

Dear Parents

I start with a warning about your Headteacher from the comments thread of a religious website:

This man has no convictions about his beliefs...intelligent school children will see him as incredibly unstable, a 'double-minded man'. Syncretism [meaning a mish-mash of beliefs] is not clever, nor is it practised by people of integrity.

I would stress that this person has never met me, and was responding to an article on the Premier Christian website, which reproduced a Times article about my recent ordination. (That Times article was in turn prompted by a JC article beautifully written by a JCoSS parent!) I will leave it to others to judge how accurate her assessment is...but I reproduce it here as an example of what social media can do to us. It reveals above all that she knows nothing about the roles of Headteacher or curate; there is no particular shame in that, but she might perhaps have moderated her tone in proportion to her ignorance!

I am big and ugly enough to be simply amused by this little diatribe, but the damage such attacks do can be huge, and the effect that social media can have on young people – including those at JCoSS – can be really destructive. The children's newspaper First News carries a report this week that two-thirds of the youngsters it surveyed would be happy if social media had never been invented. We post things that we would never dream of saying out loud, and since all the usual social cues that calm us down and make us reasonable are missing, we can easily become quite unlike ourselves. As a result, lives are made miserable and we stoke up bitterness and ill feeling that is the opposite of community.

Even JCoSS parents are not immune from this tendency, and in some recent instances online parents' groups have whipped themselves into a state when they have little knowledge of the facts, and end up making wild allegations against the school that have no basis in reality. I hope we can model better online behaviour to our children and show them how to be thoughtful, balanced and kind influences on the interactions they have. May I take the opportunity to remind you that if you have concerns it is best to contact the school: publishing them online tends to make them louder without helping to answer them.

Meanwhile, you will be glad to know that our Wing D extension is almost complete and classes will move into it after half term. The portacabins will be removed next week, and the official opening of the Dorfman Wing will take place in a few weeks' time. Rabbi Eleazar in the Talmud famously comments on words from Yeshoah (Isa) 54: "All your children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children". Eleazar suggests that instead of the word 'banayich' (children) we should read 'bonayich' (builders): an extension to the physical building of our school is a good time to remember that our true purpose is to extend our young people and in turn make them builders of the future.

That in turn is a good cue to commend to you a notice in the pages that follow about Jewish Legacies, an initiative to which JCoSS is now affiliated. If you or a family member or friend is minded to leave a donation to JCoSS in your will, you can be assured it will be put the best possible use in building the Jewish community of the future...whatever the alleged shortcomings of the man in charge!

With best wishes for the half term break

Patrick Moriarty
Head Teacher

JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Autumn Term 2017

| Date | Time | Description |
|------------------------|---------------|--|
| Mon 30/10 | 8.30am | Students return after Half Term (Week Two) |
| Tues 7/11 | 1.45pm | Early closing for staff training |
| Wed 15/11 | 6 – 8.30pm | Sixth form Open Evening for JCoSS Y11 students & parents and prospective students/parents from other schools |
| Mon 27/11 to Fri 08/12 | All day | Y11 Mock GCSEs. Timetable to be distributed to students. |
| Sun 10/12 | 6.30 – 8.30pm | Year 7 JCoSS Parents' Association Disco |
| Mon 11/12 | After School | Y8 Parents' Evening |
| Tues 12/12 | | First night Chanukah (1 st candle) |
| Tues 12/12 | 7pm | Informal Jewish Education Family Event |
| Thurs 14/12 | 7pm | Winter Music Concert |
| Mon 18/12 | | Rosh Chodesh Tevet. Y7 – 9 activities in school (details will be e-mailed). Y10-11 assembly. |
| Tues 19/12 | | Last night Chanukah (8 th candle) |
| Wed 20/12 | 1.05pm | Early closing for end of term |

- School Closes at 1.45pm on all Fridays in the second half of Autumn Term and the first half of Spring Term
- Students return to school after the half term break on Tuesday 2nd January at 8.30am (week two)
- Y11 Parents' evening is on Thursday 4th January '18

Congratulations to Charlie Ruff in Year 13 who completed the London Parks half marathon on Sunday in aid of Norwood. He completed it in 2 hours and along with his father raised £6747 for the charity.



