

Dear Parents,

"Not everything valuable can be measured, and not everything that can be measured is of lasting value."

I know it is bad form to recycle your own material, but I begin my first newsletter of 2013-14 by shamelessly quoting from my article in last January's newsletter (and even then it was scarcely original).

Schools do a lot of measuring and the JCoSS data systems are up there with the best, to make sure we are tracking students' progress, measuring their success and giving them goals to aim for. My point in January was that this necessary measuring of grades and exam outcomes needs to be balanced by a concern for other less easily "countable" qualities in students and in schools – things like menschlich behaviour, spiritual insight, creativity or volunteering, all of which are close to our hearts at JCoSS.

But now we have an opportunity to rethink the way we count even the easily countable things. Amongst the latest educational policy developments announced recently there are two changes relating to measurement. Firstly, National Curriculum levels are no longer mandatory in secondary schools. We have the opportunity to devise our own systems to measure students' achievement and track their progress during the 5 years to GCSE. Secondly, the key measurement of schools as institutions will now focus on the progress students make, rather than simply the raw numbers scoring at grade C or above in 5 subjects.

I am encouraged by this second change: it will focus the minds of schools equally on all students, not just on the ones who are at the C/D borderline. High achievers will get the extra push to aspire to very top grades, and those who make excellent progress from relatively low baselines will get the affirmation and acknowledgement they deserve. It should allow easier comparison between academically selective schools and those like JCoSS which cater to students of all abilities, and lessen any temptation to narrow the curriculum in pursuit of league table advantage.

As to the demise of National Curriculum Levels, I would be very interested to hear reactions and suggestions from across the JCoSS community. Most teachers, many students and some parents are used to the current system of numbers and letters (6c, 5b, 8a and the like) which were devised as a system of metrics for use across the curriculum so that achievement and progress could be mapped on a common system. Some find them helpful, but to others they are restricting, artificial and even bewildering, and it certainly easy to expect more from them in terms of precision and objectivity than they can really bear.

One of our Year 9 students, Orli Vogt-Vincent, recently took to 10 Downing Street an impassioned letter for the Prime Minister expressing her dismay about the target-setting culture in schools. You can see more details later in the newsletter but one line is very pertinent here: "our progress obviously needs to be checked, but school isn't just about grades – it's about independence and exploration." Quite so. Now that we have more choice, what should we measure, how should we do it, and with what aim in mind?

JCoSS has now had its first publicly validated examination results as our first cohort of Y12 students took AS exams. The outcomes give a good example of the superiority of a value-added approach to measuring success. The raw results were spread across the grades (albeit with some notable successes at the top end). But our value-added figure puts us in the top 10% of schools. The ALPS system compares A and AS Level performance in schools nationally and the results of our students entering Year 13 are graded by them as indicating "outstanding overall performance".

On any measure, JCoSS is in good heart as we get underway for our 4th year, and plenty has been achieved in all sorts of ways as the pages ahead show. Thank you for the support you give to your sons and daughters and to the school.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Dance @ JCoSS

Dear Parents and Students,

I am excited to inform you of a programme offered by the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance which will mean free dance classes to students of JCoSS. 'Step into Dance' is a fully inclusive secondary schools dance programme, run by the RAD and funded by The Jack Petchey Foundation. The programme offers weekly extra-curricular dance classes in schools for 30 weeks per year.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a wide range of dance on offer including: African, ballet, ballroom and Latin, Bollywood, Capoeira, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre, and street dance styles, including popping, locking, breakin' and krump.

There are performance opportunities throughout the year starting with our Street Dance Battles and Contemporary Dance Events in the first term, followed by our Borough Events and culminating with our end of year show case Step LIVE!, this year held at Sadler's Wells.

