

I write this just before the announcement of the UK's new Prime Minister; you will probably read it shortly afterwards. Even though the result is widely regarded as a foregone conclusion, it feels a momentous boundary, especially given all that has been promised during the campaign...or threatened, depending on your viewpoint. That viewpoint will also determine whether you will regard any failure to deliver what has been undertaken as a betrayal or a relief. Practising what we preach is still regarded as a key measure of politicians - even if we don't relish what has been preached, we are still happy to criticise the lack of practice.

I reflected on this at a recent conference on the role Christian and Jewish clergy might have in healing the fractures in society opened up by Brexit. It was jointly organised by St Albans Diocese (where the parish I work in is located) and Leo Baeck College, the training institution for the Movement for Reform Judaism, so from the outset it was practising what it sought to preach by bringing people together from across a potential divide; this was particularly surreal for me as it brought into the same room people I know from very different spheres of my life...like meat and milk on the same plate, you might say. Those attending also spanned the Brexit divide, though not in even numbers (I will leave you to speculate on the proportions of each!). As we explored the issues, the grief of some who voted to Remain was still palpable, as was the desire of all to understand what has led to such a rift in UK society and what might help us all move forward.

One participant commented that whereas in the past we might have summed up a heated argument as, 'I'm right, you're wrong', now we'd be more likely to feel, 'I'm right, you're bad'. Our differences can seem so vast that there is little or no common ground, and someone who disagrees with us (about Brexit, about the Labour Party, about how to respond to the climate crisis...) strikes us as not just intellectually mistaken but morally bad. We extrapolate, from their opinion about politics, a whole package of other opinions and attitudes and then pass judgment on their worth as a human being. And needless to say, they are doing the same to us, vile people that they are...

This has probably been a tendency of human communities since the dawn of time (there's certainly plenty of evidence of it in both Jewish and Christian scripture) but the nods around the room showed that many recognised it as a distinctive feature of our current context. The fact that so much of the debate is held online rather than face to face doesn't help: even though we know we are likely to write things on social media that we would never dream of saying in person to another human being, in the heat of the debate we still do it.

Much of the power of this conference, then, lay in getting a group of people together in person. The fact that we came from different religious traditions - and ones with a history of mutual suspicion - obliged us to practise the art of forging relationships outside our bubbles. Most of the suggestions about ways forward centred, too, on bringing people physically together, but also on constructing a 'safe container' so that we can test out thoughts and ways of talking without the fear of being vilified for doing so.

If Jewish and Christian traditions contain plenty of examples of emphasising difference and amplifying hostility in the name of purity, they also both contain some exquisite instances of joyfully trampling over boundaries in the name of God and in the name of love. Samaritans tending to injured Jews, Roman centurions seeing the power of Jewish faith, Jethro the Midianite acting as mentor and father figure to the young Moses and (one whose beauty haunts me) Ruth saying to Naomi, "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God".

We may not want to say 'I'm right and you're right' - although often this is true, and it's one way to interpret the JCoSS motto 'these and these are the words of the living God'. But can we at least recognise the good intentions, the sincere heart and the shared humanity of all those we encounter, whether in the real or the virtual world? We are all fellow pilgrims through troubled and troubling times, and none of us have a monopoly on right answers. The measure of pluralism comes not when everyone agrees, or pretends to agree for a quiet life, but when there is fierce and passionate disagreement and we have to find a way to live together nevertheless. Communities like JCoSS ought to be modelling this for the wider world: the coming months may provide ample opportunity to do so.

The JCoSS Israel Trip by Lucy Brent

The JCoSS Israel trip was an extraordinary experience for all the students who went. The highlights included rafting on the Jordan River at HaGoshrim, the sunset party boat and volunteering at the Leket charity distributing food to needy people, as well as the Carmel Market, Masada and the Dead Sea. Though all the activities were stupendous, my personal favourite activities were Shabbat and the Palmach Museum. This was because during Shabbat it's a change of atmosphere from the bustling upbeat trip to a moment of bonding and reflecting which is often needed. The Palmach museum along with the constant insightful knowledge and information from our tour guides really made the trip fascinating. It's not every day you hear an Israeli tour guide telling you his perspective on the conflict and immediately after telling you not to trust it as every opinion is different.

