

Dear Parents,

Two statistics have caught my ear from the news this week. The first is that average life expectancy is currently rising by over 2 years per decade. This means that for every day we live through, our life expectancy increases by about 5 hours. The editorial timetable for the Newsletter is such that by the time you read what I am currently writing a whole extra day will have been added to your life – even more if, as I hope, you read it again and again for months to come. What a great service we offer our readers...

Statistical sleight of hand aside, it is a fascinating thought to ponder. It is a tribute to advances in medical science, and to economic and social progress; it also gives pause for thought that life expectancy varies so hugely even within the UK, never mind across the world; but lastly it gives plenty to reflect on spiritually and religiously also. However long life lasts, what is it for? How should we best live it? What, if anything, does it mean, and where, if anywhere, is it headed?

Given that our students' lives are extended by well over a year during their 7 years at JCoSS, these are questions that should always be alive or us. How can we best equip students for this gradually extending span of life, weaving together the rich resources of Jewish tradition with the rest of human endeavour – as the educationalist Matthew Arnold put it, "the best that has been said and thought in the world".

Not a bad answer came to me last Friday lunchtime as I enjoyed a beautiful combination: the first strains of the Kabbalat Shabbat service mingling with the JCoSS Science Fair. On the one hand, the ancient tradition of welcoming Shabbat with candles, song, wine and challah – bringing centuries of reflection on the rhythms and circles of life into the midst of school life in our Heart Space. On the other hand, some of our keenest scientists presenting experiments they had designed and researched themselves, the culmination of a wonderful week of interactive and exploratory activities. The best of all worlds, you might say.

In the same place a week earlier, the entire school – staff included – were, and looked, thoroughly silly as we carried out the mitzvah of Purim to enjoy ourselves. I hope you are among the 3,700 who have seen it online. I would like to pay tribute to the Informal Jewish Education department who gave us all such a marvellous day. This is a good place to make a special mention of Mr Rosenberg who (with Ms Gold holding the camera) was the driving force behind the Purimspiel. He leaves us at the end of this term to become head of Redbridge Community Centre – a wonderful move for him and for them, but one that leaves JCoSS somewhat bereft.

Mr Rosenberg has been at JCoSS since we opened and is part of the landscape. He filled in as Director of Jewish Education during Ms Robinson's 2 maternity absences, and his combination of deep spirituality and deep irreverence makes him a unique and much-loved presence at JCoSS. He goes with our love and best wishes, as do Rabbi Barrett (to lead the Reform Community in Bournemouth) and Mrs Kos who is relocating to Lincolnshire. We are grateful to them both – and we particularly salute the huge developments in Music which Mrs Kos has overseen since joining us in 2011.

Staff leave and staff join: the second statistic from this week's news is that London apparently now qualifies as the 6th largest city in France on the basis of the population of over 300,000 French nationals who live here. I am delighted that one of them is Ms Sara Wagman who joins us next term as Head of Modern Languages, as per my email announcement the other week. In the same email I promised introductions to some of the senior staff we have appointed this term, and Mrs Mitchell-Golding (head of Key Stage 3 from September) is the first to be featured in later pages.

School is not simply a time to prepare for life (however long it lasts and whichever country it takes us to): it is life, to be enjoyed, explored and extended for its own sake, and we are certainly doing that at JCoSS.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

“It happened, therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say” Primo Levi

On 5th-6th of March 2014, 22 students from Year 13 along with Mr Stump, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Juggler visited cities of Poland to learn about the Nazi genocide and its impact on the Jewish Community.

Our first day was cold and overcast as we explored the Jewish quarter of Krakow, seeing several museums, synagogues, the Krakow ghetto and the remains of Plaszów camp. This enabled us to realise the vibrancy of Jewish life prior to war and thus appreciate the extent of the Nazi destruction.

The second day focused on the Holocaust itself. We witnessed Oscar Schindler’s factory, the site in which, through paid employment, he saved thousands of Jews. Shortly after, we travelled to the site of Auschwitz in an attempt to comprehend the magnitude of persecution in order to become spokespersons for the next generation.

Visiting Poland was not only an empowering experience but a necessary one. Something we found remarkable was the Jewish Community Centre, located in the heart of Krakow. The centre encourages interaction between Jews and non-Jews and gave us a real insight into the potential of pluralism. In addition, the fact that a new Jewish community can emerge from such a traumatic past seems to demonstrate true survival.

