

# Social media

## Spring Round-up

Dear Parents,

The transition from pandemic to endemic has been much heralded in the last few days, and we are relieved at last to see the first fruits of falling case numbers at JCoSS: as the green shoots of Spring 2022 start to peep out from the cold, hard earth, so too will our students' faces from behind their masks after so many months of restrictions. It is time to breathe a little more easily (a point that will not be lost on fellow glasses-wearers...).

If it's not a little downbeat to say so, Covid's departure from centre stage allows us to remember that other problems demand our attention too, perhaps the most urgent of which is the Climate Crisis. JCoSS has been brilliantly and consistently led in this area by our students. In 2019 we gave a challenge to those who, pre-pandemic, were asking to join protest marches and school strikes: how can you help the issue gain traction within our school, so that we 'think global, act local' in this most pressing area of behaviour?

The result was the Climate Declaration made – with full support from the School and Governors – by Ruben Persey (Y13), as featured in the earliest entry of this Social Media round-up. It also attracted more conventional media attention and will, we hope, be a beacon to others and encourage links with other schools and communities. Students have ensured succession in their leadership of this important work, and Governors have asked for metrics against which they can measure our progress.

Climate as a term is relevant not only in meteorology but in human community too: the climate of an organisation refers to its emotional atmosphere, its typical culture, the lived experience being in it, and this is something we try hard to attend to as a school. There are ways in which we want it to change – and our older students have continued to be superb guides (and teachers of younger peers) as we continue to reflect on the issues raised last year by Everyone's Invited.

But – just as in the natural world – there are many other ways in which we want to preserve the distinct climate which prevails at JCoSS and which upholds its beautiful and diverse ecosystem. It has been a great joy to return to so many activities that we have missed, from the solemnity of Holocaust Remembrance to the creative exuberance of Enrichment Day, from the intellectual fizz of Year 9 Number Day to the quirky musical genius of the Classics Department during Classics Week. As several colleagues have said (or at least implied...): we are getting our mojo back!

Climate, they say, is what you expect, whereas weather is what you get. The 'weather' of JCoSS has frequently been overcast over the past two years of closures, restrictions and endless change: at times we have simultaneously had high pressure, storms and deep depressions. But the underlying climate, I believe, remains healthy and life-sustaining.

We weep with those who weep – which continues, despite the triumphant headlines about an end to the pandemic: members of the community are still suffering from Covid itself, and even more from the shadow it has cast over emotional wellbeing and academic confidence. But we laugh too with those who laugh, and it has been such a tonic to have more of that as meetings are once again face-to-face, and as more of those faces are visible so that we can read each other better.

I wish you a good half term holiday (my first in 18 months...) and we look forward to lengthening days and broadening smiles (not forgetting Purim on 17 March) in the weeks ahead.

Patrick Moriarty

Headteacher

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10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

This week, JCoSS has been celebrating its eighth annual Classics Week. This year's theme is the myth of Echo and Narcissus – the girl who lost her voice and the boy who fell in love with himself (narcissism being a word we have heard a lot, in recent years).

Years 7, 8 & 9 have responded to this timeless myth with fantastic imagination and creativity – courtesy of their inspiring lessons with the English Faculty. Their artwork has been on display this week at school.

Year 7 learned about Latin (which they can take up next year) from their Y8 and Y10 peers, while Year 8 enjoyed a performance of Nero and Poppaea's love story, expertly staged by Y12 Class Civ and Drama students. This included an operatic duet, Monteverdi's "Pur ti miro", sung with brio by Mrs Trup and Mr Arden.



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8<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Mazel tov to the Year 7 and Year 9 students who have been selected for the Scholars Programme.

All students in these Year groups had the opportunity to submit an application by explaining their favourite quote and why it is important to them. The answers were fascinating, eloquent and passionate.

A huge well done to the successful students.

7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Students from Year 9 have been raising money today for their chosen charity Grief Encounter for Yom Tzedakah. They have been selling food and drinks as well as fun challenges!

Grief Encounter is a charity that works closely with individuals, families, schools and professionals to offer a way through the anxiety, fear and isolation often caused by the death of a loved one. The charity states that bereavement is devastating at any age, but for a child it is life-changing. Year 9 hope to raise as much money as possible to support Grief Encounter. #fundraising #fundraisingevent



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4<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Year 9 students had a great morning participating in Number Day. All students participated in Maths based activities which included riddle solving, a trading game, Maths pub quiz and finally a giant year group game of Bidmas Bingo!

#makingmathsfun #mathsday  
#importanceofmaths

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Students participated in JCoSS Shabbat at lunchtime today, where they had great fun plaiting challot. They will be baked and then sold tomorrow, with the proceeds going to our school charities.

#JCoSSshabbat #challahplaiting  
#lunchtimefun



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## 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Earlier today Year 12 Politics students had the fantastic opportunity to participate in 'Learn with the Lords', where they were able to put their questions to a member of the House of Lords.

They met with Life Peer, Lord Lisvane: his experience as Clerk to the House of Commons, and his illustrious career as a Clerk with extensive responsibility, provided the students with plentiful opportunity to ask questions on the most pressing matters of the day.

No stone was left unturned, and we are tremendously grateful for his time.  
#LearnwiththeLords #Y12politics  
#amazingopportunities



## 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Holocaust Memorial Day not only serves to commemorate victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides but asks us to challenge division and create a better future.

With this in mind, mainstream JCoSS students were asked to write about a change they would like to see following the theme of 'One Day'.

Whilst students from the PSRP took the time to create a 'Kindness' display and were awarded a Headteacher's commendation for their efforts. Together we can make a difference.

#JCoSS #hmd2022 #holocaustmemorialday  
#lightthedarkness

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

JCoSS students enjoyed a choice of over 50 activities on Enrichment Drop Down Day today. Participants spent the morning in an amazing array of sessions that ranged from cooking culinary delights in the 'Israeli Café' to 'Battle of the Bands' and a '4 Hour Film School' where they could recreate famous scenes from popular movies.

Students could also learn new skills such as car mechanics, clay sculpting, sign language and Krav Maga. A lucky few even spent some time learning Japanese!

We were also delighted to witness the 'Great Egg Race' in which students successfully protected an egg from a 5.65M drop off the heartspace walkway. They certainly put the Drop in Drop Down Day!  
#JCoSS #Enrichment



Today on Tu b'shevat, Y13 student Ruben Persey has declared a Climate Emergency at JCoSS. Students have spent the day engrossed in a 'JCOP 26' simulation followed by every student in the school making a personal pledge for how they will make a change to help reduce the school's emissions footprint.

There is a real feeling of powerful change being effected in the school today and we are very proud of every student that wants to make a crucial difference.

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