

Dear Parents

Here is a newsletter of contrasts, encapsulating much of the soul of JCoSS in a few pages. Many of you will have seen in the press the reports of Mr White's award for his life-saving actions on the JCoSS All-Weather Pitch earlier this year. To appear in the Jewish Chronicle is one thing, but to make it to page 2 of the Newsletter is something else, and we are delighted to give him top billing and to share again our deep gratitude and admiration for that utterly heroic 20 mins and all that has followed: a low turned into a high in so many ways.

You can also read of the newly formed JCoSS Science society, but the article here does not do justice to a glorious if rather grizzly lunchtime I spent earlier this month: in the first half, the dress rehearsal of King Lear, performed with huge energy and intensity by the JCoSS theatre group under Mr Roberts' direction. In the second half, the audience were invited to decamp to the science labs with the cast, to do some action research in the tradition of method acting. To enter the spirit of a play, actors need to experience its themes at first hand; given the prominence of the gouging out of eyes in King Lear ('Out, vile jelly; where is thy lustre now?') it was gruesomely appropriate for our cast to witness and even take part in the dissection of eyes that our A level scientists were engaged in. The experience was intense; the excised lenses were perfect to behold, and the whole lunchtime was a fabulous cross-curricular encounter.

More highs and lows in the realm of interfaith feature in this edition: an excellent and inspiring example from one conference in London, and once again the JC has provided a warm-up for Ella Garai-Ebner's journalistic talent to be honed, ready for the JCoSS newsletter. A less inspiring, and frankly disturbing example from another conference in Leicester where it appears that Christian anti-Semitism was alive and well in the mouths of some Pentecostal students. You can imagine my anger and disappointment at this, but Abi Wander's response shows a menschilke determination to take some positives from the situation. We have written to the organisers to express our disquiet, and hope to make contact with the school concerned to try and turn this into a learning encounter rather than deepening mistrust on both sides. Interfaith conversations are best when they can be safely 'fierce', but should never be hurtful and ignorant.

A neat balance is achieved between a request for support from parents in offering work experience, and a reflection from two Year 12 PSRP students on the value they derived from work experience, and the public recognition they deservedly received from Norwood. Attending the annual Norwood Dinner is one of the less burdensome duties of my role (well, someone needs to enjoy excellent food and celebrity entertainment with the great and the good...) and it was a delight to see Nicky Haugh appearing in their excellent promotional video for 2016.

All this and a teachers' sponsored event to raise money for, and awareness of, the challenges facing schools in the less developed world. I hope that students and their families will be moved to support this initiative. Although the noise of building works has made Year 11 mock exams not quite the first world experience they should have been, our students do benefit from excellent facilities and (by international standards) luxurious educational provision. It behoves us to acknowledge that, by sharing our relative bounty with others who cheerfully make do with far less.

So teachers and students alike reveal themselves in these pages as high achieving and open hearted Menschen, achieving, enriching and inspiring in a gratifying demonstration of our strapline. I hope you enjoy it.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

SADS (Sudden Adult Death Trust) UK National Lifesaver Defibrillator Awards 2016

As you may already be aware from coverage in the Jewish press, we are very proud of Mr White who received the SADS UK Lifesaver Award for helping to save the life of Noah Baron Cohen in April, when he suffered a cardiac arrest during a P.E lesson. SADS UK Patron Dr Hilary Jones from Good Morning Britain, presented the award to him at a ceremony that honours people who have saved lives in the community.

Mr Moriarty said "Mr White was totally calm and heroic that morning. The paramedic doctor and the team at Great Ormond Street Hospital said that the quality of his action, as well as its promptness, was key to the speed of Noah's recovery. We are enormously proud of him and this award recognises his amazing actions and reactions."



The Bare Essentials Teaching Challenge

On the 14th December teachers at JCoSS will be challenging themselves to teach all their lessons with no resources. The Bare Essentials Teaching Challenge is to raise awareness of the challenges teachers and students face in developing countries. It is also to remind us of how lucky we are to have access to such fantastic resources and facilities which both staff and students benefit from on a daily basis. This will be a sponsored event and students are able to support us by donating directly to their form tutor or to the Art department office where Ms Collins and Miss Goschalk will be available to answer any further questions that students may have.