In Auschwitz-Birkenau, several people exclaimed, independently of each other, “I have never felt more proud to be Jewish”. This indicates how expressing one’s Jewish identity is the ultimate defiance of the Nazi agenda.

This trip taught us how privileged we are to have so many opportunities and to live in a society which so values us. We now feel it is our duty to take advantage of the benefits we have access to, in the memory of all those whose lives were cut short. Furthermore, we must continue to educate others about the horrors of the holocaust. As George Santayana said, “the one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again”.

To read Dom Coleman’s account of the trip, visit JCoSS.org/latest_news



Newsletter Highlights

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3 April

Year 10 Parents Evening: 4.30- 7.30pm

Monday 7 April

Fables & Bagels, Episode 4:

'The Loneliness of the Chametz Bagel'

Wednesday 9 April – Thursday 10 April

Schools Will Rock You show: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Friday 11 April

School closes for Pesach/Spring break at 1.25pm

Summer Term 2014

Thursday 24 April

School reopens for Summer Term.

Students start at 9.30am - week 1, lesson 2.

From Friday 25 April until the October half term school will finish at 2.02pm each Friday.

School coaches will run later to match

Sun 27 April – Thursday 1 May

Year 10 Spanish Trip

Wednesday 7 May

Year 8 Parents Evening: 4.30-7.30pm

Monday 12 May – Friday 6 June

Year 12 Study Leave

Friday 16 May

Year 13 Final Day of lessons

Monday 19 May – Friday 23 May

Y9 Internal Exam Week

Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

School closed for half term

Monday 2 June

School re-opens as usual at 8.30am

Tuesday 3 June

School will close for Shavuot at 2.02pm

Wednesday 4 June – Thursday 5 June

School closed for Shavuot

Monday 9 June – Friday 13 June

Y7/8 Internal Exam Week

Monday 9 June – Monday 23 June

Year 9 Israel trip

Sunday 22 June – Thursday 26 June

Year 8 Normandy trip

Monday 30 June – Friday 4 July

Y10 Internal Exam Week

Monday 7 July

School will close at 2.02pm for staff training

Wednesday 9 July

Celebration evening: 6.00 – 8.30pm

Thursday 10 July

Sports Day (Woodside Stadium, Watford)

Friday 18 July

School closes at 2.02pm for the Summer Break

Autumn Term 2014

Tuesday 2 September

School re-opens for Year 7, Year 12 & Year 13

Wednesday 3 September

Year 8 – Year 11 return to School.

Many thanks to Sharna Nothman from the Flower and Balloon Room for our Purim balloons!

For all occasions, contact Sharna on 0208 886 2471

The
Flower &
Balloon Room



JCoSS Win the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival... AGAIN!

On the 3rd March at the Barn Theatre in WGC, the JCoSS entry in this year's Festival was 'Playing From The Heart' by Charles Way.

The play concerns the childhood of the world-famous percussionist Evelyn Glennie who, having had failing hearing from the age of 8, was diagnosed as profoundly deaf by the time she was 12. This in no way thwarted her spirit, nor her determination. In the face of adversity, Evelyn decided she was going to become a professional percussionist. Through her talent and perseverance, Evelyn won a place at the Royal College of Music in London. The rest is history.

This year, auditions were open to the GCSE Drama students. The play was cast, rehearsals commenced in earnest in January and the challenge was on! Firstly, Evelyn is Scottish - and when playing their roles, all seven students had to deliver their lines in a Scottish accent. And they did just that! To perfection! And noch....in addition, they succeeded in switching their 'Scottish' characters with other cameo roles throughout the piece. Our young, talented cast guided their audience through an unforgettable 50 minutes of pathos and humour, performing with maturity, pace, subtlety, focus and panache.

On the 70th Anniversary of this prestigious Welwyn Garden City Festival, the JCoSS team rose to the occasion once again, winning 1st place and the Elizabeth Cory Wright Trophy.

A huge "Mazeltov" to Yasmin Arron-Gonzalez, Murray Cohen, Gemma Eshkeri, Louis Gershon, Kezia Niman and Dana Nitzani!

There will be an opportunity to see the play at school at some point in the near future.



JCoSS Book Award 2014

I am delighted to announce the shortlisted books for this year's Book Award.



