

Dear Parents

You may have heard in last week's news about the speech by Amanda Spielman, Head of Ofsted, supporting schools who have to resist the pressures of extremist groups. As one who was at the conference and heard the speech, it was no surprise that that made the headlines – but it wasn't the most interesting or important aspect of the conference, in my view. A recurring theme of session after session was trying to articulate the real purpose of education, and how we balance the need for ensuring accountability against the need for nurturing humanity. It is a theme close to my heart, and shines a spotlight on many of the unhappinesses and muddles of our culture.

We struggle to say what schools are for because we struggle, as a society, to say what human beings are for. Does our purpose and worth lie in our material productivity, our measurable outcomes from exam results to gross domestic product, or are we spiritual beings designed to make meaning and build community? No doubt the answer is 'both', but the balance between them affects the kind of schools we need, what we expect them to achieve and how we evaluate their performance. My sense is that the consensus is breaking down.

The line between two 'sides' in the debate cannot be easily drawn; rather, it goes through all of us. We all desire both, but we are realising that they are not as compatible as we thought. JCoSS parents and prospective parents as regularly ask about our mental health provision at school as they do about our exam results, and sometimes the same parents ask both. A case in point is the queries I received about why our 2017 Progress 8 figures are not higher up the league tables. The answer is that the official stats do not count Further Maths GCSE as a qualification, nor GCSE Maths taken early. Since our ablest mathematicians took Maths in Year 10 and Further Maths in Year 11, the league tables record them as having no Maths GCSE at all, and since Maths is a core subject that affects almost every other accountability measure also.

Letting them do those exams when they did was the right thing for them – and was in line with our values – but we are obliged to take the hit for it now. The same could be said for the other freedoms we allow in our curriculum to take account of students' preferences and profiles and capacities. By making room for difference, by promoting the wellbeing of individual students, by insisting on retaining the choice of subjects like DT, Art, Music and Drama, we suffer in the accountability stakes.

That is not to say that accountability is wrong or that high expectations per se are damaging. Taxpayers should be able to assess value for money, and it is easy for schools to fall into the trap of low expectations in the name of a shallow version of well-being. But it is a call to keep humanity at the heart of it all. Schools' Minister Nick Gibb has this week suggested that the way to help students overcome their anxiety about exams is to get them taking more exams from an earlier age. As a headteacher and a parent, I am more than a little doubtful.

The line between these two visions of humanity and of education does go through me, too, but I worry that by our confusion we are creating burnt out teachers and stressed out children. That is not what my vocation to teaching was ever meant to be about. I am increasingly conscious that the world my generation has created for our children is toxic, dehumanising and – on every front – unsustainable.

The pages that follow contain plenty to satisfy both visions, and our stress on Menschlichkeit truly puts rounded humanity at the heart of our aspirations. But it is conversation that needs to continue: I know I can rely on JCoSS parents to call us out on both sides!

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Excellent University Offers for JCoSS – including 6 from Oxbridge

We are pleased and proud to see that an overwhelming majority of Year 13 students group have received all 5 offers from their chosen universities. Many of these are from Russell Group Universities including Imperial, UCL, Bristol, Durham and Warwick, and they include offers for highly competitive courses including Medicine and Dentistry.

We are delighted that 6 students have received offers from Oxford or Cambridge, for subjects including History, Physics, Engineering, Natural Sciences and Computer Science.

The specialist JCoSS programme created for applicants to Oxbridge and other competitive courses applicants is run by Mr Boxer. It has given students an extensive, tailored programme of enrichment and support, talks from admissions tutors and external speakers, as well as practice interviews and personal statement guidance.



Mr J Lorrimer, Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 5

JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Spring Term 2018

Date	Time	Description
Mon 19 th Feb	8.30am	First day after half term (week two)
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd Feb	All day	Year 12 mid-year exams
Tues 27 th Feb	4 – 7pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thurs 1 st March	1.45pm	Early closing for Purim
Mon 5 th – Wed 7 th March	All day	Year 11 2 nd English and Maths GCSE mocks
Thurs 15 th March	6.30pm	'Fables and Beigels' family education event
Tues 20 th March	4 – 7pm	Year 12 parents' evening
Mon 26 th & Tues 27 th March	Evening	'The Wiz' school production
Wed 28 th March	1.05pm	Early closing for end of term

