

Dear Parents

For the final newsletter of the year I devote all my words to the JCoSS staff, whose extraordinary dedication and hard work is the powerhouse for all that happens in the school. I say regularly at open events that they are, in all my years of teaching, the best set of colleagues I have known. Both their subject knowledge and their classroom expertise are excellent (90% of lessons rated Good or Outstanding) but, just as for the students, we value them for far more than Ofsted judgments, important as those are.

The range of extras offered to our students by JCoSS staff is extraordinary, and the pages that follow are testament to it – perhaps the most shining example being the staff who devoted 2 weeks of time to take Year 9 students to Israel, and to take Year 8 to Normandy. The staff who remain at JCoSS during such trips deserve praise too, keeping the routines of school going and filling in for absent colleagues. To all my colleagues on the teaching and support staff, on behalf of the students who perhaps feel it more often than they say it, I say a huge thank you and wish them rest and recreation over the summer.

The trouble with excellent staff, of course, is that they do have a habit of being promoted. We congratulate Mr Quinn who becomes Senior Vice Principal at Watford UTC which opens its doors in September; Miss Burton moves to Chester as an Assistant Headteacher; Mr Smith becomes a Head of PE in Richmond; Mr Lyons becomes Head of Biology in Stoke Newington; Miss Humphrey will be Head of Music at the Archer Academy; Miss Jones goes to Alperton as Head of Science; Miss Rajadurai makes a sideways move to Hammersmith as Head of Business and Economics.

Other staff are moving due to a variety of personal circumstances and developments – among the part time staff Ms Ger, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Sanders and Ms Marion, and amongst the full time staff Ms Glenn (who left earlier this term and now has a delightful baby son) and Miss McCarthy. We are grateful too to Ms Horowitz and Ms Longe who have helped us fill short term gaps in Music and Jewish Education. Among the Learning Support staff Ms Looker Biddle departs to train as a teacher, and Miss Pounce and Ms Lubel leave us also.

A special mention must go to Miss Korn, a founding staff member as Head of Maths and instrumental as our first Head of 6<sup>th</sup> form in establishing that new part of the school. An operation earlier this term has been followed by a long and tiresome recuperation. She is now leaving us, and will initially take some time out to fully recover...but there is also a wedding to plan!

We are sad to lose these wonderful colleagues to other schools and thank them for all their contributions to JCoSS life. Staff departures can be unsettling, particularly where students bid farewell to teachers with whom they have developed strong bonds. But we have recruited excellent new colleagues to join JCoSS in September, and having welcomed them into the school last week for a training day, it is already clear that the calibre and commitment of staff will continue as strong as ever.

I commend all the following pages to you with their wonderful array of achievements and hard work by students as well as staff, and I wish you all a happy Summer break.

*Patrick Moriarty, Headteacher*

## Newsletter Highlights

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## The JCoSS Israel journey 2014. by Lauren McGirk

Touching down at Ben Gurion airport, spirits were high and everyone was so excited. After collecting our luggage, we were off to our first kibbutz. On our first day we headed to Save a Child's Heart, a wonderful charity that provides heart surgery for children in developing countries. We learnt about the children's backgrounds and the stories they had to tell. The next day we had free time in the Nachalat Binyamin, an Arts and Crafts market in Tel Aviv, where we shopped 'to our hearts' content', browsing the local market.

After two nights we left and went to our favourite place of all with so much outdoor space and room to play football: Nes Amim. Everyone enjoyed this kibbutz so much. The history behind it was that German pastors built it after the Second World War, to create a kibbutz based on the values of peace and reconciliation. It was during our stay up north that we enjoyed beautiful hikes, white water rafting on the Jordan River and a river cruise on the Kinneret.

We stayed in Nes Amim for a whole week which really wasn't long enough. We laughed, we played, we learnt but most importantly we became closer with each other and with our teachers.

Our hikes were something special; especially Mount Masada beforehand we slept in a Bedouin tent and we were educated by someone who lives there all the time. We had to wake up at 4:30 in the morning to get a head start climbing in time to see the sunrise. We had two separate tents, one for boys and one for girls. Singing songs and telling stories it was definitely something we will all remember. The heat on some of the other hikes was challenging but we powered through with help from the teachers of course. We saw the most amazing sights. Whilst hiking in the Jilabun we came to a waterfall that we swam in and splashed around. We also walked through water tunnels. They were small narrow caves with water flowing through them.

