led by Ophir Shay, who is our Israeli Scout, spending his gap year volunteering at JCoSS before he goes back to Israel to start his army service. Hearing his reflections on the murder and its impact on Israeli society was a powerful and moving experience for us all. Ophir is also here to help students with Ivrit and to develop students' engagement with Israel through the 6th Form and Year 7 programmes, lunch clubs and other informal activities.

Israel Tour Fair – Hard though it is to believe, Year 11 have already started planning for the summer! Last week, representatives from all the Zionist Youth Movements came to JCoSS, in order to promote their Israel Tour programmes for Summer 2016. There was a great deal of interest from all students, and we look forward to hearing about everyone's summer.

Interfaith Week

Building on the success of last year's Ramadan Tent, JCoSS celebrated Interfaith week and its proximity to Mitzvah Day with an exciting new project with Ayesha Community School. Students from both schools met on each day of Interfaith Week in order to cook food for the 'winter night shelter for rough sleepers', which is held in local churches through the Together in Barnet project. The meeting of Muslim and Jewish students in local churches felt both meaningful and exciting and each day the students had a chance to get to know each other as well as creating some wonderful desserts for the shelters.



Shabbat UK

JCoSS students visited Jewish Care's Lady Sarah Cohen House in advance of Shabbat UK and joined with residents in baking challah. Also, over 800 students participated in a whole-school challah bake on Thursday 22nd October. The 800 challot were sold in school on the Friday, raising over £400 for our school charities.



Classics Week: The Greeks and Romans come to JCoSS

Who were the Greeks and Romans? Why do they still matter? How do they help us to understand ourselves? Questions tackled head on during a week-long immersion in all things Classical.

Last week at JCoSS was Classics Week - which saw the entire school retracing our (the West's) roots back to their Classical origins. This special week was held to celebrate the launch of JCoSS's Latin Department, where Latin is now offered to students in Year 9 as a second language option, and will be available as a GCSE subject from next year.

The message: the influence of the Greco-Roman world of 'Classics' 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 and displays, an exciting day-long drama workshop-cum-performances led by the Almeida Theatre and an array of activities, both in lesson time and at lunch, students had a very good idea of who the Greeks and Romans were and why they still matter profoundly by the end of the week.

But, far from suggesting that we should simply celebrate the Classical legacy without question, Classics Week offered the opportunity for students to consider how complex our relationship is with the Greeks and Romans and how, in many ways, we define ourselves in opposition to them: they were slave owners, women had very little voice, they had problematic views about race - 'xenophobia' doesn't just happen to be a Greek word!

As Jews, our relationship with the Classical world is yet more fraught. Many of the defining values of Judaism - monotheism, modesty, repentance and forgiveness - are poles apart from those typically associated with the Classical world.

As we light the Chanukah candles and sing the verse of Maoz Tzur beginning 'yevanim nikbetzu alay', students will hopefully have a new and deeper understanding of the clash between these two great cultures, and of the extent to which they themselves are a product of both.

Many thanks to the charity 'Classics for All' who made the week possible, due to their generous grant.



Deputy Head Girl's initiative to help students' University decisions

Sixth Former and Deputy Head Girl, Kezia Niman, is spearheading an initiative which is designed to inspire and inform fellow students about university life.

The initiative, called The University Gateway Programme, aims to attract current university students to come to JCoSS to talk to 6th Formers during lunchbreaks. Speakers will share their experiences of student life and lead short activities inspired by the courses they are studying.

The first session will take place on **Tuesday, 1st December** and will be led by two students studying English Literature and Psychology, at Royal Holloway University. "This will be a great opportunity to gain unparalleled insight into the nature of these undergraduate courses, and we hope as many 6th formers as possible will attend," said Kezia. "If we get a good response from students, it is something we will be able to repeat. Over the next few months, we hope to offer an array of sessions led by students studying a plethora of subjects. The purpose is to ensure that 6th Formers receive relevant information about the courses that they want to study, from the perspective of somebody who is currently doing exactly that."

The programme will depend on the support of fellow students to attend the sessions AND suggest speakers they know, for future sessions. Students should put forward their ideas to Kezia.



Bright Sparks Concert

On Tuesday 3rd November the GCSE Music classes went on a trip to the Royal Festival Hall to hear the London Philharmonic Orchestra perform in a "Bright Sparks" Concert. These annual concerts are aimed at Key Stages 3–5, offering the opportunity for students to experience an orchestral concert - live! The concerts are an excellent revision source as they cover some of the exam set-works and a presenter provides a detailed lecture-analysis to accompany the performances. Our students were a credit to the school. The concert was excellent and all of us had a most enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Ms Miller for accompanying us.

Mr Brookman and Mr Leffman



JCoSS students make change at Barnet Youth Convention

Members of our School Council took part in Barnet's first ever Youth Convention at the RAF Museum in Colindale. Students took part in discussions on key themes such as Housing, Education and Health in order to create Charter for Children and Young People for the London Borough of Barnet.



Year 7 Grandparents' Afternoon



A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by the 170 grandparents who came to JCoSS last week. They were entertained by the JCoSS choir, string ensemble and harpist Emma Marcus in Year 7 – and of course nice tea and cakes were on offer!

JCoSS win KS3 Barnet schools Badminton Championships

Twelve teams battled it out at QE Girls' School last week to try and take the KS3 Boys place to represent Barnet at the School Games in Badminton.

We are delighted to announce that after a long afternoon of Badminton the endurance of the JCoSS team shone through and they received the Gold Medals for a successive year, and will now progress to represent Barnet at the School Games.

Congratulations to
Josh Franes/ Josh Hennes –Doubles
Louis Rogove – Singles
Sam Holden – Singles



Year 12 PSRP Volunteering Project at Kennedy Leigh Centre in conjunction with Norwood



For the last 4 weeks, the Year 12 PSRP students have been volunteering at the Kennedy Leigh Centre (KLC) in Hendon.

The students were given a task to design and create a small portable garden play area, which would be a safe place in which the nursery children could play.

The students spent the first week planning their ideas, then cleared, weeded and tidied the garden area they had been given for their project.

They had a meeting and agreed on a “**Dinozoo**” theme which included model animals, dinosaurs, farm animals and sea life creatures. They decided that the play areas would be kept in movable plastic boxes so that they could be covered and kept clean and safe. Once the designs had been agreed and the garden area had been cleared, the students started to order the items they needed in order to create their garden play areas.

Over the next three weeks, the students worked well together and created the most amazing mobile play area for the nursery children. The children were heard to say “we love it”.

Presentations of certificates were made to the students by Norwood and the nursery children. It really was a very exciting challenge for the students who excelled in their task. They will also be awarded Headteacher commendations for their excellent work.

Nicky Haugh said – “The name Dinozoo was my idea and I am very proud how I combined the words and the themes.

Umer Kayani said – “I felt proud that I managed to help design the garden and pleased I got a certificate”.

Adam Paul Solomons said “It made a really nice change to be out of the classroom”.

