

Dear Parents

The school year draws to a close today at the end of an exceptionally long summer term. Each morning this week has seen fewer and fewer cars on the road, fewer and fewer school uniforms at bus stops, until it seems only the Jewish schools remain soldiering on. The longed-for summer break provides, for many, welcome opportunities for release and relaxation; for some, the absence of routine during school holidays makes them a time of mixed emotions; for those of us with young children, meanwhile, the most we can hope for is “a change that is as good as a rest”.

My youngest daughter will have her first birthday during the holidays. By September she may be walking and even talking, but for now what is bringing the most joy is seeing her pick something up, crawl across the floor, put it into my hand and then release her grip. For the first time, she is giving me a gift. It is a beautiful moment but also a profound one: she is learning to let go, which is something worth reflecting on as a holiday begins.

Newborn babies arrive with two key instincts: to suck and to grip. Making sure you get fed and keeping hold of what you have are both key to survival in a world that is completely overwhelming. Learning to release the physical grip and give things away are among the first steps babies take into maturity, and we have to continue the process metaphorically throughout our lives if we are to keep growing spiritually. Of course growing up involves acquiring things, but just as importantly it involves letting things go and learning to cope with the loss. As we mature we have to bear all manner of losses – of freedom, of self-importance, of health, of relationships, of loved ones. No-one seeks loss, and neither should we. But we need to accept it graciously and gratefully when it comes, because it is one of the best teachers we can ever have.

My point in including this in end-of-summer term newsletter is to commend the release and relaxation of summer as a time to practise the vital art of letting things go. Doing so is good for our physical health, and good for the health of the whole school community.

I promised earlier this term a report on the recent Student Survey, and the most striking finding is relevant here. Only half of the students who responded believe that their fellow JCoSS students behave well. There is strong support for the values of the school, but students do not see this being put into practice consistently by their peers. We will therefore be expecting more of them next year in terms of calm, respectful consideration for others. We will be calling them to even higher standards, and insisting that they live out the values that they cherish, day by day, lesson by lesson, no matter which adult is asking them and whether things go their way or not.

The students are calling for more emotional and spiritual growth, and that relies greatly on being able to let things go and give things away. Many of the students already have these abilities in abundance beyond their years, and I know we can count on the support of parents in building upon it further.

I wish the whole community a happy and restorative holiday and express, as always, my thanks to all my colleagues and to parents and students for making JCoSS the exceptional place that it is to work and to learn. My recent letter has detailed the departing staff, and I wish them, as well as students who are leaving us from Year 13 or from lower years, every success in the future.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher, JCoSS

Informal Jewish Education and Social Action News

School Charities update

Following our Charities Fair, the staff and student bodies have voted for their preferred charities - and the votes have now been counted. The 2015 – 2016 school charities represent a local charity, a Jewish charity and an Israel Charity and this year's charities are; Nikki's Smile, Jewish Women's Aid and Save a Child's Heart. We are very excited to be supporting charities with whom we have good links and who all come to the school to carry out educational work.

Our first Fundraising Fair for the new charities took place on Friday July 17th with a range of activities organised by the school's Team Tikkun (student charity committee).

Social Action

Social action and volunteering has continued with a group of students visiting Connect Southgate, our local Jewish Care Day Centre. They took part in a range of activities including table football and Rummikub as well as baking cakes for the annual Jewish Care Bake Day. Students also made their way to Lady Sarah Cohen House before Shavuot and helped residents make cheesecakes.



Rosh Chodesh

The final Rosh Chodesh of the year was also celebrated with Rabbi Richard Jacobi, Chair of the Rabbinic Conference of Liberal Judaism addressing the school. This brings to an end the series of Rosh Chodesh assemblies this year which have featured speakers from all the major Jewish denominations, another first for JCoSS and the Jewish Community.

Chanukiya Competition

Although the sun has been shining, we have been busy preparing for Chanukah. Five JCoSS students have been shortlisted to have their chanukiya designs made into the new outdoor chanukiya for Jewish Care's Wohl Campus in Golders Green. Once the winner is selected by the panel of staff and users of the campus, the winning design will be made and ready to be lit in a major ceremony on the first night of Chanukah. Congratulations to the shortlisted students: Joe Solomon, Adam Lee, Hannah Kieve, Evie Raphael and Ella Normand.

