

Dear Parents

We close the term in the midst of Chanukah, celebrating freedom from oppression and freedom to be, believe and practise as our conscience dictates. The recent growth in the festival's significance is an interesting phenomenon: traditionally a minor festival with no roots in the Tanach it now has one of the highest profiles in the public sphere. Perhaps it successfully jumps on the Christmas bandwagon; perhaps its themes chime with the current geo-political landscape; perhaps its symbolism and spectacle play well in our visual culture. Whatever the reason, it is a fixed point not only in Jewish homes but on the streets of capital cities worldwide.

We have marked Chanukah at JCoSS by gathering the whole school together at the end of each day for candle lighting, with music provided by our own Jazz Band, by Los Desterrados and on Thursday by the whole of Year 7 singing Matisyahu's "One Day", which has also been our lesson bell for the past month. The words have added power this year: "It's not about win or lose, because we all lose when they feed on the souls of the innocent...All my life I've been waiting for, I've been praying for the people to say that we don't want to fight no more, there'll be no more wars, and our children will play". The events of last summer make these sentiments which are surely shared across many communities – Jewish and non-Jewish – as 2014 draws to a close.

The ghastly events in Peshwar this week throw the joy of Chanukah into further relief: as we reflected on the privileges of freedom and democracy, we paused on the second night to hold that school and community in our thoughts and prayers. The murder of 5 classes of children, carried out in the name of God, is an obscenity that defies comprehension: the darkness in which our lights must shine is dark indeed, and the need to nurture those small flames of mutual trust, understanding, love of neighbour and tikkun olam is urgent indeed.

Our Head Student Team did a fabulous job addressing the huge crowds in Trafalgar Square for 'Chanukah in the Square'. There are some who remain nervous about the JCoSS message of Jewish pluralism, fearful that it may divide or weaken the community. Resisting any such concerns, Aaron Spalter, Alexander Spencer-Hope and Rosie Ferner-Cornhouse delivered a passionate and moving speech linking the inspiration of Chanukah lights to the inspirations of JCoSS. It was something the school – and the whole community – should be truly proud of.

Tension ran high afterwards: Aaron's phone had only 2% of battery left – would it last long enough to get the all-important selfie with Boris Johnson? In a dramatic reprise of the original Chanukah story, miraculously the power lasted long enough for the photo, and in case there is anyone in the school that Aaron has not yet shown it to, we reproduce it on page 4.

As the term ends we bid farewell to Mrs Karolis, who leaves the JCoSS Science Department for a post closer to home and to her 2 small children. Mr Riley, Ms Kornhauser, Ms Freedman and Ms Efrati leave us after brief stays for new pastures, and Ms Lancaster, Mrs Trupp and Mrs Hershmann either have already departed or will do shortly for maternity leave. We wish them all b'hatzlacha!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Lavender, the first member of JCoSS staff to leave for retirement. As the Director of Learning Support since April 2011 she has devoted huge energy and expertise to this crucial area of the school, establishing systems almost from scratch and providing tireless, personalised and robust support and advice to many students and parents. She has done a magnificent job and we wish her an extremely well-earned and happy retirement.

I wish you Chanukah Sameach and a restful and enjoyable break.

Patrick Moriarty

Amy Winehouse Foundation - Information Evening

We were delighted that members of the Amy Winehouse Foundation, including Mitch Winehouse, came to speak at JCoSS last month for a Parents' Drug Information Evening. The purpose of the evening was to raise awareness of the issues surrounding drugs, to provide information and to build confidence in discussing this delicate topic with teenagers. Two speakers delivered their own personal account of drug use and abuse; both spoke passionately and openly about very private issues, leaving both Staff and Parents feeling supported and well informed.

We were delighted to receive some great feedback from parents. One emailed to say 'I came to the Amy Winehouse's Foundation talk on Thursday evening which I thank you for organising. It was a fascinating talk and the two young people who spoke, talked from the heart, honestly and openly telling us about their past addictions, how and why they started.'

