

newsletter

אדר א' Adar 5776 February 2016

Dear Parents

Amidst the darkness of weather and mood that often afflicts this time of year, it has been rather an exhilarating term so far for JCoSS. Many of you will already be aware of the awards won by JCoSS at the first ever Jewish School Awards last month, organised by PaJeS and the Jewish News. A report is included later in the newsletter, and I have been very touched by the messages of congratulation that have come in from parents. As one of over a dozen Jewish secondary schools, to walk away with 2 of the 4 available awards (and £12,000 prize money for the School) was a wonderful achievement, but it is all the more gratifying when you look back at some of the comments made about the school only 6 years ago as we prepared to open.

One prominent commentator asked the question, "Why do we need JCoSS? It was set up to take all those doubtful converts who cannot get into JFS and so is ruining existing schools". The establishment of the school, he said, "was not an act to satisfy the education needs of our community" and was "threatening the well-being of the Anglo-Jewish school community". He accused those setting up the school of "behaving like barrow boys in Petticoat Lane", concluding that in a few years "it will be a school for goyim. It's a tragedy."

Leaving aside the vocabulary and tone of those remarks (which we would certainly not tolerate from any of our students), the 6 years since have emphatically shown how unfounded any fears and doubts about JCoSS were. Applications for Year 7 and Year 12 are at their highest ever (we would be happy to take non-Jewish students, but there are 650 others above them in the criteria for Year 7); the number of siblings applying is this year well over 100 for the 180 available places showing, we believe, the confidence that families have in what the school provides. Meanwhile the Jewish Schools Awards have expressed the affirmation of the community for what we have achieved – notably in the area of interfaith relations, something that might be food for thought for the commentator I have quoted.

The recently published league tables show us comfortably up with the pack of Jewish schools both at GCSE and at A level, in terms of raw results and in terms of added value. At the awards ceremony Nick Gibb, Minister for Schools, named three Jewish Schools – JCoSS alongside Yavneh and King David, Liverpool – as being in the top 100 non-selective schools nationally for GCSE results. The league tables from which this was drawn also placed us in the top 7% of all schools nationally (including selective schools) for our GCSE results, in the top 6% for adding value, and in the top 3% for the progress of disadvantaged students. This last statistic might be a surprise to some detractors of faith schools, and is an important piece of context too for one of the few areas raised by our Ofsted report as needing further attention.

Far from 'ruining the existing schools' as was feared, we enjoy excellent collegial relationships with them all, sharing ideas, comparing notes and offering mutual support. The issue of admissions across all the schools remains of course a vexed one – with the newly proposed Kedem High School possibly bidding to relieve us of our status as 'new kid on the block' – and the community can be very confident of the way that PaJeS is co-ordinating the response to that issue.

Plaudits have come from other quarters, too: the Good Schools Guide has listed JCoSS for the first time, noting "energetic teachers, happy to go the extra mile, and teacher-pupil relations clearly strong". The summary is: "A school with a clear vision which, in five busy years, has grown from a hopeful acorn to an oak of excellence. An inclusive place producing excellent results and happy, involved pupils."

Nice as such praise and acclaim is to receive, we are not so naïve as to believe all that we read, and we continue to work hard to improve further what we do for the students. And on the theme of scepticism about what one hears, may I end by quashing some rumours that have been circulating: I have no plans to leave, and the completion of my ordination training in 2017 will have no impact on my position at JCoSS. Although not a "school for goyim", there's one in charge for the foreseeable future!

With best wishes for the half term break and then for a rather long second half of term in the run-up to Pesach...

Patrick Moriarty

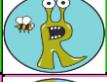
JCoSS House System – results so far

Points are building up nicely for our Houses, with Winston, an early front runner setting the pace – although Sagan and Rothschild are hot on their heels! This is being celebrated on our newly-installed flag system in the Heartspace, where Winston’s flag currently holds top spot.

The most recent competition to add to the House points tally was the KS3 Cross-Country run by the PE department, which Rothschild won overall. They received the most points, although a special mention should go to individual performances from other Houses - Tabytha Shapps (B) and Max Purton (R) in Year 7, Victoria Godfrey (S) and Matthew Woolf (S) in Year 8 and Tamar Pelmont (F) and Cody Roth (W) in Year 9.

