

Social media

Summer Round-up

Dear Parents

My decision to leave JCOSS has prompted me to plenty of reflection about journeying and pilgrimage, beginning and endings. I haven't yet settled on whether to call what I am doing stepping *down*, or *away*, or *on*, or *out* – thankfully I still have plenty of time to decide. What I want to convey and to model is that life brings us to points where we need the courage to take risks, uncertain of their impact on ourselves and on others, with faith that they are part of a journey towards more depth and breadth. A leap into light, rather than into the darkness – that's the theory at least.

In that spirit I commend to you a literal and physical journey that several colleagues are making this weekend – walking 100km from London to Brighton, raising money for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Seven members of staff from assorted faculties are making this projected 22-hour trip, which no doubt will be full of highs and lows, darkness and light, pain and joy. All in all, it is another beautiful metaphor of the journey of lifelong learning and endeavour that we hope we can instil in students. We wish them well, and you can sponsor them via their [JustGiving page](#) (they are so close to their target amount and I am sure any support is welcome!).

As you can see from the posts included in this round up, we have launched Years 11 and 13 on the next stage of their journeys, through study leave and exams to whatever lies beyond. It was especially joyful do those events wholeheartedly in person, and a delight to welcome Year 11 parents to share in the final assembly. Exams are in full flood at present and both those cohorts of students are in our thoughts – as is the Exams Team who are absorbing a good deal of stress and anxiety on all sides. It is an odd kind of relief to be back with exams again after 2 years without – for all their shortcomings they are at least objective and external – but there are many proper questions still to be asked about whether the whole system of assessing education is truly fit for purpose.

As students leave from the top of the school, another cohort joins to continue the cycle of JCoSS life: though not recorded here, we were once again able to have Year 6 students and their parents in school for their Secondary Transfer Preparation Evening. Two years' worth of students have chosen JCoSS without the benefit of a proper Open Day – whether that is connected to them being the highest application years ever, I don't know!

The most moving points on the journey of this term have been our commemoration of Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron. There is no substitute for marking these events as a physical community, and the commitment and respectful engagement of the whole school, gathered in the Heart Space for the two ceremonies, was tangible. As a Rabbi friend pointed out to me recently, Hebrew has no native word for 'history', only for 'memory': both ceremonies drew on personal testimony (including that of our Shinshinim, marking the days outside Israel for the first time in their lives) and that explains so much of their power in strengthening bonds of community and identity.

The pilgrimage of life and of JCoSS continues, and I wish you a good half term, Chag Shavuot Sameach, and leave you with a final nudge to consider a donation to journeying (albeit possibly mad) members of staff!

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

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26th May 2022



Mazel tov to our amazing Year 7 Athletics team who competed in their first fixture last night. They were a credit to our school, encouraging their fellow team mates throughout the competition and were absolute Menches.

In addition to this, we also had success across the year with the following students particularly showcasing their sporting excellence:

- Jesse A - 1st in 1500m
- Curtis E.R - 1st in high jump
- Lily C - 2nd in high jump
- Jack R - 1st in 200m
- Lila B - 4th in 1500m
- Grace G - 2nd in 200m heat
- Lily C - 2nd in 200m heat
- Izzy E - 5th in 800m (out of approx. 20)
- Boys 4x100m relay team - 2nd

24th May 2022

Yesterday Year 8 ran their Yom Tzedakah event to raise money for their chosen charity, Chai Cancer Care North West . This was a special Yom Tzedakah as we were able to invite the majority of year groups to enjoy all the incredible stalls that included, face painting, knock the cans down, a claw machine, sweets and refreshing drinks. JCoSS were also greeted by Rachel and Caroline, two representatives from Chai Cancer Care that showcased the amazing work they do. Well done to everyone involved in this event.



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23rd May 2022



19th May 2022



Mazel tov to Max Radiven Y8 and Millie Rogove Y12 for their amazing success in their respective Table Tennis competitions this month.

Max competed in Table Tennis England's National School Individual Finals representing JCoSS, having earned his place at this event by coming through the County, Zone and Regional Finals. We are proud to announce he came 2nd overall, which is an incredible achievement.