Guy Sherman, Year 10, cooks for HRH Prince Charles

My name is Guy Sherman I am in year 10 and have a passion for cooking. Recently I entered a competition for Waitrose which was hosted by HRH Prince Charles celebrating 25 years of Duchy Organic products. The brief was to create a meal using Waitrose Duchy Organic products which would be fit to serve to royalty. My dish was chicken ballotine with potato purée and mushroom and shallot sauce. My dish was one of the top 3 to be chosen in this nationwide competition, where the public could vote for their favourite dish to win. I received the most votes and won the competition. Waitrose organised for me to fly to Scotland and be transported to Dumfries house to attend the banquet with HRH Prince Charles to have my winning dish prepared and cooked for him and 60 other important guests. Before the banquet we had the honour of a private meeting which Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall (Camilla), where they could not believe a 14 year old boy had won this nationwide competition and were overjoyed for me. It was a memorable day and I will never forget it.



Inclusion Careers Fair is a First at JCoSS

On September 12 we staged our first ever Careers Fair focussing on our students with additional needs.

The event was designed to ensure students and their families are fully aware and informed about the range of options available when students leave JCoSS, either after Year 11 for mainstream students or after Year 13 for students who are educated in the Pears Special Resource Provision (PSRP).

Exhibitors included Barnet and Southgate College, Norwood, Langdon College, Ambitious College, Oaklands and West Herts Colleges and Elfrida Rathbone Camden.

The event was well attended by students and their families and is set to become a regular fixture on the JCoSS careers calendar.

Comments from parents included: "Just wanted to thank you so much for today's college fair for the PSRP. It was amazingly useful".

"I thought it was terrific! And my son did too. We both took a lot from it and it gave us quite a bit to think about."

Student of the Month, Year 8

Congratulations to **Isaac Reuben 8R** for being awarded the 'Student of the Month' for September.

Isaac has been involved in many extra-curricular activities throughout Year 7 and this continues into Year 8. He particularly thrives within the musical element of the curriculum. Isaac has also amazed us all with his ability to write limericks which seem to cover a range of topics. The latest was one written in 5 minutes within an assembly task.

Isaac fully deserves this award which is displayed on the Year 8 Achievement notice board.

Student of the Month of September, Year 9

Congratulations to **Ruby Shaw**



Margaret Atwood, Royal Festival Hall

On 2nd October, 30 English Literature A-Level students and teachers went to hear Margaret Atwood speak at the Royal Festival Hall on the Southbank. She was talking about her book 'The Handmaid's Tale', which we have been studying at A-Level, and has become extra relevant due to the success of the TV adaptation recently. Atwood spoke brilliantly and was extremely witty, giving anecdotes about her experience as a writer and how she came to write 'The Handmaid's Tale' in 1985. She showed that even such a bleak, dystopian story can be funny, when she mentioned some of the fan mail she receives, including 'Handmaid's Tale' cupcakes and even pictures of pets in Handmaid's outfits.

We were interested to hear her explain how this poignant story bears relevance to modern society, especially with the current American political climate. Her talk contextualised many of the aspects of 'The Handmaid's Tale', and it was fascinating to hear about her process of writing the book. She explained that everything she put into the novel had happened at one point in history, a thought-provoking statement which served our understanding of the book.

Margaret Atwood ended the talk by giving some advice to the audience, inspiring us to 'envisage the world you want to live in and act accordingly.' This message hit home for us Year 13 students, on the cusp of leaving school and entering into the wider world, with many opportunities to change it for the better.

Samuel Danker 13F



Jess Nathan, Year 10, Jack Petchey Award for Outstanding Achiever

On behalf of the JLGB (Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade), JCoSS was very proud to present to Jess Nathan (Year 10) the Jack Petchey award for 'Outstanding Achiever'. Jess was one of our students who, in affiliation with the JLGB, participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award earlier this year.

Dan Lever, JLGB DofE Coordinator said: *Jess was fantastic throughout her Bronze DofE with JLGB, from her training session and on the expedition. She led her team: she made sure all the maps were completed and took charge of cooking food for her group. When problems arose, Jess solved them and showed her caring nature when she looked after a team member who was unwell. Jess was outstanding and we look forward to her taking part in the Silver Award."*

On behalf of the whole of the JCoSS community,
well done to Jess.