Another highlight was our volunteering in Leket, to pick corn for people who can't afford to buy food from the shops and market. It was an exciting experience but it was definitely hard. Afterwards we visited an organic farm and picked beetroots and prepared them for farm. We fed baby cows with bottles and made meals for them. We fed chickens and they pecked the food from our hands and then we collected the eggs they laid. After lunch we went on a 2 and a half hour hike on Nachal Amud.

Leaving Nes Amim was the saddest time of our trip. Next was "the long drive" that everyone had been talking about since the first day – the drive to Jerusalem. As we arrived in Jerusalem our wonderful tour guide Jules played a song about Jerusalem. The sight was beautiful and we could see everything. A few days into our stay in Jerusalem we visited Har Herzl, the military cemetery and memorial where over 40,000 graves were. Some of the people buried there were as young as 18. This was an emotional experience for everyone.

After this we walked straight to Yad Vashem, where we heard a holocaust survivor speak about his experience and we were able to ask a lot of questions to which we got some fascinating answers. Learning about the holocaust and what the Nazis did really helped us understand more about our history.

Our next stop was "Pantry Packers" where we put rice into a bag using a machine, labelling the bags. These labels included the name of our school so that the people eating it would know that JCoSS produced it. We had to use a special machine to seal the bags. On our last Shabbat we visited the Western Wall, girls wearing their prettiest outfits and boys looking dapper. We all took time in writing private messages and praying. We stood in a big circle where our madrachim conducted a service where we sang songs at the top of our lungs. We are not going to deny that we got given some interesting looks. On our last few days we had trips to the park and fields where we could all relax and spend time together. On our very last day everyone was so sad to be leaving and some people even cried.

I know I speak for all the staff and most definitely students when I say The Year 9 JCoSS Israel journey was an unforgettable experience that we will all treasure for the rest of our lives.



Below is a letter from a member of the general public, regarding the behaviour of our students on the flight to Israel

*To Whom This may concern;*

*Good Morning. I am writing to you regarding your pupils recent trip to Israel. I apologise for the delay in getting this to you, but I only recently returned to London.*

*I was on El Al Flight 313 from Luton Airport to Tel Aviv on Sunday morning, 8th June. Upon arrival at the airport, my heart dropped when I saw that a group of 75+ teenage kids would be joining me on my flight. I could hear everyone around me grumbling as we checked in, at the sight of all the kids.*

*But lo and behold, your group of youngsters were out to shock us all!!*

*I must compliment your students, and credit to the staff travelling with them. The students were polite, organised and above all, NOT NOISY AT ALL!!*

*It was actually a pleasure to see a group of youngsters, obviously excited about their trip, and still behaving in a respectful and toned down manner.*

*Upon complimenting one of the accompanying teachers on the students behaviour, she answered me that the students had been well drilled in behavioural rules. But we all know, that as much as we prepare and instil children with rules and protocol, it is most often not followed.*

*So I say "Kol Ha kavod" to your school, to your staff and most of all to the students travelling. Well done to them all for showing us that students can still know how to behave appropriately, even in 2014!!*

*I hope they all had a wonderful trip and brought home some fantastic memories!*

*Wishing you all the best,*

*Lauren* (She gave us permission to publish the letter in the newsletter, but she preferred for her surname not to be used)

## Y8 Visit to Normandy

**Question:** What gets 44 Y8 students and their parents out of bed at 3 o'clock a Sunday morning?

**Answer:** The Y8 trip to Normandy, that's what!

All 44 students, their wonderful parents, Madames Marion and Ger accompanied by Mr Smith and myself arrived at school bleary-eyed ready for the coach journey and ferry crossing. Most of the first day was spent traveling, but there was still time for dinner and relaxation at the beautiful gîte in the town of St Fraimbault. Over the next few days staff and students enjoyed a host of activities: visiting a dairy farm and having a go at making our own butter and Camembert cheese; bowling; visiting a market and supermarket; a village quiz; seeing the site of the Normandy landings and visiting the breathtaking Mont-Saint Michel.

The ferry journey home was a little choppy, but students thankfully held on to their lunch. In fact, a certain young man named Adam Marks even found time to win an on-board limbo competition, beating off stiff competition from fellow students (Joshua Crampton gets a special mention for his technique – he was practically horizontal) and a school from Dorset; further evidence against the old adage that Jews don't excel at sport. They do limbo in the Olympics, right? A particularly pleasing aspect of the journey home was the compliments we received from fellow passengers regarding the behaviour of students and their politeness towards others.

A huge merci beaucoup must go to Madame Marion for organising an action-packed week of activities.