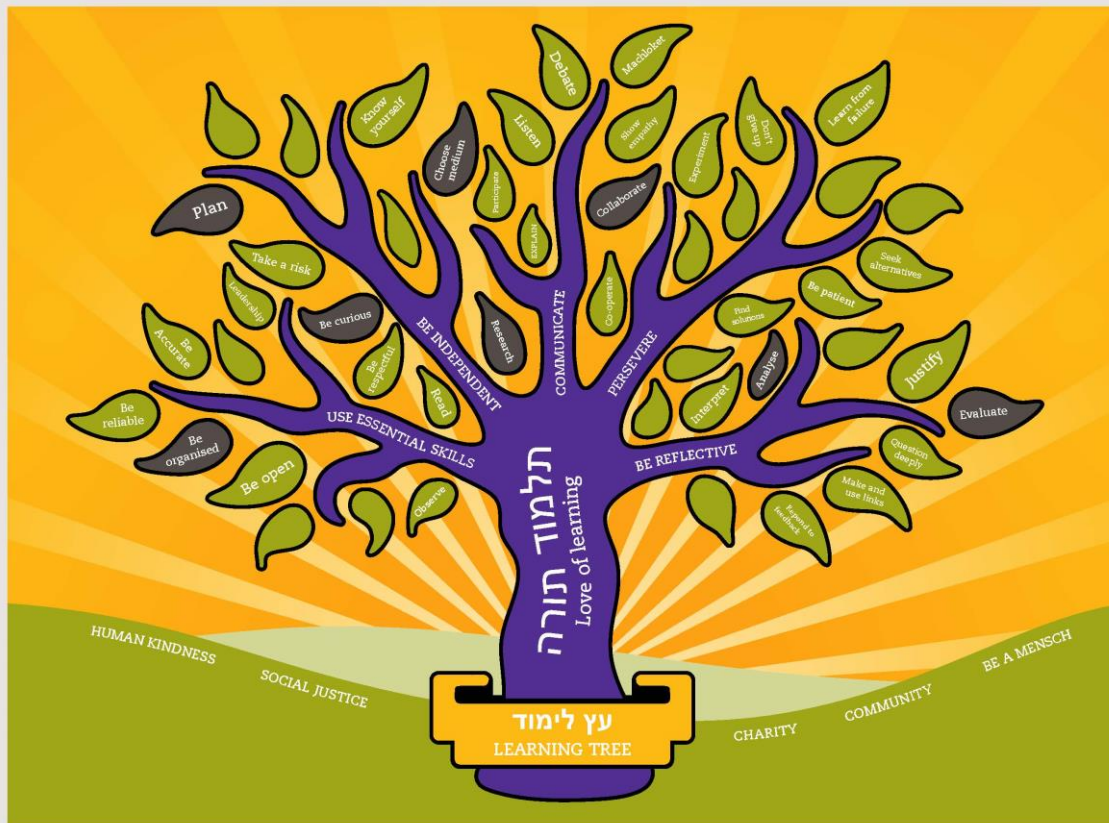
Students also have the opportunity to audition for the 'Step into Dance' youth companies, who train each Sunday with the RAD. The companies focus on street dance, contemporary dance and musical theatre.

This scheme is open to all students and will take place after school on a day to be confirmed in the near future.

Students need to register their interest with Miss Gustard by signing up outside the dance studio or on the student noticeboard.

Miss J. Gustard
HoD (Dance)

Introducing the redesigned JCoSS Love of Learning Ethos



Since our INSET day in September, staff and students have been discussing the key skills and habits involved in learning, to help our students become even better lifelong learners.

The Learning Tree has been through many drafts and this is the agreed final version. We encourage you to discuss these skills with your children and highlight those which you think they should focus on initially.

Jewish Care residents join JCoSS students for lunch in the Succah

Residents from Jewish Care's Vi & John Rubens House visited our Succah for lunch and a performance from the school choir last month.

Vi & Johns Ruben resident Helen Lawrence was full of energy when she left the school:

"I have had a lovely day. Everything was lovely from the lunch to the delightful performance. The atmosphere was great, we chatted to the children who were a delight – a real credit to the school".

It wasn't only the Jewish Care residents who enjoyed the visit, Year 9 student Abigail Wander said;
"It was honestly the most amazing thing just to see the smiles on their faces when we sang. There was such a lovely, friendly atmosphere in the sukkah and the students made such a great connection with the residents. We hope they thoroughly enjoyed their time at JCoSS as we really enjoyed meeting them"

The students shared experiences of school with the Jewish Care residents, who talked to them in return about the work of Jewish Care. Earlier in the year JCoSS students nominated Jewish Care as their UK based charity they would support throughout the year. The visit was seen as both an opportunity to bring the generations together and a way to perform the tradition and Mitzvah of inviting guests to share a meal in the Succah.

