

Dear Parents

Aside from being the end of what feels like (but isn't) a long half term, 14 February has some well-known resonances. The Feast of St Valentine (not celebrated in any Church that I know) is perhaps 90% legend to 10% fact, and there is little to connect this obscure martyr from Roman times to the outpouring of consumerist romantic fantasy that fills the shops today. But if love is in the air that can't be a bad thing.

What I recall on St Valentine's Day (you'll have to forgive the "St" – I'm a bit of a stickler) is an assembly given by a former colleague, who said that it was always the day when she noticed it was still light when she left school at 5.30. Suddenly, and in a way that feels unexpected (but isn't), light starts to return and with it the promise of warmth and hope and growth. There's a kind of love in the air mixed in with all that.



Right on cue with talk of new growth comes Tu B'Shvat – the New Year for Trees in Jewish tradition – and that brought an extra cause for celebration to JCoSS this week. Two of our Year 8 students – Milly Bryk and Millie Ash – reached the final shortlist for the PaJeS Pitch, a Dragons' Den-style competition run by the Partnership for Jewish Schools. They presented with style and confidence at a glitzy gathering of the great and the good of Jewish Education at Kinloss Synagogue on Tuesday, outlining their idea for a Japanese Garden to promote wellbeing and the environment at JCoSS.

Although the Secondary School winners were a team from Kantor King Solomon the sponsors of the competition, the Wolfson Foundation, decided to fund all the shortlisted proposals.

That means that the girls have secured a donation of £8,000 to bring this project to life! We hope it will take shape in the courtyard of the Dorfman Wing, bringing a focus of greenery and calm to the 2nd floor of Wing D...and bringing another kind of love in the air!

We congratulate them both hugely – offering thanks too to Ms Raven who has coaxed and coached them throughout the process.

Love is, of course, a many-splendoured thing and comes in numerous forms – pragmatic, romantic, erotic, friendly, materialistic, self-giving...while the love of neighbour and of God are cornerstones of the Biblical commandments. It's a word I often use as I describe and commend JCoSS to others – and deliberately so, even though it risks sounding soppy. If love means practical actions that manifest a deep commitment, then that is what my colleagues offer day in day out, to deserving and less deserving alike. I think it is a word that encapsulates what makes this place special – for all the things we may not get right – and it's not something that you feel in other schools in the same way. It's probably not something that all Headteachers would admit to feeling about their schools...but there it is!

Read all about it in the pages that follow (including, if you will, the one about life drawing...) and I wish you a restful and restorative half term.

Patrick Moriarty

Headteacher

LRC News - BookBuzz

Our Year 7 students were fortunate to each receive a free book last term as part of the Bookbuzz scheme, organised by the BookTrust and kindly sponsored at JCoSS by the JPA.

The students were asked to design an alternative book cover and 'blurb' for their new book and as usual the standard of work was very high. We are pleased to announce that the joint winners of this year's JCoSS competition are Ellie Jackson 7S and Gilly Baum 7N, with their designs for *Jelly* by Jo Cotterill and *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander respectively. Ella Ward 7S, Maisie Boyne 7W, Benjy Lewis 7Y and Emily Conway 7Y were also highly commended for their designs.

Each student has received a free book to encourage them to continue reading for pleasure.

All 6 students' entries have also been entered into the nationwide Bookbuzz competition – we wish them luck and will let you know if anyone wins a prize!

Miss Levontine

Assistant Librarian



Year 10 Morrisby Career Meetings Underway

The annual programme of career meetings organised with every Year 10 student has now started and will run until the end of the year.

The meetings follow the completion of Morrisby psychometric assessments with the whole year group, last term. The Morrisby assessment is well known in the independent sector and JCoSS is one of the few state schools in the country to deliver it free of charge for every Year 10 student. We have been running it for several years now and believe it is a really positive addition to the way we support your children in their career thinking.