The JCoSS pluralist ethos was definitely shown and maintained throughout the trip, with us visiting a Druze hospitality lunch at Yarka and an Orthodox synagogue in Tzefat which made the trip that extra bit educational. However this trip could not have been accomplished without the phenomenal staff that organised it, who throughout were complete mensches, putting in their all and making it a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget.



Read4Barnet by Millie Ash 7Y and Katie Barel 7R

On 27th June, 11 students from JCoSS participated in Read4Barnet at Wren Academy. In preparation for the day, we were given 8 shortlisted books to read and review. These reviews could be in the style of acrostic poems, raps or in the style of song lyrics. The thrilling and brilliant selected books were:

- Snap by Patrice Lawrence ; Indigo Donut by Patrice Lawrence
- Lightning Chase Me Home by Amber Lee Dodd
- Alex Rider: Secrets and Weapons by Anthony Horowitz
- We are Blood and Thunder by Kesia Lupo
- Countless by Karen Gregory; I Hold Your Heart by Karen Gregory
- Night of the Party by Tracy Mathias.

Each JCoSS student read at least one book and sent in a review. Mrs Rice, Miss Pragai and Ms Levontine provided us with helpful reading journals to keep track of what we had read and were really supportive at the weekly meetings. When we arrived at the event, we were escorted to the main hall by pupils from Wren Academy where we met the other 8 schools participating, the atmosphere was buzzing. We heard a lovely welcome speech. The authors that came to the event were Kesia Lupo, Tracy Mathias, Patrice Lawrence and Karen Gregory (the other two authors sadly couldn't make the event). After we had been split into groups, we heard an inspirational talk from one of the four authors, which gave us an insight to what being an author is really like. Next, we were lucky enough to have a break where book and postcard signings were taking place in the library. Then, a second author talk took place, and it was fascinating to hear the contrast in the authors' backgrounds. This was followed up by a quiz to test our knowledge on the books we had read. During that period, we also had the opportunity to vote for our favourite author at the event: Patrice Lawrence (the author of Snap and Indigo Donut) won the award. We had a fabulous lunch break during which the book signing continued and the authors welcomed many questions. This was where we got to learn about the two authors we didn't hear talk in the previous sessions. Finally, we ended by having a ceremony in which awards were given to the best book reviews.

JCoSS won 5 awards in total! Millie Ash 7Y (2 prizes), Katie Barel 7R, Jasmine Chadwick 7F, Matthew Weinberger 7Y

The prizes were different books, notebooks, vivid bookmarks and badges. Pictures were taken of the authors with each school. We all thoroughly enjoyed Read4Barnet.

Keep reading! :)



Year 12 Higher Education Day

Year 12 students met representatives from universities, Gap Year programmes and apprenticeship providers at last month's HE Day. Representatives from universities including Durham, Loughborough and City, University of London gave presentations on all aspects of the university application process, from student finance to writing a personal statement. Parents attended an evening session which covered the main topics and included a Q&A session.



Cambridge University Lower Sixth Chemistry Challenge

Chemistry Year 12 Students took part in Cambridge University Lower Sixth Chemistry Challenge. This is a really challenging written paper and we are delighted that a large number of our students received certificates:

Joel Alexander - Copper
Ben Andrews - Copper
Daniel Clayman - Copper
Alyssa Jacobs - Copper
Chiara Whitefield - Copper
Joseph Pollock - Silver
Ethan Levenson - Gold
Eliana Stern - Gold
Stefan Tucker - Gold

All students that participated should be congratulated and a special well done to Eliana, Ethan & Stefan for obtaining a Gold certificate.

Year 7 Choir at the East Barnet Festival

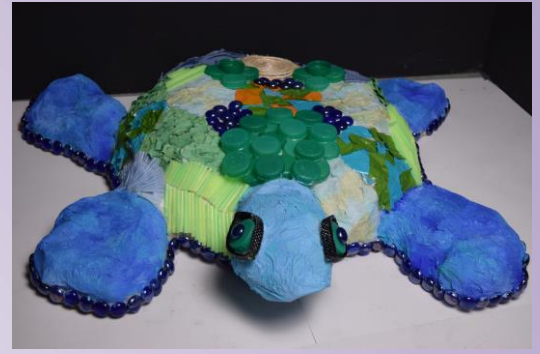
Congratulations to the Year 7 choir who made the school's first appearance at the East Barnet Festival on Sunday July 7th. They did us proud with a marvellous performance and we hope to be invited back again next year. Many thanks to parents and Mr Draper for supporting them.

