

Dear Parents,

As I write the first newsletter of the academic year I am struck again by the synchronicity between the rhythms of a school year, and the rhythms of the turning seasons and of the Jewish calendar. As the joyful new start of Rosh Hashannah gives way to the reflection and repentance of Yom Kippur and then on to themes of pilgrimage, welcome and harvest at Sukkot, so the School year begins with similar preoccupations. We **celebrate** the fruits of the labours of students and teachers as expressed in exam results; we **reflect** on what needs to be improved, and what targets we should set as individuals and as an institution; we **welcome** newcomers amongst the staff and student body; and we set off again in hope for another year.

I circulated in August the impressive exam successes of our Year 10, 12 and 13 students in early GCSE exams, and in AS and A2. The majority of this summer's leavers have now started university courses at a wide range of institutions including Nottingham, Bristol, York, UCL, Leeds and Exeter, studying courses from American Studies to Zoology, via Economics, Natural Sciences and Theology. The current Year 13, fresh from excellent AS results, are already receiving UCAS offers and they joined Year 11 to mark their summer successes at a Celebration Event yesterday. The students were privileged to hear from Rt Hon Grant Shapps as guest speaker, who spoke with inspiration and vigour about his path to the top table of Government: being committed to a dream and having resilience and tenacity are every bit as important as having exam success.

As well as our new Year 7 and 12 students, who bring our numbers to over 950 this year, we have welcomed a new cohort of staff, most prominently among them Ms Weddle as Deputy Head and Miss Mitchell, Mr Hemens and Mr Lorrimer as Assistant Heads in charge of Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Parents have had the opportunity to meet them at our programme of Parents' Information Evenings launched this term, and I already feel greatly in their debt – as I am in the debt of all my colleagues – for their leadership and energy.

Change and reflection are a way of life at JCoSS, and the fact that for the first time we have students in all 7 years does not alter that. Amongst the things we are working on this year are plans for the greatly expanded 6th form next September. As well as more subjects, new study and common room facilities and much larger numbers of students, we are also contending with very significant national changes: new assessment structures and specifications at A level and BTEC are starting to arrive just as our own Year 11 transfer into Year 12. The introduction is gradual, but if anything this makes things more difficult because we have to operate multiple systems at the same time during the transition. It overlaps, too, with new specifications at GCSE and changes to the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. Perhaps it is good that we are used to perpetual change at JCoSS!

We will also be introducing new ways for students to exercise leadership. We are delighted to have appointed our first Year 12 Student Leadership Team: Aaron Spalter is Head Boy, with Rosie Ferner-Cornhouse and Alexander Spencer Hope as his deputies. Senior Prefects from Year 12, and Prefects from Year 11 will be appointed in the course of this term, and we are exploring ways to improve the way we hear and act upon the views of students. One concrete example of that can already be seen in the introduction of World Faith units into Jewish Education: students themselves have asked for this, and we are very pleased to be responding positively to the request.

As already announced, we are also fine-tuning our behaviour policy and Ms Weddle will be seeking parental views on this shortly after half term, either by email or in person via a focus group. She will also be writing shortly about new systems to monitor students' progress and for reports.

May I remind parents of the existence of ParentView, Ofsted's online system for parents to give their evaluation of schools. It could be a very useful resource to us too – but with only 10 results posted in the last 365 days it may not be as representative as it could be. The more parents use it, the more reliable it is, and I would be very grateful if parents could take the short time required to fill it in at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

With best wishes for the year ahead and thanks for your support.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

News from Informal Jewish Ed

5775 has got off to a flying start at JCoSS with the launch of our very own Mitzvah Challenge – all students need to do is film themselves in the act of fulfilling a mitzvah (a commandment or a good deed) in order to be a part of the newest JCoSS video. Click the link here <http://www.jcoss.org/life-at-jcoss/our-videos/?entry=IT2LZxQ93dY> to see some of our teachers and staff members highlighting examples!

Students were also invited to send 'Sorry' postcards this year in advance of Yom Kippur. The Jewish Ed department became a sorting office as we made sure the cards were delivered to their intended recipients - both staff and students – in time for the festival.



The theme of mitzvot and doing good in the world was echoed by a very busy week in the JCoSS Succot (yes, 2 Succot were erected at JCoSS this year – one inside and one outside!) We welcomed all kinds of visitors to our Succot – our friends from Chabad visited with their Arba Minim (4 species) and many students donated and helped pack fruit baskets for needy families in association with Gift. We were also privileged to welcome guests from 3 different Jewish Care homes to our indoor Succah and were delighted to entertain them with our amazingly talented JCoSS choir and delicious Caterplus sandwiches. We also had visitors from Tzedek and Yachad in our outdoor Succah who provided much inspiration and food for thought. Finally we were thrilled to host an interfaith panel with speakers from the Sikh, Muslim and Jewish communities for a Succot themed family education evening.