We would like all students to read as many of the shortlisted books as possible, and will be encouraging them to read them during library lessons as well as in their own time! After reading each book, students will complete a form which we will ask you to sign. **These will then be placed into a draw. Prize winners will be drawn in June and the lucky winners will attend a performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in the West End!**

Please note that *Eleanor and Park* is suitable for Young Adults.

Mrs K Lightman



FANTASTIC PRIZE!

Year 8 Trip to The Merchant Of Venice by Noam Solomons-Wise

One of the topics we study in Year 8 is Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice", and earlier this month we went to see the play at Shakespeare's Globe theatre.

Prior to the trip we had a session with a Shakespearean actress delving into the themes of the play and how each character reacted to the other characters according to the circumstance they were in. This session boosted our understanding of the play and revealed the genius of Shakespeare's mind behind the script.

The performance at The Globe was just for school students and had been slightly adapted to suit the audience. The producer had staged the play as a modern adaption of Shakespeare's comedy about the troubles of the characters of Venice.

Everyone seemed excited to be going to the production, as many of us had never been to see a Shakespeare play at The Globe before.

Once we got into the theatre and had settled in our seats, the musicians for the play came onto the front of the stage and played some music. Just before the play started all the actors came up onto a central hexagonal shaped stage and along with the band performed the pop song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. Straight after this, the play started.

The modern take on Shakespeare's play had Bassanio and Antonio in smart but party-like suits, Portia – the fair lady of Belmont – was costumed in a flowery dress and all the other characters followed a similar style.

Despite the fact we were in a theatre production, it felt slightly like we had been to a party because of the way the actors and actresses engaged with the audience or just the style of the production.

Although I really enjoyed the outing and watching my first Shakespeare's play at The Globe, I was a little bit disappointed with the adaptation of the script. I felt it didn't give complete justice to the play because it was a bit lightly taken and I thought it would have been more entertaining with a bit more sincerity.

All in all it was a great trip, I enjoyed it and I think everyone else did too. Hopefully our study of the play will be enriched by the experience of watching it.



JCoSS Parents Association

A fun-filled evening was enjoyed by 11 teams at the Annual Supper Quiz, hosted by the celebrity quizmaster, Rob Nothman who can usually be heard on the radio commenting on football matches. We would like to thank our sponsors and all those who kindly donated raffle prizes.



A really huge thank you to the anonymous donor who offered to match the sum raised on the evening.

Including the generous donation, **a grand total of £2920 profit** was made, which will go towards the proposed tiered seating for the main school hall.

JPA meeting
Thursday 3rd April
To discuss next events and direction for JPA
8.00 pm
Venue to be confirmed

Poetry on the Frontline Event at Jewish Book Week

Below is Orli Vogt Vincent's winning poem from the Poetry on the Frontline event. She performed the poem brilliantly with great poise, winning positive feedback from the panellists. Lucas Samuel also performed with real confidence and energy in his rendition of Siegfried Sassoon's poem 'Does It Matter'. They were both fantastic ambassadors for JCoSS.

Human by Orli Vogt Vincent

It is the greatest noise, that causes the greatest silence.
It is the greatest silence, that causes the greatest pain.
And it is the greatest pain that takes away an identity.
Superficial fantasies and self-absorbed optimisms drift away,
just like the clouds overhead: a sanguine complexity, it seems. Blood red.
Drawn from the lives war has taken so easily. Do they not see?
Life isn't something tangible, to clasp between your fingers.
It is an opportunity for integrity, something that forever lingers.
Sitting in a trench, forgetting what you once were, with only thoughts for company.
Contemplating how hatred has come to be so extreme: that the first-place prize is life.
Wondering that if God made man, why is man fighting man?
Why is man not fighting hunger, or disease, sorrow, or poverty?
Why are men sitting in their own dirt, battling through what they think is cowardice:
But what is really human.
That glint in the soldier's eye: that glint that tells you everything and nothing about who they are.
Or who they were. Human.
It is the greatest noise, that causes the greatest silence.
It is the greatest silence, that causes the greatest pain.
And it is the greatest pain that takes away an identity.
That takes away a human.

SCHOOLS WE WILL ROCK YOU!

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April



School Hall – 7pm

Tickets are now on sale from Reception

£6 adults/£4 concessions

GCSE Dance, Drama and Music Showcase Evenings

On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th June, the GCSE Dance, Drama and Music students will be presenting a showcase of work. The event will take place in the School Hall/Drama Studio and will be free of charge.

