

Dear Parents

As I write, preparations and rehearsals are underway for our final Chanukah Assembly. Our musicians and dancers have added delightfully to each day's candle lighting led by Rabbis from across the community. This afternoon for the 8th night the whole school gathers in the Heart Space, to reflect again on the story: hostile forces surrounding the Jewish people, with every temptation to give in; but somehow patience reigned and by the grace of God they held it together and retained their integrity, and sense of identity.

So it is, I reflect, for all of us – just with different hostile forces and different issues of supply and demand. As the holiday season continues, in most households of whatever religious tradition there will be a fair amount of food on offer, new gadgets and 'stuff' coming into our possession, and plentiful opportunities to spend. Glorious as all this is, we live and raise our children in a highly addictive culture which it is exceptionally difficult for anyone to manage and even tougher for young people.

Leaving aside problematic addiction to alcohol or drugs or gambling, I mean the whole way in which our society makes things so irresistible, and readily available. We are brilliant at it, and it is what makes our consumerist society work. Buy this, eat this, treat yourself and your loved ones, give yourself the perfect holiday... One local Shopping Centre's marketing theme this year is 'indulge your cravings', and we are all familiar with the 'naughty but nice' tactic, and the 'because you're worth it' line.

They are cleverly crafted to confuse our ability to manage our impulses, and make normal self-control feel ridiculous or self-hating or just plain tight-fisted. Before we know, bingo, we've bought and something we didn't really need with money we didn't really have. The younger we are, the more likely we then are to post a photo of it on social media, where the 'ping' as it arrives actually creates in our bodies a little rush of dopamine – itself highly addictive at a physical level. The whole system is designed to make us spend, consume and eat more on any rational assessment than we actually need.

I think young people actually need us to notice and sympathise rather than ignore or criticise. Given all these pressures it is remarkable if we are not all addicted to something. The allure is so dazzling, the marketing so clever, the promise of instant gratification and quick wins is so convincing, it's a little miracle if we know how to exercise patience, to be slow, to be calm, to think carefully, to make things last. It's a little miracle if our children can tame the forces inside and outside that seek to control them, and hold fast to a sense of who they are and what they actually need and want.

If they – or any of us – wrestle with self-control from time to time, we should not be surprised or alarmed. We should instead nurture the ability to restrain ourselves. Perhaps, learning from the gradual build-up of Chanukah lights, we can start with small issues. Today if we can hold back on the extra latkes (that we don't even want...) tomorrow we might try getting a handle on our emotional life, our insistence on having the last word in an argument, our bad habit of making mountains out of molehills or thinking the whole world revolves around us...

But let's not get overwhelmed! Let us recognise – and help our children to recognise – that we live in times that are tough, with some difficult forces both out in the world, and in our hearts and minds. Let's be grateful for the small lights in our experience – both out in the world and in our hearts and minds. Let's remember the power we have to grow in holiness and integrity, and let's maybe only consume what we actually want.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Classics Week

The first week of December was Classics Week at JCoSS, and the school embraced all things Greek and Roman! KS3 studied the myth of Daedalus and Icarus in their English lessons and produced some excellent creative responses, with a huge emphasis on beautifully decorated cakes. The winners from each class will take part in a myth workshop with the Almeida Theatre. The whole school also got involved with the many classical activities at lunchtimes, including a chance to discover your epic epithet, find out about the Lotus Eaters and watch our favourite classical film - Disney's Hercules. A prophecy from the Oracle of Delphi, which was set up in the Heartspace just for JCoSS students, was a firm favourite. Year 12 Classical Civilisation students took a leading role in many of the events, so a big thank you for their hard work.



Congratulations to the Year 9 Students of the month October and November



October – Ace Rockman 9R



November - Michal Golan (9R) and Zohar Yaffe (9R)

Year 13 visit to Stratford Upon Avon by Ella Garai-Ebner

Year 13 English Literature students had the opportunity to visit Stratford upon Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare. This provided a fascinating insight into the life of Shakespeare. The tour of his house allowed us to see where he was born and raised, and understand more about life in the 16th century. It was interesting to learn about lesser known aspects of his life, such as his family background.

We had a talk from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, where the speaker opened our eyes to explore Othello, the play we are studying, in new ways. This was interesting and informative, and will prove useful when it comes to exams.

We also experienced two actresses performing monologues from various Shakespeare plays, which was very enjoyable and really brought the words to life!

Stratford upon Avon is a beautiful village, with attractive buildings and a lovely atmosphere. Our day trip there was extremely useful and fun.



The Economics Debate

The inaugural Economics debate got underway in the science lecture theatre on the 14th November. The motion was “This house believes the rich should pay less tax” and it quickly became clear that this was a divisive topic. Passions ran high but logical analysis and intellect also meant that all present got to hear reasoned, high-quality arguments from both sides. Participation from the floor was excellent (special mention should go to Meir Shviatlo for his insightful points on Reganomics). Adi Blass and Denis Antor fought hard to oppose the motion but in the end the motion was carried, proposed so effectively by Hadley Shapps and Jonathan Sinyor.