Millie competed in the Table Tennis England Junior National Championships held at the University of Nottingham, and we are thrilled to share that Millie is now Junior Girls' Doubles National Champion, together with her partner, Anaya Patel. They defeated the no. 2 seeded pair in the semi-final and the no. 1 seeds in the final to lift the trophy and win the gold medal.

Huge Mazel Tov to them both 🏆🏆🏆

17th May 2022

We are extremely thankful for the wonderful support of Jewish Child's Day - JCD who have generously donated to the JCoSS autism provision (PSRP) to enable our students to participate in a weekly outreach programme at Aldenham Country Farm. The programme gives students real life work experiences and jobs across the farm, so they can develop vital employment skills to help secure a better future. Jewish Child's Day - JCD #verygrateful #Thankyou



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13th May 2022



Today we say goodbye to Year 11. The final words to them are from their Head of Year, Mr Hoare... 'So... Year 11, You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way! Congratulations Year 11, You deserve all the success in the world and we wish nothing but the best for you. We will miss you deeply. See you all on Monday.'

12th May 2022

Farewell to our amazing Year 13! Where has the past 7 years gone?! The ruach was electric in the leavers assembly this morning and highlighted the fun, intelligent and creative cohort that they are!

We will miss them massively and wish them all the best in their exams.



10th May 2022



Y10 and Y12 sociology students have been working on the University of Cambridge Sociology Photography competition over the last few weeks. This year's theme is resistance and student were tasked with taking photos which best represent this. Students exhibited their work in the MPH and have taken great pride in their efforts. Students will submit their final piece to the University of Cambridge with prospect of £250 prize and free trip to the university. Fingers crossed for all our Y10 and Y12 sociology students. 😊

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 JCoSS

5th May 2022

We have had an amazing day today, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) with a fun and educational day off timetable, packed full with all things Israel! Students cooked, heard Israeli music in a look back through Israel's greatest Eurovision entries, explored famous landmarks, discussed peace and conflict, and enjoyed an Israeli style lunch and blue and white sweet treats at the lunchtime fair. It was a fantastic day celebrating the birth of Israel as a whole school community!



4th May 2022



This afternoon we have been commemorating Yom Hazikaron as a whole school community. This special assembly was to mark the day of remembrance for Israel's fallen military personnel and those who have lost their lives in terrorist attacks in Israel. Our inspiring Shinishinim (Israeli Scouts) Maya and Guy, along with other students, read emotional poetry, spoke about the significance of the day in Israel, and a minute's silence was observed. It was an important and meaningful assembly which was entirely planned by Maya and Guy. We are so grateful to have them with us during this school year.

3rd May 2022

JCoSS participated in a mock election today at lunchtime, to get students talking about politics ahead of the local election this Thursday 5th May.

Students had to vote for their favourite Political Party and the results will be announced tomorrow. [#importanceofvoting](#) [#don'tloseyourvote](#)



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JCoSS

29th April 2022

Over 100 Year 9s took part in their DofE practical training expedition around Elstree and Shenley earlier this week. They were blessed with glorious blue skies and all students did really well.

They are now fully prepared and raring to go for the real expedition in June! 😊😊😊😊



28th April 2022



Today we have been commemorating Yom Hashoah as a whole school community. The day started with an emotional assembly, where students heard testimonies read by fellow students. It was extremely emotional to see all the students together again in the Heartspace for the first time in over two years, with 2 Year groups having never experienced a whole school assembly. Students could then opt in to the Israeli style 'Zikaron Besalon' where small groups gathered in an informal setting to hear personal accounts of the Holocaust. We were joined by staff members and external speakers who shared their family's stories to groups of years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. We were also honoured to host a tree planting ceremony at lunchtime. This tree has been donated to JCoSS by the Balazs family, in partnership with The Association of Jewish Refugees as part of their 80 Trees for 80 Years campaign to plant trees where Holocaust refugees settled. We were joined by Tony Balazs, second generation refugee who addressed Y9 students and staff in attendance. May we remember together.

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26th April 2022

Norwood Charity were back with us today for Y7 Volunteering club, where students are making Shavuot themed crafts for Norwood residents to enjoy in their homes.

#volunteering #charity #givingback



25th April 2022



Welcome back JCoSS! Lots of lovely smiling faces today, we are looking forward to a great Summer Term!

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