

# newsletter

כסלו Kislev 5780 December 2019

A year and a decade come to an end with a mixture of relief, exhaustion, trepidation and anticipation. Walking around school last Friday in the wake of the general election I picked up all of those emotions in interesting combinations. Almost no one expressed delight, almost everyone expressed relief...and frustration, satisfaction and disappointment mingled freely in the mix. I wonder if the result of the JCoSS Mock Election (on a later page) will surprise you; certainly the quality of political engagement there has been at school has been most impressive and above all gives me hope for the future.

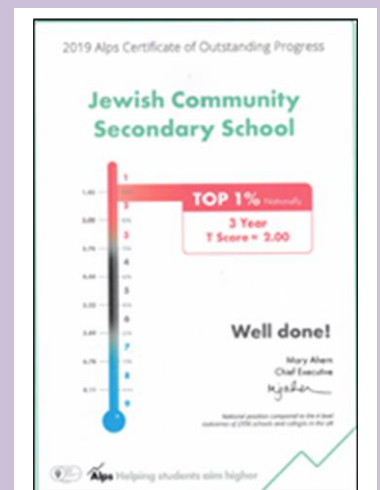
We may be in the honeymoon period, shortly to merge into the holiday period, and the combined anaesthetic effect may not last long into the New Year. Nevertheless it feels as though our collective shoulders (as a school, a community and a nation) may be easing down a little – whether in resignation or relaxation – and perhaps that will allow some new kinds of energy to emerge.

The start of every new year invites us all to set out visions and resolutions, and a year numbered 2020 even more so. For JCoSS it will bring our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday as a school, and we are in the process of planning a series of events and initiatives to mark that landmark over the course of next academic year. As I (together with my PA Mrs Samuels) approach the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of starting work at JCoSS on 4 January 2010, the process of reviewing the memories, and evaluating how far the reality matches the vision from those early days, has already begun.

Then, JCoSS was a website and a building site; now, we are updating our website to feature our recent accolades, and we have this week submitted a planning application to build again. A new 'North Wing' will we hope be built at the back of the school, sited between the middle two existing wings to make a quadrangle. This new block of 9 classrooms, offices and a hall would enable us to expand our intake from 187 to 217, making permanent the 'bulge' years we already have in the current Years 8 and 9 and meeting the consistent strong demand for Jewish secondary places in general and JCoSS places in particular. Being able to make this vision a reality is by no means a certainty, but you will I hope be glad to see that the aspiration is unflinching as we enter the new decade.



The vision for JCoSS that attracted me to apply for the job of Deputy Head in late 2009 included an aim to be in the top 10% of schools for progress and the top 20% for raw results. That felt daunting at the time, but look what has been achieved: hot on the heels of our recent Sunday Times Accolade (which recognises raw results), we have had notification from ALPS that the progress of our students at A level over the last 3 years puts us in the **top 1% of schools** in their national database (see the rather blurred image on the right!). This is a measure of the value added by the school during the two years from GCSE to A level, and is in many ways the best evaluation of schools' performance. We are delighted by this



achievement, marrying as it does the hard work of students with the dedication of their teachers. And so we close a troubled and troubling year and decade for the nation in excellent heart as a school. I hope you will enjoy the pages that follow, enjoy the holidays and the festive season approaching, not eat too many doughnuts and return your offspring to us for 2020 with renewed vigour to match that of the school.

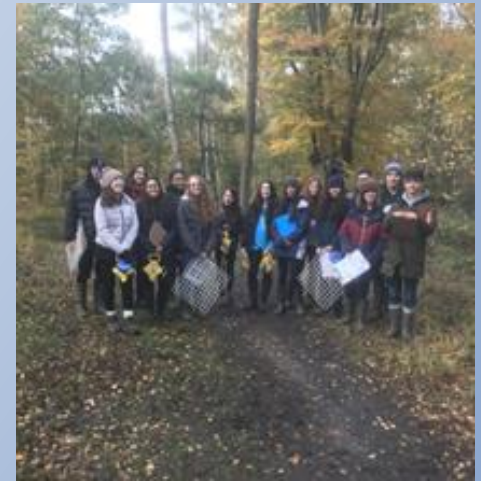
Chag Urim Sameach and Happy New Year when it comes!

