

Dear Parents

Teachers and students alike look forward with yearning to the freedom of the holidays – and even more so when they come as late as they do this year. The relentless regime of early mornings, timetable and home learning (or the marking of it) eases at last and we can direct our own time. Think of the possibilities...

The reality does not always match up: some of us have children at home and 8 days of church services to plan (because the newsletter is all about me...); others of us have public exams to prepare for; for some there are domestic responsibilities: that chametz isn't going to find itself, you know...; some might even feel – whether or not they are able to say so – that the structure and obligations of term time are a refuge and release from the tensions of a troubling home life.

At Pesach the theme of freedom from bondage is of course an especially pertinent theme, and an opportunity to reflect not only on the great liberation of the Exodus but on other slaveries that still blight lives today in ways large and small. What might liberation from them look and feel like? Some basic freedoms – of religion, democracy and of expression – are faraway dreams for some of our fellow human beings, and those of us who have them may feel shame when we see the extraordinary acts of political and physical courage taken to get them by those who don't.

And just as with school holidays, that level of freedom is also in some respects a challenge. Sometimes we don't get the democratic outcomes we hoped for, and by its nature voting can expose divisions in our societies, as both the UK and Israel are discovering in different ways. The paralysis in UK politics is almost enough to make one long for a benign dictator who will simply ride roughshod over the disagreements and make the decision for us (provided of course that they make it the way we want).

What shall we do with our freedom, when all things are possible but not all are helpful? What shall we do with our freedom, when our choices will have an impact on others around us and indeed on future generations? That latter question is what has driven the student climate protests, and some JCoSS students are among the thousands who have absented themselves from school (unauthorised, by the way, because otherwise it wouldn't be a protest...) to try and sound the wake-up call.

We have been encouraging and empowering them to bring their principled frustration and leadership back into school and help us improve our habits as a community. Most students agree that disposable packaging is a bad thing, and wish the school to be a sustainable environment; it's harder to get them to bring their own water bottle to school or to clear up after themselves in the cafeteria. Freedom, it turns out, is as much a burden and a responsibility as it is a joy and an opportunity: we come through the Red Sea, but there is still some angst in the wilderness to come.

Amongst the glories in the pages that follow, two items in particular speak to some similar themes: first, initiatives led by Year 12 students to take left-over food from our cafeteria, and items donated to a JCoSS Food Bank, to a local homeless charity. We salute such real, practical action in the spirit of tikkun olam. Second, an article by Jessica Overlander-Kaye, our Wellbeing Practitioner who started a 3-year role at JCoSS in January as part of a community-wide initiative. Physical, mental and emotional health are all tied up with the quality of our environment and the quality of our choices: her role is to help us explore ways to improve both, and you will see details of how parents can also be involved.

For all the complexity of freedom, I wish you all chag sameach, and the joys of the holidays.

Patrick Moriarty  
Headteacher

## Pastries and Paired Reading

A group of Year 7 and Year 10 students have been involved in 'Pastries and Paired Reading' this year. This is a new initiative from the English Faculty intended to improve students' reading ability in Year 7.

During an afternoon registration, students gather in the LRC to read together. The Year 10 students have been magnificent in the menschlich approach that they have demonstrated towards their mentees, collecting them from their form rooms, chatting to them about their books and building relationships across the year groups. We hope that this will

be a positive experience for all involved and will boost reading

abilities in our selected Year 7 students. Following the Jewish tradition that study should be 'sweet as honey' the sessions are accompanied by large chocolate chip cookies which have been a big hit!



## LRC News

### World Book Day

World Book Day took place on Thursday 7th March with lots of activities throughout the school to celebrate books and reading. At lunch time we held a very popular book sale which raised £100 for the charity My Israel. During Form time we all took part in 'Drop Everything And Read' – known as 'DEAR', where we read for 20 minutes. Some Forms took part in a book swap and all lessons were introduced by the reading aloud of an excerpt from a short story. We hope everyone enjoyed the day.



### Author Visit for Y7

On 1st April we had the pleasure of an author visiting JCoSS for the afternoon to speak to Y7. Prize winning author Sita Brahmachari, entertained us with her stories, giving us a taste of her books. Lots of students took the opportunity to chat to Sita about her books and to purchase a signed copy. She has had nine books published and we have copies of them all in the LRC. Students particularly liked the artefacts Sita brought, such as a silver necklace with the charm of an artichoke, similar to the one in her prize winning novel, Artichoke Hearts.