Mrs J Jones
JCoSS DofE Coordinator



Leave a legacy to JCoSS in your will

JCoSS has now become a member of the Jewish Legacy Group (www.jewishlegacy.org.uk), established to promote the importance of legacy giving amongst our community.

As this November marks Jewish Legacy Awareness Month, we wanted to make you aware that you or your family members could leave a gift to JCoSS in your will. This would be a legacy that could help ensure that future generations of Jewish children have the best educational opportunities, the finest teaching tools and the most up to date facilities.

For more information please contact
Nicole Barnett (nbarnett@jcooss.sch.uk)
in our finance office.



LRC News

Bookbuzz

We are pleased to be part of the Booktrust's "Bookbuzz" scheme, kindly funded by the JPA.

Each Year 7 student has chosen a free book from a list of specially selected titles.

The books will be delivered after half-term and distributed to the students during their LRC lessons. If you would like to

find out more about this scheme, engage in some literary activities with your children, discover new books and authors, and enter competitions, please log on to their website: <http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/>



Parent help urgently needed

Our popular Half-Price Book Fair is coming to JCoSS soon. If you could spare some time during the day to help us run the Fair which is taking place week commencing **Monday 27th November.**

Please contact Mrs Mulkis (cmulkis@jcross.barnet.sch.uk) in the LRC as soon as possible.

We are also looking for permanent parent helpers who would help us to carry out many tasks in the LRC for a couple of hours a week in a friendly environment. We would love to hear from you.



Scholastic Book Club

Our new **Scholastic Book Club is up and running!** Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/jcross> to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 25p** in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your **order online by November 1st, 2017**

Amazon Wish List

If you would like to donate a book to commemorate your child's birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or any other occasion, we have a wish list on Amazon which is frequently updated. To access the list, log on to www.amazon.co.uk and click on "Wish list / Find a wish list". Enter "JCoSS" into the name bar. Select the book(s) you would like to buy and put it into your basket. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative plaque in the donated book(s).

Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!

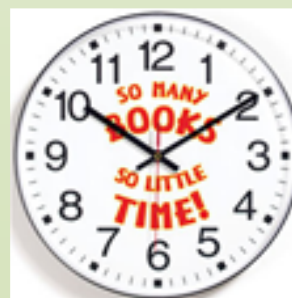
New LRC opening hours

The LRC is open for KS4/5 clinic studies and for general studies as follows:

- Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

To borrow or return a book, the LRC is open as follows:

- Monday and Tuesday: 8.40 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
- Wednesday and Thursday: 8.20 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
- Friday: 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.



Extra-Curricular Activities – Week One

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Break | Meet Pogo | | Meet Pogo | | Meet Pogo |
| Lunch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Enterprise (Y12) H112 • Chess club, B004 • Manna from Heaven, D121 • KS3 Dance, Dance studio • GCSE Drama rehearsal, Drama studio • Table tennis open session • Jazz Band • String ensemble • KS5/4 Book Club, B124 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y 10 Alan Senitt Community Leadership Programme, HaMifgash • Mincha/Lunch and Learn, HaMifgash • Screenwriting for Film and TV, C105 • KS3 Drama club, Drama studio • Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio • Y 8 Netball • Y 7 football • Girls Football Club • KS3 book club, H103 • KS5/4 Spoken Word Club, H102 • Senior Singers (Y9,10,11), D113 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Tikkun, HaMifgash • Art Club, D212 • Science club, C111 • Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio • Woodwind Ensemble • JCoSS Singers • Table Tennis Elite Squad • Badminton • KS5/4 Poetry By Heart, B123 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warhammer club, B016 • Israel Club, HaMifgash • GCSE Art Club , D212 • KS4/KS5 Statistics Catch Up Clinic, B003 • Percussion Ensemble • Ukelele Group • Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio • GCSE Drama rehearsal, Drama studio • Netball • Y 9 football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio • Kabbalat Shabbat, Heartspace • Card games club, C111 |
| After School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Club • Chamber Choir • KS5 bioethics course, C003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Club • Warhammer club, B016 • Shakespeare Schools Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Club • Table tennis development squad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Club |