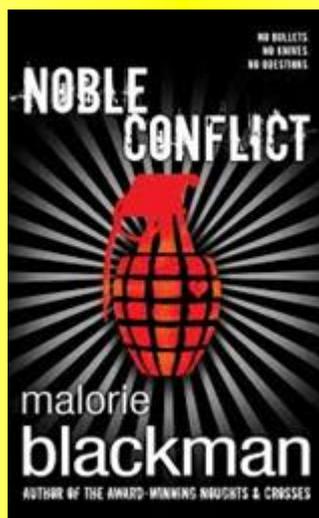
Mr C. Stump – Baguette connoisseur

# JCoSS Book Award 2015

Key Stage 3 students have been busy reading titles from the shortlist:



The winner of this year's award is:



Prize winners went to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

## Year 12 Work Experience

Our Year 12 students spent 2 weeks in June on work experience and volunteering placements. There were a great variety of work experience placements, from medical research institutes, stables and primary schools to media, finance and the House of Commons. In addition, Norwood offered our students an amazing selection of volunteering placements at their charity shops, residential homes and family centres. Employers gave our students wonderful feedback, including quotes such as 'an absolute pleasure, wish I had more like her!', 'Exceeded our expectations, happy to have her back any time', 'We have offered her a part time role because we are so thrilled with her!'

### Work Experience at the House of Commons, by Emma Solomon Year 12

I was lucky enough to be chosen from 600 applicants to do my work experience within the HR department at the House of Commons. During my week I discovered that there are many different areas within HR, such as equality and diversity, health and safety, policies, etc., but I was allocated to work in Recruitment.

I worked alongside the Recruitment team and my duties included writing job advertisements, sifting through applications and filing. I shadowed a couple of the team members in screening applicants and I also attended a meeting where forthcoming interviews were discussed. The entire HR team were all very friendly and welcoming and I feel very privileged to have worked beside them. Unlike other placements that I have done in the past, I was not asked to do a single coffee run!

My induction day was on the same day as the State Opening of Parliament, which was very exciting as I knew Her Majesty The Queen had been in the same building earlier that day. I was told by my supervisor that we could go up to the Public Gallery and watch the Prime Minister as he gave The Queen's Speech. This opportunity was incredible as it indicated what David Cameron wanted to change about the country.

During my actual placement, I was treated to a tour of the House of Commons (although this time I didn't see David Cameron) and also the Old Bailey, where I watched a murder trial taking place. I found this very interesting to see the layout of a court room and to witness what happens during a trial.

I felt like I gained a lot from my week at the House of Commons and this experience has now given me a far better insight into what I want to do in later life, and now I am inspired to look more into the fields of HR/Marketing.

## WeRead Experience by James Saker, Yr 7

Just over three months ago, 20 year 7 pupils from JCoSS walked into H103 for what would be this year's first WeRead meeting at JCoSS. It would not be their last. They were all given a deadly mission: to read and review as many of the 6 selected books as possible. These were, in alphabetical order: *In Bloom* by Matthew Crow, *Noble Conflict* by Malorie Blackman, *Phoenix* by S F Said, *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein, *Russian Roulette* by Anthony Horowitz and *The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud.

Twelve or so meetings later, the selected students were collected at 10 o' clock to go to University College School, the organiser of the event. Four of the six authors were there at the prize giving (Horowitz and Blackman weren't) and we chose which talks we'd like to attend. According to witnesses, all four speeches were highly interesting, but one really took the biscuit. Elizabeth Wein was very interesting in describing when she went to the French concentration camps mentioned in her story, but it can be safely said that Jonathan Stroud managed to make the entire audience guffaw when he dressed Hannah Bentwood as a worker from Lockwood and Co. Not only did this include the traditional sunglasses and woolly hat, but she also got to hold an 'iron' rapier, magnesium flares, 'iron' chains and (who could live without them?) tea and biscuits.

After the second discussion was over, we walked into another building, ready for the prize giving. Once the hundreds of children had all poured into the main hall, Stroud was announced as the deserved winner for this year's WeRead prize for his outstanding book. Afterwards, awards were given out and special mentions made for the favourite reviews (including one student from our own school who won an award, Tal Cohen, and also one who received a mention, James Saker).

For all those who took part in the WeRead Book Award, it was a great experience.



## A2 Biology Field Trip

Daniel Arenstein and Danny Driver (Y12) study freshwater invertebrates under the microscope during the biology A2 field trip to Juniper Hall in Surrey. Students spent four days studying populations and environments including mammal trapping, freshwater ecosystems and chalkland management.



