

Dear Parents,

“Negotiated Obedience”

Rabbi Harvey Belovski has neatly characterised the relationship between the Jewish people and God through history as one of “negotiated obedience”. To take just one example from the Torah, when God is minded to destroy the people of Sodom (Genesis 18-19) Abraham successfully barter him down so that he agrees to spare the city if only 10 righteous men are found there. In this and many other stories, the willingness of leaders and of the whole people to complain, to argue, to take issue with the Almighty is often striking. They do usually obey, but .

In fact Sodom was destroyed after all – with fire and brimstone, says the story – but the skills of debate and advocacy have served the Jewish people well down the centuries. An ability to persuade articulately and appropriately is one we value at JCoSS and want students to develop – but the word “appropriately” is important: they must learn to read situations correctly, and know when it’s not time to negotiate but just time to obey. When our students’ behaviour drives the staff to distraction, it is very rarely because they are malicious or aggressive. Much more often it is when they refuse to accept a straightforward punishment for a low-level matter, or try to negotiate their sanction or to argue with members of staff over their right to discipline them. Parents may be familiar with the scenario!

For most of us it truly “was not like this in our day”: there is a genuine shift in attitude and an empowerment of the young that is in many ways welcome. But not in all ways: children’s rights are the flipside of responsibilities, and a basic right for all in a school must be to teach and to learn without needless interruption. Repeated low-level undermining (often masquerading as chutzpah) is probably the single most demoralising aspect of life in the classroom – not because we want silent compliance but because we simply want to be able to teach.

While we are dealing in stark truths, it is a source of shame to JCoSS that students behave notably less well for visiting teachers – whether coming for interview or as supply cover – than they do for teachers they know. They also behave less well for support staff than for teachers. I am disturbed by this: we pride ourselves on our openness, welcome and tolerance, but in this respect some students are not living up to our aims.

Please don’t misunderstand me here: behaviour is certainly good at JCoSS, usually very good – but not yet outstanding, as it should be. We are currently undertaking a thorough review of it and students and parents alike should be prepared for changes ahead. Some students need to do less negotiating and more obedience, and when they do it will become better for everyone. Parents can help us by resisting the temptation to believe uncritically a child’s version of events; by remembering that there are at least two sides to every story; and by expressing concerns in a spirit of calm and collaboration rather than one of haste or hostility.

A rather sombre message to open this newsletter, but an important one. Please do not let it detract from the rich celebration of the life of the school in the pages that follow. From the solemnity of Yom Hazikaron to the exuberance of Yom Ha’atzmaut, from the cultural riches of Spain to sporting triumphs across Barnet from the technological triumphs of STEM to performing triumphs of ‘We Will Rock You’, the school is in good heart.

I wish you a good half term.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Year 10 French Trip, by Rebecca Middleburgh

La semaine dernière, nous avons passé le meilleur moment ensemble à voyager autour de Paris. En arrivant à l'hôtel, nous avons rencontré Yorick qui était notre animateur informatif pendant notre séjour. Je suis contente que nous avons visité des lieux plus originaux et inattendus: bien que le musée des égouts semble horrible, vraiment on ne pense jamais au sujet de qui se passe, alors en fait, je l'ai trouvé assez intéressant! Un autre point fort était le Château de Versailles, où j'ai appris l'histoire du Roi Louis XIV. De plus, voir la salle des Glaces, en vrai, était fantastique! Pendant le dernier jour, tout le monde a apprécié le tour derrière la scène du cinéma le Grand Rex. Probablement la plupart des gens n'y voit que le resultat final – le film – au lieu de la fabrication, et le tour était plein de droles de surprises. Nous nous sommes sentis tristes de partir de Paris. Personne n'a voulu retourner à Londres, cependant nous espérons y revenir bientôt à l'avenir.

The Translation is below:

Last week, we had a wonderful time travelling around Paris. When we arrived at the hotel, we met Yorick, who was our information animateur for our stay. I am happy that we visited original and unexpected places. Though the sewers' museum seems horrible, we don't really think of what's happening there, so actually I found it quite interesting! Another strong point was the Château of Versailles, where I learnt the history of the King Louis XIV. Besides, seeing the hall of Glass for real was fantastic! During the last day, everybody enjoyed the behind-the-scenes tour of the Rex Cinema. Most people probably only get to see the final result – the film – instead of seeing its making, and the tour was full of surprises. We felt sad about leaving Paris. Nobody wanted to go back to London, but we hope we can go back there soon in the future.