Vi & John Ruben's Home manager, Mary O'Rourke said;
"The residents enjoyed their lunch out and the opportunity to meet and talk to the JCoSS pupils. We, at Jewish Care, believe this intergenerational contact is really important and of great benefit to both young and old".



JPA – A new team

The JPA has a new leadership. The School is grateful to the outgoing team for their enthusiasm and hard work over the past years, and we welcome Susan Zonneveld & Lisa Leighton as the new leadership. They are already planning further developments to the programme and always welcome interest from parents.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

JCoSS Parents Association

Thanks to your great support, the JCoSS Parents Association have just donated two outdoor table tennis tables for the school playground and presented every Year 7 pupil with a reading book. Please encourage Year 7 pupils to swap with their friends or donate to the library when they have finished with their book.

Our next events will be fundraising for outdoor gym equipment to improve the playground.

All are very welcome to join us at our next meeting: 19th November at the Holiday Inn, Borehamwood, WD6 5PU

Next event: YEAR 7 DISCO ON SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, ticket information to follow

SUPPER QUIZ in March: watch this space for more information

LRC News

Bookbuzz

We are pleased to be part of the Booktrust's "Bookbuzz" scheme again this year, kindly funded by the JPA. Year 7 students have been able to choose a free book each from a list of specially selected titles. If you would like to find out more about this scheme and enter a competition, please [click here](#) to look at their website.

Scholastic Book Club

When JCoSS parents place an order with the Scholastic Book Club, the Learning Resource Centre will earn points to receive free books. Students can collect their ordered books from the LRC once I have informed their form tutor.

Parent help needed

The LRC continues to expand and become busier. We welcome Mrs Leventine as our new additional librarian from November. If you could spare time on a regular basis to help with the everyday running of the library as well as special events, please contact Mrs. Mulkis in the LRC.

Also, particular help will be needed for the Scholastic Book Fair taking place from Monday 18th November for a week.

Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair

Students are invited to come and join us in the Heart Space from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd November 2013.

There are **over 200 titles** to browse through - fantasy, thrillers, chick-lit, non-fiction, comedy and lots more starting from **only £1.50**. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school! If you can't make it to the Fair or if you wish to see a preview of the books to purchase, visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents to find out about Book Fair Gift Vouchers.

Amazon Wish List

Many thanks and Mazel Tov to the following students and their families who donated books to the LRC last month: Zoom Rockman in 9N and Sophie Papier in 10Y.

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. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative plaque in the donated book(s).

Many thanks.

Mrs C. Mulkis (Librarian)

JCoSS as a research school

Educational research is undertaken in school at JCoSS as part of the continuing professional development of our staff. We are working with the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education (CamStar) in this enterprise and they bring substantial expertise to support our research. Developing professional knowledge is part of JCoSS's ongoing commitment to excellence.

Ethically we would like to assure you that no individual will be identified in any research findings and no student images are made available via web based media. We look forward to sharing our research with parents, students and colleagues.

Important message for Parents

It is essential that we hold the correct contact details (*email/mobile phone number*) for parents, as we regularly use these to communicate important school information.

So far this term we have sent both **email & text** messages to all parents. If you have not received one or both of these types of communications, then it means we may not hold your correct details and we would therefore ask that you email the school with your up to date contact details and include your child's name & form.

admin@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk



Creative Arts @ JCoSS

SAVE THE DATE! 8-10th April 2014

What a great excuse to sing some of the best rock and pop music – ever!! Rehearsals are already under way for this exciting JCoSS event. We have a core company of 25 talented students with backing from the superb Zamar Singers – **and** our very own home-grown rock band! The show will take the form of a ‘concert’, with several scenes, choreographed company numbers and many of the songs from the hit musical **We Will Rock You**. Please put the dates in your diary and come along to support – and even sing along!



Autumn Term Extra-Curricular Programme

As always, we have a diverse and exciting EC Programme this term.

Participation in extra-curricular activities raises self-esteem, contributes to increased confidence, helps build new relationships and demonstrates that our youngsters are making a contribution to something. They can try out new experiences...learn new skills...meet new friends...become even more of a mensch! In addition to staff-run activities, we have Krav Maga (a form of Israeli self-defence) run by Mr Blond from the Streetwise Community Security Trust and, Israeli Dance, run by the Israeli Dance Institute.