Patrick Moriarty

# Science at JCoSS – Autumn Term

## Sixth Form Biology Field Trip

Earlier this term, our Biology Y13 A level students went to Epping Forest Field Studies Centre at High Beach to do some ecology work relating to one of their required practicals. For many students this was their first experience of field work. The autumn colours in the forest were wonderful and the weather relatively kind as well. The 15 students undertook some quadrat analysis (investigating variations between light and dark areas of the forest) and transect work and then returned to the classroom to do some statistical analysis on their results. On the second day they looked at succession in the forest. The group were hardworking, conscientious and a credit to the school. Thanks to Mrs Black for organising it, Miss Cohen for driving the minibus and Mrs Sarder-Hughes for accompanying the trip on day 2.



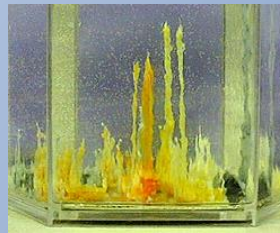
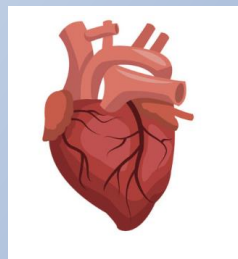
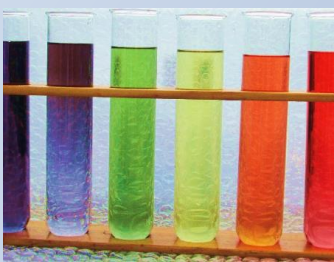
Karen Hancock, Senior Science technician

## Science Club

As part of the wide variety of extra-curricular activities on offer at JCoSS the science faculty have been running a regular weekly Science Club since the start of November. Each week a different teacher from the faculty runs a practical session at lunchtime for budding scientists and science enthusiasts.

The sessions are varied and cover all 3 sciences. At the time of writing there have been 2 sessions on dissection – one of sheep's eyes and the other sheep's hearts. For Chemistry there was one session making a Universal Indicator rainbow and another is scheduled where students will be able to make their own crystal gardens. Another session looked at what gives fireworks their colours, and finally there will be a virtual space tour! Lots more sessions are planned for the spring term.

By running the club the faculty hope to engage and encourage as many students as possible to join in and have fun in stimulating and informative practical sessions which are relaxed and informal.



## Student of the Month & Think Pink Leader board

Every Month we have teacher nominations in each year group for a science student of the month. These are advertised on a display board near the science faculty office and letters are sent home to parents notifying them of their child's nomination. They also get reward points.

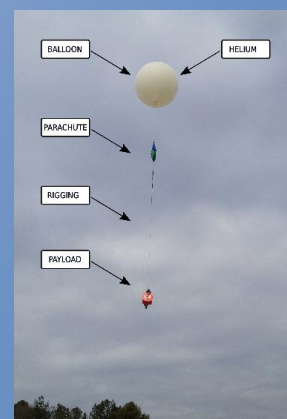
Recently we have started a new initiative entitled 'Think Pink' whereby each student has been given a small pink book in which to do as many revision mini quizzes as possible. Each month there is a 'leader' in each year group who has completed the most mini quizzes. Again a display board has been set up to show who has achieved this rank.

Both initiatives have been put in place to encourage motivation and success in science.

## JCosmos

Mr Forster (teacher i/c KS3 & KS4 Science) will be heading up a new challenge in the coming months to put a weather balloon into 'space'.

The high altitude Helium balloon can travel as high as 24 miles or more before it bursts, and the payload (via parachute) may land up to 75 miles away dependent on wind conditions. The aim will be to record a variety of information on atmospheric conditions such as temperature, pressure and humidity. More on this exciting initiative to come in future newsletters.



# Head Student Team 2019/20

Congratulations to our new Head Student team. As always, the quality of applications and interviews was phenomenally high. They are a wonderful team, and we hope the new structure will allow them to have impact in new areas and ways this year.