By Mr D Salbstein

The Tempest

JCoSS Drama KS3 Drama Company wowed their audience at the Arts Depot Finchley with their adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. This was an amazing opportunity for young JCoSS students to perform in a professional setting with the expert direction of a Year 13 aspiring actor Benjy Smokler.

One of the Year 9s who took part in *The Tempest*, Natasha Werblow, has written a delightful paragraph explaining her experience within the Shakespeare Schools festival:

The tempest was a really fun experience. I felt what it was like to perform in an actual theatre and it was very different as we had a student director, Benjy. He was very dedicated by making time tables for all of our after school and lunch time rehearsals. They were fun, and enabled us to learn our lines and scenes. During the last few rehearsals we became very focused and the team pulled together. We completed dress rehearsals and went to the Arts Depot for a technical run through which was a fabulous experience. Multiple teachers supported us on our costumes and rehearsals, including Miss Puchalski, Miss Granek, Miss Withers and Miss Hixson. It was an amazing experience and I would love to do another show like this. Natasha Werblow Year 9

The cast also had a fantastic opportunity to perform their production to Year 7 in the MPH. Sam Gordon has written a fantastic review based on his experience, please see below:

I was lucky enough to watch the performance of *The Tempest* performed by Years 8 and 9. The eight scenes lasted approximately 35 minutes, with a cast of 12 budding actors. The tempest is a tale of revenge, love and magic, set on an enchanted island. Staging a show about a shipwreck presents obvious challenges when there is limited stage, scenery and props. The performers overcame this by forming the shape of the ship with their bodies, swaying at Ariel's control to convey the stormy weather. This was very effective choreography as was the contemporary ballet of the islands spirits, enhanced by the music. Costumes were kept simple and rustic, in muted and natural shades. Overall, this was an impressive production, which stayed true to the original verse. If I could have changed one thing about my experience of the play, it would have been to have improved visibility by raising the stage. Sam Gordon Year 7.

It is clear to all that the cast of *The Tempest* thoroughly enjoyed their time together, and the final performance was full of skill, focus and creativity - incredible!

Thank you to all students, parents, guardians and staff who supported this performance.



Informal Jewish News

It has been a very busy term for the Informal Jewish Education department, starting by welcoming in the New Year with our honey and bees sale and display. Succot was the perfect opportunity to launch our school charities with our very popular 'Shwarma in the Succah' event. We welcomed representatives from all 3 of the school's chosen charities for the year who spoke to students about the charities and started the ball rolling with ideas for fundraising. This year's charities are Secondary First, Keshet and Make a Wish Foundation Israel.

We also launched our faith twinning programme and are very excited to announce that we have 4 faith schools with whom we are partnering this year and will have Muslim, Hindu and Christian interfaith twinning events throughout the year. In addition, ten Year 10 students will also be joining the Alan Senitt Interfaith Leadership programme where they will be working together with students from other faith and non-faith schools to plan and deliver community programmes during the year.

Year 7 and 8 have also launched their volunteering programmes. Year 7 have all been introduced to the Yoni Jesner Award and many of them are well on their way to gaining the 20 hours of volunteering necessary to qualify for the award. Year 8 have started on their year-long project in which every student will spend an hour volunteering in our local community, either at Livingstone Primary or at Jewish Care's Southgate Connect day centre.

We were excited this year to welcome representatives from all the Zionist Youth Movements into school, to meet this year's movement workers and to discuss with them their activities at JCoSS over the year. We are the only Jewish secondary school who welcomes all the movements into school and we are looking forward to some exciting projects coming up this year.

A large number of other visitors also came to school this term for Rosh Chodesh. We marked the start of the new month by welcoming speakers who came to run educational sessions for all our KS3 students. This month's speakers included Jewish Womens Aid, BBYO, FZY, Keshet, myIsrael, Noam, RSY NETzer, The Together Plan, World Jewish Relief and Yachad.

Finally, the JCoSS Leadership Academy has launched, with 36 Year 12 students who have applied to join the Academy. They have chosen to participate in one of 3 pathways over the year - Community Leadership, Jewish Education and Social Action. All the sessions are being run by experts and professionals in these fields and the students are benefiting from a high level course plus, networking, work experience and project management opportunities. Watch this space for updates on their progress over the year.



Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Ruby-Rose Mansoor, who had the honour for the second year, to place the wreath at the service at the Cenotaph in the presence of the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Admiral The Lord Stirling. This was on behalf of all cadets at the AJEX (association of Jewish Ex Servicemen) and AJFC (Armed Forces Jewish Committee).