Ms S Miller
Head of Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty

Kashrut Rules at JCoSS: A reminder for students and parents

- No food, other than food supplied by Caterplus, should be taken into the canteen at any time.
- Food brought into school by students must be either kosher certified or vegetarian.
- No meat may be brought onto the JCoSS campus.
- Only kosher fish may be brought onto the JCoSS campus.
- No food prepared in the Food Tech room or the PSRP kitchen may be brought into the school canteen.

Able and Ambitious

The Brilliant Club

24 *Able and Ambitious* Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the launch ceremony of The Brilliant Club at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford on Monday 3rd February. The purpose of the day was to introduce students to The Brilliant Club, their PhD tutor and their assigned programme of study. The students enjoyed a tour of the campus by second year undergraduates, had a study session run by The Brilliant Club team and then undertook their first tutorial based on either STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) or a Humanities subject. Students will attend 4 further tutorials run by PhD students, who are world experts in their field of study, before submitting a 2000-word assignment.



The application process for the Year 12 Brilliant Club programme will begin at the beginning of April. Announcements and information regarding the programme will be made via assemblies and through Year 12 form tutors.

Table Tennis coaching for Able and Ambitious students

Twenty ambitious sports students have been taking part in the *Urban Table Tennis* elite coaching sessions on a Thursday evening. The coaching programme runs for a period of 6 weeks and focuses on developing individual skills as well as match play tactics.



IGGY

Connecting and
challenging the world's
brightest young minds

A cohort of Year 8 students have been busy using IGGY.net, which is an online social network for *Able & Ambitious* students, providing them with challenging tasks and activities developed by top academics at Warwick University. It allows students to get to know and collaborate with other able students from around the world. IGGY is quickly building their membership across the UK and further afield in Singapore, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Indonesia. The IGGY club runs each Friday lunch from 12:20 to 12:50 and attendance is compulsory for all IGGY members.

Able and Ambitious Continued...

A large cohort of students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be participating in an Aspire STEM event at JCoSS from Monday April 28th to Wednesday 30th April. The workshops are run by *'Inspire More Able Thinkers in Education'* and are designed to give students the opportunity to work on a subject in a non-classroom situation, applying their knowledge and stretching their thinking skills to solve problems and come to reasoned conclusions. The STEM sessions will be available to those students who have demonstrated consistency in their attitude and determination within science, their ability and potential within science and maths and their problem solving aptitude.

Jewish Hackney Walking Tour

During early February a group of 12 Year 8 Able & Ambitious JE students had the exciting opportunity to participate in a walking tour of Jewish Hackney, led by Rachel Kolsky, Blue Badge Guide and founder of Go London Tours. The tour began at Hackney Central station and covered sites including the Hackney Town Hall, Hackney Empire, Brent House Road synagogue and various other locations, before ending at Ridley Road market.

The students also had the opportunity to interview some local residents and members of the Brenner Centre (an elderly care centre) to gain a perspective of their lives and memories of growing up in East End London.



Michelle Paver's event

Students were taken to East Barnet School to a joint event to listen to Michelle Paver, the 2010 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize Winner. She spoke about her famous series "Chronicles of Ancient Darkness" and "Gods and Warriors" and how she found inspiration through her travels to write them as if the stories were real.

The children were told that if they wanted to write stories, they should leave their computers and their mobile phones in another room!

This is Ruben Clark's account of the event:

When I went to see Michelle Paver speak about her books, I had already read 'Wolf Brother', the first book of Paver's fantastic series, and 'The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness'. 'Wolf Brother' is the story of a boy, Torak, who is on the brink of death, starving, terrified, wounded and on the run. His life manages to last as he meets Wolf. Automatically, the two become trusted companions and best friends. I found this a touching story, but I was unaware that Michelle Paver was writing another series, "Gods and Warriors". Michelle Paver was so inspiring about this new series. I learnt all about the different risks she took just to write her book, instead of going the easy way and looking facts up on the internet. She showed me that there's more that you can get from nature than paper and nuts. There is a whole world out there. My favourite part of the talk was when she mentioned the animals. She spoke like she felt a special connection with animals which I want to have when I'm older. Although I have only read the first chapter of the first book "The Outsiders", I am looking forward to reading about the magical dolphin and lion cub. Paver's resourcefulness from the natural world, making weapons and shelter has changed the way I think and I'm very grateful to her for sharing her story with us!