## Head Students

Dana Goldman and Sam Rhodes

## Deputy Head Students

Jamie Richardson and Amy Sussman (Student Directors)

Hannah Fagelson and Yuval Kaufman (Directors of Events and communication)



## JCoSS Wellbeing

When we come back from the winter break it will be “Time to Change” Day. Time to Change is a growing social movement working to change the way we all think and act about mental health problems. They strive to end mental health discrimination by encouraging people to talk about mental health. This is not always easy but starting a conversation doesn’t have to be awkward, and being there for someone can make a huge difference. Over the holidays I hope that you will have some special quality family time and perhaps this can be a time to embrace talking about mental health. Many students have numerous questions about mental health and may really appreciate having a space to talk about their feelings and emotions. The more in touch and aware we are about our feelings and emotions the more we open the space to share when we are feeling ok and also when we are not.

Sometimes it’s easier to talk about our feelings when we are doing something else, such as driving or jogging around the park. Remember that the fact that you’ve started or developed these conversations may make it easier for others to open up another time which is another reason why this communication is so important.

To find out more look on Instagram #JCoSS\_wellbeing

# JCoSS gets political!

In the run up to the General Election, JCoSS got political and engaged with politicians from across the political spectrum.

Year 10 students and 6th Form Politics students had the opportunity to question candidates from the three main parties including Luciana Berger (Liberal Democrat), Mike Freer (Conservative) and Emma Whysall (Labour). Students asked amazing questions and challenged them on their policies. These conversations were expertly chaired by a team of Politics students.

Our group of Eco-Warriors also grilled candidates on their environmental policies, including discussions with David Pinto-Duschinsky (Labour) and Theresa Villiers (Conservative), the current Environment Secretary.

Students have also had the opportunity to learn more about our relationship with the EU with a workshop run by Involver. 6th Form students starred in their own hustings event, representing the Brexit, Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. On results day itself, JCoSS had our very own Mock Election. The results were:

Conservatives: 40.2%  
Liberal Democrats: 39.4%  
Green: 8.1%  
Labour: 7.7%  
Brexit: 4.5%

As well as working hard to engage our students, JCoSS worked in partnership with Barnet United Synagogue and Sha'arei Tsedek Reform Synagogue to run the Jewish Community Hustings for Chipping Barnet. Candidates from the Conservatives, Greens, Labour and Liberal Democrats were represented at the event and offered members of the JCoSS and local community the chance to challenge our potential local representative. It was definitely a lively event! The hustings were run in partnership with the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Jewish Leadership Council, Jewish News and London Jewish Forum.

Miss Taylor (Head of Politics) and Mr Abram (Head of Citizenship)



## Online Revision Resource

We wanted to remind you that all our students have 24/7 access to SAM Learning - an online revision resource.

SAM Learning contains thousands of revision activities, across many subjects - and is particularly good for quick review checks on learning.

To login, your child needs: The website address: [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)

Our school centre ID: EN4JC

Their username: their date of birth followed by their forename/surname initials, in the format DDMMYYII

Their password: if they have not yet logged in, this is the same as their username. If they have forgotten it, they can request it to be reset through the SAM Learning support desk.

Please encourage your daughter/son to log in and do some revision activities. These typically take around 15 minutes each, so are ideal to be done in small time gaps. Research has shown that this really can help with KS3 and GCSE results.

## Y13 Leadership Academy goes to Budapest

In November a group of 34 Y13 students, soon to graduate from the JCoSS Leadership Academy, spent a long weekend in Budapest. The focus of the trip was looking at models of Jewish leadership from the past, present and future of the Hungarian Jewish community. We looked at Herzl, and at models of leadership during the Shoah, and spent a day with staff and students from the Lauder Javne School in Budapest. We also spent Shabbat at the Dohany synagogue and prayed with the local community. It was a really exciting co-operation with the Lauder School and the start of a close co-operation between them and JCoSS. Everyone on the trip had a fantastic time and returned exhausted but inspired to move forward with their leadership journeys.



# Year 8 in the Spotlight for Performing Arts Careers Day

Earlier this term, Year 8 took part in a day of activities designed to give them a taste of some of the careers available in the performing arts, and an insight into how the subjects they study relate to the world of work.

