

Dear Parents

You will receive alongside this newsletter a letter about the Building Works which will begin over the summer, and about Voluntary Contributions. Please can I urge you to read that letter: writing separately about those important issues allows me to be a little more reflective in this final newsletter of the year.

Much ink has been expended describing and trying to understand the last few momentous weeks in human history: it feels as though we inhabit a rather different world from the one we inhabited when I sent the last newsletter. There have been times when it has seemed that a wave of unpleasantness, divisiveness and violence has been unleashed across the globe with consequences that are destructive and depressing in the best cases, and horrific and death-dealing in the worst.

We need moral communities to carry us through times like these, and in my experience schools (and especially faith schools) provide some of the best models of this that we have. A community with 1300 people aged 11 to 70 in a confined space can only function if its members are daily exposed to explicit reminders of the rules and expectations. School students - more so than most adults - see day by day in so many small ways that good behaviour is rewarded and poor behaviour corrected. It is a stabilising and formative experience.

JCoSS has been a good place to be in these difficult times - and you may be interested to know that in the recent staff survey the behaviour of students has dropped way down the list of top causes of staff stress, compared to the equivalent time last year. We are never complacent but we feel that we are continuing to make quiet but marked progress in this area. I have to report that contact with parents retains its Number 1 slot in that chart for our middle leaders: we know it is the flip side of your passionate engagement with education, from which we hugely benefit, but you may like to reflect on that finding. We will run Parental and Student surveys in the new term so you can have your say at that point!

We bid farewell to a number of staff this term. Parents are often anxious about this, so you will be glad to know that this year sees the lowest percentage turnover since the school opened. Ms Miller - a founding member of the JCoSS staff - is retiring, Mr Macaulay is moving to a Head of Science post in Liverpool where his fiancé is based, Mr Simons leaves to explore new career paths in the Jewish community; Ms Goldstein-Opasiak has been appointed as Head of Art at Chancellors' School in Potters Bar, Ms Druckes as Head of DT at Lilian Baylis Technology School in South London, and Ms Coard to a post at Highlands School. Mr Lamont also heads south of the river to a new post at Graveney School. Ms Reidy and Ms Caplin are off to teach in Dubai, Ms Brady to the United Arab Emirates and Ms Walsh to the Irish Republic; Mr Moses goes to a Maths position at Yavneh College, and Mrs Airey to be Head of Drama at Immanuel College. Rabbi Nevo ends her short stay with us in Jewish Education, and Mr Jesner ends his time running the Beit Midrash programme to devote more time to his psychotherapeutic practice - perhaps not the most frequently-heard destination for departing teachers.

Among the Support Staff we say good bye to Mrs Rosenberg (who is retiring) and to Ms Kings, Ms Snower, Miss Yadlin, Mrs Friedgood, Ms Bilbija, Mr Lewis, Ms Matesanz, Ms Anders, Mr Griffin and Mr Ivanov. These members of the Learning Support team may be less widely known than our leaving teachers, but their impact on individual students and smaller groups has been profound.

We wish all these colleagues every success in their future careers, and thank them whole-heartedly for their contributions to JCoSS over the years. Parents and students will be glad to know that we are fully and impressively staffed for September; newly qualified staff have spent the last 3 weeks of term with us, and all new joiners spent a day here at the beginning of July so they are already familiar with the JCoSS ethos which attracts such high quality staff and ensures continuity of education for your sons and daughters.

Lastly, we send best wishes to Mrs Dar-el, Ms Foster and Mrs Irrgang who will be on maternity leave at the beginning of next year but who we expect will rejoin us not too long afterwards.

I will end this long (and latterly hot) term by sending my very best wishes for the summer to the whole JCoSS community: may it be a time of restoration and re-creation for us all.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

JCoSS Parents Association

The JPA provide excellent support to the community in many ways, from running social events to supplying pre-loved uniform, from providing refreshments at school events to providing additional funds to support learning and extra-curricular activities at the school. We are hugely grateful to the current chair and vice chair team who are stepping down - Julia Levene and Shana Nothman. We are seeking replacements for them for the new academic year, and any parents who are able to offer themselves for this important role should contact the school.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

House Trophy

The new trophy has been delivered and will be awarded at Celebration Evening on Thursday and again at Final Assembly on Friday. It is a magnificent piece of work, designed by our students and reflecting the ethos of JCoSS in many ways. It will take pride of place in our display cabinets in the Heart Space where you can view it next time you are here.