Newsletter Highlights

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Term 2014

Monday 12 May – Friday 6 June	Year 12 Study Leave
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.

Young Enterprise

Congratulations to the Year 12 Young Enterprise company, HSS. Their 'Taste Through Time' cookbook which was aimed at getting children and parents cooking together was an excellent product and their hard work took them to the North London finals of the competition. It had been a tough year, with the company having to overcome many hurdles to get their product to market but Adam Soning (Managing Director), Ellie Jackson (Finance Director) and Daniel Rafaeli (Sales Director) gave a strong presentation which reflected their entrepreneurial spirit. Special mention goes to Sasha Nathan who was the driving force behind the cookbook.



IJE News

It has been a busy month in IJE with a wide range of events throughout the school. On Monday 28th April we marked Yom HaShoah in school with a moving and thoughtful ceremony put together by the students who visited Poland with the school in March. The film made by Jaz Eskenzi from Year 13, which was shown on the day, can be seen on the JCoSS website.

Later that week we also invited representatives from a shortlist of charities into school to meet and discuss with students which charities JCoSS should support in the coming year. Through the year we have a great number of school-wide and individual fundraising initiatives and are extremely proud of the level of participation and fundraising which happens at JCoSS. The Charities chosen for the next year are: Camp Simcha, Magen David Adom and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

On the 6 May we spent the day marking Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's independence day) in school. Following a moving memorial service, we moved in to a day-long celebration of contemporary Israeli culture, through film, art, science, politics, food and music. We were also delighted to welcome a delegation of 30 Israeli students into school for the day through the UJIA's Magic Moments programme.

We also marked the start of the new month of Iyyar through our Rosh Chodesh workshops, celebrating through creative channels such as art, music, yoga, cartooning, graphic design and drama.

Finally we were delighted to roll out the IJE Enrichment programme for the summer term – 'Young Jews Telling Joke's'!

We are looking forward to the rest of the term, celebrating Shavuot in school, joining the Y9 trip to Israel and Tzedakah week.



Meet Liz Weddle: Our new Deputy Head starting in September 2014

I am thrilled to have been appointed as Deputy Head at JCoSS; my two days of interviews, and a recent visit, have instilled me with a sense that it will be a wonderful school to be a part of. The warmth and liveliness of the students and staff, and the clearly evident purposeful learning atmosphere, mark it as somewhere very special and I am greatly looking forward to making my own contribution to this unique place.

JCoSS will be my fourth school and I have been truly fortunate in loving each of them. Currently I am Acting Deputy Head at Bushey Meads School in Hertfordshire with a responsibility for developing teaching and learning as well as for Key Stage 5. I also teach English, Media Studies and the Extended Project. To me, English teachers have always seemed particularly fortunate – I can't imagine that there can be anything much better in life than being able to discuss literature and language on a daily basis, and with young people, whose capacity for creative and idiosyncratic takes on texts -which each year I think can yield me no more surprises - seems endless.

Before joining Bushey Meads I worked for ten years at East Barnet School as Head of English. Indeed, much of my work was in the Upper School, exactly the geographical location of JCoSS. It was certainly a little strange arriving at the school on the first morning of my interview; the location was the same but the beautiful JCoSS site bears no relation to the rather tired but well-loved buildings that I had last been at.

My moments of leisure are filled with activities which are shamefully lacking in erudition; gardening, walking the dog, reading...and the recent series of The Great British Sewing Bee has inspired me to blow the cobwebs from my trusty sewing machine and get creative with fabric.

Well, I've made a pair of pyjamas which both my husband and daughter have condemned as ridiculously huge!

I very much look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you in September.



Park and Stride – Good for You, Good for the Environment

As you know, we frequently remind you not to park or drop your children in Westbrook Crescent or Armstrong Crescent in the interest of good relations with our neighbours.

As an alternative option, please try dropping your children further afield in quieter roads. This will prevent congestion in local roads and our drop off zone, can provide an opportunity for your child to benefit from a walk and enable you to make a swift onward journey.

PTA Uniform Sale

We are pleased to inform you that £140 was made at the Year 8 uniform sale last week.

We are in need of extra uniform donations, particularly Purple PE Polo Shirts, Shorts and Blazers. If you have any spare, please could you give them to Student Services.