All money raised from this event will go to Tzedek one of our school charities who help send resources, provide teacher training and do many other projects to help students learn, in underdeveloped parts of the world.

SciSoc: Est 2016

The Science department, along with 6th form students, have established JCoSS's first 6th form Science Society. The society is to be a place where enthusiastic scientists can explore the world of science beyond the classroom through extra experiments, discussions and external speakers.

So far, we have held 2 highly successful sessions, Eye Dissection and the Thermite Reaction. In the upcoming weeks, we have a number of external speakers coming in to run sessions for our students.

Our upcoming events calendar is:

Wednesday 30.11.16	Professor Aharoni	A leading biochemist working in the world of the Metabolome (investigating metabolism)
Tuesday 6.12.16	Let's prepare for Science Week	6 th form scientists to take the lead on the school's science week to pass on their enthusiasm and knowledge
Tuesday 13.12.16	Danier Susser – Cancer Research UK	Research Strategist for Cancer Research UK. A wonderful alternative to Medicine or Veterinary Science
Tuesday 20.12.16	Dr (to be) Sam Freeman	5 th year Medical Student, Sam Freeman will be sharing his experiences and insights.

Mr Forman and Mr Boxer



LRC News

Half Price Book Fair – This week

Our popular half-price book fair is on this week. Students are able to buy books at bargain prices during break or lunch time. Thank you to all the parents that are helping to run the fair – we greatly appreciate your help.

Bookbuzz



All the free books sponsored by the JPA have now been distributed to Year 7 students.

As part of their Home Learning, we will be asking Year 7 students to create a book jacket, consisting of a picture and blurb of their chosen book. This should be returned to the LRC straight after the winter holidays.

The students may also submit this book jacket to the Bookbuzz competition by **20 January 2017**:

<http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/bookbuzz/fun-stuff/competitions/41/>.

We will also be running an in-house competition too.

The LRC



London and Essex Table Tennis Tournament

Congratulations to Millie Rogove, Scarlett Anders, Scarlett Cohen and Sienna Cohen for winning the Under 13 girls category in the North London qualifying round in the London and Essex Table Tennis tournament.

They will now be representing North London in the finals at University East London.

Year 12 Work Experience Programme

The Launch Assembly for our Year 12 Work Experience programme will be taking place early December. Work Experience Week will run from 10th – 14th July 2017 and students will be expected to find their own placements, although Barnet Education Business Partnership will support any who are unable to find their own. The JCoSS community of parents and friends have been extremely supportive in previous years and we are hoping for a similar level of help in finding placements for the current cohort. This year only two students were unable to find their own work experience places!

Thanks to parents and friends, students were offered some amazing opportunities this year in a diverse range of career areas, from medicine to law, engineering, media, finance, charity, IT, performing arts, education, property, business and catering.

Work experience provides students with invaluable insights into the world of work and is vital, not just in helping them with career decisions but in providing them with experience they can draw on when writing CVs for jobs and completing Personal Statements for university applications.

Following the Launch Assembly, Year 12 students will be bringing home 'Own Find' forms for Work Experience. We would ask you to help them consider what they would like to do, contact anyone you or they know who could help them and then complete and return the form to Mrs Robinson in the Sixth Form Office.

There is much competition for placements in July and students should apply as soon as possible, certainly before the end of the year, especially if they want a placement with a large organisation.

Health and Safety assessments of placements will need to be carried prior to students attending so for this reason too we need students to get on with organising placements now.

For more information contact: Mrs Lewis in the Careers Office: hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk or Mrs Robinson in the Sixth Form Office: s.robinson@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

Mrs H. Lewis
Careers Advisor

Year 7 Year Learning Coordinators Award

The October YLC Award goes to Dylan Meranda. Not only does Dylan have 100% attendance and punctuality but he has the highest number of achievement points for Year 7 with 305 points. Having spoken to Dylan on a number of occasions he has clearly settled into JCoSS incredibly well and is enjoying the challenges set in various lessons. He is a model student in many respects.