# The CEA Faculty

2013-2014 has seen yet another successful and exciting year for the CEA Faculty.

Our PE Department has had outstanding success in encouraging and leading their students' numerous achievements in the world of physical education – all of which are visible and regularly updated on our newly-launched JCoSS Sport Facebook page. Sports Day 2014 on July 10<sup>th</sup> was fantastic! So much work is involved in organising this event – so a huge thanks to Mr Mitman, Mrs Goddard, Mr Smith and Ms Hoskin.

Across the Performing Arts, we have again seen some exceptional talent and accomplishments throughout the year. Performances and productions have included: visits by our two choirs, led by Miss Humphrey, to various synagogues and Residential Homes for the Elderly; our annual, vibrant Chanukah Concert; success in the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival; our vibrant concert version of 'Schools Will Rock You'; excellent AS and A2 Drama and Theatre Studies performances; two superb showcase evenings of GCSE Dance, Drama and Music; a formidable Choral Concert and last but by no means least, some first-class performances in the KS3 Celebration Evening.

Many of our students have been incredibly fortunate to work with sports and performing arts professionals and practitioners: Saracens Rugby Club, Urban Table Tennis, Sport England Athletics, Trestle Theatre, Highly Sprung Theatre, Royal Academy of Dance and Union Dance.

We are all so sorry that Miss Humphrey and Mr Smith are leaving us and moving on to pastures new. They have been a true inspiration to the CEA Faculty and JCoSS. We would like to thank them for everything they have achieved in such a short space of time and wish them every success in their new schools. Thanks also to Ms Cashion and Mrs Longe for their contribution to teaching PE, Music and Drama in the Faculty.

Joining us in September, we would like to welcome Mrs Brown, our new Head of Music and Mr Leffman, the second new member of the Music Department. The PE Department will be joined by Mr White, Ms Chapman and Ms Alumu. A very warm welcome to you all!

Finally, I would like to thank personally the entire CEA Faculty team for the enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism they have demonstrated throughout the year. Mrs Goddard, Mr Mitman, Ms Gustard, Ms Hoskin, Mr Smith, Ms Humphrey, Ms Gold – you all rock!! Have a great holiday!

**Ms S Miller**  
**Head of CEA Faculty**

## JCoSS Media Students help National Charity

A challenge was set for JCoSS Media Studies GCSE students to create a new advertising campaign for the RNLI. Education Officer Chantal Carr came to JCoSS to launch the project, in which students had to create a billboard poster and radio advert to encourage donations and volunteering for the charity. She then came back again 2 months later to judge the competition, which also formed part of their GCSE controlled assessment. The winners went to visit the RNLI in Chiswick to see exactly who their campaign would be representing, and their artwork is being printed in the RNLI national publication later this year. The winners were: Josh Saffer, Breta Sulejmani, Amy Franks, Rebecca Alter, Tom Zini, Gemma Eshkeri, Maddie Giller and Chloe Spender.

Mrs J Eyres  
Head of Media  
Studies and  
EAL Co-ordinator



# Able and Ambitious



Connecting and  
challenging the world's  
brightest young minds

Two of our Able and Ambitious students; Dora Hirsh and Miriam Clifton attended the House of Commons for a breakfast meeting earlier this term, to discuss *Bullying in Schools* with a panel of esteemed guests. The event was hosted and chaired by Chris White MP, Co Vice-Chair for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bullying.