Yoni Jesner Award

Many JCoSS students are wonderful volunteers and a group of Year 7 and 8 students were recognised for their volunteering efforts at the Yoni Jesner Awards in Camden Town Hall on the 2nd July. Tragically killed in a terrorist attack, Yoni was a young leader who was an active volunteer. The awards recognise the efforts of young people in volunteering throughout the community. The Chief Rabbi of the United Synagogue, the Mayor of Barnet and Marsha Gladstone who is Yoni's mother all spoke to the students and the evening was compered by a JCoSS student, Oliver Abrahams. We were all very proud, especially as the award was originally established by our own Deputy Head Elaine Robinson.



Molly Schiller, Year 11 went onto BBC London with Alison Cox to talk about the loss of her brother Max and her support for the leading charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

The Schillers became involved with CRY after their 10 year old son, Max, very suddenly and tragically passed away in January this year from an undetected and undiagnosed genetic heart condition known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Although their lives have been shattered, they really wanted to take part in CRY's fundraising walk last month - particularly as it would have been Max's 11th birthday just a few days before the walk and they have raised over £12,500.

Visit to Keats House

Several Year 11 students who have completed their GCSE examinations, spent a wonderful week at Keats House in Hampstead on a Creative Writing workshop. The students had been put forward by the English Faculty as they have demonstrated creative writing talent in the past and have chosen to study English Literature at A Level. JCoSS students worked alongside a diverse range of students from a variety of schools to create some exciting and dynamic writing in many different genres. Our students produced some high quality original work which was shared in a final afternoon showcase. Students were offered a celebratory tea in the beautiful gardens of Keats House while reciting a selection of their writing. Ms Blitz attended the afternoon showcase and was absolutely delighted by the standard of the work. JCoSS hopes to continue and further our involvement with Keats House as this has been such a positive experience for our students.



Barnet STEM Challenge

On Monday 6th July JCoSS took part for the first time in the Barnet STEM Challenge day hosted by Middlesex university. A group of 12 students from Year 8 headed off to Hendon early in the morning, where they joined with other secondary schools from around Barnet. The students were put into teams of four with those from other schools and competed against each other in a variety of competitions.

The tasks they were set were to build the fastest race-car, identify some “criminals” using police e-fit software, build the strongest suspension bridge possible out of paper and string, and programme a Lego robot to navigate its way around a maze. Whilst none of our students ended up on any of the four overall winning teams, we did have lots of 2nd and 3rd place finishers; not bad for a first attempt.

It was a great day, and each student learnt a lot about teamwork and engineering while having a fun and inspirational time. We look forward to taking a new group of challengers next year.



Mr J Foreman

Ben Sheldon, 11N wins Judges Choice in the National Cut Films Award

Congratulations to Ben Sheldon 11N who won the Overall Judges Choice in the 12-15yr old category for his anti-smoking video at the National Cut Films Awards at BAFTA headquarters in London on 1st July.

Ben, along with 4 friends, planned and filmed the production, and then Ben proceeded to edit the film. Ben has now been offered work experience with Cut Films during the summer holidays. On behalf of the school community, congratulation to Ben and we will look forward to following his potential new career!

GCSE Art Exhibition

On Thursday 9th July, the Art Department hosted its first JCoSS GCSE Art Exhibition in the MPH. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the creative talents of our Art students and allowed staff and parents to see the hard work and dedication of students throughout the two-year course. It was a well attended evening and a pleasure for us to talk to students and see the pride on their faces as they recognised their hard work on display. We are hoping to see some of our students carry on to do A Level Art and look forward to harnessing their creativity and imaginations as they continue with their creative journeys.

We wish all of our GCSE Art students the best of luck in whatever endeavour they embark upon in September and we congratulate them for all of their hard work!