# Food Bank at JCoSS

As Mr Moriarty referenced in his opening piece, I have opened up a food bank at JCoSS.

I have always been adamant about the necessity to avoid food wastage in my own home, and that translated over to my school when my friend and I observed a large amount of food being thrown out from the JCoSS cafeteria on Friday afternoons. This struck a chord, and made me feel aggrieved each time I passed someone on the street in my local area (Finchley), as I thought of all the better ways this food could have gone to use. As such, I proposed to the school as part of my head student application that all food that would otherwise be thrown away be donated to Homeless Action in Barnet, a nearby homeless shelter. The catering staff agreed, and the left-over food is now donated weekly.

It was suggested that I take this one step further and introduce a donation system to JCoSS, and this is where students and parents come in. I have transformed a cardboard box with the best of my artistic talents into a food bank (below). This is in the Heart Space on the first Friday of every month, for student and staff food donations. Please send your children in with a can of beans, a tin of tomatoes, or a box of biscuits, to help the homeless people in our borough.

It should be noted that the food must be non-perishable, nut-free, and kosher. The first Fridays of each month, until the end of the year, are as follows. Please pencil these dates into your diaries:

- Friday 3 May
- Friday 7 June
- Friday 5 July

Finally, I decided that I would like to share two things that were said to me about this project. Jason, the kind member of the catering staff who drives the food down to the shelter each Friday, described it as if he had walked in with a 'pot of gold'. This was hugely touching to me, and was evidence of the difference that I and everyone who has helped me so far are making. Secondly, one teacher described this project as being my 'legacy'. She was right. I would like this system to remain in action long after I am gone, so that we can continue to aid those who need it.

Thank you for reading,

Ben Conway (Year 12)





## Year 11 Reward Trip to the WB Studio Tour By Misha Vides – 11W

On the first day back after the February Half Term 25 students went on a reward trip to Harry Potter Studios. Despite the lurking stress of exams hanging over me during the holidays, I was nothing short of ecstatic when the day began (always a perk to have an authorised absence!). The teachers who came, all Harry Potter enthusiasts themselves, were surprisingly a lot of fun to tour the studios with. I've never seen Mr de Jong as overwhelmed with joy as when he bought himself Dumbledore's wand (a replica) from the gift shop. The intricacy of the exhibits, the interactivity of the green-screen broomsticks and the wand choreography were unexpected, yet immersive, experiences, giving wonderful insight to the Wizarding World of Happy Potter. Overall, beside from the not-so-enjoyable butter beer, visiting Harry Potter studios was the perfect way to return to school.



## Spring Soloists Concert

On Tuesday March 19th The Spring Soloists Concert took place. All present enjoyed a truly entertaining evening. We showcased students who have been taking instrumental lessons at school, as well as a range of self-taught musicians and some who take lessons outside of school. The talent on show was a wonderful thing to see and the evident progress that a number of our younger students have made in a short time was very pleasing. The ability of our more seasoned musicians was, at times, astonishing and those who made the effort to come and support our students were amply rewarded.

Thanks to the whole music department and the site team for making it possible.

Students who took part:

Zain Merali Y11 Drums, Tamara Brunert Y7 Piano, Dana Thomas Y7 Drums, Nina Joffe Y8 Trumpet, Dylan Woolf Y8 Piano, Ella Kahn Harris Y8 Violin, Nic Markov Y8 flute, Matthew Taylor Y8 Drums  
Josh Ishack Y9 Piano, Amelia Le Ray Y10 Piano, Noah Bruck Y10 Clarinet, Sasha Lask Y10 Sax  
Daniel Glukh Y9 Violin, Sam Legg Y10 Drums, Ellie Saipe Y11 Clarinet, Lucy Ritter Y11 Guitar  
Joshua Russell Y11 Piano, Matthew Woolf Y11 Cello, Ben Woolf Y11 Violin, David Glukh Y11 Piano  
Ethan Baker Y12 Piano

## Support our Child's Wellbeing, Jessica Overlander-Kaye, Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner

One of the hardest things to do as a parent is to slow down and find the time to talk with and listen to our children. With the many pressures on parents, it's all too easy to become distracted. Whether it's the phone ringing, the bill that needs paying or the dinner that needs cooking, parents are often juggling many demands on their time. When we do make the time and peel our children, and us, away from screens and TV dinners, how and what we talk to our children about is really important. Research from The Children's Society show that 7% of children who talk to their family about things that matter to them on most days or every day have low well-being. But for those who never or hardly ever do so, this rises to 28%.