Ruby-Rose was the only cadet in the country selected to march with adult officers and other ranks from all of the armed services and it is a mark of her exceptional conduct as a member of the Army Cadet force.



Mazel Tov

Teanna Parmar 11S, won a gold medal in the 4th Mon '48kg and below' category at the London Area Open Judo competition on 21st October 2017.



Mazel Tov

Bali Peretz (Y7) and Josh Essell (Y8) took part in a photography workshop at the Jewish Museum. The work they subsequently submitted is now being exhibited at the museum as part of a 'My Faith and Me' exhibition which ran until 17th December.



Mazel Tov

Ruby Shefras 11Y entered a competition run by Eurostar to "Create a Sustainable Business Premier Dish". She was selected as a runner up and was invited to Paris to receive her award. When she was in Paris she met Raymond Blanc as seen in the photo below.



JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Spring Term 2018

Date	Time	Description
Tues 2 nd Jan	8.30am	First day of Spring term (week two)
Wed 3 rd – Fri 12 th Jan incl	All day	Year 13 mock exams
Thurs 4 th Jan	4 – 7pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wed 17 th Jan	All day	Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat. Details will be e-mailed
Mon 22nd Jan	1.45pm	Early close for staff training afternoon
Thurs 25 th Jan	4 - 7pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening (rescheduled from Dec)
Sun 28 th Jan	6.30 – 8.30pm	JCoSS Parents' Association Year 7 Disco (rescheduled from Dec)
Wed 31 st Jan	All day	Tu b'shvat. Timetable as normal
Thurs 1 st Feb	Evening	Year 9 options evening
Wed 7 th Feb	All day	Year 9 DTP vaccinations
Wed 7 th Feb	4 – 7pm	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Thurs 8 th Feb	7pm	School Choral Concert
Fri 9 th Feb	All day	Last day of first half of Spring term

- **School Closes at 1.45pm on all Fridays in the first half of Spring term**
- **School starts again for second half of Spring term on Mon 19th February (week two)**
- **Y9 Parents' eve is on Tues 27th February**
- **Purim (with an early close of 1.45pm) is on 1st March**

Brilliant Club

The Brilliant Club is an organisation that comes into schools to give students a taste of University academia, and supports them to produce a dissertation style project – all in the name of aspiration.

We are so proud of our Year 9 students who yet again have proven to everyone that they are incredibly aspirational, and in many cases, inspirational, too! Over 80 students submitted essays on a subject of their choosing, which is the most phenomenal response we have had since starting The Brilliant Club 4 years ago.

Everyone should be proud of their efforts and know that it was an incredibly difficult decision for us to choose our finalists. To those who were successful – congratulations! To those who were pipped to the post, well done for putting yourselves forward, and watch this space for opportunities coming your way in the near future.

Well done to all!

Mr Forman and Mrs Abrams

Happy Chanukah from the ECO-Warriors!

The start of this academic year 2017 Autumn/Winter has been super busy! The ECO-Warriors have participated in various school initiatives to make JCoSS even more eco-Friendly. Students from Year 7 to Year 10 have taken 'ECO-ness' to whole new level, spreading the words – **Reduce, Re-use and Recycle**.

The ECO-Warriors have been raising the profile of the group and trying to recruit new members. They have been supporting the lunch queues and giving reminders to Form Tutors, staff and students about the recycling facilities around the school. Many students have found being proactive around the school very rewarding indeed, receiving achievement points and rewards.

Another ECO initiative at JCoSS was to challenge the staff and students to use fewer plastic bottles and recycle more. Cool purple JCoSS plastic reusable water containers were given to staff to model good ECO-habits.

Many of the ECO-Warriors have been completing plastic bottle audits, which have shown that it isn't just paper waste that should be recycled, but recycle bins for plastic bottles are needed too. The challenge for us all at JCoSS is to take the leadership in becoming the flagship school of ECO-principles. Our Site Manager and all staff are working hard to encourage more recycling bins all over the school and have been looking at other Barnet School initiatives for recycling.

I would like to personally and sincerely say a massive thank you to all the 'Keen-Green' ECO Warriors for their enthusiasm to help build a more sustainable planet. We are fortunate that the JCoSS community cares about our environment and world. However it is important that we continue this pledge outside of school and reinforce a more Eco-Friendly world: our contribution just touches the surfaces and more needs to be done to preserve our planet. In 2018 the JCoSS Eco-Warriors initiative is to launch a whole school poster competition, so keep a look out for this. We would love to hear from parents, guardians and students about any ECO-friendly ideas that you may have. Please get in touch by emailing Miss Bossman-Quarshie vbossman-quarshie@jcross.barnet.sch.uk

Until the next Edition a big **thank you** in advance and happy Holidays from the ECO-Warriors and Miss Bossman-Quarshie and remember - please keep on RECYCLING!!