Maccabi Table Tennis & Badminton Tournament

Like the Nolans, Ben Felt and Samuel Lachmann were in the mood at the Maccabi Tournament as they wiped the floor with the inferior opposition in the Year 8 Badminton competition. Running out clear winners, they were unstoppable as they smashed, cleared and served their way through the rounds with the utmost aplomb. In the Table Tennis Year 8 contest Saul Shimoni and Eddie Lisberg nabbed 2nd place, only losing out to the National standard player at JFS. Other results included: Ryan Isaacs and Jamie Lesser - 4th place Year 9 Table Tennis Tom Stepsky and Saul Fenton - 4th place, Year 9 Badminton. The students played and won with pride, lost matches with dignity and upheld an outstandingly positive ethos throughout the tournament. Well done to all those others involved: Josh Frances and Jamie Freedman



JCoSS Year 10 Football

JCoSS Year 10 Football team narrowly lost out 3-2 against Totteridge Academy in a highly entertaining fixture. After missing a penalty, which would have seen them take lead 2-1, they were left to rue their missed chances as Totteridge twice scored from the spot to seal the victory.

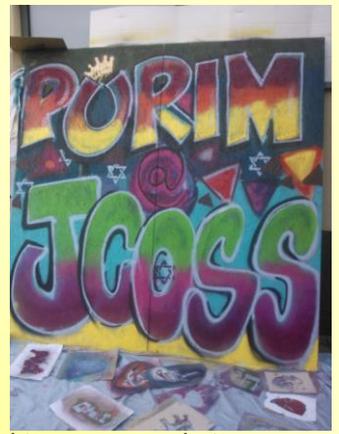


JCoSS KS3 Table Tennis Team vs London Academy

JCoSS narrowly lost out 23-24 to the National Training centre for Table tennis, London Academy this month. Having taken a 6 match lead after the first round, JCoSS played their way back into the contest through the consistent play of Saul Shimoni, Ben Felt and Scott Levenson. It was nip and tuck all the way as neither side were able to stamp their authority on the match. However, in the final round it was decided by the smallest of margins as London Academy out-scored JCoSS by two points in one game to claim the win by one match overall. Well done to the following students: Ben Felt, Alex Bogen, Joshua Frances, Gabriel Platt, Sam Taylor, Jamie Lesser, Ryan Isaacs, James Rich, Scott Levenson, Eddie Lisberg, Theo Rubins and Saul Shimoni.

Purim 5774 at JCoSS

The wonderful thing about Purim at JCoSS is the joy and spirit with which everyone participates. This year saw a huge variety of workshops and activities taking place throughout the school, including drumming, circus skills, a murder mystery, graffiti and stand-up comedy. In addition Years 7 and 8 made mischloach manot (gifts of food) and Purim greetings which were distributed to local Jewish Care homes.



Lunchtime saw live music, dancing and lots of sweet treats in the Heart Space, as well as a balloon modelling stand and a photo booth. We had a modern re-telling of the Purim story, a spoof newsletter and the premier of the JCoSS staff Purimspiel (you can find it on our website or on Youtube!).

There were some fantastic costumes from students and staff, some of which displayed great creativity and others great nerve!

Every part of the school participated in making such a great day happen – a huge thank you to the teaching and support staff, site team and catering team for being so supportive and such good sports. Congratulations to the Art and Humanities departments for winning the staff team costume prizes as well as to Ms Burman and Rabbi Barratt for winning the individual costume prizes.

Most importantly we raised well over £1000 for our school charities whilst celebrating Purim in style!

Ms S Levan



The Gothic Show by Miriam Clifton 8N

On 7th March, JCoSS students were treated to an interesting alternative to their usual midweek period 5 – an actor from a theatre company visited school to depict a gothic genre of literature adopted by authors such as Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker.

The actor (wearing Victorian dress and sporting sideburns, most likely for the role) introduced himself, and went on to set the scene for his first enactment – set in a dark medieval castle which the owners proclaim to contain a haunted Red Room. Lights dimmed, curtains were drawn, and suddenly a nervous whisper echoed through the crowd of usually nonchalant 13 year olds...what we had expected to be just a workshop in the MPH had turned out to be a much more poignant, interacting experience for all. I for one was on the edge of my seat the entire time, for the atmosphere in the room was so suspense-filled, one could cut it with a knife (the phrase is somewhat ironic based on the horror stories we were told!).

