

Dear Parents

Faith Schools have been high on the political anxiety list in recent months: concerns about extremism in a small number of schools have led to increased scrutiny of us all. In common with colleagues in both Jewish and Christian schools, we are certainly noticing the increase in temperature: there have been changes to the focus and outcomes from Ofsted Inspections, a review of the content of GCSE Religious Studies courses, a renewed interest in Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education, and the term “British Values” cropping up in numerous areas of policy – a term that itself has proved controversial.

To quote from a document (available in full on our website) setting out the JCoSS view on this area:

The JCoSS position on all these matters is robust and explicit. Our ethos of Jewish pluralism, the promotion of equality and the preparation for students for a full part in British society is very well known within the school and in the wider community. The British flag (together with the Israeli flag) is on prominent display in the Heart Space of the School. We consider that the ‘British Values’ at stake in this concern are the same as ‘Jewish Values’ as we understand them to be.

Interestingly, the most recent findings of a current large-scale longitudinal study of the impact of the UK’s mainstream Jewish secondary schools suggest that there is not a cause for concern: students’ perceptions of themselves as British citizens actually increase through being in Jewish schools. We have been doing our bit to enhance this, with visits from both Grant Shapps (for the Year 11 & 13 Celebration Event) and Teresa Villiers (for Mitzvah Day) during this term: they are both Conservative members of the Cabinet, and we will of course ensure political balance over time, though doing so in the run-up to the General Election may be a challenge!

The previous newsletter mentioned our increased teaching of world faiths this year in direct response to requests from students. Moreover, Year 7 spent an afternoon in competition to design a place of worship suitable for Jews, Muslims and Christians. Plans for such a building in Berlin were announced earlier this year. The quality of thought and the awareness of religious and cultural sensitivities reflected in the outcomes were very impressive. We also had an excellent assembly co-ordinated by Ms Bossman-Quarshie for Black History Month and involving students from across the school.

What faith schools do best is to build strong cultural and religious identity as well as modelling how faith groups interact with wider society. Accordingly, 6th formers have this term had the opportunity to visit Poland (see p2), and our Head Boy & Girl Team (Aaron Spalter, Rosie Ferner-Cornhouse and Alexander Spencer-Hope) will be speaking to the massed crowds in Trafalgar Square at “Chanukah in the Square” in December. The Mayor of London and the Chief Rabbi have graciously agreed to act as their warm up artists. We will circulate details of this high-profile community event to parents, and we want to have a good representation from JCoSS there.

We are nearing the end of a long and busy term and as always the pages that follow are full of activities to enrich and inspire. I hope it will be a good read.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Year 12 and 13 - Poland Trip by Naomi Stein

On 2nd – 6th November 2014, a group of sixth form students were given the opportunity to visit Poland. This was a real chance for us to understand more about the Holocaust and to learn about our Jewish heritage. Each day was packed, full of many visits to important sites and we were very tired at the end of each day.

On the first day we visited the Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw, the new Jewish museum amongst different memorials. I particularly liked this museum, as it was very interactive and there was so much to see about Jewish history, which cannot just be learnt in a classroom. However, the cemetery was very moving and not like any other cemetery I had been to before. The different languages on the graves helped us identify the type of person that was buried and we also saw mass graves for the Jews who died without any records.

We also saw the wall of the Warsaw ghetto, before we headed off to Majdanek, one of the many labour camps that the Jews were sent to, during the Holocaust. This was very emotional and hard for us as we walked through the gas chambers and the crematorium.

We then travelled to another city, Lublin. This used to be a Jewish city, home to many Hasidic Jews. There were many Synagogues, and even the hotel we stayed in used to be a Yeshivah.

We also visited a forest in Zblytowska Gura, with a mass grave, where many Jewish children were murdered and buried. This was really hard for us to take in, but it was a warning about what was coming next.

Auschwitz, for me, was the most important site and the one which had the biggest impact. The museum, including the book of names was really upsetting for us and I really felt a connection to the history and heritage of the Jewish Community whilst there.