Many thanks

PTA

Spanish Trip 2014

On 27th April, twenty three JCoSS Year 10 students and three members of staff embarked on a ground breaking educational trip to Andalucía, in Southern Spain. The staff, Miss Gustard – head of Year 10, Mr Marco – head of security and the legendary Señor Fernández – head of Spanish, made the trip special by getting involved with the activities as much as the students. The Year 10s had an amazing time learning about Spanish culture whilst spending time with their friends.

We arrived to a sunny morning in Malaga after a two hour flight- a welcome change from rainy London. We went to the hotel in Torremolinos for a traditional Spanish paella (kosher) and dropped off our bags. The staff at the hotel were very friendly and accommodating especially towards those with specific dietary needs. We then travelled back to Malaga, a short drive away, and visited a medieval castle where we could see an amazing view of the city and countryside in one direction and in the other the clear blue Mediterranean. We walked about the winding quaint streets in the Jewish quarter of the city lined with beautiful houses lead by our fabulous tour guide who only got lost once (or twice). Afterwards we saw interesting and inspiring art at the Picasso museum and one of many thought provoking discussions with Miss Gustard about the significance of his work.

The next day we went to Cordoba where we learned about Spain's short lived multi-cultural history where Jews and Muslims lived in relative harmony before the extremist Castilian Christians took over and expelled the Jews in 1492. This was documented in great detail at "La casa de Sefarad" where we also heard traditional Sephardi music, sung in the language of Sephardi Jews, Ladino. We also learned about Maimonides and later on visited his statue. There was a myth that all those who rubbed the feet of this statue would do well on their exams so as you can imagine we were all enthusiastic to test this out! However seeing the Mezquita de Cordoba was the highlight. The incredible building was decorated with beautiful arches and a mixture of Arabic art and calligraphy and Christian art. This really highlighted the religious tension in Spain's past as under the Muslims the Mezquita had been a Mosque however since the Christian invasion it had been a cathedral.

On the Tuesday, we went to Granada where we heard Spanish guitar music whilst looking out at over Granada, a Mediterranean city surrounded by snowy capped mountains, a majestic sight. We visited markets where there were all manner weird and wonderful things for sale, like Islamic lamps and beautiful jewellery. The next two days we saw more of the beauty and history of Spain including monuments, castles and gardens. It was a fun, eye opening experience which was singlehandedly organised by Señor Fernández.

Kezia Niman year 10



Able and Ambitious

JCoSS STEM Days 2014 - Workshops on the 28th, 29th and 30th April

Over 90 students from Years 9-10 participated in our annual Able and Ambitious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme this year. The programme was offered to students who have shown ability, ambition and potential in science, maths and problem solving.

The workshops were run by '*Inspire - more able thinkers in Education*' and are designed to give students the opportunity to work with a STEM subject in a non-classroom situation, applying their knowledge and stretching their thinking skills to solve problems and to come to reasoned conclusions.

The students were fantastic throughout all three days and their achievements were recognised by the tutor who stated, "JCoSS students were outstanding, with several being exceptional because they scored some of the best results in the synthesising tasks and aptitude tests we have ever seen nationally"

Some of the students stated:

"This was such a brilliant day, why can't we do more of this type of work" Or Rapaport, Year 8

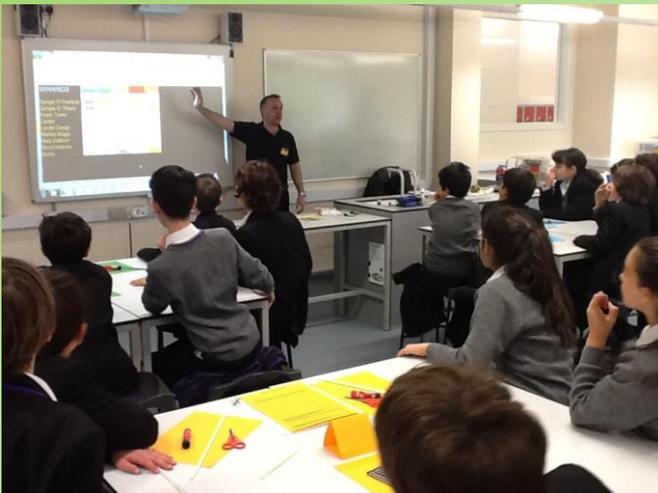
"I enjoyed everything, it was an amazing experience and I hope to do it again" Ethan Levenson, Year 7

"The whole was excellent as it really challenged me" Hannah Brentwood, Year 7

"The finger print dusting was really fun. I also enjoyed the quiz system using the remote controls. Overall the day was great and I loved the DNA activity" Zach Levenson, Year 9

"The event was really enjoyable but very difficult at the same time. I enjoyed the *find factors* game because it encouraged us to work quickly and think outside the box"

Adam Gould, Year 9



IGGY

Connecting and
challenging the world's
brightest young minds

IGGY - House of Commons Visit

Two of our Able and Ambitious students; Dora Hirsh and Miriam Clifton were invited to attend the House of Commons for a breakfast meeting on Tuesday 20th May, 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. (cont'd)

Able and Ambitious Continued...