News from Informal Jewish Education Cont.

We were also very excited to welcome representatives of all the Zionist Youth Movements to JCoSS at the start of the year. We work very closely with the movements to make sure they have plenty of opportunities to promote their summer and Gap Year programmes, as well as giving students a taster of the kind of activities they could be joining in with. JCoSS is extremely proud to be the only school which welcomes in all of the movements and we are looking forward to an exciting year of programming.

Finally today has seen our first Rosh Chodesh of the year. Students in Key stage 3 took part in prayer services according to the denomination of their choice and we welcomed over 20 clergy and communal leaders from all the mainstream denominations to school. Key stages 4 and 5 took part in a special Rosh Chodesh assembly led by Jonathan Wittenberg, the Head of the Masorti Movement. This year the Rosh Chodesh assemblies will feature senior Rabbis from the Orthodox, Masorti, Reform and Liberal movements as well as prominent speakers from the Board of Deputies and the Israeli Embassy. It is hugely exciting to be able to welcome such a broad spectrum of truly inspirational leaders to our school through the year and we are looking forward to many more thought-provoking Rosh Chodesh sessions.

Ms S Leven
Informal Jewish Education Co-ordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 rd November	All students return to school
6 th November	Y8 Parent Info Meeting
7 th November	Winter Fridays - early closing starts at 1.30pm
20 th November	Music recital Concert
24 th November	Prospective 6 th Form Open Evening
27 th November	Drugs Information Evening for Parents
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

Creative Arts Faculty

Y13 Drama and Theatre Studies – Exploration of Dramatic Performance

The Y13 Drama and Theatre Studies students are rehearsing presently for their Unit 3 student devised performance. They will perform this examination piece in the **Drama Studio at 4.15pm on Thursday 4th December**. Their target audience is Year 10 and above. Entry is free.

Y11 GCSE Drama theatre visit

On Thursday November 13th, the Y11 Drama students will attend a performance of 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo at the Arts Depot in North Finchley.

Music Department

Zamar Singers and the JcoSS-14

Our two choirs will be performing at Grandparents' Afternoon on Thursday November 13th. In addition, they will be singing at the Chanukah Celebration in Trafalgar Square.

At 7pm on Thursday 20th November, the Music Department will hold the first of 3 soloist Recitals. This, in addition to further Recitals in the Spring and Summer terms, is an opportunity for students of all abilities and levels to perform a piece of their choice – voice or instrumental. The event is free of charge.

Details to follow.

Chanukah Show 5775 - 17th and 18th December at 7pm

Join us to celebrate an hour of music, dance and drama at our Chanukah 5775 show! Tickets will be on sale from Reception from Wednesday 3rd December at £3 and £2 concession.

Ms S Miller
Head of Creative Expressive Arts

Science Ideas for Half Term

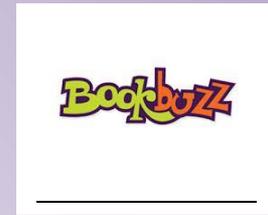
'Centre of the Cell' have some great Halloween-themed family half term events.

Sessions that are being run are: Vicious Vampires, Microscopic Monsters and Deadly Diseases And Snot, Sick and Scabs. See more at <http://centreforthecell.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Bookbuzz

Once again, we are pleased to be part of the Booktrust's "Bookbuzz" scheme this year, kindly funded by the JPA. Year 7 students have now been able to choose a free book each from a list of specially selected titles. The books will be delivered after half-term and distributed to the students during their LRC lessons. If you would like to find out more about this scheme and enter a competition, please look at their website:

<http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/>



Parent help needed



Our popular Half-Price Book Fair is coming to JCoSS soon. If you could spare some time during the day to help us run the Fair which is taking place from **Monday 1st December** for the whole week, please contact Mrs Mulkis in the LRC.

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 "Wish list / Find a wish list". Enter "JCoSS" into the name bar.

Select the book(s) you would like to buy and put it into your basket.

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).