We then completed the trip with visits to the old city of Krakow, the Jewish quarter of Krakow (Kazimeirs), as well as the Krakow ghetto wall, the deportation memorial, the Eagle Pharmacy and Schindler's factory.

Overall, the trip was very meaningful and inspirational for all of us and we all learnt a lot. Some students summarised the trip with the following words: "honourable, philosophical, heritage, remembrance, inspiring, heart-breaking, moving, touching, powerful and breath-taking."

"It was a very important, eye opening trip" and "it was an amazing experience that I'll never forget, where I was able to connect with the past and show my respect and thoughts to each individual who lost their life".



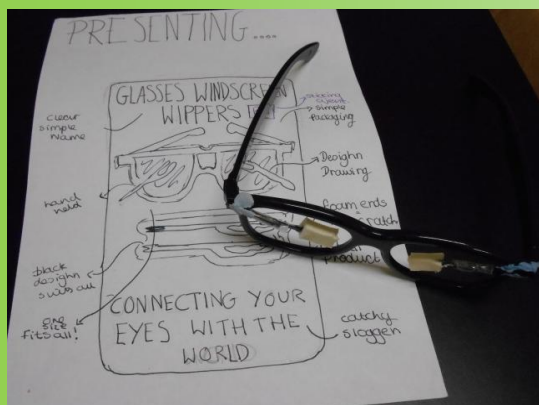
Design Technology

Design Ventura is the Design Museum's award-winning national design and enterprise competition. A live brief challenges young people to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop. It places design skills in a real world context, developing creativity, problem-solving, team work and enterprise capabilities. Competition prizes include the chance to see your work exhibited at the museum, support from experts to develop your idea and one winning idea will be developed and sold in the Design Museum Shop.

19 able and ambitious Design & Technology Year 9 students competed to design and make a product under this year's theme 'Connect'. They formed 4 groups and developed their products as a team, each taking on a different role of responsibility.

In October we attended an excellent creative workshop run by the design museum to develop initial ideas and we all came back suitably inspired to start finalising a prototype.

Each team presented their final products in November to a panel of judges. The judges were so impressed by the effort and fantastic presentations and choosing a winner was very difficult. Congratulations to the winners: The A Team; Asher Kelvin, Sam Lachmann, Adam Caplan and Zed Shoop. Their fantastic product, 'The Pocket Alternative', has now been entered into the national competition.



Windscreen wipers that connect to your glasses :
Team members – Darcey Gilston, Evie Raphael, Kate Preston, Sam Cohen-Morgan.



This product connects to discarded plastic bottles, allowing you to juice lemons into your drinking water. Team members – Isaac Lobatto, Charlie Leboff, Yuval Proud, Omer Samuel



Coloured plastic that connects to your light to change the mood of a room. Team members – Noam Wise, Joe Gelfand, Poppy Gordon, Ruby-Rose Mansoor, Josie Ben-Avi, Miriam Clifton



The winner! 'The pocket alternative' that connects through magnets to fridges and boards, allowing you to keep your board pens, keys, board remotes safe. Team members - Asher Kelvin, Sam Lachmann, Adam Caplan and Zed Shoop.

Well done to all teams for their hard work and excellent ideas!
Miss Druckes

Drop Off and Pick Up

Following several complaints from our local residents we are once again reminding parents of the following:

Westbrook Crescent/Armstrong Crescent

Parents **MUST NOT** drop or collect their children in **Westbrook Crescent or Armstrong Crescent**. This is a condition of our planning permission. Please drop off elsewhere and ask your children to walk, or use the drop off zone at our main school entrance.

Northfield Road

Would all parents please refrain from stopping at the main school entrance in Northfield Road to either collect or drop off their children. Residents have asked that Parents do not stop on yellow lines, block driveways and park on double yellow lines causing an obstruction for the local buses.