Please [click here](#) to view the programme. Please have a browse with your child/children and encourage them to sign up.

Chanukah Concert 5774/2013

Another ‘save the date’ is the evening of 4th December when our annual Chanukah Concert will feature instrumentalists, singers, music from the JCoSSO, the Zamar Singers and the newly formed JCoSS-14 choir.

Our Chanukah Concert is one of the highlights of the JCoSS year. Tickets will be on sale the week commencing 11th November. Look out for further details after half term.

Instrumental Lessons

We are expanding the individual instrumental team from January 2014.

Students who currently learn Brass instruments and Drum Kit will be contacted by BEAT (formally London Borough of Barnet Music Service) via their current teachers - students wishing to take up any of these instruments should contact Mrs Kos in the Music Department.

If students are continuing with or would like to take up Piano, Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone, Singing and Guitar, letters and sign up sheets will be in form trays shortly after half term.

Ms S Miller

Head of CEA Faculty

Coach Safety

Can we please ask you to remind your children of some basic health and safety rules when travelling on the buses run by Coaches Etc

They must:

- Stay seated at all times and ensure they wear their seatbelt.
- Not run up and down the buses at any time.
- Do not stand up or leave their seat until the bus has come complete stop at the designated bus stop.

We have CCTV is operating on the buses so we will be speaking to any children that break the code of conduct.

Many thanks for your help with this very important matter.

JCoSS App: Help wanted

We would like to create a JCoSS app.

If you have any expertise in this area and would like to help us, then please get in contact with Jenny Cohen, JCoSS marketing manager. jcohen@jcoess.barnet.sch.uk

Many thanks

Fables and Bagels – the Story Continues!

Over 75 parents, grandparents, students and young people filled the Heart Space on the evening of September 16, to enjoy the second episode of Fables and Bagels (Bagels al Fresco) an exploration of Succot through art, food and fun.

Clive Lawton, leading UK Jewish Educator, led an entertaining and inspirational keynote – and this set the scene for workshops by artist and educator Nic Aberly making edible succot, and Rabbi Natan Levy who taught pita making and led a discussion on the plight of the Bedouin.

And of course all complemented by a slap up bagel buffet, organised by Candice and her team from Caterplus, who also sponsored the event.



Fables and Bagels provides JCoSS with an exciting and innovative Jewish Family Education programme. It reaches out to the entire school community and its families providing access to some of the leading Jewish educators in the UK, as well as having loads of fun and at the same time learning more about Judaism - keeping faith with JCoSS's unique pluralist ethos, but not compromising on issues such as Kashrut.

Our next Fables and Bagels evening takes place on Monday 2 December at 6.30pm: Fables and Dreidels: a feast of fun for Chanukah. Demand for limited spaces will be high so please book in your family early by emailing me at school:

rosenberg@jcooss.org.uk.

Save the date: The Lonely Bagel – Fables and Bagels Celebrates Pesach: Monday 5 April 2014

See you there!

Mr L Rosenberg (Jewish Education)

JCoSS Student visits No. 10

Congratulations to Orli Vogt-Vincent, Year 9, who won a national writing competition from over 1,300 entries and was invited to Downing Street for her prize. "Thirteen in 13", launched by the Anne Frank Trust UK, asked anyone turning 13 in 2013 to say how they would make Britain a better place in an online letter to the prime minister. In her letter, Orli urged Mr Cameron to allow creativity to flourish in Britain's schools by ending the obsession with tests and targets. The contest reflected the fact that Anne Frank received her diary as a present on her 13th birthday. A panel, including Anne Frank's step-sister Eva Schloss, selected the winner. [Click here](#) to read Orli's full letter.



Year 13 Gifted and Talented students involved in the Brilliant Programme travelled to Oxford University for a tutorial with a PhD student and a tour of Balliol College. Students were given final feedback on their extended assignment, received a graduation certificate and were able to celebrate their hard work throughout the programme. The day also allowed them to gain an insight into what it would be like to study at Oxford University. Nes Hirst-Ashuach received special recognition for his assignment in which he was awarded a Distinction. Well done to the following students: Esther Konzon, Chloe Alexander, Dom Michaelson, Daisy Kraiss, Kelly Hart, Hayley Sacks, Nes Hirst-Ashuach and Leéal Reindorp.