Year 8s Get Interactive

A group of sixteen Y8 students have been working with the educational charity, Jewish Interactive and the National Library of Israel in support of the Jewish history unit that they have been studying this year. During these workshops, students accessed resources from the late 19th and early 20th century in order to create a multimedia resource.

With the help of Anat Goodman, Director of Educational Technology at Jewish Interactive (and a JCoSS parent) students created their own virtual characters to explain Theodore Herzl's views and reasons for the development of Zionism. Daniel Garai Ebner said "The process has been really interesting and we used iPads to do our research. I've enjoyed developing my own characters and using the applications and feel that I could use these skills in my other subjects too."

The project was running due to the generosity of the Rothschild Foundation and we are very grateful that JCoSS was lucky enough to be chosen to take part.

Ms D. Juggler

Extra-Curricular Announcement

Two new exciting extra-curricular opportunities for JCoSS students are starting in September; firstly we begin our JCoSS Chess coaching club - setting our sights high towards many tournaments! We are excited that some high achieving chess players from Akiva are joining us in Year 7 and we know there are others already in the school. We look forward to combining all these talents and putting JCoSS on the map for competitive chess.

We are also offering after school Mandarin lessons to our Year 8 and 9 students and there will be more exciting and enriching activities and sessions introduced in the near future, so watch this space.

Miss Viner, Extra-Curricular Co-ordinator

House Captains 2016-17

After an extremely close contest, and a very high calibre field of candidates, we are delighted to announce the House Captains for 2016-17.

Baer

- Sophia Godfrey
- Joel Walker

Franklin

- Angelica Guiloff
- Adam Lee

Noether

- Gaby Vides
- Jonathan Sinyor

Rothschild

- Tom Eisenberg
- Ella Nourmand

Sagan

- Maddie Buchi
- Ben Felt

Winston

- Harley Morris
- Sophia Silver
- Zara Woolf

Yonath

- Sam Baker
- Lena Stein

Mr J Martin

ORT-JUMP Graduation

The ORT-JUMP Graduation reception 2016 took place on Tuesday 28 June at JW3. It was attended by a record number of 180 students, mentors, parents and teachers, who all celebrated the achievement of those who took part in the programme.

The highlight of the evening was the guest speaker, Director of News at BBC James Harding who, despite an especially hectic week, gave a fascinating insight into his career. James spoke about the fantastic work ORT-JUMP is doing "I'm a firm believer in mentoring. The power of a programme like this is amazing, it is a fantastically enabling experience. I also urge students to keep your idealism. Please know, you really can change the world and at the same time never be ashamed to say 'I don't know'."

James presented awards for outstanding achievements to three students including JCoSS student Rebecca Jackson whose mentor Olivia Jackson praised her for her commitment to the programme.



Mrs C Raff
Head of Careers

Norwood's Young People's Award

We are very proud to announce that Nicky Haugh and Umer Kayani, Year 12, have been nominated for Norwood's Young People's Award. The winners will be announced on Tuesday 13th September at a special dinner event.

Both Nicky and Umer have greatly developed their skills through the many Norwood volunteering opportunities they have participated in, showing fantastic dedication to the tasks they have undertaken. The nomination is a wonderful recognition of all their hard work and we wish them the very best of luck.

Mrs S Beale
PSRP Sixth Form Coordinator and Teacher



The Queen's 90th Birthday, by Daniel Whysall, Ellie Parker, Oliver Thwaites and Zack Baker, Y7 PSRP



During our English class we focused on handwriting, grammar, punctuation and spelling and thought it would be a nice idea to use this lesson to make a birthday card for her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday.

We worked as a group on a message and collected and printed pictures to put on cards we designed. We put them in an envelope and Mrs Laurence posted them to the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

We received an envelope with individual letters from the Queen's Lady-in-waiting and also a card from the Queen with her picture on, saying thank you. We showed the card to Mr Moriarty and took a picture with him and also signed the Head Teacher's record book to receive a commendation.



Year 12 University Visits and Guidance



More than 100 Year 12 students travelled to the West Midlands earlier this month for a bird's eye view of studying at Birmingham University. They also visited the UCAS Fair where they were able to find out about universities nationwide. Students are pictured (above) at the National Exhibition Centre where the UCAS event was held.