It is very difficult for us to retain good relationships with our neighbours when it is continually put at risk by discourtesy and a lack of consideration in parking & stopping to drop or collect children.

Please also adhere to the speed limit around the local roads and be mindful that this is a residential area with a local primary school within close vicinity and we would ask that parents drive with care in surrounding roads.

Important Message

Kashrut Reminder

Can all parents please be reminded that under no circumstances should your child bring any meat into JCoSS. Doing so will result in a two-hour after school SLT detention.

Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 14 th December	JPA Y7 School Disco
17 th and 18 th December	Chanukah Concert
19 th December	School closes for Winter Break
<u>Spring Term</u>	
5 th January	Inset Day for Students
6 th January	All students return to school

Informal Jewish Education at JCoSS

Mitzvah Day

Wow, wow, wow - what an amazing day. A huge thank you to all our students and their families for being so wonderfully generous with their donations. Our heartspace was truly buzzing over lunchtime - whether you sponsored a balloon for a sick child, learnt how to save a life with MDA, designed bunting for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, or donated toys or old CD's - you did a wonderful Mitzvah and we thank you. An extra special thank you to all the students in Team Tikkun for all their help - we couldn't have done it without you.



Sponsor Manna from Heaven

As is tradition here at JCoSS, each week our student make food which we donate to Homeless Action in Barnet. It costs us around £25 each week in ingredients. If you would like to sponsor a Manna from Heaven session on behalf of your child's birthday or bar/bat mitzvah please email vrose@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk - we will thank students in assembly for this.

Marsha Gladstone

Students in Years 7 & 8 were privileged to have Marsha Gladstone from Yoni Jesner Foundation talk to them in assembly as part of our Yoni Jesner Award launch. Marsha spoke about her son Yoni, whom the award is named after. She talked about his life and how acts of kindness no matter how small can be so significant and meaningful to others. If you have a child in Years 7 or 8 we really hope you will encourage them to sign up to this wonderful volunteering award.

Alan Senitt

Ten JCoSS Year 10 students have started the year by taking part in the Alan Senitt Leadership Programme. They will undertake a series of leadership training workshops with students from other Jewish, Christian, Hindu and secular partnership schools and work together to implement a social action project within our local community. The course is run by Maccabi and the Alan Senitt Trust, dedicated to the memory of Alan Senitt, murdered in Washington DC on 9th July 2006 whilst defending a friend. The trust aims to make a difference by funding education and training opportunities for future community leaders and innovative opportunities for Interfaith dialogue and Israel education.

Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan was marked in school by prayer services for students from all across the religious spectrum. Rabbis, rabbinical students and chazanim from all the major synagogue movements joined us in school to celebrate the start of the new month and enjoy our JCoSS moon shaped cookies!

Israel Tour & Gap Year Fair

The Zionist Youth movements have been in school to promote their Gap Year and Israel Tour programmes to our upper school students. There are a huge number of opportunities for students to engage with the Youth movements in a wide variety of programmes – more details available from the IJE department.

Mitzvah Day Challenge

MAZEL TOV to our winners Jacob Rozenberg Year 7, Naomi Stein Year 13 and all the Manna from Heaven volunteers. Their Mitzvah videos were chosen as our winners this year.

Mrs V Rose, Informal Jewish Education Coordinator

Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair: Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December



All students are invited to our Half-Price Book Fair!

Chanukah is approaching fast and with so many brilliant books to explore, it's the perfect way for you to get the latest titles at your fingertips.

Students can come and join us in the Heart Space at break and lunch times next week (1st – 5th December).

There are **over 200 titles** for them to browse through, and with fantasy, thrillers, chick-lit, non-fiction, comedy and lots more starting from **only £1.50**, there's sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy. Don't forget that every book they buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

If you wish to see a preview of the books to purchase, visit www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents (don't forget your child will pay **HALF the marked price**). You can also find out about Book Fair Gift Vouchers – the safe, secure way to ensure you get the books you really want with an even bigger discount (please note that all vouchers will have to be used in one transaction and that no change will be given).