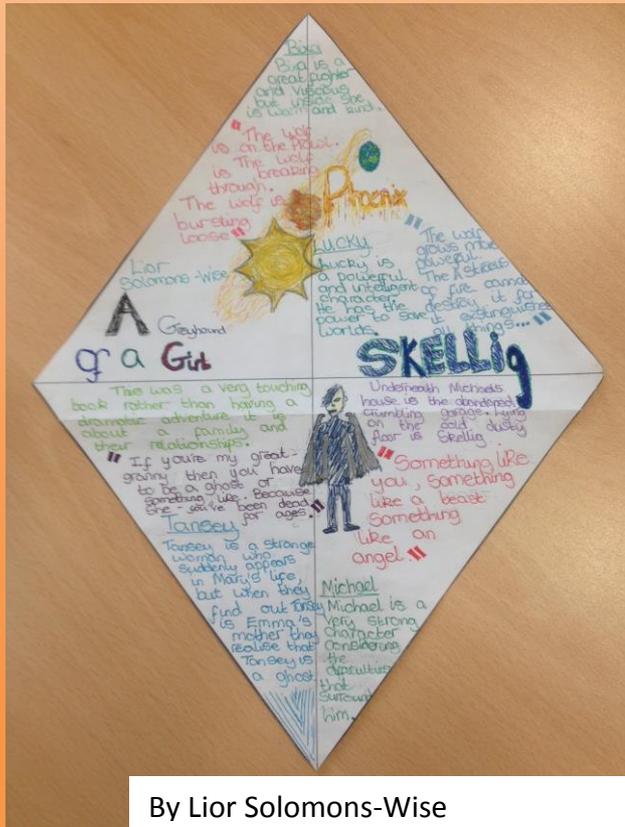
Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!



The LRC Team

Year 7 English - Summer Project

The beautiful kites below were produced over the summer by the Y7s to display their summer reading. The whole year produced such great work, it is a shame we couldn't show all of them.



By Lior Solomons-Wise



By Lulu Rose

Quotes from Year 7 Kite Poems

*A kite sets your wishes and dreams off to come true,
A kite is a magical fairy dust spreading its powers.*
Rachel Hill

*A kite is a free bird soaring
But when the winds are rough
A kite is no longer a free bird
And is trapped in a cage*
Shani Paul

*The Kite is an angel
It flies gracefully and peacefully
The kite is a prisoner,
It cannot escape,
Forced by its owner
It must go on.*
Alex Wander

*A kite is a delicate dancer
Floating amongst the clouds
Twirling gracefully in the wind*
Allana Morrow

*A kite is a majestic bird,
It always spreads its colourful wings*
Tom Mosseri



By Shani Paul

Messages from the School Office

School Coach Service

If your child already travels on a school coach regularly and would like to change a route for any reason, they may do so at no extra cost. However this is dependent on availability on the route and they need to give 48 notice to do so. To request a change of route they need to come to reception between 1-1.30pm and speak to our Transport department.

Children who do not travel regularly on the school bus may book a ticket at the price of £3.50 (one way). Again we require 48 hours notice to check availability of routes. Requests for tickets at less notice will be refused.

Tickets may be obtained by telephoning 0208 344 2241 or by emailing transport@jcross.barnet.sch.uk or from Reception as above.

School ID Cards

Your children have ID cards which are used for buying lunch and printing.

Could we please request that you check the funds on their cards on a regular basis. We have noticed this term that we have had a significant increase in students asking what they do if they have no money on their cards to purchase lunch.

We will offer your child a 'sandwich only' token once per half term when they have no money on their card and therefore need parents to ensure that their child always has sufficient funds available every day.

Adverse Weather

As we are now entering the winter months, please ensure you check our website for updates regarding any adverse weather conditions affecting the school: www.jcross.org



Barnet Fostering Services have asked us to put in the following message:

Could you foster a local child?

*If you would like to find out more about what fostering involves and the support and rewards on offer, Barnet's Fostering Service is holding an information evening on **Tuesday 4 November**, from 6:30-8:30pm, at Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Algernon Road, Hendon, NW4 3TA.*

Throughout the evening there will be presentations from foster carers, young people who have been in foster care, and staff, with plenty of time for informal discussion.

To book your place and to find out more about fostering for Barnet visit www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering, call 020 8359 6274 or email fostering@barnet.gov.uk

JCoSS Sports - Results this Half Term

Boys Football

Year 7

JCoSS 3-5 Friern Barnet

JCoSS 5-5 Compton

JCoSS 6-0 Ashmole

JCoSS 4-4 Wren

JCoSS 5-3 East Barnet

Year 7 Top Scorer: Izzy Fishman (6)

Year 8

JCoSS 4-6 Friern Barnet

JCoSS 4-6 Ashmole

JCoSS 3-5 Compton

JCoSS 0-3 Wren

Year 8 Top Scorer: Callan Stepsky (6)

Year 9

JCoSS 0-4 Friern Barnet

JCoSS 10-1 Compton

JCoSS 3 -0 Wren

Year 9 Top Scorer: Jacob Bennett (6)

Year 10

JCoSS 3-2 Wren

JCoSS 3-0 Friern Barnet

JCoSS 4-5 Ashmole

Year 10 Top Scorer: Zacki Doumou (6)

Year 11

JCoSS 4-3 Wren

JCoSS 2-4 Compton

JCoSS 2-2 Ashmole

Year 11 Top Scorer: Sam Morris (3)

Girls Netball

Yr8 JCoSS 5- 11 Ashmole

Yr9 JCoSS 7 – 13 Ashmole

Yr7 JCoSS 11-3 Ashmole