Well done Dylan.

Ms D Hoskin
Year 7 Learning Coordinator



Inspired by Women of Different Faiths, by Ella Garai-Ebner Year 12

(this article was published by theJC.com)

It's been quite a week for women. On the brink of electing the first female President, the dream was shattered – whilst, unfortunately, the glass ceiling was not.

In her concession speech, Hillary Clinton urged “To all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.”

The very next day, 400 girls, from 18 faith schools across London, gathered together in Westminster to take their own steps towards realising Clinton's words, at a conference called ‘Women of Faith: Leading the Change’.

I was lucky enough to attend this, along with nine other girls from the sixth form of my school, JCoSS. JFS was the other Jewish school in attendance. The conference was organised by and held in honour of the 125th anniversary of Ursuline High School Wimbledon, a Catholic state school. Its aim was to bring together women from a multitude of faiths and backgrounds, to inspire, empower and educate one another.

The day began with a discussion, on our tables of ten people (from a mix of schools). We discussed the values we hold closest to us, the values of our faith, and which one of these values we, as a group, thought was most important. It was interesting and insightful to learn that when we talked of "Tikkun Olam" (repairing the world), the other girls on our table decided that this core Jewish value was the most significant of them all. We had an interesting discussion about the way in which it encompasses so many key values, such as equality, tolerance and kindness. It was a moment of true pride in our religion!

Following this, there were more than 20 female speakers and something to learn and be inspired by in each of their speeches. However, there were a few that I found particularly touching and empowering.

Tulip Siddiq, the MP for Hampstead and Kilburn, told the story of how she became interested in politics. She is Muslim, but grew up in “Jewish Hampstead”, attending Seders and Friday night dinners and with “Irish Catholic Kilburn across the road”. This ethnic diversity was key in her upbringing. However, she was keenly aware that this was certainly not the case in the world of politics.

Siddiq's speech was inspiring. She urged the audience “Get involved. Women in politics change the way our country's run. If you fail once, you have to try again.” This is such an important message, that encouraged many of the girls listening – myself included – to become more active, and to widen their knowledge and political understanding. The two Jewish speakers in attendance shared vital messages. Lady Gilda Levy spoke of setting up the Women's Interfaith Network to encourage women to speak out in a male dominant society and eloquently expressed her view that “we have to fight. Jews have to fight bigotry. Go out and speak out; it makes a difference.”

Georgia Gould, the Councillor for Kentish Town, explained that being in politics means “you spend a lot of time with middle-aged men.” For the audience of young women aspiring to lead the change in eradicating gender norms, this was somewhat upsetting to hear. Gould went on to powerfully state “never take no for an answer.” I found both these speakers to be extremely encouraging, and very interesting to listen to.

Amid ongoing fears of growing antisemitism, it was powerful to be in a room where different faiths brought people together, rather than tearing them apart. There was a true sense of community, and it is an experience I will keep with me.

Living Well Conference by Abi Wander, Year 12

On the 17th November, myself, Samuel and Max (three of the Year 12 Religious Studies students) along with Ms. Robinson attended the 'Living Well Conference'; an interfaith event that explored how various sacred and religious texts can incite acts of violence and hateful attitudes. Though a brilliant concept which, I'm sure, intended to break down barriers and inspire unity, it seemed to do quite the opposite.

Over the course of the day, we studied texts from the Jewish and Christian Bible, the Koran and the Bhagavad Gita (the Hindu sacred text). I was part of a sub-group that looked at a verse found within the Christian Bible: Matthew 27.25. The verse tells the story of the Jewish people acknowledging their role in and accepting blame for the crucifixion and ultimately death of Jesus. This led to a rather offensive and nasty discussion in which students from one other school insinuated that violence and hateful attitudes towards Jewish people are acceptable due to their role in Jesus's death.

Coming from the respectful and tolerant community that is North London, this completely shocked me. Apart from my lack of exposure to such hatred, a further discomfort to Max, Samuel and myself was the sheer and utter ignorance of some individuals. Faced by a small group of narrow-minded and, in my opinion, misinformed students, the JCoSS contingent felt it absolutely necessary to speak out. Ms. Robinson led a discussion on the historical and factual inaccuracy of the claim, while I initiated conversation combating hateful opinions and attitudes. Along with the many other students in the room (of different faiths) I urged people to understand the consequences of hatred and ignorance, as well as the importance of eradicating its prevalence, especially in western society.