Miss H Nield
Head of Art



Careers Advice & Guidance 2014/15

Careers advice is something we take very seriously at JCoSS. We already employ one dedicated and highly experienced careers professional and in September, we will have another fully trained practitioner joining us. A comprehensive programme of careers advice and guidance is delivered to students throughout the school from Year 8 upwards (see next page). We work with all the school faculties to integrate the world of work into all subject areas. Careers activities range from helping younger students to identify their interests to careers fairs, work experience, one-to-one interviews and and Higher Education events. Special attention is given to students around the key decision making times - Year 9 subject choices and the options after GCSEs and 'A' levels.

We involve parents in much of our work, liaising with you at these key times, where appropriate, especially concerning our SEN and PSRP students. Some of you have already supported our careers fairs by coming in to talk to students about your work. In the year ahead, as we roll out a Work Experience programme for our first Year 12 students who have progressed all the way through the school, we will be looking to recruit the help of many more parents. As we know from listening to employers and university admission tutors, work experience is essential for all students. We will also continue to develop our links with school governors, a number of whom have already supported work experience and took part in this year's careers fair.

As well as our work in school with the different year groups this year we organised a Higher Education day for students and an evening for parents. Our speakers were from LSE, City University and Student Finance. We also attend parents' evenings and exam results days, to provide support and advice to students. Keeping up to date with developments in education and employment post 16/18 is vital we attend regular training and visit universities, colleges, training and apprenticeship providers. We are developing links with colleges at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and at the same time forging relationships with other local schools and colleges for the benefit of our students. We are active members of the Barnet Careers Forum.



We are continually reviewing the way we deliver careers advice and guidance, and we welcome any feedback from student and parents.

Clare Raff: claff@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

Helen Lewis: hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

Careers Activities by Year Group

Year 8

- Tutor led session on “Sweet Careers” introduced students to the world of work by encouraging them to name careers which are linked to this project.

Year 9

- A Careers Fair for all Year 9 and 10 students featuring more than 20 representatives from professions ranging from IT, the police, law, educational psychology, medicine veterinary science and translation.
- Workshop on careers in the food industry.
- Introduction to Fast Tomato careers software designed to help students identify their preferences.

Year 10

- Provided one-to-one guidance interviews with an independent. Impartial careers adviser for each student.
- Careers Fair – see above

Year 11

- Specialist help for all Year 11 students on CVs, completing application forms.
- Advice and guidance for Year 11s not staying on for the 6th form at JCoSS

Year 12

- All Year 12 students were taken to the UCAS exhibition where more than 200 universities had stalls.
- Introduction to Higher Ideas computer programme which helps student with choices and finding college and university courses.
- Higher Education day for all Year 12 students which included a speaker from the LSE and a panel of current undergraduates who our students were able to talk to, informally, about university life.
- Higher Education evening for parents with speakers from City University and Student Finance.
- Set up a mentoring programme with ORT Jump which offers students who are interested in a particular career the chance to be mentored by a professional working in that field.
- Organised work experience for Year 12 students
- Worked with the Jewish charity Norwood to set up volunteering opportunities for all Year 12 students.

Year 13

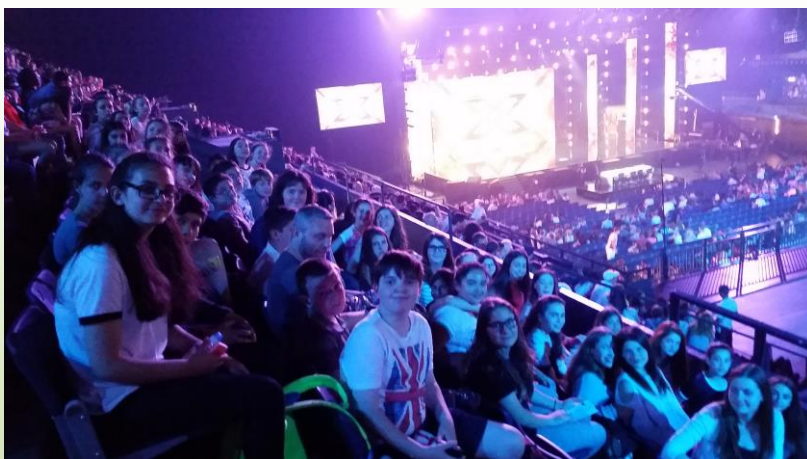
- Support for all students applying to university including support with personal statements and for those students making other post 18 choices.