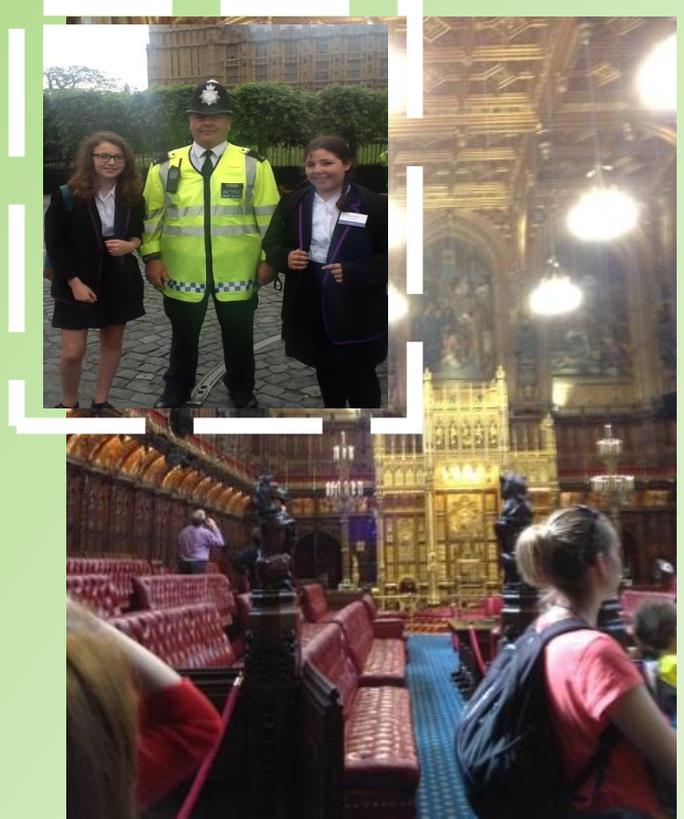
Following a short introduction guests from the government, third-sector, academia and students were able to join a discussion with an expert panel moderated by Baroness Sally Brinton, Chair of the APPG on Bullying. The panel featured:

- Chris White MP (Co-Vice Chair, APPG on Bullying)
- Holly Smale (Internationally best-selling author of the anti-bullying series "Geek Girl"),
- Professor Dieter Wolke (University of Warwick)
- Carrie Herbert (Chief Executive, Red Balloon)

Dora Hirsh stated; "We were given the exceptional opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and take part in a breakfast meeting. I really enjoyed the visit and feel very privileged to have been selected for the trip"

A blog of the event can be found at;

<https://www.iggy.net/content/blog/a-trip-to-parliament-to-talk-about-bullying>



The  
**Brilliant**  
Club

Year 9 and 10 Brilliant Club students attended the graduation ceremony at the University of Sussex last month to collect their final assignment grades, receive feedback from their assigned PhD tutor, meet campus staff and tour the University site. The students achieved some outstanding final marks with many gaining a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 for their assignments. The Brilliant Club staff stated that this group of 24 students were an exceptionally hard working cohort who exceeded all expectations that their esteemed PhD tutors had for them.



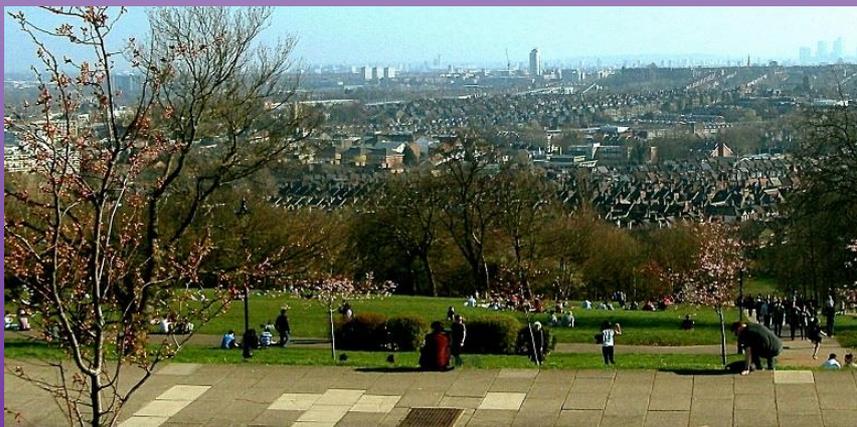
## Art Able and Ambitious Trip - The Wallace Collection

Isaac Curiel, Year 7 wrote about the visit.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June the Able and Ambitious Art students went to the Wallace Collection. The Wallace Collection holds a variety of different furniture, porcelain, old master paintings and a world class armoury. We met up with one of the guides who then took us around the gallery to sketch different paintings. First we went to see a painting called 'Perseus and Andromeda' by Titian which was painted in 1554 to 1556. The painting shows Andromeda chained up and Perseus in the background fighting a sea monster to free her. We sketched a different section of the painting and then we were given a certain amount of time to draw it. Next, we moved to a painting called 'The Music Party' which was painted in 1718 by Watteau. The final painting we sketched was 'The Lady With a Fan' by Diego Velazquez. Finally, we moved into the armoury in which we sketched an Italian helmet and drew our own compositions. Lots of people drew horse armour which was extremely detailed and amazing to look at. I really enjoyed everything about the trip and look forward to being able to visit again soon.