Though at some points a slightly unpleasant and upsetting experience, the day was a real learning curve and one I firmly believe we benefitted from, regardless of the somewhat negative experiences I encountered and now walk away with. Interfaith relations are definitely difficult and in some areas uncomfortable but the type of conversations and interactions that they inspire are essential in ensuring a brighter and more positive future for a very much faith-led society.

Mental Health training

We are all aware that mental health issues are ever more prevalent among young people. As part of a strategy to promote understanding of some of these issues, JCoSS staff all had training from mental health professionals during the recent Twilight INSET on topics such as anxiety, depression, stress, eating disorders, gender issues and self-harm. Parents had previously been invited to attend an evening session and students will also be receiving information. Further training is planned for groups of staff who are being faced with some of these concerns more and more frequently.

If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Year Learning Co-ordinator in confidence in the first instance.

Parent Governor Election

Following the Parent Governor election, Jane Conley and Mark Freedman have been elected and re-elected respectively as Parent Governors on the Governing Body with effect from 19 November 2016. The Governing Body thank all the nominees and all those who participated in the election.

Our Voluntary Experience at Norwood – By PSRP Students Nicky Haugh and Umer Kayani (13N)

Over the course of our volunteering experience at Norwood, we did quite a number of things together.

We created a project that was complete in 2 large boxes, filled with coloring paper; rocks and soil - that virtually presents a real-life nature preserve. One project was called “**DinoZoo**”, which is packed with toy dinosaurs and land animals, and the other was named “**SeaLand**”, which was filled with mostly sea creatures and a farm section on the side. This was used and is still being used by the children who attend the Kennedy Leigh Centre Nursery based in Hendon.

We travelled to Stanmore to work at the Norwood Head Office doing office skills and also worked at the local Norwood shop.

We arranged a collection at school where we asked people to donate, clothes, books, DVD’s, games and anything else they didn’t want anymore. We bagged this all up and took it to the Norwood offices so that they could see the items to help raise money.

We ran a “Beauty Products Sale” in the Heart Space of the school and raised over £150.00 for the Norwood Charity – we still have products left and will be arranging another sale this year.

We returned to Kennedy Leigh Centre with the task of cooking some dishes for the purpose of distributing the meals to local homeless people. We even problem solved on one occasion when Umer didn’t like Tuna and I didn’t like sweetcorn. We swapped tasks so that we only touched what food we felt comfortable with. In the end, Umer controlled the Tuna and I controlled the sweetcorn.

We went to Woodcock Dell Care Home in Kenton to work in the garden just outside the back of the house, where we cleaned up all 4 beds. We planted beautiful plants and we even made a herb and vegetable garden. When we were finished, I presented the garden to the residents but unfortunately, Nicky was not there that day. The residents at Woodcock Dell were so happy they bought us a box of chocolates each to say “thank you”.

On every occasion, we were accompanied by some PSRP staff from JCoSS - either, Mrs McCombe, Mrs Beale, Miss Harvey and Mrs Hill alongside our friend Allison from Norwood, who arranged the volunteering for us.

Following our return school in Year 13, we attended at a special ceremony at the Royal Air Force Museum, in Hendon, where we were nominated alongside over 1,500 other volunteers. We were both nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award. Unfortunately, we did not win this award but we did win –

- The Community Award – JCoSS PSRP
- The Norwood Commendation Award – Umer Kayani and Nicky Haugh.

This Commendation Award was the top award of the night and was given personally to the two of us by Lady Mendelsohn CBE – Joint President of Norwood.

Year 11 Badminton Team

Congratulations to the Year 11 badminton team, who have qualified to represent Barnet in the next round of the London School Games – qualifying for the third time out of four years!

The team were: Ben Felt, Sam Lachmann, Gabe Cooke and Joe Bentwood.

Congratulations boys and good luck.