Following a short introduction guests from the government, third sector, academia and students joined 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)

There will be a report on the meeting in our next newsletter.

The Brilliant Club

The Year 9 and 10 students involved in the Brilliant Club programme this year will be attending their Graduation ceremony on Friday 23rd May at the University of Sussex. The students will receive their final assignment grade and meet with their PhD tutor one final time to reflect on their learning throughout the programme.



The Year 12 students who applied to be on the Brilliant Club will participate in the launch ceremony of the programme in June at a top Russell Group University. Details to follow.

UCAS FAIR

On Friday 4th April, Year 12 accompanied by staff went to the UCAS university fair in London. It was an extremely helpful day allowing us to pick up prospectuses from a range of varying universities and also attend small seminars on particular topics. We both attended an ‘applying and personal statement’ seminar. Here, the speaker gave us more information about the application process that we will be undertaking next year. He also spoke of how to write a personal statement and how to make yours stand out from the thousands of other applicants. The fair was huge and had two sections, careers and universities. This allowed it to appeal to everyone as not all of us would like to attend university. Overall, the day was a great success as everyone gained a deeper understanding of what options there are and what the process we face next year will be like and it has made it a less daunting experience.

Danielle Phillips and Amy Golding 12B





Athletics - Barnet District Trials at Allianz Park

JCoSS Athletics team performed fantastically well at the district trials today with 4 students now hopeful of being selected for the District Championships later next month. Philippa Steen snatched 1st place in the Long Jump, whilst Hannah Harris and Harry Brodin both secured 2nd place in their 100m sprint races. Alanis Cope ran a superb hurdles race to bag 2nd position in the U15 girls heats and now has a chance at being selected for the forthcoming championships.

Well done to all those involved and we await the trial selection with bated breath.



JCoSS WIN Barnet Schools Year 8 Football Tournament.

JCoSS went in this Barnet Year 8 Power league tournament as the 'bookies' favourites, especially after the Year 9 team had swept the board at their year group's tournament the week before. The funny thing is, you see a skint bookmaker as much as you see a skinny butcher - and with good reason. They certainly know their onions, or their meats, or odds in this case as JCoSS ran out tournament winners in one group and third place in the other. Having conceded only 3 goals throughout the whole tournament of 16 games the defensive nature and battling qualities of the JCoSS shone through.

Well done to the following students: Or Rapaport, Danny Gold, Joel Walters, Jacob Bennett, Hadley Shapps, Sam Baker, Jonathan Brown, Harry Brodin, Jack Earle, Benjy Radnor, David Noyvert and Eddie Lisberg.

Year 9 Football Team are DOUBLE WINNERS!!

If one could report on a football match through images alone in this case it would depict champagne bottles smiley faces and thumbs up aplenty. JCoSS Year 9 Boys football team played with all the chutzpah and swagger of champions elect even before they were crowned winners of the Barnet Schools Power League tournament. With both JCoSS A and B teams both finishing 1st in their respective competitions it proved to be a successful tournament and resulted in a clean sweep of medals, trophies, pride and swag for the lads.

Both the A and B team won 6 matches out of 7 on their way to victory with the Golden Boot awards going to the enigmatic striker Alex Rose and the effervescent midfielder Josh Shack.

Team A: Jason Bharier, Theo Rifkin, Saul Fenton, Josh Shack, Aidan Raphael and Tshepo Rafael-Khara.

Team B: Jamie Lesser, Tom Stepsky, Nathan Anders, Rafi Sofizade, Alex Rose

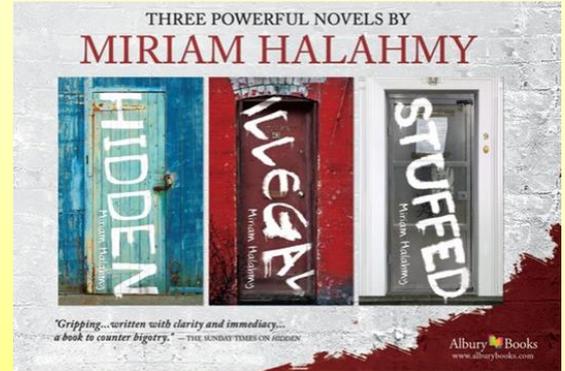
Well done to all the students. a fantastic achievement!!