School Closes at 2.15pm on all Fridays in the second half of Spring term and in the Summer term
 School starts again for first half of Summer term on Tues 10th April at 8.30am (week two)

Aaron Maurice: Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge Finalist

On the last day of January 2018 Aaron Maurice, the JCoSS Speak-Out Champion, and a posse of ardent followers circumnavigated the rush hour traffic of North London in order to arrive at Mill Hill County High School for six o'clock, sharp. The occasion was the Barnet Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak-Out challenge. We were greeted by Mill Hill's finest: shirts ironed and shoes polished, ready to welcome revered guests from far and wide. Notable attendees were Mayor of Barnet Brian Sallinger and the Borough Commander of London's Fire Brigade Steve Leader.

Around 200 souls assembled in the Great Hall, parental nerves were palpable and the atmosphere was electric; friends and family were there in droves, willing their school champion on and, as was the case for me, on shpilkes. There were 20 competitors and Aaron was number 18 – when I noted that he had been billed to perform 18th I had a good feeling. 18 is an auspicious number in Judaism – its value is יח which translates to 'life' in English. If you watch Aaron's speech (link below) this significance will become clearer.

<http://www.speakoutchallenge.com/aaron-maurice-third-jack-petcheys-speak-challenge-barnet-regional-final-2017-18/>

The bar was high and, as the speeches progressed, the competition was blown wide open. Students spoke on a variety of topics ranging from Slavery to Bitcoin, and then Aaron's moment arrived. He walked onto the stage and immediately filled it with his presence. He spoke eloquently, confidently, with passion and from the heart. You could hear a pin drop in the auditorium. The audience responded with rapturous applause and we could not have been more proud.

We were serenaded by Mill Hill's Philharmonic Orchestra whilst the judges made their decision. Aaron placed third and shared the podium with the first placed student from Hasmonean Boys' School and the second placed student from Wren Academy. All in all, a great success.



*Mr B de Jong
Year 10 Learning Co-ordinator and Lead Teacher*



The Mitzvah Day Outstanding Youth Achievement award goes to... JCoSS!

We are delighted that our IJE department have won the Mitzvah Day Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their work with Lady Nafisa Muslim School. The project involved cooking apple crumbles for the homeless and helping at the Sufra North West London Food Bank. As well as being a great educational project, it continued the important work of bringing the two schools and communities closer together.



Picking up the award for the IJE Department - Mr Rosenberg and Mr Abrams



MP's to visit JCoSS – Get your questions ready

Luciana Berger MP will be visiting the school and answering questions on the Year 12 Mock Election assembly on 28th February.

Grant Shapps MP will be visiting for a Question and Answer session later on this term.

If students or staff have any questions for these MPs, they can be passed on to me (etaylor@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk).

JCoSS Careers Fair – Friday, March 9, 2018 – Parents Needed

Preparations for our **2018 Careers Fair** are well underway and, as in previous years, we are seeking your support to ensure the event is a big success. Last year's Careers Fair was our busiest to date. Thanks to you, students got a real insight into more than 25 career areas including property, policing, engineering, catering, acting, fashion design and law.

As in previous years, the event will primarily target Year 9 students and is timed to coincide with students' decision-making about GCSE option subjects.

The Careers Fair is also useful for 6th form students and they too are invited to attend.

This year's event will run for the morning only, from 9am – 1pm.

Thank you to parents that have already volunteered to take part, but more are needed. If you can help, please contact: Helen Lewis or Clare Raff in the Careers Office (ext 3328) or Email: hlewis@jcross.barnet.sch.uk