It was the third time JCoSS has organised subject-specific career events for an entire year group and the feedback we have had from students has been very positive. One student said of the day: "It really opened my eyes to different careers and I learned that there are many jobs and people involved in putting on a production/movie/TV series. I am very grateful for such a wonderful experience."

The day began with an excellent performance by actors from East 15 Drama School and was followed by workshops, each student taking part in three different sessions – from Latin American Dancing to Samba drumming, opera singing, casting, theatre promoting, song and scriptwriting and more. The emphasis throughout was on students getting 'hands on' and having a go themselves.

Several parents and friends of JCoSS were among those who participated. All had kindly given their time voluntarily. Thanks again to all of you who supported the event – we couldn't do it without you.



## Year 8 volunteering programme

Our Year 8 Volunteering has resumed this year. Each student will have the opportunity to go once during the year either to Jewish Care or Livingstone Primary School.

During these visits it is always great to see how our students interact positively with the older people at Jewish Care and the younger children at Livingstone.

2 special projects/ events have taken place with Jewish Care so far this year that we would like to highlight:

- The week of Remembrance Day in November - students prepared and delivered poems from the war to residents at Jewish Care as part of their visit. They did this with tremendous honour and respect and one of the older people told me afterwards that it meant a lot to them to see the young people engaged in this act of remembrance in this way.
- For Mitzvah Day, students and Jewish Care residents worked together to create bunting for a local hospital ward. We created this while connecting over tea and biscuits whilst students and the older people decorated these papers together with messages and artwork. These papers were then later strung together to form bunting for the local hospital to hopefully bring some joy to the patients who see them.

This is an exciting and engaging opportunity for our students to step out into the community and have a meaningful volunteering experience. We encourage the students in Year 7 to do the Yoni Jesner award for volunteering hours. This is something they enjoy and often get a lot out of.

IJE Team

# LRC News

## Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair

There was real excitement throughout JCoSS during the Book Fair. The Fair ran all week with students visiting at break, lunch times and during their LRC lessons. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting the Fair – it was great to see the students so excited about 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. This year we took approx. £1800, giving us equivalent to £360 of books for the LRC. A big thank you to the parent volunteers who offered their free time to help us sell the books, and to the student helpers and staff for all of their support.

## Book Sale

We held another book sale during the last week of term. Most books were sold for £1 and there was a mixture of new books, ex library books and donated books, including fiction, non-fiction and revision guides. Funds raised will go towards new books for the LRC.

## LRC page on the JCoSS website

We now have an LRC page on the JCoSS website which contains information about the LRC such as opening times etc. We also have an opportunity to purchase books for the LRC from Amazon, which parents may like to do for a special occasion such as a bar/batmitzvah. Follow the link below to the wishlist or from the LRC page on the website.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2SFERWHV172UT>

## Bookbuzz

All students in Year 7 chose a book from a selection as part of the Bookbuzz promotion, organised by BookTrust. The books have been delivered and the students were delighted to receive their books in their LRC lessons. Many thanks to the JPA for supporting this venture to encourage reading for pleasure.



# PE NEWS

We have had a great first term which has been very busy as usual. The PE department have been joined by two new members of staff: Daryl Savage 2i/c and Lucy Cohen (who also teaches science). Both have enjoyed getting to know the students and taking many of the sports fixtures.

## Netball

The league has started well, and will continue until the season ends in March. Unfortunately, the Y10 tournament fell on Sukkot but we have the Y7, Y8 & Y9 tournaments to look forward to in February & March. The Y7s have played 3 schools, Y8 have played 4, Y9 have played 5 and Y10 (who so far are unbeaten) have played 4.

## Girls Football

So far, the Y7 team have played just one match, which they won. The Y8/9 team have played one league match, which they also won and one County Cup match, which they lost. The Y10/11 team have played one county cup match, which they lost. Hopefully, we will be arranging some more matches in the new year.