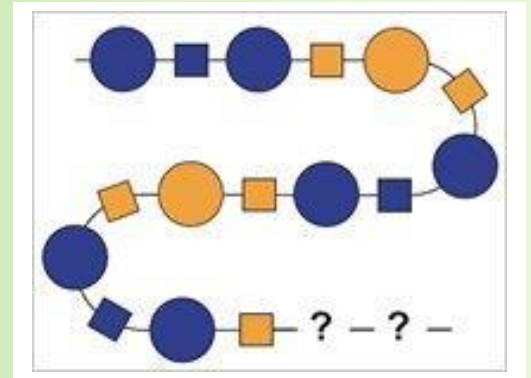
It measures verbal, numerical, abstract, spatial and mechanical abilities and requires students to complete a career interests questionnaire. Together, these enable Morrisby to create an in-depth profile report of each student; what they like and where their talents and aspirations lie, the nature of their personality and their employment preferences.

This year for the first time we are adding the notes from our career meetings with students, including advice on what to do now to further their career ideas, to the on-line report. To view the notes, students will need to access their report by logging on to their Morrisby account. Please ask them about this and ensure they can log in. If they can't remember their details please tell them to come to the Careers Office and we will help them set up a new log-in.

We want to ensure your child gets the most out of their Morrisby assessment. There is a lot to it and sharing the report with you will help them do this. We are sure you will find it interesting reading, if you haven't already seen it.

The report includes an interactive tool which allows students to investigate different career options and start to understand the educational pathways that are involved. This can help students make decisions about post 16 choices including A levels, Cambridge Technicals, apprenticeships, and further and higher education.

All the Morrisby log-ins are 'for life', so students can re-visit the Morrisby website throughout their educational and working lives, updating their career interests as they develop, to seek out the next opportunity. See the details on the Morrisby website <https://www.morrisby.com/parents/>



Visit from the Oslo Jewish Community

On Friday 31st January we were delighted to welcome a group from the Oslo Jewish community into school. The group spent a weekend in London with New North London Synagogue and visited JCoSS on the Friday to find out what life as a teenage Jew in London is all about. There are no Jewish schools in Norway and the size of the Oslo community is less than the total population of JCoSS so the first reactions of the group was that they had never seen so many Jews in one place! The group spent time with Mr Mordsley's Year 8 class discussing the differences and similarities in their Jewish and teenage lives. My thanks go to Mr Mordsley, Year 8 and to Ms Toff for looking after our visitors.

Mrs D Juggler
Head of Jewish Learning



The Eco Warriors would love to wish you all a 'Happy Healthy Prosperous 2020 & Beyond!'

It's been a while since you have heard from us, so this month's article is an 'Eco-Takeover!'

The JCoSS Eco-Warriors have been ever so busy, which has included attending Parliament to lobby the local Barnet MP Rt Hon Theresa Villiers. The Eco-Warriors had a great Q&A session sharing JCoSS' Eco past achievements and future initiatives, with Theresa Villiers, stating she will return to JCoSS to listen and provide support to schools' Eco concerns.

The recent General Election generated much debate, so Miss Bossman organised an 'Eco Warriors' JCoSS meeting where the Student Voice Team, Sixth Form Politics students, Jewish Education A'Level students, pro-environmentalist members of staff and our Site Manager discussed JCoSS policies. Our conclusion to the meeting was that the Government needed to support local authorities to supply the right resources for our school in order for us to be more sustainable.

The JCoSS Eco-Warriors have continued to collect bottles in and around the school site, as well as keeping audits and carrying out surveys. The Catering Team shared their exciting news that the number of plastic bottles purchased has decreased. This has been helped by the installation of water stations enabling more students to refill their water bottles throughout the school day. We also now have recyclable colour coded meal containers in the Canteen, wooden cutlery and designated recycling bins within the heart space.