Carnegie Awards by Hannah Byrne-Smith 8F

For the past few weeks a group of JCoSS students in Year 8 and 9 have been taking part in the Carnegie Shadowing group. For those who don't know, the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards. It is a yearly award where a group of shortlisted authors have the opportunity to win the Carnegie medal. Students play a valued role in the Carnegie awards. Students read the selected books, they can then write reviews on the Carnegie Shadowing site. Authors and judges aim to read the reviews written by us, students. We were able to give our views and express what we liked and disliked. One of my favourite parts of the award was not only being able to share my opinion but being able to hear different perceptions of the story that I would never of thought of myself. There was a weekly Tuesday group where students met and discussed the books. The winner was revealed on the 22 June 2015, and it was my favourite of the Carnegie books, Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman. The Carnegie awards were an experience that I really enjoyed, it encouraged me to read and it also introduced me to some of my all-time favourite books. I highly recommend it and I am really looking forward to taking part in the awards again next year.



Year 8 Reward Trip



Year 8 students attended the X Factor auditions as a reward for their behaviour and achievement throughout the year.

Year 7 Art and French Competition

In June, the Art and French departments launched a competition for Year 7 students to design a poster depicting the four seasons with a French theme. After many entries and much deliberation, we have finally decided on the winning entries, which are:

First Prize: Talia Jacobs and Abigail Aradi



Second Prize: Rachel Hill



Second Prize: Adam Goodman



Third Prize Jamie Berger and Kattie R. Walsh

Well done to everyone who took part and watch this space for future competitions next year.

H Nield and M Armon



Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty

Mazal Tov to all the students who have participated in sporting events, productions and performances this year – boys and girls PE fixtures, Borough Championships, County Championships, the Chanukah Show, the Purimspiel, the Gym and Dance Evening, the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival, the Music Concert and Music recitals, choir visits to synagogues, GCSE and A Level Drama performances, the Key Stage 3 production of 'Darkwood Manor'the list is endless!

I would like to thank the Faculty staff for their energy, enthusiasm and contribution throughout the year. I am extremely sorry that our Head of Music, Miss Brown is leaving. She is moving on to another Head of Music position at a school nearer her home in Cambridge. Thank you for everything you have done for all our students in such a short space of time! Thanks also to Miss Wilson who is taking on a Head of Department role in a new school in London. We wish them both much luck and success.

The Faculty welcomes Mr Brookman as our new Head of Music.

Chanukah 5776

All students are invited to participate in the Chanukah Show 5776, which is scheduled for Monday 14th December. Due to the Yom Tovim, rehearsals will take place on Thursdays after school, commencing **Thursday 11th September**. If you wish to participate – just turn up Thursdays after school until 5.30!

Extra-curricular and Enrichment 2015

Staff - a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2014-2015 Extra-curricular and Enrichment Programmes. As always, there was a fantastic variety of activities for the students!

Students – if/when you are bored in the holidays (!) you could always complete this ENRICHMENT /EXTRA-CURRICULAR questionnaire! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLXX56D>

Happy holidays everyone!

Miss Miller

Head of Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty

Extra-curricular and Enrichment Co-ordinator

Sports Day 2015



The First Give Project – JCoSS students win £1,500 for their chosen charity

The Jewish Education department have spent the last half term working in partnership with the First Give project to build a culture of giving amongst Year 8 students. Students have had to choose a social issue that they are concerned about and a charity that works to alleviate that social issue. Students then researched and prepared a presentation that they gave to the rest of the class about that charity. Many students spent time researching and making contact with those charities in a bid to discover how they would spend £1,000. The charities were extremely varied from Norwood to Jewish Women's Aid, from Oxfam to Cybersmile.

