

Social media

Autumn/Winter Round-up

Dear Parents

You will I hope have noticed a different style to our communications this term. In place of newsletters we have moved much of our news-sharing onto Social Media, which allows it to be more immediate, more visual, more digestible and more shareable. We are all too aware of the darker side of social media, especially in a community of 1300 teenagers, but its benefits are obvious too, and this 'round-up' of our posts so far this term brings me great joy. If you already subscribe to the official JCoSS presence on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, treat this as a 'Previously on JCoSS Social Media...' If you don't yet, I hope this will encourage you to do so by following the pages on your preferred platform. It is a record of extraordinary fortitude in really challenging times when students and staff found innovative ways to keep the ruach or spirit of JCoSS flourishing.

Reviewing 2021 with Governors recently, I divided it into three terms: the one where we learned online, the one where we came to terms with Everyone's Invited, and the one where we struggled on through seemingly endless restrictions. Divisions like that are artificial of course but – rather like alphabetical naming of storms...or Covid variants – help create some sense that we have a handle on a sometimes swirling reality.

In some ways it is the third term that has been the toughest, because it has offered darkness where we had all hoped for light, and especially because JCoSS has faced longer and deeper restrictions than some other schools. Most parents have not been able to visit the school at all for close to two years (in some cases the whole time their children have been here) and we have really felt the absence of face-to-face assemblies, musical and dramatic performances...and the visibly smiling faces of our students and colleagues.

At least the omicron variant has given us the opportunity to learn another Greek letter, even if the variants from epsilon to xi didn't cause enough concern to hit the headlines. If you will indulge the teacher in me for a moment (the clue is in my job title...), there are two letter Os in Greek: short/little O as in "hot" (o-micron), and long/big O as in "cold" (o-mega). Omicron is in the middle of the alphabet, omega is the last letter...and so in all senses we are not at the end. We will have to continue digging deep in 2022.

Learning remains at the heart of it all, and I end by thanking my colleagues not only for the learning they have encouraged, led, inspired or cajoled out of students, but also for the learning they have continued to do themselves, professionally and personally.

The response to Everyone's Invited and to the mental and emotional health challenges of the pandemic has rightly made us look deeply and carefully at our systems and instincts; the ever-changing lesson and break timings this term have required agility and a good memory; what it means to be a teacher within a school community is also constantly changing and you could not wish for a more devoted and thoughtful team to work with, or to educate your children. I hope that they, you, and our wonderful students have a restorative break.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

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14th December 2021



Following a rigorous recruitment process, we are delighted to announce our new Head Student Team: Lucy Brent and Jacob Hirshler – Head Students Samuel Gassner, Michaela Jackson, Gilda Roberts, Maisie Gold and Daniel Whysall make up the wider team.

Mazel tov to them all and we are looking forward to them taking on their roles from January 2022.

As always, the quality of applications was extremely high and very impressive, and all were fabulous exemplars of the JCoSS Graduate.

Thank you to the wonderful outgoing team, who have risen to many different challenges this year.

10th December 2021

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to [Chipping Barnet Foodbank](#) last week. We managed to collect two full cars worth of food and supplies, which will play a huge part in supporting our local community [#JCoSS](#) [#foodbank](#) [#donationswelcome](#)



7th December 2021



A BIG THANK YOU FROM YEAR 7



Thanks to [BookTrust](#), this term all Year 7 students have received a free 'Bookbuzz' book of their choice!

This is a wonderful scheme that could not go ahead without the kind donations of the JCoSS Parents Association and of course our brilliant LRC staff who organise this annual programme 📖 Let's get reading!

[#importanceofreading](#) [#Bookbuzz](#) [#JCoSS](#)

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28th November – 5th December 2021

Monday - Thank you to Zac in Year 7 for giving such a touching speech this afternoon and starting our Chanukah week celebrations off on a very meaningful note.

Zac has been tirelessly campaigning for this years sponsored charities to include COSMIC (@cosmic_charity) and we are so honoured to be able to give to such a worthy cause. Zac lit our first two candles of the week and then rejoined the rest of his year group to enthusiastically sing Mao Tzur and One Day.

Tuesday - Year 12s made latkes, Year 9 decorated doughnuts and our Year 8s sang Ocho Kandelikas 🕯️

Thank you to Rabbi Mark Goldsmith for helping us find our inner Maccabees today and of course to Ellie and Betsy from Year 8 for lighting the candles and announcing another of our sponsored charities Chai Cancer Care

Wednesday - Thank you to Max in Year 9 for introducing us to another of this years sponsored charities, Grief Encounter and for lighting our fourth night candles.

Today's festivities also included a crafty corner where students could make candles and cards for people supported by Norwood Charity and of course a blast of music to end the day...Dreidels at the ready everyone!