IGGY Connecting and challenging the world's brightest young minds

Year 8 Gifted & Talented students are now fully enrolled on the IGGY programme. IGGY is the University of Warwick's online social network for gifted students, providing them with challenging tasks and activities developed by top academics at the University. It also allows the members to get to know and collaborate with other gifted 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 programme is an excellent way of broadening their horizons at the same time as finding other students with similar interests. **Remember IGGY club is at lunch times on a Friday and attendance is compulsory for all Year 8 IGGY members**

Forthcoming Gifted & Talented events

1. PE – Selected students have been busy attending trials for District and County football. There will also be an opportunity for selected Year 8, 9, 10 students to attend Brentford FC trials later this month.
2. D&T - students are taking part in a Design Venturer competition which enables them to design a product with the possibility of having it produced and sold.
3. Jewish Education - Selected G&T students at JCoSS have the 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 will begin at Hackney Central station and cover sites including the Hackney Town Hall, Hackney Empire, Brent House Road synagogue and various other locations ending at Ridley Road market.

The Brilliant Club – Students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will soon be participating in the Brilliant Programme which allows students to work on assignments with PhD students from Russell Group Universities.

Netball

JCoSS Year 10 vs Ashmole – Won 21-2

JCoSS Year 10 Tournament at St James Catholic:

Mill Hill County lost 2-1. St Michaels Lost 7-1. Copthall won 7-2. Lost 5-2.

Squad : Jamy Bristol James, Lauren Bennett, Lottie Fishman, Rosie Felt, Jodie Rich Isabelle Murray, Ella Levene, Lara Miller Rosenthal, Jena Allen, Neve Grant, and finally Vivien Guiloff.



Football News

JCoSS Year 8 vs Compton – Won 6-1.

A Joel Walters hat-trick, two further goals from prolific goal scorer Danny Gold and a goal from captain fantastic Jonathan Brown sealed this one sided victory, leaving JCoSS perched loftily at the top of the league.

JCoSS Year 9 vs Compton – Won 3-1

A stunning Nathan Anders free kick sent Year 9 to victory in their first league encounter at Compton. Max Walker was at the heart of all things good as the lads stamped their authority on the game early on and lead from start to finish.

JCoSS Year 12/13 vs Hasmonean – Lost 0-10

The Sixth Form XI were firmly embarrassed in front of their home crowd as they lost by what some may call a rugby score line. In their first game together they were outfought, out-manoeuvred and firmly outwitted as Hasmonean gorged themselves on the feast of opportunities presented to them by the lacklustre home side. In the words of D:Ream, 'things can only get better'.

JCoSS Year 7 vs Compton – 1-1

JCoSS escaped this fixture with a point after being battered for 80% of the game. It was the genuine Ali '*Rope a dope*' tactic that saw JCoSS penned in their own half for long periods of time, only for Josh Blakeney to burst into life and snatch a last gasp equaliser to break Compton hearts.

JCoSS Year 10 vs Compton – Lost 5-4

In a thrilling contest which saw the net bulge a monumental 9 times JCoSS found themselves somewhat unlucky to just come away with nothing from their valiant efforts. With a side accompaniment of tasty tackles, flying in from both sides, it was clear there were some serious bragging rights to be had in this fiery fixture. After going 4-1 down, the lads showed true grit and determination by clawing their way back into the game through goals from Sam Morris, Nathan Rosenthal and Danny Miracco.

JCoSS Year 9 vs Wren Academy – Won 4-3

Man of the Match Max Walker was in imperious form as he led Year 9 to a memorable victory. Zacki Doumou and Alex Rose netted to add yet more notches to their goal scoring tally.

JCoSS Year 8 vs East Barnet – Won 2-1

Danny Gold scored a spectacular winner to claim the bragging rights in this East Barnet clash. Adam Morris had opened the scoring in record breaking fashion, notching after just 10 seconds. Man of the Match Jack Earle was nothing short of sensational in goal as he thwarted every ensuing attack, much to the astonishment of East Barnet's flummoxed centre forward. When JCoSS earned a free kick on the edge of the box it was Gold who stepped up to nonchalantly caress the ball into the top corner and send Year 8 into footballing utopia.