## Boys Football

The league has now finished but it has been an enjoyable season as usual. There were 8 schools in our group, not all schools entered teams in every year, but we managed to see some very talented JCoSS students with Mensch like behaviour on and off the pitch. We are also still in the Y9 and Y10 Barnet cup.

## Basketball

The basketball league has only just started and will continue for the first couple of months of 2020. Y7 have played three league matches and Y8/9 have played one cup match which they won and are through to the next round.

## Badminton

Our KS4 boys team played in the yearly Barnet borough tournament. They played extremely well and were awarded champions. Well done **Sam Gassner, Guy Rockman, Jake Grayson, Sam Gold**.



## Cross Country

28 students from Y7-10 ran at the Barnet Cross Country Championships. Luckily, the weather was good and the students all performed amazingly well. We have four runners going through to the Middlesex County Cross Country Championships at Harrow School at the end of January. Fantastic running by Y7 Ethan Lazarus 4th, Y9 Ethan Said 5th, Y10 Jack Davis Black 2nd, Y10 Millie Aslan 4th.

## Table Tennis

London Academy held the National Schools' North London table tennis tournament, a qualifying event for ESTT Butterfly Jack Petchey Zone Team Championships.

All our teams played extremely well with our u/13 girls and u/16 girls teams both winning overall.

Huge congratulations to our u/13 team: **Clara Berns, Lara Bozo, Pippa Kurt, Maya Bruck**

and our u/16 team: **Millie Rogove, Scarlet Anders, Sienna Cohen, Scarlet Cohen**.





## JCoSS awarded for inclusion

Inclusion at JCoSS is something that we have always been proud of but over the last few years, we have made an extra effort in ensuring that JCoSS is inclusive for our LGBT+ students.

Whether this is our new and inclusive approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), our focus on Pride Week every year or our desire to minimise unnecessary gendered aspects of school life, we have made a number of changes to embed inclusion into our culture as a school.

Stonewall, a national LGBT+ charity, award schools each year for their approach to inclusion. Last year, as a new member, we were awarded their Bronze Award. This year, we have been given their Silver School Champion Award which is the highest award that we are eligible for after two years of membership. We will be continuing to develop our practice over the year ahead and hope to be receiving the Gold Award next year!



## Year 7 Shabbaton

We both really loved the Shabbaton and would love to tell you about it. We had two fun filled days packed with exciting activities. We also spent time having an amazing Shabbat evening with our friends exploring our Jewish culture and heritage. We particularly enjoyed the gangerschlat where we did loads of fun challenges such as using bottles of hair gel to create edgy hairstyles and making shaving foam beards. We also learnt about the environment on the farm at Skeet House and had a yummy Friday night dinner with all our friends!

We also spent our time on the Shabbaton...

- Creating worm houses
- Doing an IDF style assault course
- Acting sections of the week's Parasha in many different genres e.g. cheesy American adverts, horror and comedy
- Playing IJE games
- Having a varied Shabbat morning
- Having lots of fun with our friends
- We loved the Shabbaton and we think you would too!

By Seren Gee and Zoe Starr (Year 7)

**Isaac Reuben was asked to speak to at the Faith & Belief Forum Gala Dinner 2019. Below is his excellent speech:**



Good evening. My name's Isaac and I've been given the honour to speak about the School Linking programme I was a part of

My school is JCoSS, the Jewish Community Secondary School in Barnet and we linked with Tawhid, a Muslim boys' school in Stoke Newington. I wanted to take part in the programme to help me to leave the religious bubble so many of us find ourselves in, and to learn more about other faiths.

It was also to tackle stereotypes, so the teacher accompanying us being called Mr Rosenberg and theirs being called Mr Khan didn't really help.

Our first encounter with the students was at the RAF Museum. At first, things were pretty awkward. When we all arrived both schools just stood in two little separate huddles. We were introduced to each other by our teachers and we all went and smiled and shook hands, before returning to our separate huddles. To be honest, we needed a fair bit of encouragement in the group activities to sit amongst the other school, but eventually we started chatting as we walked round the museum together looking at the planes.