Year 12 students got a further insight into university life at the Higher Education Day last month. Apart from introducing students to the process of applying for university and what to think about when considering the options, students got to meet and talk to students from universities including Oxford, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent; Birmingham, Manchester, Loughborough, Reading and the London School of Economics. There were presentations from experts on student finance, choosing a university, the application process and how to write winning personal statements as well as a session for potential Oxbridge students led by a representative from Cambridge University.

Students considering alternatives to university were also catered for with information on taking a Gap Year and employer programmes for students when they leave the 6th form.

The day concluded with an evening presentation to parents on the same theme.

Mrs C Raff and Mrs H Lewis, Careers Department.

Carnegie Book Awards By Dana Goldman Y8



On June 10th, 9 students from Years 8 and 9 had the exciting opportunity to attend the CILIP Carnegie Book Award shadowing event at Barnet Town Hall. The experience was thought-provoking and will no doubt have a lasting impact on each of us.

We started off getting to know everyone from the different participating Barnet schools, and were then treated to a fascinating and very funny talk by last year's Carnegie winner, Tanya Landman, where she spoke about her unintended journey to becoming a writer, via a job at Bristol zoo dressing up as Kevin the Teddy Bear. After that, each school group gave a presentation on one of the shortlisted novels; it was fascinating to see which aspects of each book the groups focused on and the original, creative ways that they found to communicate their thoughts.



There was an opportunity to discuss, in groups, each of the shortlisted books and finally, we were each invited to cast our vote for the winning book. The Barnet winner turned out to be *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley. It was very exciting to be able to spend a whole day thinking about and discussing great books and to have a say in determining the winner of such a prestigious national prize.



The winners of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016 were announced on Monday 20th June. You can watch the ceremony by clicking on this link:
<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/stream.php>

Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016:
"One" - Written by Sarah Crossan

Best Carnegie book, according to the children:
"There Will Be Lies" by Nick Lane.

Winner of the 2016 Amnesty CILIP Honours and also chosen as best book by the students of the Barnet CILIP Shadowing groups: "Lies We Tell Ourselves" by Robin Talley



Year 8 Bnei Mitzvah Party

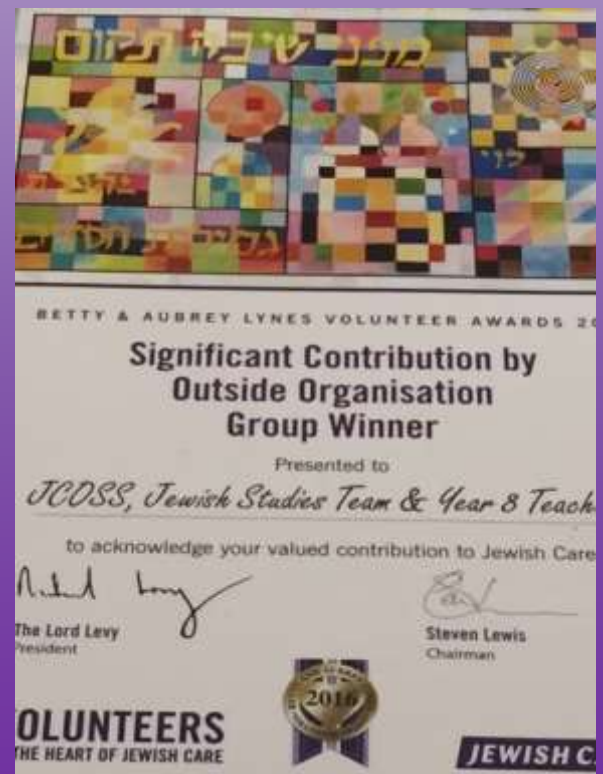
Year 8 celebrated their collective B'nei Mitzvah this term with a midday party. They invited guests from their 2 volunteering projects, Southgate Connect (Jewish Care) and Livingstone Primary school. As well as sharing lunch with the guests, they all took part in a Bollywood/Israeli Dance off and heard speeches from their head of year as well as Mr Moriarty. Mazal Tov to all the Year 8 students on reaching Jewish Adulthood!



A second celebration rounded off the Bnei Mitzvah day with JCoSS winning a Jewish Care award for Significant Contribution by an Outside Organisation. The Jewish Care Volunteer Awards celebrate the 3000+ people who volunteer for Jewish Care and JCoSS was nominated for the Year 8 volunteering programme. We are extremely proud to be among the winners.



Mrs S Levan
Informal Jewish Education



Year 7 Science Award Certificates

Congratulations to the students who have been coming to science club every fortnight, making a huge effort to extend their science learning and practical skills in extracurricular learning outside of science lessons. The last science club session took place last week and those who attended were given science award certificates.