Another parent commented 'I am delighted the school took the initiative to invite the Amy Winehouse Foundation in to JCoSS to meet with parents. The bravery of the people who came and shared their horrific experiences with drink and drugs, as well as their battle to kick their addictions was humbling and extremely moving to listen to. We all think it won't happen to our child, they won't get taken in – well this just proved how easy it is for that to just happen! I applaud the school for taking this step forward and starting this conversation with us and I now encourage them to continue this work with our children'.

Science News

On Wednesday 3rd December a delegation of eight Year 12 and Y13 Chemists visited Nottingham University for a day of spectroscopy, accompanied by Mr Simons and Ms Wright. The students delved into the magical world of chemical analysis and had a tour of the undergraduate labs. Students had hands-on experience of using infrared spectroscopy and were given a tour of the Mass Spectrometry room where each of the 5 machines is worth over £1.2 million. Mr Simons and Ms Wright were immensely proud of the students who were fantastic ambassadors for JCoSS.



GCSE Science

The second half of the winter term has been busy here in science. All of our Year 11s and the Year 10 triple scientists have completed an ISA worth 25% of a GCSE. We have been incredibly impressed by the dedication of students and the professionalism shown on the ISA days. Marking has been progressing well, and after moderation we will hopefully be able to give back an amazing set of marks to the students.

JCoSS Sports

JCoSS students representing Maccabi GB

We are delighted to announce that the following students will be travelling to Florida to represent Maccabi GB in the summer: Rio Rosenberg (8N), Jacob Bennett (9B) and Jack Earle (9N) for Football; Saul Shimoni (9F), James Rich (9R) and Eddie Lisberg (9Y) for table tennis; Saul Segalov (9F) for tennis and Molly Leizer (9B) for swimming. Also, Josh Burns (10F), Josh Shack (10S) and Nathan Anders (10W) will be going to Berlin to play football and Alex Rose will be playing futsa. On behalf of the JCoSS community, we want to wish the students Mazel Tov on their fantastic achievement - and wish them luck for all the training!

KS3 and KS4 Barnet Champions in badminton!

Congratulations to the Year 9 and Year 11 teams who won the Barnet badminton tournament and who now go on to represent the borough in the next round of the competition.

The Year 9 team: Ben Felt, Sam Lachmann, Gabe Cooke and Asher Kelvin.

The Year 11 team: Aaron Shimoni, Zak Jackson, James Cubin and Saul Fenton (from Year 10).

Maccabi Netball Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 9 girls who won the Maccabi netball tournament against all other schools in the Jewish Community. All the girls did exceptionally well, with a stand-out performance from Phillipa Steen. The Year 7 girls came second in their netball tournament and also did a fantastic job.

Maccabi Girls Football Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who won their Maccabi football tournament. A special mention goes to Hannah Webber who scored 7 goals in one particular game.

Following the winning streak, our Year 9 girls played some great games of football and also won their Maccabi football tournament. Rio Rosenberg was their outstanding performer.

We are very proud of all our JCoSS teams, who put in amazing performances and beat some very good teams.



Chanukah at JCoSS

JCoSS students have been taking part in all kinds of activities for Chanukah this week. As part of our on-going support for Homeless Action, students and staff brought in new toiletries which were given to those living locally without a home. Students also made Chanukah treats to donate to Homeless Action in Barnet.

Year 7 and 8 students visited a local Jewish Care home on Wednesday, spending time with the residents, singing some Chanukah songs and eating donuts. Also, our Israeli Scouts ran activities for all students on Tuesday in the Heartspace at lunchtime.

The Chanukah concert was also kicked off with a communal candle lighting and celebration for staff, students and parents. And of course some more doughnuts!

Every day the school gathered as a whole community to light candles with a different musical accompaniment each day. Guest musicians Shir and Los Desterrados accompanied the candle lighting as well as the in-house talent of the JCoSS Jazz band and the Year 7 choir – comprising every member of Year 7.

