

Dear Parents

“Everything is permissible, but not everything is helpful. Everything is permissible, but not everything builds up.”

We have all spent the early weeks of 2015 in the shadow of the shocking killings of Charlie Hebdo journalists, police and Jews in Paris last month. There has been much discussion of the right to free speech, and the widespread and stalwart defence of democratic values in reaction to the horror has been a source of light and hope in dark and frightening times.

Nothing can justify violent and lawless killing. Meanwhile, however, in the debate about whether freedom of speech includes a “right to offend”, the words above are I think a helpful observation (I will give a reward to the first student to tell me which first century Jewish teacher said them). The possibility that we may offend others is of course part of the right to speak freely, but I am not sure that we really have a right to offend. Even if we do, the discussion is pretty fruitless if it is simply about the rights of one individual against another: the real question is what kind of community we wish to live in.

One of the scary privileges of leading a school is walking every day amongst those affected at first hand by one’s decisions. Few other roles have that kind of immediacy, and few other places in society are communities in such an intense way as in schools, where staff and students live alongside each other ‘up close’ every day and where the ebb and flow of hormones and emotions is ever present. A key task for the adults in schools is to help the young to see the physical and emotional effect of their words and deeds on others, whether they meant those effects or not. Hurtful or snide comments (“only a joke...”) or outbursts of anger (“well I was upset...”) do real hurt and harm to others, and they sap everyone’s morale. No-one who has worked in schools would assert a “right to offend”: far more valuable is asking – with the quotation above – what is helpful, and what builds up?

The free speech of students at JCoSS has, meanwhile, had some wonderful effects which deserve to be celebrated in a time of inter-religious tension. Students have asked us (persistently, politely) for more teaching of World Faiths, and we have introduced new schemes of learning to address this request which Key Stage 3 students will experience after half term. Meanwhile, some Year 8 students noticed that a Muslim on the cleaning team was saying her afternoon prayers in a cold stairwell, and asked if a more respectful and comfortable place could be provided for her; we were delighted to make one available. For another take on religious diversity and identity, you may be interested in a “JDOV” talk I did at the Jewish Learning Conference Limmud in December. Entitled “Are you sure you’re not Jewish?”, it can be viewed at <http://www.jhub.org.uk/jdov/portfolio/are-you-sure-youre-not-jewish/>.

We live in a complex society where many truth claims have to live side by side. Most of us grew up in simpler times than our children and we may wish for simple answers, especially when the competition between truths gets tough. I am proud that JCoSS tries to model how to live with the tension and complexity of our times, and tries to show our students how to be creative with difference within the Jewish community and beyond it. The students are doing an excellent job of that, and they are showing us the way too: as ever, you will find many examples in the pages ahead. Their good sense, open-mindedness and good-heartedness are an inspiration, and as always I thank my colleagues for the excellent modelling they provide.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Informal Jewish Education News at JCoSS

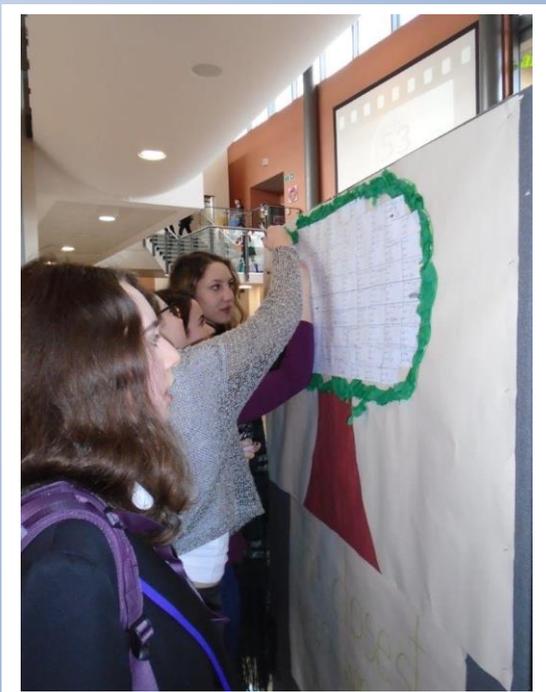
The Year 7 Shabbaton took place on 23-24 January with over 40 year 7 students heading to Skeet Hill House for the weekend. We celebrated a truly pluralist JCoSS Shabbat with a choice of services, plenty of delicious food and lots of fun and games. Huge thanks to the staff team who joined us and we're already looking forward to next year!