The workshop was an enlightening experience for all, and from hearing comments passed on the way out of the hall, my peers shared the same thoughts!



My Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Training Expedition by Naomi Stein Year 12

While many students were spending their half term on holiday, doing homework, or just relaxing, I spent mine in the Brecon Beacons in Wales, on a training expedition for my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. There is another expedition in the Brecon Beacons in April, and the assessed expedition will be in Snowdonia in August.

I have completed my Bronze and Silver awards and I do not want to stop there! I knew that Gold would be a challenge, as the terrain is much more difficult than Bronze and Silver and it is for a day longer. I loved it though, the views were beautiful at the top of the mountains and I experienced snow for the first time this year. It was very hard to walk in, as it was so deep and cold, but I like the challenge that the Gold DofE Award offers. I improved my map reading skills and teamwork too. It wasn't easy working out the routes as there wasn't always a footpath to follow. It was important to use bearings on the compass to make sure we were going in exactly the right direction. I was the only student from JCoSS doing the training expedition, but that didn't bother me. I met many people from other Jewish and non-Jewish schools who were all very nice and friendly. Each day I walked with different people so I could create new friendships. There were Jews from all over the UK, mainly London, but also from Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland.

As well as walking, there were other tasks we had to undertake in order to complete the training. We had to learn the 20 conditions for the expedition, as well as general first aid and different scenarios if a member gets injured during the walk. We pitched a tent one day, although we did not sleep in it, but for the actual expedition we will be camping. On the last night we cooked our own meal using the stoves provided and then we washed up. As the scheme is organised by JLGB all the food was kosher.

We also planned the routes we would walk the night before. We had to work out the distance we would travel, the directions, the height gain and give a brief description of the route as well as drawing it on the map. We were only given grid references for the start and end point and it was up to us to decide where our checkpoints and campsites would be, whereas on Bronze and Silver the campsites and checkpoints are already given. I would really recommend doing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

As well as the expedition, there are other sections to complete which are: physical, skill, volunteering and residential. Each of these sections has to be completed over a certain period of time. It is a globally recognised award, which brings new and enjoyable challenges.



LRC News

French illustrator Barroux's visit

Barroux, a French book illustrator, came to JCoSS to speak about his famous book "Line of Fire" to some enthusiastic Year 7 students. He told them how, one day, walking through the streets of Paris, he found the diary of an unknown soldier of the First World War and decided to illustrate the story while keeping the soldier's own words. Subsequently, the book was made into a show which, we were told, will come to London later this year. Students who purchased his book on the day received a lovely autograph in the form of an illustration.



World Book Day



All students received a World Book Day token that they can swap for one of ten £1 World Book Day books or, they can use their token to get £1 off any full price book from a local bookshop. They have until the 30th March to get their book and they can also win tickets to see "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by entering the prize draw at worldbookday.com/golden-ticket

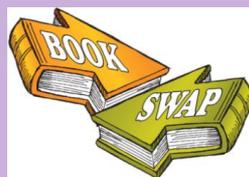
This token can also be redeemed if you place an order in the latest issue of the Scholastic Book Club. Books are already hugely reduced in price and orders should be placed online at: <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/jcoss>

We also celebrated World Book Day in a way to involve every subject. At the beginning of each lesson, no matter what the subject, the teacher read an extract of a short story. By the end of the school day, all students had the opportunity to hear many short stories told by many different teachers.

The JCoSS Book Award shortlist was also announced on World Book Day (see page 4 of this Newsletter). A selection of these books is now available in the LRC for students to borrow. The more books they read, the better chance they have to win the fabulous competition prize!

Book swap

At break and lunchtime, students had the opportunity to swap their JCoSS book tokens for another book.



Thank you very much to everyone who brought books to school for this event.

120 books were swapped in a very successful event!



Amazon Wish List

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 and click on "gift and wish list". Enter "JCoSS" into the name bar. Select the book(s) you would like to buy for the School.