Chanukah in the Square

Head boy Aaron Spalter along with Deputy Head boy Alex Spencer-Hope and Deputy Head Girl Rosie Ferner-Cornhouse were fantastic ambassadors of JCoSS on Tuesday evening, where they delivered an excellent and thought provoking speech at the prestigious Chanukah in the Square event at Trafalgar Square. They were the only students to speak at the event, and their speech was very well received. Please look at the latest news section on our website to read the speech.



Head boy Aaron Spalter gets a selfie with London Mayor Boris Johnson at Chanukah in the Square on Tuesday



A group of Year 7 and 8 students visit Lady Sarah Cohen Jewish Care Home



The whole of Year 7 sing to the rest of the school to celebrate Chanukah

History News

In this first year of the Commemoration of the Centenary of WW1, Year 9 have been researching life in the trenches and produced memory boxes for soldiers in the front lines; they have been creating artefacts, photograph albums, diaries and letters. They produced some absolutely fabulous work and immersed themselves in the trench experiences of WW1 soldiers.

Benji Klauber-Griffiths kindly shared photographs of a family member who (and they think this probably saved his life) fought in the desert rather than the trenches and was lucky enough to be allowed to keep a camera and take some pictures.



Gym and Dance Show 19th March – Keep your eyes peeled for more information in the New Year.

Any students wanting to participate should speak to Ms Gustard-Brown.



Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair



Thank you so much to the many parents who volunteered at our book fair earlier this month. It was a very well attended and successful event, with over 300 books sold.

We are delighted to tell you that, thanks to your purchases, we were able to choose over 80 free books for the LRC. These will be put on the shelves for students to borrow in the near future.



To get the chance to win a set of **Beats headphones worth £269** for the school and runner-up prizes of a signed film poster, please go to: www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/maze - Closing date: 31st December 2014.

Thanks to the JPA, every student in Year 7 has now received a free book to read over the holidays.

As part of Year 7 Home Learning, students have been asked to design a book cover for their chosen book. The template consists of two parts: a design of the story on the right-hand side and a book review on the left-hand side. The homework must be handed in during the first LRC lesson in January and will be entered into an internal competition. We would also like to encourage your child to send in their design to a 'Bookbuzz' competition. All they need to do is email it to: bookbuzz@booktrust.org.uk with the subject 'Design a Book Cover Competition' by 10th January 2015. The winner's design will be put on the homepage of the Bookbuzz website and JCoSS could also win an author's visit for the school. Good luck to everyone!

The LRC Team



Year 10 Jack Petchey Public Speaking Workshop

A group of 25 Year 10 students participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop. The trainer gave very good feedback and said that “the JCoSS students were a fantastic group of students. They were committed, eloquent, brave and engaged throughout the training. The standard of speeches was excellent and it was wonderful to see many quieter students overcome their fears and speak with passion and skill on their chosen topic”.

Class winner: Indigo Smith

Reserve: Judy Benichou

Highly Commended: Jake Segal and Max Simmonds

Comments from students included:

Jake: "I really enjoyed the experience and I improved my confidence. Great fun and lots of skills developed!"

Becca: "I found the training amazing to build my self confidence. I started off not liking public speaking but now I feel much more comfortable."

Michelle: "This was so much fun. I really enjoyed it and have learnt so many new skills. "

Year 11 Prefects

After a rigorous selection process, the Year 11 prefects have now been appointed (see list below). These student leaders will be supporting staff in ensuring a harmonious atmosphere during break and lunch times and there will be a further opportunity for some to sit on the student parliament. We have been very impressed by the menschlich approach that they demonstrated in their applications and interviews and thank them in advance for their further contributions to the JCoSS community.

