

Dear Parents

Suppose you are in a bank when a gang bursts in, and in the ensuing armed robbery you get shot in the arm. Are you lucky or unlucky? Richard Wiseman, Professor of the Public Understanding of Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire, says that our answer to that question reveals lots about us. Of course, it's never good to be shot, so to call the experience 'lucky' might sound a little too over-cheerful...but if you're going to be shot, better the arm than the heart or face. What if the bullet had gone a few centimetres higher? With only an arm wound your life might be impaired for a while, but you might rebound from the experience with your priorities re-evaluated, or sell your story to the press and live on the proceeds...

Wiseman's point is that whether or not we are a 'lucky' person is a lot to do with how we interpret what happens to us, the stories we tell about it. If we don't feel we are lucky, those habits of interpretation and story-telling are things we can practise. We can develop and grow an ability to widen our perspective, imagine scenarios and frame experiences in a positive way. We don't change the facts, but we do choose how far back we stand from them, and how much light we allow to fall on them. The wider our field of vision, the more we will see other possibilities and opportunities to benefit. It is those *other possibilities* that we often call 'luck', and the readiness to benefit from them and bounce back that we call 'resilience'.

Somewhere in that mix, also, is what schools are learning to call 'cultural capital'. This is a term used in the new Ofsted framework, meaning the skills and knowledge to understand the way the world works and to influence it. The gap in cultural capital defines and explains the gap between those who have power – often generation after generation – and those who don't, also often generation after generation. Schools, Ofsted says, need to teach children 'the best that has been thought and said' (and knowing that is a quotation from the poet Matthew Arnold might be one example of cultural capital).

Some have pointed out, however, that if we only do that, we risk simply perpetuating the existing structures and inequalities. Schools also need to equip children to analyse, criticise and change the structures. As a school we are delighted if we can send students to prestigious universities, and equally we look forward to JCoSS alumni taking their place as leaders, movers and shakers in the decades ahead. But we should be even more delighted if those students are from families who have never been to university, or if we have given students opportunities that are really more and better than what their parents had.

Eton, watch your back: how long until the first JCoSS Prime Minister? Except that maybe that aspiration isn't radical enough: maybe we need to equip students to question the whole system of how power is allocated, how influence is measured, how work, merit and status are recognised. If some kinds of merit come more easily to those who can afford to buy them (a good education is the obvious example), then perhaps meritocracy isn't as far different from aristocracy as we hoped. Likewise, if some ways of spending our lives are viewed as more important simply by virtue of the salary they attract, then perhaps we will never be able to see the true value of what we do.

The best recipe for 'cultural capital' is a healthy mix of it all. Knowledge and skills, for sure, but also an ability to step back from the facts and see new opportunities; the persistence to question and the humility to heed answers; and the confidence to narrate our story in the best possible way. Judaism is a religion and a community based around story, so hopefully our students will have an advantage. Whether we call that advantage 'luck' or not, and whether they are all equally capable of seizing it as an opportunity...well there's a question!

Patrick Moriarty, Head Teacher

Wellbeing at JCoSS

Here we are at the beginning of a new School and Jewish Year. We all have a choice as to how we frame the year ahead. The Rabbi and author, Chaim Potok said "All beginnings are hard". I would challenge this - new beginnings can certainly take us out of our comfort zone and challenge us, but they can also open doors and bring adventure. New beginnings can lead to success, learning from mistakes and a celebration of ourselves and our achievements. So I invite you, together with your children to make a choice as to how you want to frame the year ahead. Let it be an opportunity to thrive, develop knowledge and show skills.

It is important to maintain a consistent positive narrative to help us maintain our focus and celebrate success. We have started a JCoSS Wellbeing Instagram account which aims to give all followers a positive, inspiring quotation or thought every day, to help break up some of the other influences on Instagram. We would love you and your children to follow, and hope you enjoy some positive wellbeing thoughts.

#jcoSS_wellbeing

Riding The Book Bus to Zambia

Mrs Rice, JCoSS LRC Manager spent two and a half weeks of the summer holiday in Zambia, Southern Africa, volunteering with a charity called The Book Bus.

The Book Bus charity began in 2008 when its founder, Tom Maschler, a UK publisher, witnessed the scarcity of resources in rural schools in Zambia. Since then the charity has expanded to operate all year round in Zambia, Malawi and Ecuador, using buses to take reading materials into schools and libraries. I was very fortunate to spend some of the summer holiday based in Livingstone, Zambia volunteering with the charity. I had a wonderful time working with The Book Bus team to make reading fun and enjoyable for the children. English is the language of communication in Zambia so learning English can change a child's life chances. However I was also challenged by the lack of resources in the schools and libraries compared with here in Barnet. I am therefore collecting any colourful primary age picture books in English and in good condition, to be sent out on the next container to Zambia. If you would like to donate please send any books to the LRC labelled for my attention/Book Bus. If everyone can spare one or two books we could really make a difference. If you would like to read more about my trip please follow the link below. If you or a member of your family would be interested in volunteering with The Book Bus next year please do contact me for more information.