Another big points contributor is the ‘the Conduct Award’, which is ranked on the net score of both the achievement and behaviour points (so everyone is involved). For the autumn term, the winner was Winston. Congratulations to the whole House, with special mentions for top achievers Jade Nairi, Jamie Shaw, Jonina Grayson-Lee, Benji Nathan, Noa Marson, Roy Harris and Talia Sofizade.

In the upcoming weeks, there will be further chances for students to win House Points. We have some specific events, such as inter-form football, inter-form netball, the KS3 weekly quiz, a KS4 general knowledge contest and in March, the JCoSS Science Fair. These all supplement the regular day to day activities, where students can earn points for conduct and accrue points for SAMs Learning and attendance rankings (based per house). All the points count!

WINSTON		48
SAGAN		34
ROTHSCHILD		31
NOETHER		29
BAER		29
FRANKLIN		23
YONATH		18

Double Win for JCoSS at the Jewish School Awards 2016

We are proud and delighted to announce that our Headteacher Patrick Moriarty and Ben Abram, Informal Jewish Educator and Student Voice Co-ordinator, have won prestigious awards at the Jewish Schools Award 2016 in association with Partnerships for Jewish Schools – the only school to receive two awards, out of the four available.

Mr Moriarty was given the award for Outstanding and Inspirational Leadership in a secondary school, whilst Mr Abram was given his award for Innovation in secondary school secular studies.

Mr Moriarty won his award due to his ‘open, loving manner, his deep knowledge of Jewish studies and culture, and his commitment to pluralism, equality and interfaith dialogue’.

Whilst Mr Abram was given his award due to his ‘vision that encompasses a whole-school approach, effectively engaging and inspiring students and staff of the importance of interfaith experiences’.



JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Spring Term

Date	Time	Description
Mon 22 nd Feb	8.30am	First Day Back
Wed 24 th Feb	4.30 – 7.30	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thurs 25 th Feb	All day	Year 10 Triple Science ISA
Thurs 3 rd March	All day	Year 10 and Year 11 Vaccinations
Tues 22 nd March	4.30 – 7.30	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thurs 24 th March	8.30am to 2.05pm	Purim. Further details will be e-mailed. <u>Please note early closing</u>
Fri 25th March	All day	School closed for Public Holiday
Mon 28th March	All day	School closed for Public Holiday
Fri 15 th April	All day	Last day of Spring Term

School Closes at 1.30pm on all Fridays until the end of the Spring term
School begins again on Tuesday 3rd May at 8.30am

Y8 Twelfth Night drama workshop



'If music be the food of love, play on'

Earlier this month some Y8 students participated in a drama workshop on *Twelfth Night*, the play they are studying in class, led by a practitioner from the Globe Theatre. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring aspects of the play practically, making the characters come to life and learning some basic stage techniques. We are excited about going to see a performance of *Twelfth Night* on stage at the Globe Theatre in the spring to see how professional actors interpret the play. Details will be sent to Y8 parents shortly.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Gaby Vides, 10N entered the regional Barnet finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge last month. Although not a winner on the day, her inspirational words on her chosen topic 'The Dark Side of Fashion' moved the audience and fellow contestants. Well done to Gaby!



JCOSS EDIBLE GARDEN

Promoting awareness of the health benefits of organic vegetables and fresh air



Every Friday Lunchtime 1pm
In the Edible garden (Access via PSRP)

After half term we will be running a weekly gardening club for those students who would like to find out a bit more about growing their own vegetables. If successful we have a number of ideas of what to do with the produce we grow, such as making ketchup/jam etc.



We would also like to encourage students to engage and connect with grandparents and older generations to find out what they might have grown in the past

Year 9 Careers Fair – More Parent Volunteers Needed

We have already had a positive response to our appeal for help with the **Careers Fair on March 2**. However, we still need representatives from some sectors students have said they want to find out about. We urgently appeal for more parents to come forward.

The career areas we still need help with are:

- Engineering
- Environment
- Property
- Music
- Education
- Fashion

We rely on JCoSS parents working with us on this important event. It provides students with what, for many, is their first real insight into the world of work and is an important means of helping prepare them for the decisions they are making around GCSE subject options this term.

Students find it really helpful to meet people who are already engaged in careers which interest them and the feedback we get following the Careers Fair is always positive.