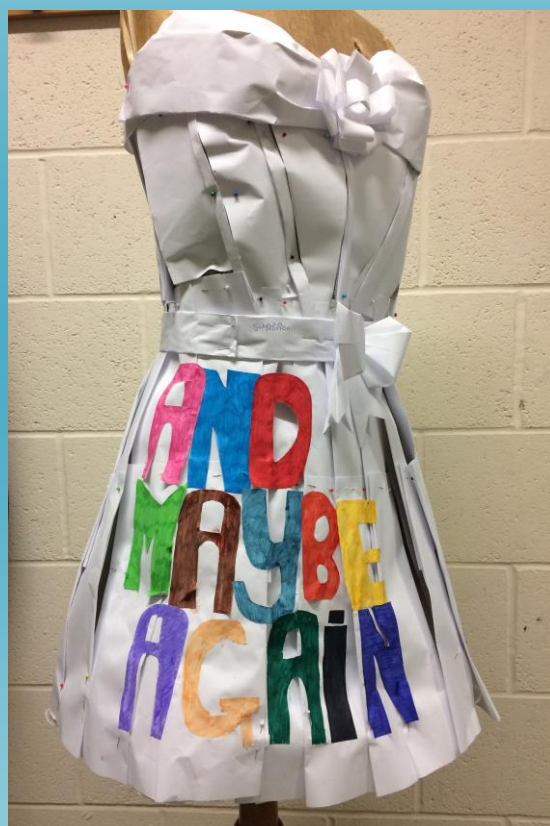
Art Year 8 Home Learning projects

Students in Year 8 have been finding out about Artists and finding creative ways to display what they found out. They were allocated an artist and given free rein in what they produced: some made videos, rapped their own song, and even created dresses! A few examples are below!

Mrs S Shah
Head of Art



Rafi Essex



Sienna Norton

Jewish Schools Awards 2018

We are very proud to have had nominations in 3 out of the 4 categories in this year's Jewish Schools Awards. The largest ever number of nominations was received this year, and to be shortlisted is an accolade in its own right (as well as bringing a substantial cash prize for use within school). Our track record at this event has been exceptional! Congratulations to:

- Mr Adam Boxer – Excellence in Secular Studies in a Secondary School
- Mrs Katie Abrams - Excellence in Jewish studies in a Secondary School
- Mrs Claire Gelband - Exceptional contribution from non-teaching school staff in a Secondary School



Business Studies - Student Investor Challenge

Several Year 10 Business students have taken part in the national Student Investor Challenge. Buying and selling shares and other assets, they fought valiantly to grow their portfolios against other schools.

Learning very quickly how fickle the markets can be, they used business news and their own approaches to market analysis (including some very innovative techniques) to push for growth.

A JCoSS team came 38th place in the national contest having increased their initial investment of £100,000 to an impressive £112,063. 4,900 teams had taken part nationally.

The three students (Oscar Simmons, Nathan Brooks and Joel Hart) will go on to the semi-finals in February. We wish them well.

Young Enterprise

This year's Year 12 Young Enterprise Company continues to impress. Jointly led by Jonathan Sinyor and William Glazer, they have sold innovative tops for drinks cans (which transform them into conveniently re-sealable bottle/can hybrids) and printed t-shirts featuring striking original designs.

Their bold, decisive approach to setting up a company has led to strong sales and they are taking their products to Old Spitalfields market to see how they fare with the general public.

Mr D Salbstein, Head of Business, Economics and Computing Faculty

The Brilliant Club Launch Ceremony

On Monday 8 January, JCoSS students attended a Brilliant Club Launch Ceremony, hosted at the University of London. Students were led on a tour of the University (including the very impressive University of London Library), had the opportunity to meet a number of their students and listen to talks on their research.

We also had sessions on research practice and the techniques needed for dissertation writing. Sessions in school started on 24 January and will be running until March, by which time our students will have produced an extremely high level dissertation on the Reactions to the Epidemics in the Middle Ages.

Mr J Forman, Teacher in Charge of 'Able & Ambitious' Programme



New Science⁺ programme at JCoSS

All 6th form students taking a science A level at JCoSS have participated in our brand new Science⁺ programme. As well as preparing for National Science week we have had guest lecturers Natalie Fitzpatrick (data scientist and epidemiologist), Steven Wilson (meteorologist), Carina Fearnley (volcanologist) and Rob Goldin (histopathologist). These opportunities have served to develop our students' thinking and enrich their knowledge and experience and will serve them in good stead throughout their regular courses of studies and their applications to University.

Mr A Boxer

Head of KS3 Science & Oxbridge & Medics Coordinator & Lead Teacher

Year 8 - Student of the Month of January

Congratulations to Shana Fantoni for being Year 8's Student of the Month. Not only is Shana's attendance and punctuality very good, her whole attitude to school is positive and determined.

In addition Shana plays netball for the Year 8 team and voluntarily swapped position purely because she knew another team member wasn't feeling comfortable in her allocated position. Shana is always willing to help others proven by her contribution to the Year 8 reception duty earlier this year.

Well done Shana. You are credit to the school and your family.