Careers News

Employability workshop

Earlier this term the Careers Team ran an employability workshop for Year 13 students who are not going to university. The session was designed to give students a better understanding of how to prepare to enter the job market, and what to consider when applying for jobs. They looked at the essential knowledge to further their chances in the job market and worked to increase students' confidence in dealing with prospective employers. Highlights of the session included the "elevator pitch" and identifying key factors for a good CV. The workshop was run by Streetwise, Resource and ORT-JUMP Mentoring and develops employability skills that are launched in Year 11 with CV and Application workshops.

- Resource offers free professional advice and practical support to help Jewish people of all ages find employment. www.resource-centre.org
- Streetwise is a partnership project between CST and Maccabi GB that engages over 22,000 young people every year, delivering personal safety and personal development programmes <http://www.streetwisegb.org/>
- ORT-JUMP matches students in their first year of sixth form with a mentor in the area of work in which the student has expressed an interest. <http://ortuk.org/ort-jump/about>

When asked to evaluate the workshop students said, "The session was really interesting and gave really good advice"; "I gained lots of knowledge on work life"; "Great advice on how to approach employability"; "Highly relevant for us'.

Skills London

A group of Year 11 students travelled to the ExCel Centre in London's Docklands last month to visit Skills London, the UK's biggest jobs and careers event.

Students were able to meet and talk to representatives from more than 200 organisations, many of whom offer apprenticeships and they had the opportunity to get 'hands-on' with activities ranging from operating a camera in a TV studio to bricklaying.

Companies represented covered the gamut of career sectors – from engineering and technology to health and hospitality, business and finance.

The National Theatre, ITV,

UK Parliament, High Speed Two(HS2),

Hyatt Hotels and IBM were among the exhibitors,

as were representatives from the uniformed services, Further Education colleges and universities.

It is the second time JCoSS students have attended the event. The idea is to provide them with an insight into some of the opportunities available to them after Year 11 and encourage them to consider the different pathways.



LRC News

Thanks to the JPA, all Year 7 students have now chosen a free book from the Bookbuzz selection.



Book Buzz

Year 7 students have been asked to create their own book covers, consisting of a picture and a 'blurb', which will be entered into a school competition. All entries must be handed in to the LRC after the holidays. Students are also able to use this cover to enter the national Bookbuzz Cover Competition. All entries must be **posted** to be received by the **19th January 2018**). Details can be found on: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/supporting-you/practitioners/our-programmes/bookbuzz/students/bookbuzz-competitions/design-a-book-cover-competition/>

Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair

The half-price Book Fair was a fantastic success with many students visiting the fair at break and lunch times and when possible, during their LRC lessons. By the second day of the Fair, the shelves were so empty that we had to order more books. We are so pleased to see our students so keen on reading.

Apart from students being able to purchase books at half-price, the school was also entitled to 10% of the total sales of the Fair, redeemable in free books. We managed to get 71 free books to put in the LRC, which would amount to £420 worth of books at shop prices! And on top of this, Scholastic confirmed that we were the most successful school in the whole of the United Kingdom!

A big thank you to the kind parents who offered their free time to help us sell the books, to the members of staff and also to Rebecca, our lovely 6th Former who volunteered to help us. Our gratitude also goes to the English teachers who helped us during breaks with "crowd control", which was very helpful.



If you missed the book fair, you can still purchase books at a reduced price from the **Scholastic Book Club**. Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/jcoss> to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this November Book Club, **our school will earn 25p** in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your **order online by Friday 29th December 2017**.

Competitions

- Daunt: Children's Short Story Competition – Deadline: 7th January 2018: <https://www.dauntbooks.co.uk/childrens-short-story-competition-2018/>
- LoveReading4Kids: Win a family break to Salisbury – Deadline: 31st January 2018: <http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/14820/A-World-of-Cities-by-Lily-Murray.html>
- Penguin: Win a bundle of 10 Young Adult Books – Deadline: 25th December 2017: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/competitions/2017/nov/platform-highlights/>

Raising Money for Jami

On Sunday 26th November, we organised a charity event raising money for Jami – the mental health service for the Jewish community, which took place at Alyth Synagogue in Golders Green. We don't think this issue is discussed nearly enough. Our aim was to increase understanding and tolerance of mental health conditions.

Putting on this event was extremely important to both of us. Mental health can't be seen, so we think it is even more vital that it is talked about.

Those who attended heard about the important work that Jami do, as well as listening to personal accounts of those who have experienced a mental illness. The event was attended by over 70 people, and raised approximately £1700.

by Emily Newman and Ella Garai-Ebner



Tea at No. 10

James Saker, Y11, had the privilege of being invited to tea at number 10 Downing Street, then as part of the Capital Arts Children's Choir sang to Theresa May as she turned on the Xmas lights outside.