Link to my report:<https://heartoftheschool.edublogs.org/>

Link to Book Bus website: <https://thebookbus.org/>

Mrs J.Rice jrice@jcoSS.barnet.sch.uk



Climate Action at JCoSS

Climate change. It's one of those issues that everyone thinks should be solved by someone; the problem is, that someone is usually someone else. The problem our planet faces is one that has sat on the forefront of the media, yet on the side-lines of policy. A huge part of the problem (and one that we can tackle) is that there are literally tonnes of plastic that get thrown into landfill and our oceans that come from the very students that sit in our classrooms. So here at JCoSS, we asked ourselves: if not us, then who? And if not now, then when?

Some of us in the Sixth Form decided to try to change the stagnation the planet sees on climate change by taking action to make JCoSS a greener, more environmentally friendly, and hopefully a plastic-free school. We have led assemblies aimed at educating the students and staff at school about what can be done to address the crisis we face, in which students were able to see for themselves the damage that we are inflicting on the world – and, if left unfaced, on ourselves. They learnt about fish, turtles and whales all dead because of our plastic pollution, as well as the death and devastation felt by people around the world who are in the paths of hurricanes made more intense and frequent by our emissions. What many don't know is that we could be next. Flooding, intense storms, deadly heat waves and more could all be the norm here in London if we don't take action. Now.

Moreover, we have also been pushing for a rapid reduction and halt to the use of plastic at school. From January, JCoSS aims to no longer be selling disposable plastic bottles in the canteen or café. Instead, students and staff will need to buy hard, reusable plastic or metal bottles to bring in to school. We encourage all students and staff to do this as soon as possible and, in doing so, help to make a reduction of tonnes of plastic which would otherwise get thrown away every year. We're also aiming to make further reductions through efforts such as ending the use of sticky-back plastic on school books, and introducing price penalties for people without a reusable coffee cup for the café. We strongly urge all of you reading this to act similarly to reduce your waste at home, reducing your environmental footprint as much as possible.

While this is just a small part of the action which is needed to do our part in tackling climate change, JCoSS hopes that this will raise awareness and kickstart more initiatives to save the planet. Change will happen one day; let's make this day one.

By the 6th Form Climate Team (Stefan Tucker, Sam Glasner, Ben Conway, Taylor Shaffer, Josh Yonish, Noya Avniel)



**THERE IS NO
PLANET B.**

JCoSS - Winners at the Barnet Partnership for Schools Sports Awards

2019 has been a year of Sporting success at JCoSS: the Sports Ambassador initiative has been a fantastic project to develop the leadership skills of our leading sporting students and also to involve more PSRP students in sporting activities.

We are delighted to announce that JCoSS were winners at the Barnet Partnership for School Sports Awards last month where we were shortlisted in 2 categories and were overall winners in each:

Firstly, the Secondary Leadership Award for secondary age students who make the most significant contribution to sport in their school / community was won by Zachary Krisman and Ollie Sugarman for their work as Sports Ambassadors, supporting and coaching PSRP students in weekly Boccia sessions and during competitions.

Millie Rogrove won a Secondary Female Performer of the Year awarded for the most significant contribution to sport in their school/community, for her fantastic contribution to competitive Table Tennis and her valuable contribution to helping to develop Table Tennis skills in her peers.

The competition in each category was particularly tough, having heard the achievements of other nominees, so becoming overall winners is especially well deserved.

The Barnet Partnership for School Sports Awards was a great opportunity to celebrate the wider school life and sporting success of our students. It was an absolute pleasure to be there and we look forward to welcoming more sporting success for our Sports Ambassadors in 2019-2020.



I would also like to thank and congratulate all of the Y8-10 Sports Ambassadors, who have contributed so much over the course of the year - from their support of students in the PSRP to coaching primary school students in a variety of sporting activities over the course of the academic year. They were rewarded with a trip to a local Foot Golf venue and the students even succeeded in beating the score of Mr Angell, Mr Berman and Mr Todd!