Ms D Hoskins, YLC Year 8



Congratulations to Jamie Lesser Year 13.

Congratulations to Jamie Lesser Year 13, who has passed his Piano Diploma with Distinction! (This is the exam that comes after Grade 8).

Earlier this month, Jamie was selected to participate in a piano masterclass in Steinway Hall. He had a tour of the building and saw the workshop where pianos are restored. Participants had the chance to play any of the pianos – and Jamie was lucky enough to try out his favourite piece on a piano with a price label of £170,000!

An additional highlight was being able to play on the very piano used exclusively for the BBC Proms – specially built to project above the rest of the orchestra in an auditorium for 3,000 people.

He also participated in a masterclass taught by Charles Owen, an international concert pianist and Steinway artist who has performed amongst other places at Carnegie Hall, The Barbican, Wigmore Hall, Paris Musee d'Orsay and the Moscow Conservatoire.



IJE News

This term has been very busy in IJE. The Year 7 Shabbaton students had a fantastic weekend at Skeet house in Kent. Students arrived on Friday morning and learned about the pickling process at the Sadeh ecological project, enjoyed a hearty lunch and got themselves ready for Shabbat. Everyone celebrated Shabbat in JCoSS style, and spent a lovely time bonding, praying, eating and singing.

Our Interfaith linking programme is also continuing at a strong pace. We welcomed students from our link school – Tawhid Boys and took part in a teachers' linking day to develop new contacts and projects.

It was Year 10's turn this month to run Yom Tzedaka, and they truly excelled themselves, raising almost £600 for Secondary First – one of our 3 school charities for this year. Not bad work for a lunchtime!



Photo of the Month...

We wanted to share this beautiful photo taken earlier this month by Jennie Eyres, Head of Media, Film and Sport.



FABLES AND KNEIDELS

JEWISH FAMILY EDUCATION

Join us for a magical evening of fabulous food and fun on Thursday 15 March 2018

6.30 - 9.00pm @ JCoSS

Watch a "Masterchef" demonstration of Kneidel making by JO Food Editor, Victoria Prever

All ages warmly welcome, and a crèche (subject to numbers)

Book now using Parent Pay:
£10 per family (2 adults and up to three children)

Individual adults £6, children £2

Concessions available

Learn from Patrick Moriarty about the link between Pesach and the Last Supper

Take part in our kneidel-making competition and enjoy our delicious chicken soup and much more...



For further information, please email Laurie Rosenberg at lrosenberg@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

Fables and Kneidels is a national Jewish Family Education initiative proudly sponsored by Eureka Cove. A donation will be made to Chai Cancer Care, Eureka Cove's chosen charity.

JCoSS
JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

EXPERIENCE A EUREKA MOMENT

and take home one of our goody bags full of delicious ready to cook kosher meals*



Find us on...

  EUREKACOVE.COM

*Goody bags retail at £20 each. Product is also available to buy at selected Tesco stores and independent kosher retailers.

JCoSS Eco Warriors

Year 11 students showing their Menschlichkeit behaviour by helping to recycle empty water bottles



AS ANNOUNCED IN ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

ECO WARRIORS & JCOSS WELLBEING DESIGN A POSTER FOR RECYCLING COMPETITION

STARTS NOW

UNTIL 2ND MARCH

**PLEASE PUT YOUR ENTRIES IN THE
ECO WARRIORS BOX NEAR THE RECEPTION
DESK**



Help Needed....



ARE YOU A DRIVER?

Can you spare two hours of your time every month? We are looking for volunteers to deliver warm Kosher lunches to elderly members of our community.

This service operates Monday to Thursday. If you have a car, can spare some time and would like to help maintain this crucial service please contact Betsy Mandell at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre on 020 8418 2113 or email redbridgejcc@jcare.org

Redbridge JCC, Sindair House, Woodford Bridge Road, Ilford, Essex IG4 5LN

Charity Reg No 802559-6

RedbridgeJCC part of  JVN CARE

Calling all Tesco Shoppers in North West London

The Jewish Volunteer Network has been selected by Tesco as one of the three charities to benefit from their 'Bags of Help' scheme. Tesco will give JVN a grant, and the size of it depends on how many customers place a blue token, handed out at the till, in the JVN collection box.

Please look out for the JVN box at your local Tesco.

Many thanks