The same topics of concern keep arising and we are addressing these at "Our Child's Wellbeing" evening on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 6.15pm. We warmly invite you to embrace the opportunity of hearing some fantastic speakers on pressing issues with our children. The wellbeing evening hopes to reinforce the education and work that is being done with the students at school.

**JCoSS**  
JEWISH COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

# Our Child's Wellbeing

Hear experts share practical tips  
on supporting the wellbeing of your children  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 from 6.15 - 8pm at JCoSS

**Natasha Devon MBE**  
Body Image & Mental  
Health Campaigner

**Richard Boxer**  
Drugs Education  
Consultant

**Luke Brent-Savage**  
Online Safety  
Specialist

**Dr Anna Colton**  
Chartered Clinical  
Psychologist

You will have the opportunity to ask questions to our panel  
of experts and take part in two 30 minute workshops  
with leaders in the field

Contact the school office to book your place

## UK Linguistics Olympiad - South Korea here we come!

Daniel Turaev received a hero's welcome in the corridors and classrooms at JCoSS this week after news spread quickly that he had made it into the UK team for the International Linguistics Olympiad, to be held in Yongin, South Korea in August. He is one of eight students in the UK to be selected to represent the UK at the increasingly popular competition.

Special mention goes to year 12 student James Saker, who led the charge (literally across the heartspace one lunchtime) to establish the first entry of JCoSS students into the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Having signed themselves up, fifteen Year 12 and 13 students set about decoding the Cippus Abellanus (to us mere mortals a document carved into stone from the 2nd century BCE, dealing with a legal dispute between the cities of Abella and Nola in southern Italy) and other linguistic challenges. We are delighted that several students won bronze and silver awards in Round 1 (Adam Caplan, James Saker, Octavia Molteno, Benjamin Conway, Ethan Levenon) and Samuel Lachmann achieved the gold.

## Purim at JCoSS

As the somewhat self-elected 'Rosh Purim' of the Year 12 JCoSS leadership scheme, I am delighted to report on this year's Purim lunchtime fair. I will start off by noting that it raised £3884, and after expenses, £3228 will go directly to the school charities. This is an enormous amount of money, we think the most the school have ever raised on Purim.

Leaders are only as good as the team behind them and I felt blessed to be working with such a talented and devoted group of my peers. Each and every person's expertise was utilised in a way that generated dazzling results. The Informal Jewish Education team ran a blackjack stall which entertained zealous students (hopefully not too zealous; I would vehemently discourage gambling among youth) uninterrupted throughout lunchtime. This was paired with a makeshift bar selling artisanally concocted mocktails, which tasted as delicious as their names were apt.

The Social Action Group drew in an enormous haul of food to be donated to the local homeless shelter (Homeless Action in Barnet). This was so huge that Jason, the member of the catering team who delivers JCoSS donations to the shelter each week, said that he struggled to fit it all into his car.

Notable contributions from the Community Leadership group included the revolution of the JCoSS Purim token distribution mechanism, beautifully designed matching t-shirts (despite Vashti's missing eyebrow), several innovative attractions (which went down fantastically among the students), eye-catching decorations which adorned the Heart space, and posters advertising the sumo wrestling that were photoshopped so expertly that you wouldn't be able to tell that neither Mr Moriarty nor Mr Lorrimer actually has a six-pack.

Arguably the main event was the JCoSS teacher sumo wrestling tournament. After having overcome Mr Harivelo and Mr Moriarty respectively, Mr Berman and Mr Lorrimer contested an exhilarating final battle in which Mr Lorrimer almost pulled through to an unthinkable comeback to avoid being whitewashed, only to take a quite literal tumble at the final hurdle, leading Mr Berman to be crowned the JCoSS Sumo Wrestling Purim Champion 2019 (congratulations, Mr Berman). Highlights are pictured on the following page.

Overall, being the first year group to have controlled the Purim lunchtime fair, we have set the bar high for the unfortunate students in the year below. I must give massive thanks to every student and every teacher who contributed to the resounding success of this year's fair, which has been hailed by many teachers as the greatest that the school has ever seen.

Thank you all so much.

Benjamin Conway, Rosh Purim, year 12



# Purim at JCoSS





## JCoSS PE Department: January-April

Another jam packed term full of fixtures and extra-curricular sports. We have had a great turnout from the KS3 students after school with lots of enthusiasm to play, which is great to see.