Miriam Halahmy's visit By Abi Wander 9N

Miriam Halahmy, a renowned author, kindly came into JCoSS on Thursday 8th May to talk to a group of students about her three latest novels: Hidden, Illegal and Stuffed.

I was in the last group to meet with her and we were immediately told we were the 'interview' group. All 8 of us sat around two tables in the LRC and Miriam introduced herself and proceeded to talk about being Jewish and her family's connections with the holocaust. At first I thought this was rather peculiar considering she was here to talk about being an author, but I soon realised so many decisions and choices she had made throughout her career as an author were influenced by her identity and being Jewish.



Secret Territory, one of her first books, is about a girl who travels to Israel in search of her identity, not realising many secrets hidden deep in her family after the holocaust. This feeling of longing and searching is something Miriam told us she connected with and understood: as she was born during the war, safe in England, but her family refused to discuss many atrocities that had happened in Europe, things that Miriam had been sheltered from. After Miriam had spoken about herself the floor was open to questions.

This was a truly enjoyable session where I found out so many things about writing and the processes of writing and publishing a novel as well as many things about Miriam's and my own identity. I would encourage as many people as possible to read Hidden, Illegal and Stuffed as they are truly good books.



Miriam with members of Book Club



Miriam with Y9 students

We Will Rock You Review, by Tracy Wise

I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived at 'Schools We Will Rock You', not having been to a JCoSS school production before but I absolutely loved it. I came with Miss Humphrey's parents and we couldn't have been more proud if we had had a student in the show.

We particularly enjoyed the fact that everyone was able to, at some point, have an opportunity to speak, sing or dance. The arrangements were lovely, the orchestra sounded great and I loved the simplicity of the set design. I was very touched by Max Gold's performance and knowing that Tamir Smith had only stepped in at the last minute I thought he was a star in the making.

Excellent performances from everyone, and I look forward to hearing of its transfer to the West End.

Thank you to everyone involved in the performance for giving us all such professional, wonderful evening.

Well done to all the cast Leigh Agmon, Jonah Baron-Cohen, Nicole Clif, Jayme Cohen, Gemma Eshkeri, Rosalyn Francis, Talia Gillingham, Max Gold, Myles Isaacs, Hannah Kieve, Beth Lewis, Jessica Lichtenstern, Kezia Lobatto, Jasmine Maun, Elaine Miller, Avital Nathan, Jemma Oberman, Annabelle Platt, Eve Rhodes, Ruby Rose-Mansell, Imogen Sanis, Molly Schiller, Jessica Shaw, Gila Sheldon, Tamir Smith, Indigo Smith, Reuben Sondaca, Alexa Sussman, Darcy Tish, Orli Vogt-Vincent, Jemima Wax, Nathan Williams, Zara Woolf



Jewish Film Win for JCoSS!

On a blustery Friday, May 2nd 2014, the **Hackney Roots** Jewish Film competition reached its climax at the majestic Hackney Picture House. The second Exodus, transporting 187 Year 8 students from Barnet to Hackney - a task of near biblical proportions - was a synch and we arrived in a timely and orderly fashion. This was entirely thanks to the incredible support of the 21 JCoSS staff members who accompanied the students on this trip. We were joined at the cinema by a group of King Solomon High School students, against whom we were competing for the title of 'Best Student-produced Short Film'

It was with great delight that I bore witness to **two** JCoSS students scooping the overall prizes: **Hannah Kieve (8B)** was awarded first place and **Jacob Freedland (8R)** second place. When their names were announced, the nervous rustling of sweet-packets that had been clearly audible throughout the opening speeches was immediately replaced with rapturous applause from both students and staff - a proud moment for us all.

Many thanks to Rachel Burns and Sam Pallis of Hackney Roots and Mrs Gelband of JCoSS for organising this trip, and credit to Miss Nathan for all the complements that I received regarding how well-behaved our students were. A resounding success!

Mr B De Jong

Duke of Edinburgh Picture Gallery



Year 7 - White Water Rafting