I remember long conversations consisting of things like, "So at Purim you dress up as triangular biscuits?" and "On Yom Kippur we fast", "For one day!? Pff – amateurs." The fundamental thing we all learnt that day was that we're all pretty similar. We might look a bit different, and wear different clothes, but we're all still teenage city kids who like looking at warplanes.

That day we also did a Q&A session – each school took turns asking the other school a question about their religion. It started with questions like "Why are there men in black hats dancing round Stamford Hill all night every March?" and "Do you wish you could eat bacon?" (from both schools).

One thing we'd been told by Mr Rosenberg in advance was that we weren't going to bring up the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because it might create unnecessary tension, but a Tawhid student brought it up, and no one stopped it. We all held our breath, but nothing happened – we had a respectful, mature conversation about the conflict, and we could all see that not a single person in the room wanted it to be happening. Everyone there wanted peace. This is a discussion I'll remember for a long time.

This programme started out awkward. We needed encouragement to sit together. But by the last day at JCoSS we needed no encouragement. We were fully willing and keen to sit together. In fact, when we played football, we ditched the idea of playing JCoSS v Tawhid – we wanted mixed teams! In this programme we found friends. I'm friends with several of the students on social media, and when I bumped into one of the students just a few weeks ago in the street and we stopped and had a chat. But it also gave us a great deal of knowledge about Judaism and Islam.

We learnt that we are all basically the same; putting aside how many times a day we pray or how long we fast for, we're all just teenagers. Without this programme, I feel all our views on other faiths would be different; maybe still positive, but the experience changed how we saw each other and communicated. Faith & Belief forum gave us the gift of a really positive impact on our mindsets about other religions and faiths.

From being a completely novice runner two years ago, Mrs Lethbridge, Deputy Headteacher (inclusion), has come a long way. She now hopes to go even further: next April she will be running the London Marathon in support of Norwood. She has specifically chosen Norwood to thank them for their support in establishing Pears Special Resource Provision (PSRP) at JCoSS, which caters for 49 students with an autistic spectrum condition, and is an integral part of our school and wider community. Norwood do vital work with countless families and have a strong and supportive partnership with JCoSS.

Mrs Lethbridge needs to raise £2000 for Norwood and would be very grateful for any contributions to help her reach her fundraising target. She would be very grateful if you were able to contribute and donations can be made using the Virgin Money Giving link below:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=HannahLethbridge&pageUrl=1>



We will keep you posted on her training as it progresses over the next few months.

Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students Joel Alexander, Sidney Miller and Jamie Smokler who were chosen to represent JLGB at the Jewish Community Celebration at Buckingham Palace last week.



JCoSS staff, parents and students marched at the AJEX memorial parade on 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. As well as representing the school, we were proud that JCoSS students were present representing their scout groups, communities and youth movements.



## JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Spring Term 2020

| Date  | Time                     | Description  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan                             | 8.30am                   | First Day of Spring Term – Week Two                                    |
| Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan | As timetable             | Y13 Mock Exams   |
| Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan                             | 4 – 7pm                  | Y11 Parents' Evening   |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan                            | School timings as normal | Rosh Chodesh   |
| Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan                          | 1.45pm                   | Early Closing for Staff Training Twilight                              |
| Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb                            | 4 – 7pm                  | Y8 Parents' Evening  |
| Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb                            | School timings as normal | Tu B'Shvat   |
| Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb                            | Evening                  | Y9 Options Evening. Details will be e-mailed to parents via SchoolPost |

- Timings follow a normal school day unless otherwise stated
- School closes at 1.45pm on all Fridays until after the Spring half term
- School starts again on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30am (Week Two)

SAVE THE  
DATE



A series of events for parents

# *Understanding Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing*

**DRUGS AND YOUNG PEOPLE - WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**



*Dr Emma Silver*

Consultant Clinical Psychologist



*Professor Val Curran*

Professor of Psychopharmacology

**7.30PM | WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2020 | JFS SCHOOL**

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL  
£12 per person plus booking fee

For booking information email [development@jfs.brent.sch.uk](mailto:development@jfs.brent.sch.uk) or call 0208 206 3232



**ujia**  
OUR ISRAEL. OUR FUTURE.

**jlc**  
jewish leadership council