Ms Berg and Mr Leffman



Individual Achievements

Annie Miller Yr 7 created an outstanding extended home learning in Art. Students were asked to respond to a project called the 'The Blue Planet'; using found objects to create a meaningful expression of their views on the environment. All Year 7s experimented with a wide variety of materials and researched their views on the environment with depth and understanding. Annie's in particular showed much skill and effort.



Congratulations to Noah Leigh, Yr 11 who has been shortlisted for the Royal Academy of Art Young Artists Summer Show. This very prestigious art competition received over 6,200 submissions and Noah's entry was one of only 139 to be exhibited at the Royal Academy. This is an incredible achievement. Congratulations to Noah – we are delighted for you.

Please vote for Noah for the People's Choice award

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/2019/2738>



Congratulations to Oscar Pollack in Year 12 who has been selected to represent England for the Under 18s at an international chess tournament in Dublin. Well done Oscar and on behalf of JCoSS we wish you all the best in Dublin



Congratulations to Teanna Parmar Year 12 who participated in the Kent International Judo tournament last month and received a Bronze medal in the Youth women's U52kg category



Congratulations to Benjamin Gitlin Year 10 for recently being promoted within JLGB to Corporal and being selected to attend a JLGB training weekend. He also won smartest member in the Company!



JCoSS Sports Week

The first ever JCoSS Sports Week started on Monday 15th July. The PE department were extremely excited to see the wonderful sporting talent that JCoSS has to offer and provide some amazing opportunities for the students.

Monday 15th July - All of the netball players from this year were treated to a surprise for all of their effort representing JCoSS this year. Razia Quashie, who plays for Hertfordshire Mavericks in the Netball Super league and has 6 caps for England, ran a training session for the students and then held a Q & A session about her pathway into the England team. Afterwards Razia kindly umpired the staff v students netball match, which the students clearly inspired by Razia's talk went on to narrowly win.



Tuesday 16th July - Inter-form competitions started with year 7. Each student represented their form in either football, netball, handball or table tennis. Year 7 showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship during the tournament and the results were extremely close, with Winston narrowly winning overall. All of the points from Inter-form across the week will be added up to give the overall inter-form winner which will be announced on the final day of term.

At lunch-time a number of students were present for a Sports Psychology lecture, hosted by Nikki Crawley who is currently in the process of completing her doctorate. Nikki has worked with Fulham football club and is currently working with the GB Paralympic archery team. Nikki gave the students an insight into her pathway for her current role and more information about what the role entails.

Wednesday 17th July - Sports day was finally here and the weather was fantastic! The PE department launched the new JCoSS Sports day format to much aplomb. Students and staff came together to compete and support their house in the pursuit of victory. The day was split over two sites with half of the school competing in athletics events at Lee Valley and half competing at JCoSS in a number of team games and a Question of Sport quiz. There was even time at lunch for the teachers to get their own back after the earlier netball loss in the week to win the tug of war competition. Thank you to both staff and students for making the day so much fun for all involved. However the results are currently being kept confidential until the end of term!

Thursday 18th July and Friday 19th July – A fun and competitive Year 8 and Year 9 inter-form competition took place over the two days as well as a really interesting and inspiring Sports Science lecture from Daniel Taylor, a current Sport Scientist at Cambridge Football Club.



ORT Jump Graduation

On Monday, 8th July 2019, a number of Year 12 students attended the 2019 ORT Jump Graduation at JW3.

The ORT Jump Programme provides our students with access to some of the most impressive talents working across a range of industries and, gives young people a real insight into the working experience of leading professionals.

JCoSS students were privileged to be linked up, one-to-one, with surgeons, accountants, journalists and engineers, to name a few of the industries involved, who provided priceless guidance on how to go about forging future careers. Such opportunities cannot be taken for granted and we are enormously grateful to the time and effort that mentors put into providing their mentees with a rich and meaningful experience.

In speaking to our students, it was clear to see that all of them took full advantage of this programme; however, a special mention should go to Alyssa Jacobs who was one of five students to win the ORT essay competition.