Mrs Mulkis (Librarian)

Yoni Jesner Award

This month we have launched the Yoni Jesner award for 2014. All students in Years 7 and 8 are invited to register with the award at <http://www.ilgb.org/yonijesner> where they can log hours spent volunteering at school or in their local communities. JCoSS has access to a wide variety of volunteering opportunities for students – and those students who are already involved in volunteering activities are also invited to log their hours. At the end of the year those who achieve 20 hours or more are invited to a wonderful award ceremony where their achievements are celebrated publicly.

The Yoni Jesner Foundation was set up in memory of Yoni Jesner, 19, of Glasgow, Scotland, an inspirational youth leader and role model, who was killed in a suicide bombing on a bus in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 19th September 2002.

Congratulations and well done to Hannah Bentwood, Taylor Shaffer, Teanna Parmar, Alice Thompson, Leigh Agnon, Noya Avniel, Miri Goodlink in Year 8 for raising £84 for Camp Simcha with their bake sale.

Congratulations to Natalie Dalcher, 11F, who performed beautifully for BBC radio 3 earlier this month. Congratulations to Natalie from us all at JCoSS.



News from the PSRP

Last term the National Autistic Society (NAS) came into JCoSS to run a project with a number of our pupils from the PSRP; 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.

Just before the summer half-term holiday 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!



Mrs S Dennis: PSRP

Oakleigh School visit to JCoSS PSRP

Last year the Year 8 PSRP students volunteered weekly at Oakleigh Primary School. Bella, Max, Theo, Jack, Oliver and Daniel were working towards their ASDAN volunteering qualification by helping out regularly in Bronze Class where all of the students have an ASC diagnosis at the lower end of the spectrum.

As a staff member, it has been wonderful to witness how all pupils have enjoyed and benefited from this experience. The suggestion was recently made that the Oakleigh children could visit JCoSS for a change, and everyone was really keen for this to take place.

As you can see from these fantastic photos – taken by Daniel Donovan – the visit was an enormous success!



JCoSS Sports

Maccabi KS3 tournament

The Year 7 team played four fantastic games of football. Due to the league format the team missed out on being crowned champions by 1 point. It was a great effort but very disappointing for the students. On a positive note Oscar Simmons finished top goal scorer across all three competitions. (The team included Aden Brazil, Oscar Simmons, Lior Solomons-Wise, Izzy Fishman, Sammy Kebede, Jamie Richardson and Benjamin Mallandain)

The Year 8 had a mixture of results and although they finished joint third, as a result of poor goal difference the boys ended up in fifth position. The team consisted of Dominic Murphy, Grant Birke, Jack Warren, Callan Stepsky, Ben Andrews, Cody Roth and Max Aston.

The Year 9 team provided the highlights of the day. The Year 9 team comprising of Jacob Bennett, Danny Gold, Sam Baker, Tom Rackind, Or Rappaport, Jonny Brown and Hadley Shapps won the league with great style, passion and determination.

The Sixth form football team opened their season with a home game. Mr Mitman praised their effort and commitment as many of them haven't played before. Stand out performers Jamie Rones and Aaron Spalter. Jamie scored two fantastic goals in what ended up in being a defeat.

The Sixth form also began their basketball season against a very strong Finchley Catholic team. Sammy Bradley topped the scoring charts for JCoSS, playing an age group up. Mr Mitman praised their effort and perseverance, bearing in mind no-one had played before. The stand-out performer was Jake Chweiden, not only playing an age group up but also to have the confidence in his own ability to play point guard.

Girls Football League

The girls' indoor football league has started for the Year 8&9 and 10&11 teams, with both teams putting in strong performances after a tough first match against the reigning champions.

The younger team have made big improvements in performance with goals coming from Rio Rosenberg and Noa Taylor, with an outstanding goalkeeping performance by Libi Sears. The senior team were brilliantly led by Jodie Rich and are looking forward to building on their opening performance.