The event takes place in the morning on **March 2 (8.30am – 12.50pm)**.

Each career will have a table in the main hall and tutor groups will take turns to walk around and talk to parent representatives from the career areas that interest them.

If you can help please email craff@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk or Helen Lewis on: hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

PSRP Year 7 Trip to Verulamium Museum

Five PSRP students from Year 7 went to visit Verulamium Museum in St Albans last month. The students were Jonny Ostfeld, Zack Baker, Oliver Thwaites, Daniel Whysall and Ellie Parker. They completed tasks as they made their way around the museum looking at Roman artefacts and also produced some lovely coin rubbings. After lunch, four of the students braved the weather and went to look at the preserved mosaic floor which also features an early example of an under-floor heating system. The museum staff were impressed by the behaviour of our students and were presented with a book from the museum as a souvenir. The members of staff that attended the trip were Mrs Dennis, Mrs Roberts, Mr Connolly and Mr Ellison who at the end of the trip were very cold and tired but very pleased with the successful first trip for year 7.



Daniel, Oliver, Zack and Jonny ready to start the coin rubbing

Informal Jewish Education – Latest News

Parents' Trip to Poland

The JCoSS Parents' trip to Poland is taking place on the 10th and 11th of April 2016. If you are looking for a way to visit the sites we visit with the 6th form in a small and supportive group over a 2 day period, please be in touch for more information. **Registration closes 22nd Feb**

Summer Camp Fair

All the Zionist Youth movements came to JCoSS on 20th January in order to sell their summer programmes and activities. We are so proud that JCoSS is the only secondary school which invites all the movements to promote their summer programmes and look forward to students who choose to go on summer camp having a wonderful summer.

Year 7 Shabbaton

44 Year 7 students joined the IJE team for a wonderful Shabbat at Skeet Hill house in Kent. As well as celebrating Shabbat together we learned about the weekly Torah reading and debated and discussed the pros and cons of being part of a pluralist community. Of course there was much singing and eating and fun competitions along the way and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to Ms Levan, Mr Abram, Mrs Abrams, Ms Carroll and Mr Martin who staffed the shabbaton as well as Ophir, Tom, Shachar and Rotem, the Israeli scouts who acted as madrichim (youth leaders).

Team Tikkun

IJE's fantastic student led Social Action Committee kicked off their fundraising drive for the school charities with a lunchtime film screening in February, raising over £50. Congratulations to all involved.

Year 8 volunteering

IJE have also launched a new Year 8 volunteering initiative which will allow every member of Year 8 to complete an hour of volunteering during the school year. They will be volunteering at a Jewish Care Day Centre in the local area and at a local primary school. We are very much hoping that this will act as an incentive for many Year 8 students to sign up to the Yoni Jesner award and complete 20 hours of volunteering by the end of the year. Those who do will be honoured at the Year 8 Bnei Mitzvah party and at the annual Yoni Jesner awards which are held in London in July.

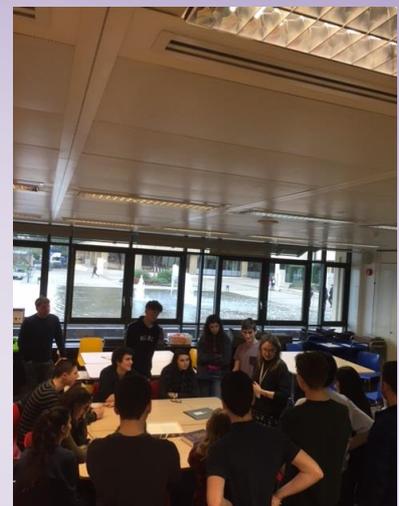
Congratulations

To Ben Abram, Informal Jewish Educator on his winning an award for innovation in Secular Studies at the Jewish School Awards – celebrating IJE's innovative interfaith work!

Year 12 Trip to The National Archives

Year 12 went to the National Archives to look at State Papers relating to four major rebellions in the reigns of the Tudors. They had the opportunity to look at Henry VIII's original will as well as the letter written by the young Princess Elizabeth before her entry to the Tower of London through Traitor's Gate, begging for an audience with Mary I.

Rachel, our workshop leader was extremely enthusiastic and it was a thoroughly fascinating insight into the workings of the Nation's most prominent archive.