The school marked Rosh Chodesh Shevat with a choice of over 30 services for Key Stage 3 students and a special assembly for older students led by Rabbi Benji Stanley from the Movement for Reform Judaism. Shevat of course is the month in which we celebrate Tu b'shevat, and this year we marked this festival with a social action project in association with the Trussell Trust which is a network of food banks throughout the country.

The Alan Senitt programme is also well underway, with students taking part in seminars on leadership and project management alongside peers from partner schools. Look out for the official launch of their campaign for this year within the Jewish Community and beyond.

Students are also continuing to build up their Yoni Jesner volunteering hours. We are very proud to be a part of this programme which recognises and rewards volunteering and social action by our students in a wide variety of settings. Some students are collecting their hours through being part of a new JCoSS IJE initiative, Team Tikkun – a group of students who are dedicated to increasing and developing our social action and fundraising. Throughout this month they are running 'Film February' during which students can watch classic films at lunchtime for a small fee which will, of course, be donated to our school charities. It's not too late to sign up to the Yoni Jesner Award Scheme, visit www.jlgb.org/yonijesner

Finally all the Zionist Youth Movements were in school last week, advertising their summer programmes. Students were able to meet movement workers and think about which summer camps and programmes they might want to join. We are proud that we are the only Jewish secondary school in the UK which invites in all the youth movements from across the religious spectrum and celebrates all they have to offer.



Students celebrated Tu B'Shevat at school by guessing the number of pieces of dried fruit in the jar and organising collections for Homeless Action Barnet and the Chipping Barnet foodbank.

Social Action News

THANK YOU to everyone who donated their unwanted CDs and DVDs, which Team Tikkun spent their lunchtime sorting through. As a result over £60 was raised for Tzedek's International Development projects.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all JCoSS students and staff who raised an incredible £685 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice through our non-uniform day during Chanukah. That money will go towards making a real difference to children living with life-threatening illnesses, and their families.



News from the Music Department

Emunah Singing Competition Final

Congratulations to Abigail Wander in Year 10 and Aaron Spalter in Year 12 who performed at the Emunah Singing Competition last weekend. Both sang beautifully with Aaron gaining a 'Highly Commended' from the judges and Abigail gaining full marks for her performance and going through to the finals. We wish her good luck for the final showcase on Sunday 1 March at the Royal Academy of Music.

Music Lunchtime Clubs

Music clubs have started again. All clubs are open to anyone and start at 13:10 Monday – Thursday, 12:40 on Fridays.

Monday: Zamar Singers, String Quartet

Tuesday: Orchestra, Theory

Wednesday: Zamar Singers

Thursday: Jazz Band

Friday: JCoSS 14, Guitar Club

Concerts and Performances Coming Up

11th March 13:00 Battle of the Bands (Students Only)

26th March 19:00 Music Concert (All Welcome)

We look forward to seeing you there.