If any parents would consider the idea of becoming a mentor, then please do not hesitate to contact Anna Black at anna.black@ortuk.org



Congratulations to a group of Year 8 students who successfully walked 5 miles walk to haderech at New North London Synagogue earlier this month to raise funds for their nominated charities.



National Theatre New Views Playwriting competition 2019

On July 1st a stunning new play – ‘Personal Statements’ – received its world premiere at the National Theatre, written by Year 11 JCoSS student Emily Shurmer. Emily’s play was one of only nine (out of 350) shortlisted in the prestigious National Theatre New Views Playwriting competition 2019.

The judging panel was full of praise for ‘Personal Statements’. Chris Bush, playwright, said ‘this play is beautifully theatrical and creates high stakes which show older people how it is to be young’ and Nina Steiger, NT Senior Dramaturg, described it as ‘essential and earnest’.

Emily’s prize was for the play to receive a rehearsed reading with actors from the current National Theatre company under a professional director in the Duffield Studio on July 1st.

Also celebrating success in the competition is Year 13 student Theo Albert who has been invited to participate in a playwriting masterclass at the National Theatre later this summer – Theo narrowly missed the shortlist with his semi-autobiographical play ‘Alone’ about the experiences of a sixth form student with Aspergers Syndrome.

Both Emily and Theo were part of a small group of year 11-13 students who’ve been meeting since September to learn the basics of playwriting with Mrs Kellaway and Miss Stock before writing a 30 minute play on an issue of importance to them.

Emily writes:

I recently took part in the National Theatre New Views playwriting competition, and after submitting, my play was first long-listed and then shortlisted into the final nine entries across the country. From the experience I was able to explore how plays can be used to tell stories and explore complex and relevant themes, and also learn from a professional playwright. My play was called ‘Personal Statements’ and was about how the media’s depiction of the world at large can affect young people’s outlooks on life and the future in different ways. The project consisted of a 10-week course at school, made up of weekly after school sessions where we would discuss and investigate the elements that make up a play, from structure, form, characters, themes, to the actual message we wished to convey. This enabled us to begin thinking about what elements we wanted to include in our own play, and begin reflecting on the issues or topics in society that we wanted to address. One of these sessions had playwright Paula B Stanic coming in to speak to us and do a workshop to help us in putting pen to paper, regardless of how good the product was, which I found helpful when trying to work past procrastination and the feeling of being ‘stuck’. We also went to see a performance at the National Theatre, which was helpful in allowing us to experience the subtler aspects of how a play is effective, which can’t be read from a script. After completing our first drafts, we had the opportunity to go through them one-on-one with Paula and hear her advice and feedback on our work so far, which was daunting yet very helpful, and gave me the final push I needed to finish my play. The plays were meant to be shorter than a full-length play, making writing them less of an insurmountable task. Finally, the plays were submitted, and reviewed by the National Theatre.

I would encourage anyone interested in writing, whether specific to plays or not, to take part in the opportunity, not only for the exploration into theatre and playwriting itself but for the chance to think about and develop the themes and messages that drive you, or that you feel need to be addressed. It’s also a great opportunity to demonstrate extra-curricular activities and interests for college and university applications. I would especially recommend it for Year 10s and Year 12s as I found with GCSEs it was occasionally hard to fit it in, but regardless, I think anyone interested could gain a lot from the process, and I would encourage everyone to give it a try and be able to say afterwards that they have written a play.



JCoSS PE Department

Our final term is always challenging as we lose our indoor facilities to exams and the weather can sometimes be against us! This year has been no exception. Our students have done us proud though, being super quiet when entering the sports area when changing for lessons and braving the cold, damp weather, when we were hoping for sunshine!

Football: The last of the matches were played in May. Y7 were runners up in the Plate final & Y9 were runners up in the County Lyle Cup final & runners up in the League playoff final.

Basketball: Our Y7 basketball team were runners up in the League final & our Y8/9 team were runners up in the Plate final.

Cricket: Unfortunately due to the weather, a lot of our matches were called off and unable to be rescheduled. However, our Y7/8 team played well, winning one match and losing two. Our Y9/10 team only managed to play one match, which we unfortunately lost, but all the students enjoyed the practice.