Thursday - whilst the students were treated to doughnuts, we were captivated by Nicole and Olivia in Year 10 singing a beautiful version of 'When You Believe'.

Thank you to Rabbi Tanya Sakhonovich for sharing her memories of Chanukah as a child in Belarus and for reminding us about the freedoms that this festival represents. Tonight's Chanukah was lit by Hannah in year 10, who also proudly announced her year groups sponsored charity The Survivors Trust.

Friday - JCoSS was in great spirits again this afternoon and not just because of a non uniform day..

So let's all give a huge thank you to our fabulous Music and Jewish Education department for bringing so much joy to this years Chanukah!

Today we were joined by Rabbi Jeff Berger who gave the traditional Chanukah blessings, as well as a beautiful speech that asked that 'we each be the light in the darkness for those who need it'.

Nina from year 11 announced our 5th sponsored charity, The Separated Child Foundation and lit the Chaunkiah for the final time this week.



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25th November 2021



Year 9s are enjoying Music lessons with a difference this term by learning Gamelan music from Indonesia! Students are using it to compose a piece for a Shadow Puppet play and we can't wait to hear the end results!

 [#musicfromaroundtheworld](#) [#JCoSS](#)
[#lessonswithadifference](#)

23rd November 2021

Thank you to [@e4kidsltd](#) (Engineering For Kids) for providing a fun and frantic robot engineering workshop for 30 of our lucky Year 8 students! Pupils worked in groups to build a drive train - a 2 wheeled, 2 motor robot with gears - and added sensors to this. Each robot was named after an engineering hero and then coded to navigate it's way through mazes using left and right turns, repeat instructions and the use of colour and sound.

Finally after demonstrating their code in action, students removed sensors, put on their creativity hats and prepared their robot for battle with weaponry ... (No students or staff were harmed in the making of this workshop) [#JCoSS](#) [#RobotWars](#)

[#Engineering](#)



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22nd November 2021



Mazel tov to Nathan in Year 9, who came in a remarkable 3rd place (out of 32!) in the annual British Taekwondo Championships

🏆Mazel Tov Nathan! 🏆

22nd November 2021

To mark the 100 year anniversary of the first Jewish veterans laying a wreath at the Cenotaph, yesterday representatives from across the Jewish community took part in the AJEX Remembrance Parade.

We were beyond proud and honoured for JCoSS students to be part of this momentous event.



17th November 2021



To help Year 11 decide on the next significant stage of their JCoSS journey, students took part in 6th Form Taster sessions today and had the opportunity to get a 'taste' of subjects they would like to study in 6th form.

Students chose 4 lessons from a wide range of A Level and Vocational courses and were treated to a whole host of fun and engaging activities, whilst getting an overview of the subjects.

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4th November 2021

Thanks to the Jewish Museum London for running a fascinating workshop on Black and Jewish Migration for our Year 7 students.

Through hands-on interaction with museum exhibits, students explored the similarities and differences between The Great Jewish Migration and The Windrush migration and discussed the lasting legacies of both.



21st October 2021



Mazel tov to the incredible students who won awards at our Celebration Afternoon yesterday!

Unfortunately Covid restrictions meant that we were unable to have the full event last year. So whilst these awards are a little delayed, we are delighted to recognise the following students with trophies kindly donated by Elizabeth Shrager, in honour of her husband Robert Shrager, the first chair of Governors of JCoSS.

- ❖ Izabella Grinberg - Y7 Head of Year award
- ❖ Jack Joseph - Y8 Head of Year award
- ❖ Erin Silk - Y9 Head of Year award
- ❖ Chloe Silverman - Y10 Head of Year award
- ❖ Natasha Werblow - Mensch Award
- ❖ Aaron Sandhu - Mensch Award
- ❖ Hannah Smith - Y12 Head Student
- ❖ Adam Tyler - Y12 Head Student
- ❖ Ruben Persey - The Robert Shrager Memorial Award for exceptional contribution to JCoSS

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14th October 2021



A huge well done to all the JCoSS mensches who walked to school this morning in aid of Step it Forward! Students made their way from Enfield, West Finchley and Arkley on foot to raise money for our wonderful school charities and received a heroes welcome on arrival 🙌

6th October 2021

We were thrilled to run our first live Rosh Chodesh since 2019!

Students were greeted at the school gates this morning with the traditional Rosh Chodesh biscuits and have taken part in sessions run by a wide range of Jewish charities and community organisations. Chodesh Tov JCoSS 🌸🌙



3rd September 2021



Hello and welcome to the newest members of JCoSS! 🙌

Here's hoping your first day is full of fun and happy new memories.

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