IGGY News: Adam Caplan won 1st place in a National photography competition on Iggy.net; the academic social networking site for our Able and Ambitious Year 8 students. Adam entered the Mark Wood's cycling adventure competition which involved students participating in their own cycling adventure and capturing a photograph of excitement, and imprinting a memory like only an adventure can. Well done to Adam as he beat off hundreds of other Iggy members to capture first prize. His photo is shown here:



## Digital Leaders Group

Benji Nathan, Ariel Learner and Ruby Werth (8S) try out 'fruit percussion' at the Digital Summer Trip Event in Shoreditch (photo below). They were part of the Digital Leaders Group who have been developing the schools' virtual learning environment (Fronter). To celebrate their achievements, Mr Lyons and Mr Quinn took them to this event where they got to try out the latest digital technology including gaming, apps and robotics.

The full list of students involved is:

- Zack Solomon, Josh Cowan, Jake Segal
- Rafi Sanis, Josh Maurice, Gil Sherman
- Ariel Learner, Ruby Werth, Benji Nathan
- Adam Caplan, Omer Samuel





## **Barnet District Athletics Championship Allianz Park:**

14 Barnet Schools competing

### Notable Results:

Rosie Felt 3rd in 200m Final,

Jonathan Brown 3rd in 1500m Final

Philippa Steen 3rd in Long Jump Final.



## **Year 7 Cricket**

JCoSS Year 7/8 cricket team won two matches in successive nights to firmly stamp their authority on the East Barnet League.

JCoSS Vs East Barnet: Myles Isaacs was the star of the show in this local derby as he bowled superbly; delivering a double wicket maiden during his spell. After EBS put in a total of 60 after 14 overs, it was down to JCoSS to chase. Jack Durban top scored with 11, whilst Max Schindler, Harrison Leighton and Jacob Freedland put in sizeable scores to surpass the home score tally with two overs to spare.

JCoSS Vs Ashmole: They say that catches win matches, and rightly so, as Elton Roach took two in the space of one over to swing the momentum of play in JCoSS' favour. Elton's defining moment came from a devastating period of bowling from Jacob Freedland as he took four wickets in 12 balls. Earlier, JCoSS had set a daunting total of 88 from 14 overs. Jonathan Jennycloss and Ben Nothan piling on more than 50 runs between them. With just 7 balls remaining and with Ashmole requiring just 7 to win, up stepped Harrison Leighton to deliver a peach of a ball. Swinging more than the sixties, it moved from leg to off stump to bamboozle the last batsman. He swung and missed. The familiar sound of leather ball on stumps and bails reverberated around the ground. Game over. JCoSS had won their second game in 24 hours by 6 runs. Well done to all those involved.



Apologies to Josh Burns, whose name was missed off the Football team list in the last issue

## Our JCoSS year 8 BMX trip, by Louis Rhodes 8s

Earlier this term, the 15 students in Year 8 with the most achievement points were given the fantastic opportunity, on a beautiful day, to go BMX biking right next to the Velodrome, Olympic cycling stadium in Stratford. We took the minibus to Cockfosters station and three tubes to our destination in Stratford. When we arrived we walked through Westfield to the Olympic park where we could see the most amazing views of the Olympic stadium and other Olympic sites, stadiums and famous buildings. Then it was a short walk through the park, where we ate lunch, and then it was on to the Velodrome BMX course.

As we approached the stadium, most of our hearts were pounding as we could see what was in store for the next hour and a half. It was incredible. There were so many bumps and ramps that the BMX Olympians went on and so would we. We then went into the room with all the safety gear that we had to put on. These were helmets, knee and elbow pads, and grip gloves. After that, we went to collect the most important item of all, our bikes. We were shocked to see the bikes as they were so small and only had one brake. Then, it was finally time to start riding. But before all of this, we had a quick safety talk and practice on the flat surface. Some of us found it hard to ride without sitting down on the saddle. However, it was really easy to pick up. Once we all got the hang of it, we were split into two groups, the confident and the less so. Then we were taken to the actual track to have a ride. When you first get ready to go on the ramps you start to think about the consequences of falling, but once you get going you realise it's extremely good fun and easier than you originally think. Some people actually got round to doing the whole course. You have to be prepared to fall off on the odd occasion but we learned a few techniques to prevent that. Unfortunately, some people picked up a few scratches, but that was the worst of the ailments. After that, we returned everything and headed home. All in all we had a great time and felt very fortunate to have been given the opportunity and grateful for the teachers that came to supervise.