**Football:** The Football season has rolled on through this half term with some great results:

- Y7 have got to the Plate **final** which will be played after Passover
- Y8 got to the Barnet Cup **semi-final** & the Plate **final** where they were runners up
- Y9 have got to the County Lyle Cup **final** & League playoff **final** both will be played after Passover
- Y10 got to the League playoff **quarter-final**
- Y11 got to the Barnet Cup **semi-final**



**Basketball:** The Y7 basketball team have played extremely well and only lost one of their matches. They are through to the League **final** which will be played after Passover.

Our Y8/9 team have come up against some stiff competition and some very tall lads from other schools and have made it through to the Plate **final** which will also be played after Passover.

Both teams enjoyed all their matches (win, lose or draw) and have done JCoSS proud by getting so far, especially as this is the first year we have competed in the Barnet league.

**Cross Country:** Following on from their strong finishes in the Barnet Cross-Country Leagues and Championship, Y9 students Jack Davis-Black and Millie Aslan were selected to represent 'Team Barnet' at the Middlesex Cross-Country Championships, which took place at Harrow School. Both performed excellently in freezing conditions with Jack finishing 11<sup>th</sup> and Millie 38<sup>th</sup>. A huge well done to them.

**Sports Ambassadors:** Our School Sports Ambassadors have assisted the Barnet Partnership for School Sports team in running three events. The boys helped run the New Age Kurling and the girls helped run the primary schools Hi-5 netball tournaments. BPSS were impressed with our Ambassadors with their maturity and expertise in these sports and JCoSS will be looking at helping at more events like these in the future.

**Climbing:** Some of our sixth form students went indoor climbing as part of their course. We were able to film the students making their way up the very high walls and watched them enjoy participating in a sport which they have never done before.



**Netball:** The girls played in the Y7, Y8 & Y9 netball tournaments this term. The Y7 & Y9 teams both battled valiantly but were unfortunately beaten to the top spots. The Y8 team had some strong opposition but our girls played really well and finished a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup>. Finally, to end the season, the Y8 & Y9 teams made it through to the Barnet league playoffs, where Y8 were runners up and the Y9s came 3<sup>rd</sup>. All the teams have played fantastically well this season.



**Handball:** Our GCSE PE girls played a friendly match of Handball against Compton. It was a tough match which resulted in a loss but our girls played well and held their own.

**Maccabi Tournaments:** The JCoSS students yet again proved they are a true force to be reckoned with.

- The Y8 & Y9 boys doubles won the badminton tournament.
- The Y7, Y8 & Y10 girls doubles teams won the badminton & table tennis tournament.
- The Y8 & Y9 girls won the netball tournament.



Next term we see the start of the Barnet cricket league, Barnet & Maccabi athletics competitions as well as our much anticipated Sports Week at the end of term. We are hoping for the sun to shine & the students to have lots of fun!

## PE DEPARTMENT

[jcosspe@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:jcosspe@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk)

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@JCoSSPE ; Follow us on Facebook



JCoSS Sport

# News from the Careers Office

## JCoSS Careers Fair

The annual Careers Fair for Year 9 students was our biggest and best ever featuring more than 40 employers representing everything from creative industries to medicine, law, property, the emergency services, the civil service, social work and hairdressing.

Feedback from students has been very positive and our visitors were highly impressed by students' levels of interest and the intelligent questions they asked.

Parents who would like to take part in the next one, please contact Helen Lewis in the Careers Office:

hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk we would love to hear from you.



## Moving On After JCoSS

Year 12 PSRP students visited both West Herts and Oaklands Colleges last week to get a first-hand look at college life and at some of the courses available including IT, animal care and hospitality.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Year 12 students in the mainstream had a trip to London's Excel Centre for the UCAS Convention where they were able to meet representatives from universities throughout the country, plus some apprenticeship providers.

The visits are part of the on-going programme of support designed to help prepare Years 12 and 13 for life after JCoSS.

## PSRP Coffee Morning

After months of planning, the Year 11 PSRP students held a coffee morning to raise money for the National Autistic Society during National Autism Awareness Week. This activity was also part of the CoPE qualification - working with others.

The students planned everything, from raising maintenance requests to our site team, calling the bakers for a donation of pastries, meetings with the canteen team to ask for donations of cakes, and approaching other companies to make a donation to help with the event.

The morning was a huge success.

The students managed to raise a staggering £255.00 all of which will be donated to the NAS.

The PSRP Year 11 students and I would like to thank Cohen's Bakery, The JCoSS Canteen team, Tesco Borehamwood, Sharna Nothman for supplying the balloons for the tables and Purely Personalised in Radlett for the T-Shirts donated to us.