Each class chose a finalist to go through to a grand final which was held on July 20th. The winner would receive £1,000 to go towards their chosen charity and two runners up would receive £250 for their charities.

The Winners were: James Saker, Sam Holden, Sam Glasner, Stefan Tucker and Jonah Baron Cohen who represented The Stables

Runners up were:

Taylor Langer and Zak Pearson who represented Grief Encounter

Evie Liebling-Blitz, Zoe Harris, Jonina Grayson-Lee and Maya Howard who represented Macmillan



Highlights Of My Year: Ms Robinson, Deputy Headteacher: Jewish Ethos

Each day I come to work and feel blessed at what a wonderful and unique place JCoSS is. We have achieved so much this year and have inspired the students in so many different ways.

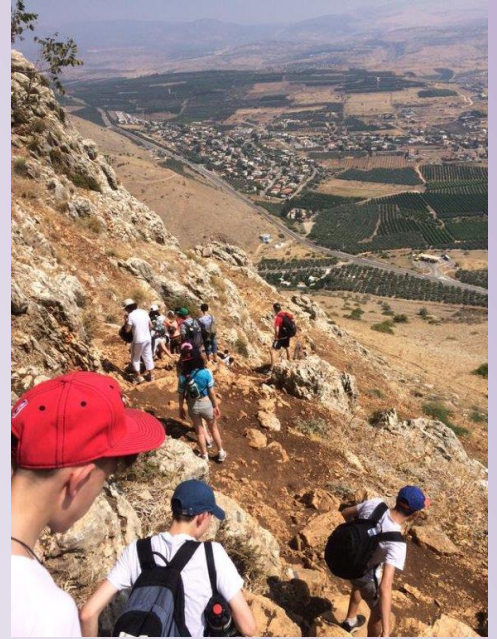
We have volunteered, welcomed in guests, grappled with the big questions of our Jewish identity and challenged the students to make a difference in the world.

Two highlights for the year have certainly been the Interfaith Tent and the Year 9 Israel Journey.

In Israel this year the students did themselves, and the school proud. They were open and inquisitive, they were curious and engaged, they were excited and enthused. They asked fantastic questions, they challenged the tour guides that accompanied us, and listened with respect to guests who came to share their stories with us. They marvelled at the beautiful sites we took them to, helped each other during the difficult hikes and were inspired by the history of the State of Israel. They learned about contemporary Israel, met with Jewish communities and Arab minorities, and asked meaningful and sensitive questions.

Above all they had a fantastic time!

We gave them a huge amount to reflect on throughout, and they felt thirsty for more. They were moved at times, and internalised the journey on which we took them.



I am humbled and so utterly proud of the inspiring Interfaith Tent we hosted this year during Ramadan. The programme of events was moving and thought provoking. It was during the minute's silence in memory of those killed in Tunisia when the Heartspace was filled with the silence of JCoSS students, together with 20 Muslim girls, and 20 Christian students that made me feel that JCoSS had arrived. This is truly what we dreamt of for JCoSS. This year has been a year of making the JCoSS dream a reality. We are absolutely living our ethos every day.

Whilst at the Talmudic Village of Katzrin in Israel the students learnt the story of the Oven of Achnai, Babylonian Talmud – Tractate Bava Metzia – 59a/b.

It is a dispute between rabbis about the status of the oven. They disagree and Rabbi Eliezer keeps asking for signs from God to show that his opinion is correct: he calls upon the carob tree and the walls of the school to act as a sign from God that his opinion is correct. The debate is ended when a heavenly voice comes down and says '*lo bashamayim he'*, it is not in heaven.

A perfect JCoSS message: we need to make decisions for ourselves and have the confidence that the decisions we make are good and right. I believe that this year we have lived up to that lesson: we have thought for ourselves, we have been trailblazers, and we have challenged ourselves to make a difference. Thank you all for coming on this journey with us.

I wish you all a restful summer and look forward to the new challenges of the new academic year 2015-16.

Its not for us to complete the task but we are not free from trying! (Ethics of the Fathers 2:21-22)

Ms Robinson

Deputy Headteacher: Jewish Ethos