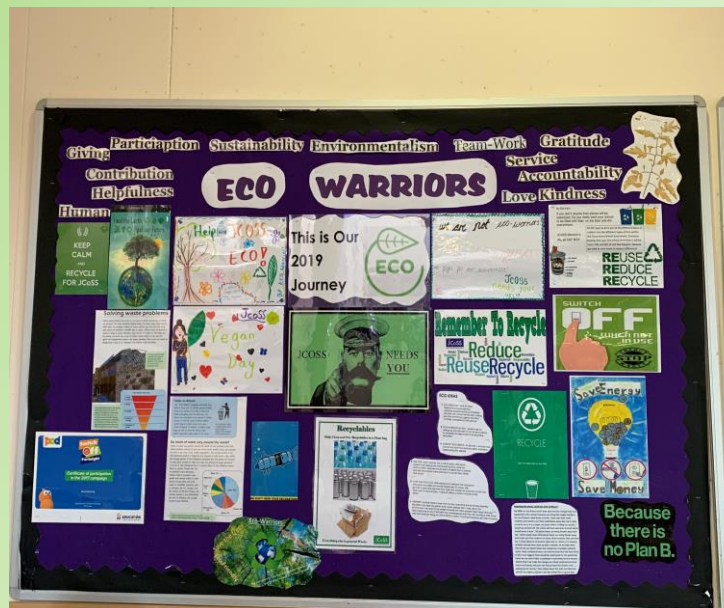
Another initiative we are driving forward is for the school to reduce its carbon footprint. The Eco-Warriors will continue their conversations with our Head Teacher to apply for the Eco Schools Secondary Pathway and we will report back later this year.

The JCoSS Eco-Warriors have established a committee who meet on a weekly basis on Thursday lunchtimes, who focus on improving environmental awareness in school by promoting the 3R's – Reduce Reuse and Recycle. Our vision is for JCoSS to become a certified sustainable school and teach the nature of how we as a society take care of our planet more effectively.

Last week, the whole school listened to a talk by Liz Bonnin, an experienced environmentalist and were able to ask some impactful environmental questions. A massive thanks to the Head Student Committee for organising the event.

On behalf of all the JCoSS Eco Warriors, we thank you for your support and embracing our ideas to make the school sustainable. The last few years have been super and we believe the JCoSS community and our menschlikiet ways will make a big lasting ecological positive impact on our planet.

Co-Written By Year 7,8,9, 10 JCoSS Eco Warriors and Miss V Bossman-Quarshie



Youth Travel Ambassadors

Our Youth Travel Ambassadors (YTA's) attended a STARS Secondary Seminar on Wednesday 29th January at Hendon Town Hall, with other Barnet Secondary schools including Wren Academy, Mill Hill County and Whitefield. This forms an integral part of our School Travel Plan as we strive to retain our Gold Star Accreditation.

Our YTA's will be working really hard this year on their campaign to promote Behaviour Change on public transport and coaches. They will be tackling overcrowding, noise, offering seats to those that need and awareness of others. The YTA's will be having regular meetings at school with both a TFL and Barnet Transport Officer to plan their project. The plans so far are looking really exciting as they are organising meetings with the local bus drivers, surveys and assemblies. The grand finale will be a short film.

The seminar was a great introduction for them working on presentation skills, project planning and working in a team and in partnership with others.

Click here to view our previous group of YTA's (current Yr 11's) video they created on Road Safety;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZpdFWfKsTs>



PSRP Employability Programme

Hi, my name is Andrew Ellul and I am in Year 12 in the PSRP. I am writing this article to tell you about the amazing things we do in our Employability lessons in the PSRP and outside of school.

We have been on a number of trips where we carry out jobs to support the places we are visiting. For example, we go every week to Aldenham Country Park where we help the staff clean out the pens, clean the hay, fix things that are broken, clean the eggs ready to be sold in the shop and make the feed bags for the public to buy to feed the animals. We have weekly meetings with the staff from Aldenham which helps us to learn how to work as part of a working team. We also go to Learn 2 Listen in Hertfordshire, where we work with the horses, groom them, go out for rides and learn about health and safety. We have also been given opportunities like working at Protocol Education Agency, visiting Lady Sarah Cohen Care Home and playing games with the residents and we have worked alongside Norwood in their shops and offices.

In the PSRP, we are very lucky to have a Work Related Learning room where we complete jobs that are given to us by all staff members. These jobs include, telephone calls, photocopying, laminating, shredding and making deliveries. These are all tasks that will help us to improve our work skills for when we leave JCoSS. One of the major work related learning jobs I am currently doing is a PSRP site inspection with a member of the PSRP staff and together we are making a list of all the minor repairs that need to be dealt with. We are also liaising with the site team and PSRP staff.

Last year, one of my peers designed a Holiday Greetings card and we sold them in the PSRP and managed to raise over £100.00 for charity.