Joel Avigdor	Daniel Marcus
Lucinda Bathie	Cole Marshall
Harley Benson	Lara Miller-Rosenthal
Olivia Berger	Max Mydat
Joss Bogod	Zara Myers
Jack Brown	Ryan Peltz
Nathan Caplan	Jodie Rich
Jayme Cohen	Ruby Rose
Tom Cohen	David Ross
Ella Dinner	Jordan Rubenstein
Brandon Foran	Molly Schiller
Alexander Fraser	Mark Schmeid
Thomas Glassman	Samuel Solden
Megan Goldsober	Zack Solomon
Daniel Golstein	Ben Wander
Ilana Hur	Jonah Zur
Sophie Irwin	
Lauren Malina-Goldsmith	

Able and Ambitious

Iggy.net

A cohort of students in Year 9 have been busy using IGGY.net; an online social network for able 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. Students participate in the IGGY.net Club on Friday lunch times as well as using the network in their free time to develop and expand their horizons.

Able and Ambitious Sessions

Various Able and Ambitious students have been meeting with Ms Goldstein-Opasiak, for personalised coaching conversations to discuss their progress, attainment and how they can continue to achieve highly in the different subject areas.

Art Able and Ambitious Trip - The Curwen Print Centre - Tuesday 2nd December, by Noam Solomons-Wise (Y9)

On Tuesday 2nd December a small group of Year 9 Able & Ambitious art students and the two Year 12 students studying A Level art, went on a trip to the Curwen Print Centre. This was an enjoyable and beneficial experience.

The Curwen Print Centre studio is a large room filled with heavy-duty cast iron presses. These presses have the potential to produce stunning and interesting art, and I think that some beautiful art was produced during the trip.

The day was split in two and we spent time working on two printing techniques: Negative printing and positive printing. Negative printing involved carving into a tile of lino, everything that you carved out didn't pick up the ink when you rolled it on, hence why it is called negative printing. The other technique was positive printing. We were given a sheet of acetate and a needle. This technique is positive because what you engrave into the plastic is printed with the ink when put through the printing press used for this technique.

Both techniques were very interesting and opened up a large number of possibilities of paths that our work could take. For example, on the negative printing, you could print the image in blue, then cover some of it up and print over it again in pink, leaving some blue sections and some pink. This means we can experiment with colour when producing our work.

I really enjoyed the trip and learnt some new techniques that have inspired me and will hopefully enhance my future work. Below are two prints created by students on the trip.



The Chanukah 5775 Show!

In the imitable style of Craig Revel Horwood“fab-u-lous!” " " and “a-ma-zing!” What a real pleasure it was to watch and listen to the 40+ students from Y7-13 at this year’s Chanukah Show.

Drama....Dance....Music – it was all there! The JCoSS Company of Players presented the key points of the Chanukah story amidst a series of reality quiz shows. Between the amusing, articulate and well projected sketches, we were bowled over by performances from the String Ensemble, the Zamar Singers, the JCoSS-14 and our brand new Jazz Band. The evening culminated with the Company of Players dancing dazzlingly to ‘Miracle’ by The Maccabeats! Our talented students excelled in performing a polished, well-presented and innovative evening of pure entertainment. Mazeltov and thank you to you all!

Many thanks to everyone who assisted with Chanukah 5775, with particular acknowledgement and thanks to Ms Green, Mrs Gustard-Brown and Ms Brown for all your hard work in rehearsing the students throughout the term.

Ms S Miller

Head of CEA Faculty



JPA Bollywood Evening and Sports Quiz

Don't miss out on buying your tickets for the JPA Bollywood Evening on 25th January and look out for details of our Sports Quiz on 1st March.

Contact jcosspa@outlook.com for more details.

Kashrut Reminder

Please be reminded that students should only bring vegetarian food, or kosher fish onto the school premises and that no food should be taken into the School canteen under any circumstances.

Parent Poland Journey

We are delighted to inform you that this year JCoSS is running a Poland Journey for Parents from March 15-17th, cost £495.

Price includes: hotels, all food and guiding by Dr Sharon Kangisser from Hebrew University. This price does not include flights.

For more information please contact Ms Robinson:

erobinson@JCoSS.barnet.sch.uk