Instrumental Lessons Deadline

If you would like to learn an instrument through the school, the deadline for signing up is Monday 9th Feb with payment due by 23rd February. Lessons start in April and cost £195 for ten 30-minute individual lessons. To find out more, ask a member of the music department or Ms Goddard.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Congratulations to Indigo Smith, who achieved 3rd place in the Borough Final of the 'Jack Petchey Speak Out' Challenge. You can watch her in action here; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd6svsnNHhw>

Poetry By Heart Competition

Congratulations to Dana Nitzani, Year 11, who has won the Poetry By Heart County Contest, fending off competition from 9 other schools, including Channing, South Hampstead, JFS and Woodhouse College. Dana had to learn 3 poems by heart and recite them to a judging panel of published poets. The poems were from 3 categories: pre-1914, post 1914 and a poem written in World War I. Dana recited 'London Snow', by Robert Bridges (1890), 'Poetry' by Marianne Moore (1935) and 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon (1914). As the winner of the County contest, Dana will now go onto an all-expenses paid trip to Cambridge for the Regional and National finals.



Sarah Sackman, Labour Parliamentary candidate for Finchley and Golders Green and Luciana Berger MP (former Habs student of Mr Moriarty) visited the JCoSS 6th Form last week on National Voter Registration day, in order to encourage young people to vote.

Sarah said "The students at JCoSS are politically conscious and impressed upon me how much they want a voice in national and international debates. They were passionate about debating the problems of the world and I was delighted that today's 17 and 18 year olds are so determined to participate in our democracy."

Key Dates for 2nd Half of Spring Term 2015

Date	Event	Time
Mon 23rd Feb	Students Back to School	8.30am
Thurs 5 th March	Purim. EARLY CLOSING AT 2.05PM	All day. Early Closing at 2.05pm
Thurs 12 th March	Revision Techniques Parents' Information Meeting	7pm
Thurs 19 th March	Gym and Dance Performance	7pm
Sun 22 nd March	JPA Sports Quiz	7pm
Tues 24 th March	Yr 7 Parents' Evening	4.30 – 7.30pm
Thurs 26 th March	Music Concert	7pm
Fri 27 th March	End of Term	1.30pm
Mon 13th April	Students Back to School	8.30am

Early closing on Fridays until end of Spring Term – 1.30pm
(please note school will end on Fridays at 2.05pm in the Summer Term)

English Trip, By Sara Sclater and Indigo Smith, Year 10.

The Year 10 Globe Theatre trip was a unique experience which helped us to further understand Romeo and Juliet.

We left school at 9am and got to the Globe Theatre at 11am, just in time to meet our tour guides and explore the theatre. Our initial impression was that the theatre was smaller than expected but the design was very detailed and faithful to the original Globe built in 1566. Our tour guides explained what it was like to act on the stage and centred our visit on Romeo and Juliet – our English topic. We learnt about Elizabethan hierarchy within the seating plan of the theatre; society in the Shakespearian era; projection of voice on the stage and the difficulties of performing in an open air venue.

We then explored the stage and backstage and took it in turns to perform a line from a key scene in Romeo and Juliet allowing us to get a different insight to the play.

After lunch we toured the Globe Theatre exhibit which went into detail about Shakespeare and his plays; these included timelines, costumes, common phrases and a 3D model of the Globe when it was first built. We found this all very interesting as we learned a lot about the context behind Shakespeare and his work.

Next, we gathered to watch to a live sword fighting tutorial which explored a controversial aspect of Romeo and Juliet. The demonstrator explained the types of swords that were used and analysed the fight scenes in detail.

After this we then met with our tour guides again and explored the play in drama and spoken word rather than in writing. Not only was this helpful but also allowed us to interact with the play and explore specific characters statuses in a way we had not before. This involved many drama activities and games which centred on our exam question in English.

This trip was really useful and informative as we able to connect with the play and the characters. We would recommend this trip to anyone who gets the opportunity as it's really helped us in ways we never thought it would.