### Important Dates

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (8.30am start)**

**Yr 7, Y12 and Y13**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (8.30am start)**

**Y8 to Y11 return**

**School closed, and early closing (2pm) the day before:**

**Rosh Hashana 25&26 Sept, Sukkot 9&10 Oct  
Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah 16&17 Oct**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**2pm closing for Open Evening**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**INSET day**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Half Term**

**26<sup>th</sup> November**

**2pm closing for staff training**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**Term Ends**

## Informal Jewish Education News

We are delighted to honour the following students for achieving the Jack Petchey award throughout the year. The award is designed to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of young people. The scheme is really special because students are nominated by their peers for the award and the winner is selected by a panel from our Student Parliament. The award winners also receive a small grant of £200 to reinvest in the school community.

Joel Chapman, Vivien Guiloff, Pandora Molteno, Lily Sheldon, Tshepo Raphael–Khara, Ellie Jackson, David Ross, Josh Bluestone, Jay Sands



We are also thrilled and proud to honour this year's Yoni Jesner award winners. The award is presented to students who do 20 hours of volunteering in the year. In Pirkei Avot we are taught that **It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world.** We are extremely proud of our involvement with the Yoni Jesner award and the wide variety of volunteering placements we have undertaken throughout the year in order to make our difference in the world.

At JCoSS we are lucky enough to have many volunteering opportunities within our own school. Our Manna from Heaven programme sees students prepare delicious food for a local homeless shelter every week. We host Norwood's annual Chanukah and Purim parties which are staffed by JCoSS students and some students have the opportunity to mentor other students within the Pears Special Resource Provision.

Other JCoSS award winners volunteered in the Jewish community, in our local synagogues, youth clubs and youth movements. We volunteered at Norwood, Jewish Blind and Disabled, Mitzvah Day, Gefiltefest, UJIA, Gift, Tikkun, Jewish Care, Maccabi, the New North London Synagogue Asylum Seekers drop in and Camp Simcha. One student spent her 20 hours teaching a member of the Association of Jewish Refugees how to use her computer. We also volunteered in the wider community - at the North London Hospice Shop, Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Chickenshed Theatre, Barnet Cancerlink, Darfur Together, Scouts, Brownies and Barnet Homeless Shelter. And some of us spent our volunteering time making and organising sales of bracelets, cakes, strawberries and more in order to raise funds for our chosen charities.

This Year's award recipients are: Lia Avigdor, Hannah Bentwood, Annie Berg, Miriam Clifton, Gabriel Cooke, Poppy Flack, Gessica Grew, Bethany Kinchuck, Adam Lee, Rachel Leveney (Silver Award – 50 hours of volunteering), Beth Lewis, Ben McCombe, Octavia Molteno, Robyn Mydat, Benji Nathan (Gold Award - 100 hours of volunteering), Gemma Newman, Ella Nourmand, Jacob Prevezer, Louis Rhodes, Adam Robinson, Imogen Sanis, Lily Sheldon (Silver Award), Simone Silver (Silver Award), Eliana Stern, Alexa Sussman, Alice Thompson, Gaby Vides (Silver Award), Ruby Werth, Rebecca Wilcockson

IJE celebrated Shavuot this year at Jewish Care's Lady Sarah Cohen House where a group of students showed off their musical talents with the wonderful support of Ms Humphrey. JCoSS has also been busy fundraising as part of Charity week, raising money for our chosen school charities with a wide range of activities. We were delighted to welcome the MyIsrael charity's Musicians of Tomorrow project to school for a fantastic lunchtime concert and were all delighted with the first aid kits given out by Magen David Adom – our school's chosen Israel charity. Our chosen local charity and Jewish charity are Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Camp Simcha respectively and they are both interested in both our funds and our time, and during charity week students had the opportunity to meet representatives from the charities and find out about opportunities for volunteering in both of these wonderful organisations.

Finally – Mazel Tov to Year 8 who celebrated their collective B'nei Mitzvah in school with comedy, music, dancing and of course food! They also took the time to think about moving into Jewish adulthood and to make pledges and commitments as to how they will honour this transition.

Ms S Levav; Informal Jewish Education Coordinator



## News from the PSRP

At the beginning of the spring term the National Autistic Society (NAS) came into JCoSS to run a project with a number of our pupils; the project was about developing campaign skills. The project was a pilot and the funding was provided by the Autism Education Trust (AET). Over the course of three sessions the NAS explained what campaigning is and got the students to think of something that they could develop a campaign about. The students decided to focus their campaign on how busy the school corridors can get at lesson changeover. They came up with two slogans:

- Walk, Don't Talk
- Keep Calm and Stay in Line

The students worked well together, sharing ideas and agreeing what would work best. They produced posters, a petition and, with the help of the school's wonderful Media Technician, Ms Gold, a video to highlight the issue. They targeted the petition at Y7 and Y8 and managed to get over 100 signatures, which they presented to Mr Moriarty.