Extra information

| Name of activity | Blurb |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Warhammer club | Warhammer club provides students with the chance to build, design, paint and battle their own figurine based armies. Skills students will gain include: Numeracy skills, strategic thinking, team work, independence, Art and design skills, hand eye co-ordination and logical thinking. |
| Meet Pogo | Come and meet our school pet Pogo the Bearded Dragon! |
| Science Club for Y7 and Y8 | Come and take part in some fun and exciting science experiments. You can make jelly babies scream and make slime crawl and grow crystals! Students will have an opportunity to do extra science experiments that they may not do in lessons and will be able to apply their knowledge from their lessons to these experiments. Skills students will gain include: Scientific thinking, group work and practical skills. |
| Card Games Club | Come to play Yu-Gi-Oh!, Pokemon, Magic: The Gathering and other card games! Bring your own cards! Skills students will gain include: mental arithmetic and processing sets of careful instructions. |
| Young enterprise for Y12 | Students given the chance to set up their own business and enter the YE competition. Skills students will gain include: Business skills, social skills and real life experiences. |

Extra-Curricular Activities – Week Two

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Break | Meet Pogo | | Meet Pogo | | Meet Pogo |
| Lunch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Enterprise (y 12), H112 Chess club, B004 Manna from Heaven , D121 GCSE Drama rehearsal, Drama studio KS3 Dance, Dance studio Table tennis open session Jazz Band String ensemble KS5/4 Book Club, B124 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y 10 Alan Senitt Community Leadership Programme, HaMifgash Mincha/Lunch and Learn, HaMifgash Screenwriting for Film and TV, C105 KS3 Drama club, Drama studio Science club, C111 Y 8 Netball Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio Y 7 football Girls Football Club KS3 book club, H103 KS5/4 Spoken Word Club, H102 Senior Singers (Y9,10,11), D113 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Tikkun, HaMifgash Art Club, D212 Warhammer club, B016 Table Tennis Elite Squad Badminton Woodwind Ensemble JCoSS Singers Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio KS5/4 Poetry By Heart, B123 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Art Club , D212 Israel Club, HaMifgash GCSE Drama rehearsal, Drama studio KS4/KS5 Statistics Catch Up Clinic, B003 Netball Y 9 football Percussion Ensemble Ukelele Group Y 11 Choreograph y and Dance Clinic, Dance studio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kabbalat Shabbat, Heartspace Card games club, C111 Y 11 Choreography and Dance Clinic, Dance studio |
| After school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning Club Chamber Choir KS5 bioethics course, C003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning Club Shakespeare Schools Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning Club Table tennis development squad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning Club |

Extra information

| | |
|---|--|
| Screenwriting for Film and TV | Giving students an introduction into writing for film and TV. Each week there will be a different topic such as “building characters” or “what is a scene”, we will then look at extracts from films and TV and then give the students a task to do based around the topic and feedback at the end of the session. This is great for students studying media, drama, or just have an interest in creative writing. The skills they will gain will be a broader knowledge of film and television, how to SHOW rather than tell, how to improve all aspects of their creative writing. |
| KS3 Dance Club | A fun way to extend and learn new dance skills |
| Shakespeare Schools Festival | JCoSS Drama Company rehearsals for The Shakespeare’s Schools Festival. |
| GCSE Art Club | For students in Year 9 -11 to work on their GCSE Coursework. |
| Art Club | A chance to use the other side of your brain! Each term there will be a specialist skill explored with one of the Art Teachers. This could be from Felting, Textiles, Henna or even Pottery! Skills students will gain include: Experimenting, taking risks, exploring art and design that they may not experience during a normal timetabled lesson. |
| KS4/KS5 Statistics Catch Up Clinic | This Club aims to support GCSE and A Level students with their Maths queries and helping them with past exam paper questions . Skills students will gain include: exam Skills, Problem solving and reasoning. |
| Manna from Heaven | Baking for the homeless |
| Israel Club | Israel themed fun activities |
| Team Tikkun | Social Action Committee |
| Mincha/Lunch and Learn | Prayer and learning |

SIMCHAS

Village Hotel, Ekstree

11am-4pm

Live 2017



For all enquiries please contact us on 020 7692 6929
or email sales@thejngroup.com