First News competition

We are extremely proud and pleased for Denis Antor in 8B who won a competition he entered through "First News", a newspaper aimed at students which we receive every week in the LRC. See below his experience at The House of Lords and his photo taken with Lord Hunt of Kings Heath:

When I arrived with my parents at The Houses of Parliament it was early, so we thought we might try to visit it. Luckily the guard let us in so we then had to go through security which was like at an airport. Then we saw the House of Commons debate about the consumer rights bill, which sadly was short. Afterwards I went to the House of Lords where we had to go through security again, after which we went to the Cholmondeley Room & Terrace where all the Lords eat. Soon the presentation started; it was about how people are affected by CO poisoning and we met Baroness Finley who spoke about what CO-Gas Safety do. We met heroes of the charity and survivors of CO poisoning; then Stephanie, the co-director of the company, nominated me as the junior ambassador for CO-Gas Safety. I met people from Ofgem, Gas Safe, British Gas, Wales & West Utilities. After the presentation I spoke with Stephanie who was so impressed by my ideas that she decided to recruit me as a member for the charity. I had a truly amazing experience.



Lit Quiz

In the last two weeks of March, Year 7 students will have an opportunity to test their knowledge of books at a "Lit Quiz" competition. Students who will get the best score will then represent JCoSS at a Barnet inter-school competition and we hope to be able to retrieve "The Winning Cup" (JCoSS was the winner two years ago!). Many websites including "Scholastic" and "The Guardian" offer a selection of quizzes. It is a fun way to train before the event takes place!

Scholastic Book Fair / Parent help needed

Help will be needed for the popular **Scholastic Book Fair** which will take place in the Heart Space from **Monday 12th May** for a week; if you are willing to get involved, please contact Mrs Mulkis in the LRC. Many thanks.



Please note that we will be running reduced opening hours of the LRC over the last three weeks of April due to staff absence. See below for further details:

- Monday 7th April: normal opening hours (8.35 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Tuesday 8th April: Open from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. (closed at break time) and from 12 noon to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday 9th April: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 1.35 p.m. (closed in the afternoon / no Home Learning club)
- Thursday 10th April: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 4 p.m. (No Home Learning club)
- Thursday 24th April: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 4 p.m. (No Home Learning club)
- Monday 28th April: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 1.35 p.m. (closed in the afternoon / no home learning club)
- Tuesday 29th April: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 5 p.m. (NB: Closed at break time)
- Wednesday 30th April: Closed all day (Year 7 inter school Lit Quiz competition in the LRC)
- Thursday 1st May: Open from 8.35 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. (no Home Learning Club)

JCoSS Science Week 2014

Science week at JCoSS has been a resounding success. Based on the theme of 'cold science', it has seen our science faculty inspiring and enriching students, aiming to show off more of our passion for the subject. Events have included a birthday party for Einstein (his 135th, and still looking young for it), organised superbly by our Senior Technician Mrs Hancock, where students were able to explore some amazing and visually exciting phenomena such as friction and static electricity. We were regaled by a lecture given by Miss Garfield that looked at the possibility of life on icy moons and planets within our galaxy.

Students have also had the chance to investigate a crime, in order to prove which member of the science faculty committed a grisly (but thankfully fictitious) murder in the Heart Space here at school. All of the science faculty were suspects, but it was the suspicious attitude of Mrs Kaye, prowling the Heart Space, that inspired many students to examine the evidence in more detail. Throughout the week assemblies have been run by Mr Lyons and Mr Martin, who have utilised the possibilities of dry ice to both educate and 'wow' the watching students with the possibilities of 'cold science' (there were explosions!).

Close to 180 primary school students have also spent a day here at JCoSS getting a taste of the scientific methodology and lab equipment that they can look forward to in secondary schools. This was amazingly run by Mrs Jones (and many thanks to Mr Simons, Miss Wright and Mr Martin for the time they put into this and Mr Sterlini for the preparation and clean-up work). The final event of the week was the Science Fair: the standard of entry was incredibly high and I was blown away by the dedication, passion and attention to detail of our students.

1st Prize in the Science Fair went to Adam Gould, with Rebecca Saunders and James Nathan, for their video and animation about the effect of the temperature on the moon on some simple experiments

2nd Prize went to Tal Cohen and Nicole Clif for their 'science of cold cooking' demonstrations.

3rd Prize went to Jordan Kenward and Joey Nunes-Dinerstein for their demonstration and video explaining (and proving) why Pluto is/was the coldest planet in our solar system.

I want to say a huge amount of thanks to all my staff in the science faculty, and other staff in the school who helped out with various events throughout the week. It was a huge success and I can't wait until next year.