I have passed my level 2 health and food safety certificate which has given me the opportunity to work on a daily basis in the JCoSS 6th form kitchen and café. I help with the preparation of the bagels, paninis and pizzas. As part of this role, I did a survey of 6th form students in the common room about the fillings and toppings they would like to see as new things for sale in the café. After the survey, I made a list of all the new fillings and spoke to the head of the catering staff. I was really happy when I saw a few weeks later that one of my suggestions being served in the café. Serving in the café also helps me talk to my peers and teaches me how to give good customer service to all the people who visit the café.

I also have been mentoring the younger year groups in the PSRP and this helps me and them with their team building and gives me more experience.

All these employability skills I am learning now, will help me when I leave JCoSS and are teaching me new skills every day.



JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Spring Term 2020

Date	Time	Description
Mon 24 th Feb	8.30am	First Day of Second Half of Spring Term – Week Two
Mon 24 th to Fri 28 th Feb	All day	Year 12 Mid-Year Assessments
Tues 25 th Feb	All day	Rosh Chodesh Adar – details of any activities will be e-mailed. School timings as normal.
Tues 25 th – Thurs 27 th Feb	All day	Year 11 Second English and Maths Mocks
Fri 6 th March	Morning	Year 9 & Year 12 Careers Fair
Tues 10 th March	1.45pm	Early Closing for Purim
Thurs 12 th March	4 -7pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tues 17 th March	7pm	Robert Shrager Lecture
Wed 18 th March	2.30 – 4.30pm	Year 7 Grandparents' Afternoon
Mon 23 rd March	4 – 7pm	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thurs 26 th March	Evening	Spring Concert
Tues 31 st March	Morning	Year 9 DTP Vaccinations
Tues 31 st March	Evening	Year 12 Parents' Higher Education Evening
Fri 3 rd April	1.05pm	End of Spring Term

Timings follow a normal school day unless otherwise stated

School closes at 2.15pm on Fridays for the rest of the school year

School starts again on Monday 20th April at 8.30am (Week Two)

JCoSS Sport

On the 22nd and 23rd of January the Year 8, 9 and 10 sports ambassadors went to Copthall School to help run the Barnet Netball Tournament. Our job as Sports Ambassadors was to make sure the teams were ready to play the matches, for example checking that all earrings, necklaces and other jewellery were removed as well as making sure that all players knew where they were allowed to go and then umpire the games. It was an amazing experience for us as Year 8s considering we hadn't done it before representing JCoSS. We enjoyed it very much and we would be happy to help out again. All the staff were extremely helpful and we are very grateful for the opportunity.
Maddie and Lucy, Year 8 Sports Ambassadors



The Y7s were runners up in the Barnet Borough netball tournament this term out of 17 teams.

The team were Lyla Anstey 7S, Daniella Conway 7W, Talia Dawson 7Y, Mika Haber 7B, Millie Header 7F, Ellie Jackson 7S, Millie Raingold 7R, Dalya Ward 7B, Lucy Woolf 7R



JCoSS Sport Cont

The JCoSS KS4 Boys Badminton had a successful day representing Barnet at the Badminton England County Championships. Sam Gold, Samuel Gassner, Guy Rockman and Jake Grayson were emphatically crowned district champions last term, winning all of their games against other secondary schools in Barnet. As the district champions, the boys went to Harrow Leisure Centre to represent Barnet at the county stage. The boys did well to qualify from a tough group stage, beating Vyners School and losing to Heartlands Academy to reach the semi final. However they were drawn against the top seeds and unfortunately were beaten by a strong Isleworth and Syon School that went on to win the overall competition. The boys quickly bounced back from this disappointment to win the 3rd v 4th playoff and finish 3rd in the county. With 3 of the boys eligible to play in the competition next year, we are hopeful they will go all the way next academic year.



Art and Design

A selection of Year 11-13 Art Students participated in two 2-hour Life Drawing sessions after school. For these optional sessions, we were pleased to welcome 3 of Ms Raven's ex-students to facilitate the 2 sessions for the 21 JCoSS students. The energy and focus during the 2 hour sessions was phenomenal, and numerous students have suggested want the sessions to run more regularly!

Here is a snapshot of work the amazing work they have produced! More examples of Life Drawing and other work can be found on our Instagram page: [@jcoss_artstudio](https://www.instagram.com/jcoss_artstudio)