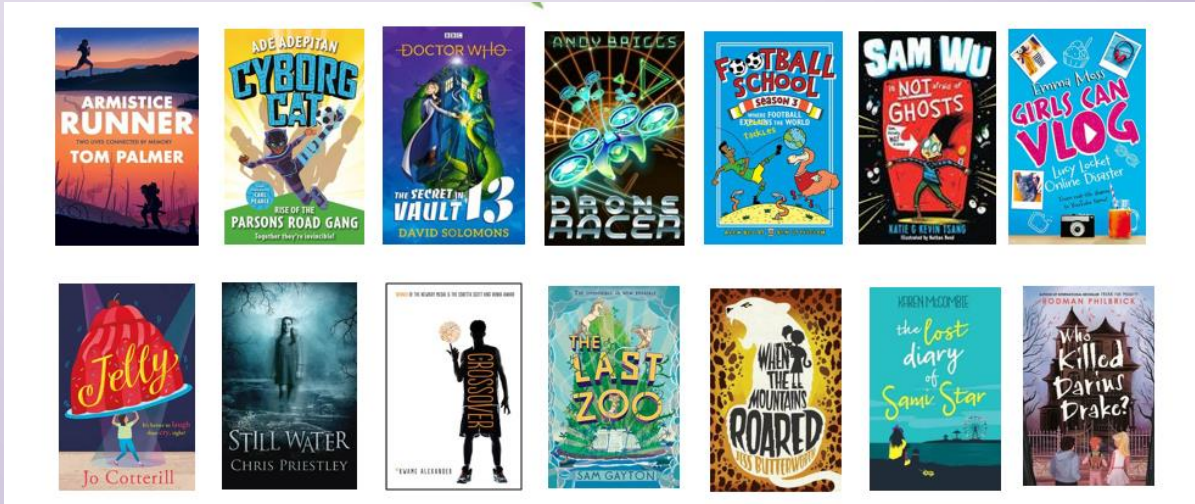
Mr M Todd



LRC News

Bookbuzz for Year 7

Every student in Year 7 has chosen a free book as part of The Book Trust's Bookbuzz scheme. The books will arrive in school after half-term and be distributed during our LRC lessons. Our thanks to the JPA for kindly sponsoring this event again this year.



Scholastic Book Fair

Our next Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair will take place 25-29th November in the Heartspace. We are also planning a one day Second Hand Book Sale on Thursday 19th December in the Heartspace where we will be selling withdrawn LRC books for £1 each.

Look out for more information nearer the time about all of the books on offer.

We are looking for any parents who would be willing to assist at the Book Fair and Book Sale from 10.20am – 2.15pm on any of the dates.

Please email me jrice@jcross.barnet.sch.uk if you can help.

LRC Opening Times

Monday – Thursday 8.15am – 4.30pm

Friday 8.30am – 2.30pm

A reminder that the LRC is open before and after school for student use at these times, as well as breaks and lunchtimes.

Celebration Evening – Support and Sponsorship Needed

Celebration Evening is a key event in our school calendar celebrating the wonderful achievements of our students.

We would love to give a prize to our students and so are looking for a parent or a group of parents to sponsor the evening to enable us to do this. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Jenny Cohen, at jcohen@jcross.barnet.sch.uk

ORT JUMP mentoring scheme

The ORT JUMP mentoring scheme needs you! Would you be able to mentor a Year 12 student in your workplace? ORT JUMP is a popular Sixth-Form mentoring programme that helps Year 12 students explore a career they're interested in pursuing.

We are looking for professionals from a range of careers from medicine, law and engineering, to psychology, design, photography and more to join our team of mentors.

For more information please email: anna.black@ortuk.org or visit our website <https://ortuk.org/who-we-support/uk/ort-jump/>

JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Autumn Term 2019

Date	Time	Description
Mon 28 th Oct	8.30am	First day of second half of Autumn term (week two)
Tues 29 th Oct	All day	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Tues 5 th Nov	6 – 8.30pm	Sixth Form Open Evening (Current Y11 students and parents invited)
Wed 13 th Nov	1.45pm	Early closing for staff training afternoon
Mon 25 th Nov – Fri 6 th Dec	As per timetable	Year 11 GCSE mock exams
Thurs 28 th Nov	All Day	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Tues 10 th Dec	4-7pm	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Tues 17 th Dec	Evening	Winter Concert
Fri 20 th Dec	1.05pm	Early close for end of term

Timings follow a normal school day unless otherwise stated

School closes at 1.45pm on all Fridays from the second half of the Autumn term until after the Spring half term

Chanukah is 22nd – 30th December

School starts again on Monday 6th January at 8.30am after the Winter break

Please see below from PaJeS and the The Jewish Schools Awards 2020.

To make parents more aware of activities that might come under the various award category headings, we will give you more information after half term.

JEWISH SCHOOLS AWARDS 2020

A+

DO YOU WANT TO THANK YOUR TEACHERS FOR EVERYTHING THEY DO AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO WIN £5000 FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

Go to www.pajes.org.uk/jewish_schools_awards_2020 and follow the link to nominate

Primary and Secondary School Categories:

1. Curriculum Collaboration Award
2. Beyond the Classroom Award
3. Volunteer Award: recognises all school volunteers
e.g. governors, parents, or others who are not employed by the school

JEWISH SCHOOLS AWARDS 2020

Closing date to nominate is 5 November