Part of the RAD
Step into Dance
programme

**MUSICAL
THEATRE**

Tuesdays
4.15-5.15
D103

See Mrs Gustard-Brown
for details

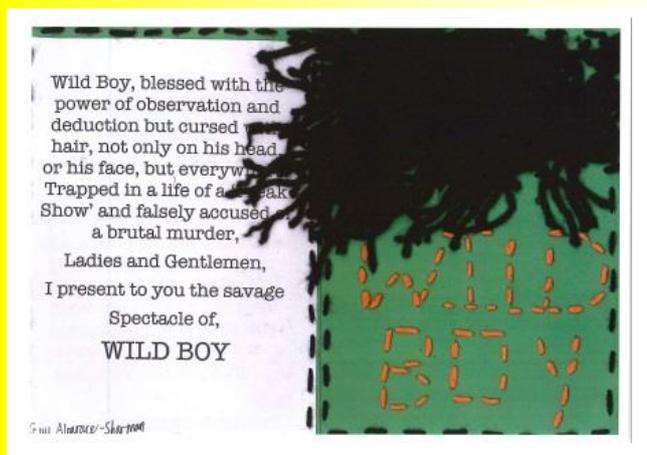
A graphic designed to look like a musical score on a yellow background. It features five staves of music, each with a treble and bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. Silhouettes of dancers in various poses are scattered across the staves. The text 'Part of the RAD Step into Dance programme' is written in a cursive font in the top right. The words 'MUSICAL THEATRE' are written in large, pink, dotted letters across the middle. 'Tuesdays 4.15-5.15 D103' is written in a cursive font in the bottom left. 'See Mrs Gustard-Brown for details' is written in a cursive font in the bottom right. A large, light blue wavy line runs across the staves.

Bookbuzz competition: Well done to all Year 7 students who provided some really imaginative work for the book cover competition. Congratulations to the winner and runners up. Prizes will be given next month in assembly.

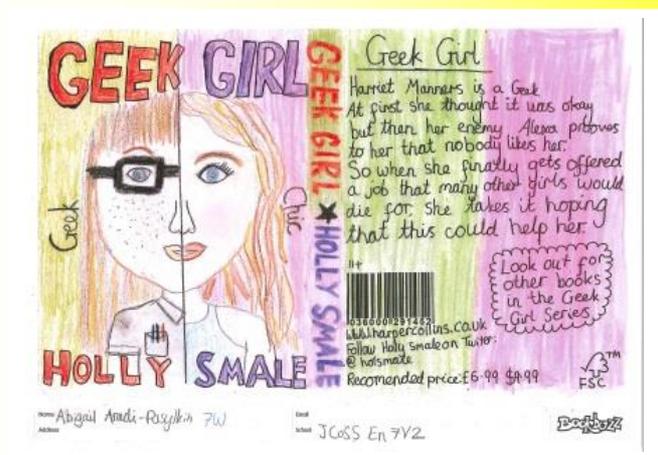
Winner: Reuben Simon, 7Y



Runner up: Guy Altarace-Sherman, 7S



Runner Up: Abigail Aradi-Posylkin, 7W



Runner Up: Geffen Katz-Kaye in 7N



World Book Day: We are celebrating World Book Day on Tuesday 3rd March and will have a Book Swap at lunchtime on this day. We would be very grateful if you could bring in books that you no longer want after half term, which will be exchanged for Book Swap tokens have an opportunity to purchase a cook book Viner-Luzatto and Jo Leslie-Briggs. Fabienne will be coming to JCoSS at break time to sign copies of her book.



Carnegie Book Award: The Long list will be announced on Tuesday 10th February and can be viewed at: <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/index.php>

Costa Book Award 2014 winner: "H is for Hawk" by Helen Macdonald

Mr Moriarty comments: *I am nearing the end of this phenomenal book and I highly recommend it. It's about Hawk training, dealing with grief, being an outsider and the enormous power of focused attention. Quite a combination!*



The LRC Team



Cyber Bullying Awareness

A Band called 'In Hindsight' came to JCoSS to perform to Year 8 and Year 9. The purpose of their visit was to make students aware of the dangers of Cyber Bullying, as well as entertaining students with a musical performance.



Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities

Sign up! Sign up! Sign up!