Mr A Macaulay
Head of Faculty – Science



Mr Lyons definitely not letting the experiment get out of hand during assembly!



Students inspecting the murder scene in the Heart Space.



Students getting a close view of some dry ice experiments during assembly.

New Teacher Biography: Mrs Louise Mitchell Golding, Head of Key Stage 3

Mrs Louise Mitchell Golding joins us from September, to be in charge of Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). Her post is one of three newly created roles, one for each Key Stage: as Assistant Headteachers they come below Deputy Headteachers in the hierarchy of the Senior Leadership Team; they will work closely with the Deputy Heads, and the Year Learning Co-ordinators in their Key Stage, to have strategic overview of academic progress and wellbeing so that students are stretched, developed and supported in the best possible way.

Mrs Mitchell Golding is an outstanding English teacher, currently at Bentley Wood school in Harrow. She has had a rapid rise during her 5 years in the profession, assisted no doubt by her great warmth and energy. Her roots are in the North London Jewish community and she has previously worked also for the Council of Christians and Jews. She introduces herself below, and parents will be able to meet her early in the new academic year.

I am delighted to be joining the JCoSS community in September. My passion for teaching stems from my desire to help students become moral and ethical citizens and to give them the tools to succeed in their academic and personal journeys. I have a background in interfaith relations and am excited to be sharing the skills of respectful dialogue and thoughtful self-reflection at JCoSS.

I am passionate, too, about giving students a voice within education. It was lovely to meet representatives of the Student Council in February and am looking forward to seeing more of their work next year. I have done much in my current school to help a whole range of students find areas in which they can lead and inspire others; I am always excited and often awed by the talent of students and I'm looking forward to discovering more.

I have a degree in English literature and a Masters in Critical Theory. Though my greatest achievement is my FA football referee qualification - and yes, I can explain the offside rule. I love finding out what makes people tick; I learn from everyone I work with both inside and outside the classroom and intend to keep doing so.

I am really looking forward to meeting and working with you from September and can't wait to join the fabulous community that is the students, staff, parents and governors of JCoSS.



JCoSS Parents' Association

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN AS USUAL AT THE

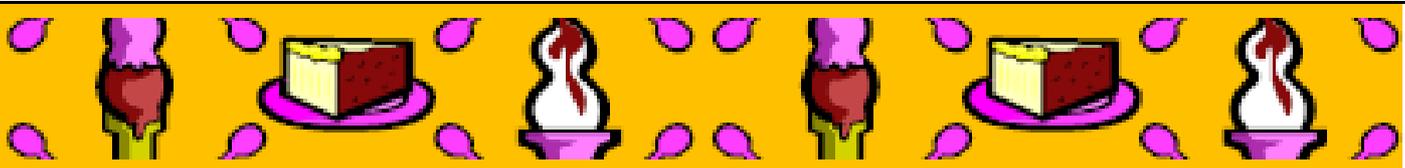
YEAR 8 PARENT EVENING
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY
4.30pm to 6.45pm

All clothes laundered and sold at a fraction of their cost!

If you would like to donate uniform your child has outgrown, please ask them to hand it in to Mrs Benjamin at Student Services labelled "donated uniform"

or contact Sharna Nothman at jcoSSpa@outlook.com

All proceeds to the JCoSS Parents' Association



Fables & Bagels

Jewish Family Education at JCoSS

EPISODE FOUR: Monday 7 April 2014 6.30—8.30pm

Pesach: the Loneliness of the Chametz Bagel!

Pesach is one of our most beautiful festivals, where families gather together around the groaning table to recite the Haggadah, eat strange foods and argue with Auntie Sadie over whose knedlach are the lightest and fluffiest! It's a festival that celebrates freedom, but also creates memories for the next generation.

Our Fables and Bagels night will explore the customs and traditions of Pesach, learn songs with "Shir" and also use our creative skills to illustrate our very own Haggadah and make everything you will need for your own Seder table...

... and make and bake your OWN Matzah in the world famous Chabad Matzah Baking Workshop



Book now by snail mail, email or phone

£15 per family or £5 individual payable in advance by cheque ("JCOSS") or alternatively on the night

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING DETAILS PHONE LAURIE ROSENBERG 0208 344 2220

EMAIL lrosenberg@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk

JCOSS CASTLEWOOD ROAD NEW BARNET EN4 9GE