Congratulations to: Eitan Richards, Max Caplan, Poppy Cowan, Kate Davison, Harry Leibling-Blitz, Lauren Kay, Ryan Margolis, Reuben Persey, Joe Aarons, Jake Lowy, Ace Rockman, Noah Bruck, Izzy Froggett, Ava Gubbay, Daisy Bruck.

Sports Day



Informal Jewish Education News

Interfaith Tent

What do a de-robed Buddhist monk, a Christian youth worker, a Muslim beat poet and a teenage campaigner against forced marriage have in common? Well, they were amongst the guests we welcomed into our JCoSS Interfaith tent this year during the 2 week period of what has come to be known as 'The Tent'.

"Who's in The Tent today? Miss, have we got The Tent today? Who did you have in The Tent" – these are the conversations which can be heard in and around JCoSS during our Interfaith fortnight. We welcomed fellow students from Kingsmead and Copthall School, as well as faith leaders and practitioners from a range of faith groups. Discussions were wide ranging and always challenging, as students explored many different aspects of faith and belief through discussion, debate, art, dance and meditation.



Yom Tzedaka

JCoSS students have managed to raise over £3,000 for their chosen school charities throughout this year through a wide range of activities, culminating in a special 'Yom Tzedaka' to mark the end of the year. Students raised money via a non-uniform day, took part in karaoke, jewellery making, 'sponge the teacher' and a book sale as well as raising enough money to have their teachers shave their heads or dye their hair pink. The charities benefitting this year were Save a Child's Heart, Jewish Women's Aid and Nikki's Smile.



Ms S Levan

Informal Jewish Education

Life as a GCSE Dance Student by Hannah Kieve 10B

As the academic year reaches its final week, it seems a good time to reflect on the past year. As a Year 10 student, I have come to the end of my first year of GCSEs and am preparing to enter into academic year of countless exams, heightened responsibility, and various stresses that come along the way. However, the difference with GCSEs and lower school is that you get to hone in on the subjects you really enjoyed in key stage 3, like Music or DT, or try out something entirely new like Media, Business Studies, or in my case, Dance.

The only good place to start is at the beginning, it's just the logical order of things, so let's start there. The first day back to school in September was the first timetabled day with my new subjects personalised with things I enjoyed; one of those being Dance. For the first time in my JCoSS career, Dance was timetabled as its own independent subjects as opposed to being incorporated with Drama, and I was buzzing with excitement to get started.

From that day forward, my excitement never really disappeared – it became routine to turn up to class, get dressed into black leggings and leotard and get on with the lesson; I wouldn't trade it for anything.

When people think of GCSE Dance, some people assume it is an easy A grade and all you have to do is move around a bit. In all honesty, it is so much more than that. It never fails to test you physically and mentally from the intense theory paper to countless set dances and choreography, no skill is left untested. It is a GCSE that requires complete dedication, determination, patience and most of all, passion.

Throughout my first year in a class of 10 students, we have grown so close. Bonded by our love for dance in all ways and forms, we are a tight clique of supportive peers with a dedicated whatsapp group for sharing all things dance. Together we have accomplished various different things including coming 3rd out of all schools in the borough of Barnet in a senior dance competition, performing at The Arts Depot in the Barnet Dance Festival, and participating in various interesting workshops with professional dancers from outside of school. We are part of a minority of students with a special identity as group of GCSE Dancers and we are the first group to have our own personalised t-shirts and hoodies.

In conclusion, Dance has been a great experience this year. I have significantly improved my technical skill, self-confidence and knowledge of all things dance. I can't wait to see what the future of this subject holds; it is by far one of my favourite classes to attend and I encourage anyone considering the subject as an option to take the opportunity – you won't regret it!

Keep dancing!





JCoSS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We need you!

Join us...

We are looking for a new Chair, a new Deputy Chair and a new Secretary from September 2016.

If you have a little spare time, a can-do attitude, miss your youth clubs days and want to make a difference, then this might be the opportunity you have been looking for.

Two parents have already come forward as they are very interested in the positions. It would be fantastic if more parents would put themselves forward as well.

To find out more information or put your name forward, please email us at jcoSSpa@outlook.com

We have a vibrant and wonderful group of parents who make up the JPA, and we get together to have fun, build community spirit and raise funds for the school, so please come and join us.