Barnet Athletics: The Barnet schools athletics at Allianz Park run during a three week period which also coincides with Y9 Israel trip and mock exams. Two events are run in each category: Y7, Y8 and Y9+10. Maddie Noah threw javelin at the first Y7 meet and won which qualified her to go on to represent Barnet at the Y7+8 Middlesex Champs where she threw impressively, but up against tough competition she came midway in the table. Y7-10 also meet at the Barnet Champs athletics day where JCoSS had some great performances and some personal best achievements, with Jack Davis-Black being crowned District Champion for the 1500m.

Maccabi Athletics: This day was at Lee Valley Athletics Centre, which has amazing facilities. Unfortunately we didn't have our Y9s as this was their first day back after Israel, but overall the girls came 2nd and the boys came 4th.

JPA: We would like to send a great big THANK YOU to JPA and especially Elaine Pitter, for providing the school with two handball goals and two table tennis tables. They are greatly appreciated and will be very well used by our new after school club and teams. Pictures to follow next term.

Sports Ambassadors: Our newly appointed Y7 Sports Ambassadors joined our Y8 Sports Ambassadors and were leaders for the Barnet Partnership for School Sports in running the Small Primary Schools Athletics Day at Allianz Park. BPSS were thoroughly impressed, yet again, with our students' professionalism and helpfulness.

Student Achievements: Teanna Parmar 12W participated in the Kent International Judo Tournament on 30th June where she won a Bronze medal in the Youth Women's u52kg category. Samuel Gassner 9W currently plays rugby for England u/14 and recently went on tour to represent his country. Millie Rogove 9R, played table tennis at the European Youth Championships in the Czech Republic and finally, Lola Shack 7B, currently plays football for Haringey County u13s & u14s and she has just been invited to play for Middlesex County (playing a year above). Her football team Haringey Girls Academy recently won a national tournament last weekend, making them the best in the country for their age group. Lola also represents Haringey County in sprinting. Ethan Said, 8R, was selected to represent London in the U13 Aspire national basketball tournament in Manchester where his team won all of their games and the tournament.

Sports Fixtures: We have had another amazing year packed full of fixtures & tournaments, which we hope to continue and maybe exceed expectations next year!

Extra Curricular: We have a number of clubs being run next term:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3.45-5.15pm Y7+8 Mixed Handball	Lunchtime Y7 Girls Football 3.45-4.45pm Y8/9/10 Girls Football	3.45-4.45pm Y9+10 Boys Football Y9+10 Girls Netball	3.45-4.45pm Y7+8 Boys Football Y7+8 Girls Netball

The PE Department would like to wish everyone a restful Summer and look forward to another year ahead of great sporting achievements.

PE DEPARTMENT - jcsspe@jcss.barnet.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter @JCoSSPE ; Follow us on Facebook JCoSS Sport

Bugsy Malone School Production

After months of rehearsals and a great deal of hard work by both students and staff, the school production of Bugsy Malone took place last week and was a resounding success. The production involved every year group currently in the school – Yr7, Yr8, Yr9, Yr10 and Yr12 – and in particular they enjoyed splurging each other every night! Thanks to students for their hard work, parents for their support, ADT for helping with the set, Mrs Martin for tickets, Mrs Gold for publicity and programme, and the site team for set up and staging.

DVDs of the production are available to buy for £10. Please email music@jcross.barnet.sch.uk and they will deal with your request.

We Look forward to seeing you at the productions next year!
CEA Faculty



JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Autumn Term 2019

Date	Time	Description
Wed 4 th Sept	8.30am	Incoming Year 7s and Year 12s Start School
Thurs 5 th Sept	8.30am	Years 8 – 11 and Year 13s return to school
Mon 23 rd Sept	7pm	JCoSS Parents' Association AGM
Thurs 26 th Sept	1.45pm	Early closing for open evening
Fri 27 th Sept	All day	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Mon 30 th & Tues 1 st Oct	All day	School closed for Rosh Hashana
Tues 8 th Oct	1.45pm	Early closing for Yom Kippur
Wed 9 th Oct	All day	School closed for Yom Kippur
Mon 14 th and Tues 15 th Oct	All day	School closed for Sukkot
Wed 16 th Oct	Evening	Y11 & Y12 Parents' revision evening

Half term is Mon 21st – Fri 25th October

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah are 21st & 22nd October

Timings follow a normal school day unless otherwise stated
School closes at 2.15pm on all Fridays until after half term

School starts again on Mon 28th October after half term