Andrew, Zain, Daniel, Eitan & Mrs McCombe





## Year 12 Trip to Poland



Last week we took thirty-four students to Poland. The aim of the journey is for students to investigate Polish Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust. The trip lasts five days and takes in a variety of Polish cities as well as the sites of the extermination camps Treblinka, Majdenek, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Plascow and the cities of Warsaw, Lublin, Kielce and Krakow.

During our short day in Warsaw, the group visited the Warsaw cemetery, which introduced us the Polish-Jewish story. The city has very little remaining from its pre-war period and therefore mostly of what exists is either in a state of disrepair or is simply memorialised. A walking tour of what was the Warsaw ghetto followed and using images from Yad Vashem we were able to show students what the area looked like then compared to the present day.

For many Warsaw Jews their story ended as the mass extermination camp of Treblinka. We visited Treblinka, set in a beautiful forest on a freakishly warm day. Nothing remains of the site (it was dismantled by the Nazis in 1943 after the murder of approximately 800,000 Jews) other than a small exhibition centre and a memorial on the site of the gas chambers. However, the warm and silence apart from an Israeli school group singing Hatikvah made this the most poignant moment of the trip for many of us.

A trip to the Southern city of Lublin followed with a trip to Lublin's famous yeshiva and contrasting with a trip to Majdenek. As the Soviet army rapidly advanced in 1944, this camp was rapidly evacuated and consequently was left intact. This place is desolate and cold and students once again saw crematoria, barracks and heard the testimonies of Jews who survived this camp.

In Krakow we visited the site of Auschwitz-Birkenau as well as the Jewish quarter of Kazimierz. As tourism to Poland increases, these sites have become more crowded. Some of our group found this conflicting, we want more people to visit these sites but at the same time the overcrowding brings with it an emotional disconnect.

The Poland journey ends with the story of Oscar Schindler and a visit to his factory and the slave labour camp Plascow. It is now a place where people walk their dogs, go for a run and couples sit on benches overlooking the city. This for us highlighted the complexity that is Poland seventy-five years after the Holocaust. It was a rewarding, exhausting five days that had difficult but also some inspiring moments. I am proud to be a leader on the Poland trip and see students engage in such a difficult piece of Jewish history. My thanks go to Mr Rosenberg, Mrs Sykes, Ms Bowen and Mr Davey for giving up their time to make the trip a success.

Mrs D. Juggler  
Director of Jewish Learning

# Grandparents' Afternoon at JCoSS

On the 13th March 2019, JCoSS held its annual Year 7 Grandparents' Afternoon.

Guests arrived at school at 2:30pm. Mr Moriarty and the Head Students gave them a warm welcome and an introduction to the school. They also enjoyed hearing music from the Y7 choir and were then ushered into the cafeteria where refreshments of tea, coffee and cake were waiting.

When the end of day bell rang, the students ran from their classes excited to meet their grandparents. The hall was buzzing with joy and the afternoon was going brilliantly.

Everyone started to pour out of the lunch hall and explore the rest of the school. Students showed their grandparents the four different wings and everything in them.

My own grandpa was struck by how modern JCoSS is and how different it was from his school days.

By 4:30pm, the grandparents had seen the whole school and spent some time with their grandchildren.

The grandparents left with smiles on their faces and full of nachus.

By Leyla Kelmanson, Y7



## JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Summer Term 2019

- Timings follow a normal school day unless otherwise stated
- School closes at 2.15pm on all Fridays until the end of the school year (unless otherwise stated)
- Students return to school for the second half of the Summer term on Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June (week one)
- Shavuot is Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June (school closed)

Date	Time	Description
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am	Start of Summer Term (week one)
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> April	6.15 – 8pm	'Your Child's Wellbeing' Talk. Meeting for Parents. RSVP to the SchoolPost e-mail sent on 4 <sup>th</sup> April.
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> April	4-7pm	Yr 10 Parents' Evening
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	All day	Yom Ha'Shoah (school timings as normal)
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> May		Last day in school for Year 11
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> May	4-7pm	Yr 7 Parents' Evening
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May		Yom HaZikaron (school timings as normal)
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>1.45pm</b>	Yom Ha'atzmuat. <b>Early closing for staff training.</b>
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May		Last day in School for Year 13
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May		Public exams start
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	In lessons	KS3 Assessments
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> May		Lag B'Omer (school timings as normal)