At the end of last half-term Steve Huggett, Director of the AET, and Sarah-Jane Critchley, Head of Programmes, as well as Tom Madders from the NAS, came in to meet the students and to see what they had produced. They were hugely impressed by what the students had achieved! So impressed in fact, that they have asked to include an edited version of the video in the training programmes run by the AET. This is a huge accolade and a real testament to all the hard work that the students put into the project. Well done to all involved!

A picture of work in progress

Mrs Dennis: PSRP



## Lit Quiz

Earlier this term, Year 7 students took part in a Lit Quiz with eight other Barnet secondary schools. The following five students were chosen to represent JCoSS at the competition which took place in our school: Tal Cohen, Nicole Clif, Guy Nitzani, Max Rapp, Ronnie Kurtzbard and Hannah Bentwood.

This is a summary of the event by Hannah Bentwood: "JCoSS recently hosted an inter schools Lit Quiz. Nine different school teams competed. There were lots of rounds, each about a different category. We were asked questions about certain books and we had to write down our answers. At the end of each round, we gave our answers in to be marked. We were given a score out of 10 after each round and the winner was the school who scored the most points in total. Mill Hill County won.

I really enjoyed the Lit Quiz because it was good fun. The questions challenged me a lot. I especially enjoyed competing against other schools because it made it more interesting and it made me want to win even more".



## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a great success; students had the opportunity to purchase books at half price; these were displayed in the Heart Space throughout the day. Many thanks to all those who came and to the dedicated parents who helped during the week. Through this, we also managed to raise £101 which enabled us to choose 40 books at half price for the LRC.



## CLIP Carnegie Medal Shadowing Group

A group of avid readers met every Thursday at lunchtime to discuss the books shortlisted for the 2014 Carnegie Medal. If you wish to learn more about this award or read the reviews written by our students, log on to: <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/2014awards/>

**THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION IS KEVIN BROOKS FOR "THE BUNKER DIARY"**. Kevin Brooks was awarded the CILIP Carnegie Medal for *The Bunker Diary*, a fictional diary of a kidnapped boy held hostage in a bunker. After being rejected for its lack of hope, Brooks struggled for a decade to see his winning teen novel in print.

Book review, by Sam Lachmann: "I thought that the book was quality, yes, including the ending which I thought was a great ending - a cliffhanger that left you not being able to sleep, (well I did sleep, but I was still dreaming about it.) It has an intriguing story line which if described would sound hardly exciting, but is the complete opposite. A group of people in a room = boring. A group of people made up by Kevin Brooks in a room = a gripping page turning book that you cannot put down. I give this book a 95% rating."

## **Scholastic Books**

Thank you to those who placed orders through the Scholastic Book Club to enable your children to read many books over the summer holidays. In case you missed the deadline, you could still order **online and for home delivery only** up until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July: <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/jcoss>. The whole pack of Carnegie Shortlisted books is on sale at a reduced price.

Ms Mulkis, LRC

## Read Every Day competition:



We have registered with Scholastic to enter "Read Every Day" competition over the summer holidays. Students need to go online and download a form on which they will enter every single book they read over the summer holidays. Every day, they will also get a chance to win prizes online.

In September, we will collect the entry forms and send them to Scholastic in order to have the chance to win £500 for the school and a free visit by Liz Pichon who wrote the popular "Tom Gates" series. The school which has the largest number of books read, will win the prize. The website address is:

<http://www.scholastic.co.uk/readeveryday>

## Reading for pleasure improves maths skills in children

A study by the Institute of Education at the University of London has found that children who read for pleasure perform significantly better at school than those who read less. Reading for pleasure had more effect than their parents' level of education on the cognitive development of the children studied. It was shown to improve performance in vocabulary, spelling and maths tests.

## Amazon Wish List

Many thanks and Mazel Tov to Elaine Miller in 7R and her family who donated books to the LRC last month. If you would like to donate a book to commemorate your child's birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or any other occasion, we have a wish list on Amazon which is frequently updated. To access the list, log on to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and click on "gift and wish list". Enter "JCoSS" into the name bar. Select the book(s) you would like to buy. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative label in the donated book(s). Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!

## **Year 13 Leavers BBQ**