Each term at JCoSS, we provide a varied and exciting Extra-Curricular Programme. Even though this is displayed in classrooms and posted round the school and on the website, some students are still unaware of what is on offer. There is a plethora of activities from which to choose. So, what are some of the benefits of 'signing up' to one or more activities/clubs each week?

- making new friends
- learning and developing new skills, including social and communication skills
- learning how to work in a team
- raising self- esteem, self -respect and confidence
- Participation in clubs and activities is looked on favourably by universities and employers.

Our computer pods may be an exciting way for some students to spend lunchtimes, but it is important that they experience different aspects of school life. I would be grateful if you could look through the clubs/activities and discuss the different options with your son or daughter to help them make an informed decision as to what they would like to sign up to or try out. They may attend as many as they wish. Even once a week would be a great start! Also, we would be very grateful if parents could take a couple of minutes to complete our extra-curricular survey, by clicking the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M3MDDSP>

Many thanks for your support and I look forward to increased participation in extra-curricular activities at JCoSS.

Ms S Miller

Head of CEA Faculty

JCoSS 6th Former to climb Mount Snowdon for Norwood

Samuel Masters is a 6th former at JCoSS and will be pushing himself to the limit to raise money for Norwood, by climbing the highest peak in England and Wales, Mount Snowdon, on August 28th.

Norwood supports people with learning disabilities as well as children and families in need. As Norwood says, "Everyone has the right to live the life they choose".

Sam's aim is to raise as much money for Norwood as possible. If you would like to sponsor Sam and donate to Norwood, please visit his Just Giving fundraising page below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/benandsamsnowdon>



JCoSS Sports

Year 7 Girls win Maccabi Basketball Tournament

JCoSS Year 7 girls team won the Maccabi Girls Basketball Tournament, beating competition from Immanuel (2 teams), JFS (2 teams) and Yavneh. The girls played 5 games, winning 4 and drawing 1. The Squad were: Lulu Rose, Lucy Cooper, Jess Nathen, Eliana Jackson, Georgia Lenchner, Gili McEwen, Ariela Sibling, Jessica Cohen, Ina Du Sautoy, Molly Murray.

Congratulations to the team on this excellent result.



Boys Basketball Results

Yr 9 Boys basketball v Ashmole Lost 8-51

Yr 8 Boys Basketball v East Barnet lost 32-45: 32 was the highest score JCoSS has ever recorded. Special mention to Callan Stepsky who scored 12 points.

Yr 8 Boys Basketball v Ashmole lost 15-30

Girls Football Results

Yr 7 Girls Football v London Academy won 3-0; Yr 7 Girls Football v St James Lost 3-0 ;

Yr 8 girls football v Queen Elizabeth Girls won 6-0: Goals from Noa Taylor (3), Rio Rosenberg (2), Miriam Clifton (1)

The London Table Tennis Competition Results

A table tennis team from Years 8, 9 and 10 competed in the London Table Tennis competition at the London Academy. All players competed in an age category above themselves, putting in an excellent performance. A special mention goes to Josh Franses (Yr 8), Scott Leveson (Yr 10) and Jamie Lesser (Yr 10) who were all semi-finalists.

Year 8 Team

Josh Franses (semi-finalist)

Josh Hennes

Sam Holden

Callan Stepsky

Year 9 Team

Eddie Lisberg

Saul Shimoni

Jamie Fattal

Gabe Cooke

Year 10 Team

Ryan Isaacs

Scott Leveson (semi-finalist)

Jamie Lesser (semi-finalist)

Tom Stepsky

National Badminton Tournament

A team from Year 9 and 11 represented Barnet at the National Schools badminton competition. Both teams put in excellent performances and came 5th, which is an excellent result given the standard of play.



Year 9 Team:

Sam Lachmann

Ben Felt

Asher Kelvin

Gabe Cooke

Year 11:

Aaron Shimoni

James Cubin

Sammy Bradley

Zak Jackson

Nathan Rosenthal