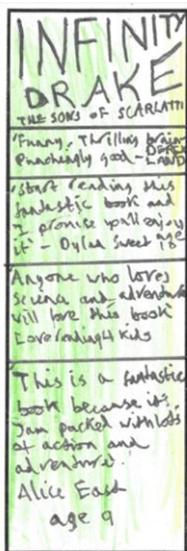


LRC News

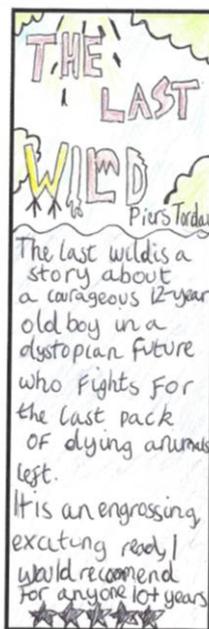
Bookbuzz competition

Well done to all Year 7 students who created some really imaginative work for the bookmark competition. The winner of the competition was Noah Broad 7W, with the three runners up being Harry Brandman 7F, Darcey Gurner 7N and Jade Nairi 7W. Noah's bookmark will be laminated and distributed to all Year 7 students. Also a special mention to Shahaf Barkan 7F who joined the school in October and who handed in a lovely bookmark based on a book of her own choice.

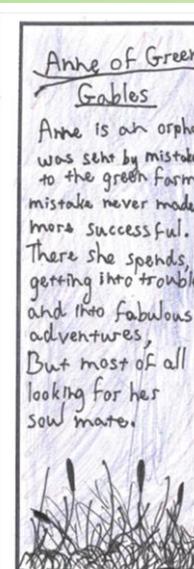
Runners Up



Harry Brandman 7F



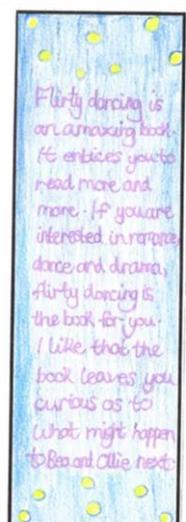
Winner: Noah Broad / 7W



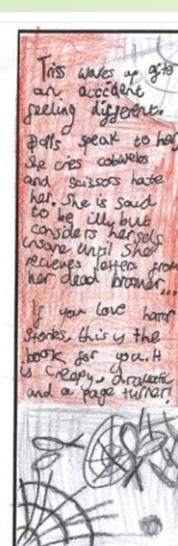
Darcey Gurner 7N



Jade Nairi 7W



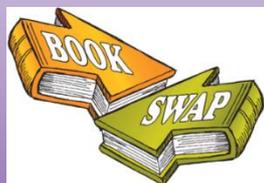
Shahaf Barkan 7F



Carnegie Book Award

The 'longlist' will be announced on Tuesday 16th February and then can be viewed at:
<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/carnegie/>

World Book Day



World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March. You can find out more, including information on books and competitions at <http://worldbookday.com/>.

During that week, we are planning to organise a Book Swap so have a think about what books you no longer want.

The LRC Team

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Tuesday 26th January the school chamber choir, JCROSS24, attended the AJR Holocaust Memorial Day at Belsize Square Synagogue. The choir were invited to sing at the event and they performed 'Out of the Deep' by John Rutter and 'When You Believe' by Stephen Schwartz. Although there was no time to rehearse at the synagogue, the choir gave an outstanding performance with some very challenging music, and their professionalism was recognised by Sir Eric Pickles MP in his speech at the conclusion of the service.

The JCROSS24 will perform these pieces and more at the School Concert on Thursday March 17th.





JCoSS faces The Chaser!

Paul Sinha from ITV's Quiz Show "The Chase"

Comes to JCoSS for the 2016 JPA Quiz with a difference!

Hosted by Comedian Bennett Aron

Sunday 6th March at 7pm - 10pm



Join us in the School Hall for an evening of

Great Fun and Laughs, Quality Prizes, Delicious Food

Tickets £19.99 each or Tables £180 (max 10 people)

Please ask friends outside of JCoSS - Adult and 6th Former Event



Click link to buy tickets <https://billetto.co.uk/quiz-2016>

Queries to Sharna and Julia - jcoSSpa@outlook.com

Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment!