

Dear Parents

If you have not already done so, I am sorry to say that you have just missed the chance to see the wonderful production of *The Pianist* of Willesden Lane which closes tomorrow. Those of you who managed to see it will I think agree that it was a remarkable phenomenon: a tour de force one-woman show in its own right and all the more so because of the story it told, the person who told it, and the context in which it is heard. Mona Golabek is not trained as an actor but as a pianist: she plays her own mother Lisa Jura – also a pianist – in telling an extraordinarily moving survival story, bittersweet but ultimately hopeful. Lisa came to London on the Kindertransport and survived the many vicissitudes of the war years, separated from her family, to become the concert pianist that her family always hoped she could.

Three things gave the show huge power for me: first, precisely because it was performed by someone not trained in acting, it had a fresh and compelling authenticity that spoke to the heart. Second, the twists and turns of the story were mirrored and intensified by exquisite piano playing – all done by the same one woman – so that music and words embraced each other almost in a dance. Third, the context of today's political realities was unspoken but palpably in the auditorium with us: Mona Golabek's gratitude to the British people for their hospitality in accepting refugee children, on her own account and on behalf of her mother, was explicit. There was no edge or self-pity, but as I watched I felt ashamed of the contrast to this week's calls for dental records to be checked before just 14 refugee children from the Calais "Jungle" could be accepted into the UK.

Of course there are complexities and political realities to acknowledge and the two situations are not straightforwardly comparable, but the anti-foreigner rhetoric that seems to have gained in confidence and respectability this year really troubles me. *The Pianist* of Willesden Lane reveals it as profoundly un-British, dare one say unpatriotic, and for so many reasons it feels deeply at odds with the JCoSS project. Our students are, after all, largely the grandchildren of rootless refugees: as the Union Jack and Israeli Flag standing side by side in the Heart Space remind us each day, we stand as a symbol of the desire to connect up the deep resources of Jewish tradition to the challenges and opportunities of the modern world. Our whole ethos is one of mutual welcome – and it feels to me that there has never been a more urgent need to affirm and shout about that.

What better time to do so than during Sukkot which speaks on the one hand of Jewish hospitality, and on the other of the Jewish experience of being nomadic, living in makeshift accommodation, so often strangers in an alien land. There's an irony that the JCoSS sukkah is a permanent, well-built and substantial structure of wood, but the point is the same, and that point is I think a universal one: all human societies do well to see themselves as temporary, makeshift and provisional. It stops us taking ourselves too seriously, it encourages generosity, open-heartedness and open-mindedness, and it reminds us that ultimate value is not be found in human constructs and institutions, but *somewhere less tangible yet ultimately more durable*.

*Perhaps we are all like the music played by the Pianist of Willesden Lane – exquisite, fleeting, shaped by our narratives yet free from them, dancing with our circumstances but always yearning for something more lasting, and with the potential to unite and inspire others and awaken their true beauty and worth.*

*The plan is for the production to return to the UK in the future as a multi-layered learning project – if so, JCoSS will certainly be first in the queue to take part.*

*Chag Sameach, and I wish you a refreshing half term.*

*Patrick Moriarty*

# IJE NEWS

**School charities:** The year has started with the launch of this year's school charities, as voted by students last year. The charities are The Lemonade Fund, a small charity in Israel (under the umbrella of the My Israel charity), which financially supports needy breast cancer patients; Tzedek, which supports projects in the developing world and educates on world poverty through a Jewish lens; and Max's Foundation, set up in memory of Max Schiller, brother of Molly in Year 13, who tragically died in 2014, which is dedicated to helping detection of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and other heart conditions in pre-adolescent children.

We are delighted that this year's charities are all small grassroots operations where our contributions will make a big impact. Throughout the year, different year groups will focus on raising money for the different charities and we will be rewarding the form and the house who are able to raise the largest amounts of money.

**Shana Tova:** This year Rosh Hashana was celebrated in school with a sale of locally produced organic honey and home grown veggies from the JCoSS garden as well as other New Year activities including a New Year greetings photo booth, a tzitzit making workshop and another opportunity to send 'sorry' cards to friends and colleagues at school.



**Volunteering and leadership:** Years 7, 8 and 9 are once again invited to take part in the Yoni Jesner Awards this year, for which we are looking for students to give a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering over the year. Year 8 will continue our innovative volunteering programme, visiting Southgate Connect (Jewish Care) or Livingstone Primary at least once during the year. There are plenty of other opportunities both in and beyond school and all students are encouraged to see Mr Rosenberg in IJE to sign up.

Year 10 are also invited to apply for the Alan Senitt Leadership programme which will run again this year. This interfaith programme offers leadership training seminars with students from a wide range of other schools and the opportunity for students to work on a piece of community-based social action.

**Lunchtime Clubs:** We are delighted to launch the Gemara Lunch club for those students who want to stretch themselves and develop their skills around learning Gemara with Rabbi Zinkin. This is in addition to the Israel club which is run by May, our Israeli Scout who is spending the year volunteering at JCoSS before going to do her Army service in Israel. And of course our hugely successful Manna from Heaven programme continues to make treats for the users of the Homeless Action Barnet day centre. Look out for Jewish Film Club launching after half term.

**Israel Journey:** Applications are open for the Year 9 Israel Journey which will take place from 11 – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. This amazing and innovative trip is a flagship JCoSS programme and we are looking forward to another successful year.

**Save the Date: Parents' Trip to Poland:** Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, this unique programme offers JCoSS parents and other family members over the age of 18 to have a taster of the experience of the 6<sup>th</sup> form Poland Journey. Visiting Krakow and Auschwitz over a 48 hour period offers the opportunity to benefit from a similar educational experience to the 6<sup>th</sup> formers in a small and like-minded group. This year the trip will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. Please contact [slevan@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:slevan@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk) for more information.

## Year 7 Student of the Month

The Year 7 certificate for September goes to Jack Skinner 7S. During his short time at JCoSS he has proved to be a modest, mature and respected member of the year group. He has also played football for our Year 7 team. Well done Jack.

D. Hoskin  
Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator



## JCoSS success at the Norwood Volunteer Recognition Awards

We are delighted that the PSRP was awarded the Norwood Community Award at the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony as a result of outstanding voluntary work that the PSRP 6<sup>th</sup> form students have done in the community.

Nicky Haugh and Umer Kayani were also awarded the top award of the night: The Norwood Special Commendation Award for recognition of their volunteering. (Norwood has 1500 volunteers and our students **stole the show!!**)

This highly successful pilot volunteering project was led and developed by Mrs Beale and Mrs McCombe. Other PSRP staff involved included Ms Harvey and Ms Hill.

A Note from Norwood...

Norwood wishes to congratulate Nicky, Umer and the PSRP on their awards!

The success of this volunteering programme exemplifies the benefits of the partnership between JCoSS and Norwood. By supporting

Norwood on various volunteering projects, Nicky and Umer have been developing life and work skills. Nicky and Umer are just two of the many brilliant volunteers that help Norwood provide vital services to over 7,000 people in the UK...

**Parents, Guardians, Students...Norwood needs YOU!**

Whether you want to give back, have some spare time, get ahead in your career, gain some employability skills or are working towards an award - Norwood has lots of volunteering opportunities (admin, retail, befriending etc.) that could be right for you. Norwood has opportunities for everyone from age 14+, many of which are flexible and can work to suit you. For more information please go to [www.norwood.org.uk](http://www.norwood.org.uk)



## JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Autumn Term 2016

Date	Time	Description
Mon 31/10	8.30am	First Day Back After Half Term (Week 2)
Tues 1/11	4.30 – 7.30pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wed 2/11	School Day as Normal	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Thurs 3/11	All day	Year 11 Triple Science ISA
<b>Thurs 10/11</b>	<b>2.05pm</b>	<b>Early Closing for Staff Twilight Training</b>
Tues 15/11	All day	Year 11 Double Science ISA
Wed 16/11	6 – 8.30pm	Sixth Form Open Evening (all Year 11s from JCoSS or elsewhere and their parents are welcome to attend)
Thurs 17/11	P1 – 4	Sixth Form Taster Morning for Year 11
Wed 30/11	4.30 – 7.30pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Mon 28/11 – Tues 6/12 (incl)	All day	Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams
Thurs 01/12	School Day as Normal	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Thurs 08/12	3.00 – 5.00pm	Grandparents' Afternoon for Year 7 students and students new to the school
Sun 11/12	6.30 – 8.30pm	JPA Year 7 Disco
Wed 21/12	1.30pm	End of Autumn Term

School closes at 1.30pm on all Fridays until the end of Spring Term

Chanukah is 25<sup>th</sup> December '16 to 1<sup>st</sup> January '17

Students return to school on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at **10.45am** (week two)

## The JCoSS Eco-Warriors

The JCoSS ECO-Warriors believe that we should invest time and effort to preserve our the environment and have been meeting since 2014 to fulfil our vision to encourage staff and students at JCoSS to make 'greener' and more 'ECO-friendly' choices.

So far, we have created a wealth of posters, which have been displayed within the heart space, encouraging staff and students to be aware of our environment. More recently with the support of Mrs Yedid, we held a bake-sale raising funds for Max's Foundation. We are also hoping to raise the profile of the edible garden' which is run by Ms Hancock and Mrs Pop. It has been a positive turn out so far but we would like to encourage more students to attend, especially those who are environmentally aware and want to get involved to support this cause.

The Year 8 and Year 9 ECO-Warriors meet Ms Bossman-Quarshie regularly where they discuss eco-friendly opportunities and projects for the school and we hope many students will get involved and support any new initiatives we run.

Ms V Bossman-Quarshie



### PLEASE NOTE

The school office would like to remind students to get their equipment organised before leaving for school. We have had an increasing number of 'forgotten items' such as PE kits and cooking ingredients handed into reception by parents/carers and it is not always possible to distribute them in time for the appropriate lesson.

Many thanks in advance

Mrs C Martin

## Maccabi GB Challenge Israel Tour

Sophie Greenbaum and Natasha Marlowe, two students from the PSRP, joined seven other young people this September on the Maccabi GB Challenge Israel Tour. This amazing programme is a 12 day Israel tour which takes young people with additional needs on a once in a lifetime journey to experience the land, people, politics and culture of Israel in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Challenge certainly did sum up the experience, with all the young people being stretched and challenged in a variety of ways, and thriving in a constantly stimulating and exciting programme. They sailed on the Mediterranean Sea, bowled with the Special Olympics team, floated in the Dead Sea and went kayaking on the Jordan River. They travelled from North to South, spending time in Jerusalem, on kibbutz and in the desert. As you would expect, all of the young people had an amazing time and found themselves doing things they never would have imagined was possible. This brand new partnership between Maccabi GB, Langdon and JCoSS is open to JCoSS PSRP students in Years 11 and 12. The next trip will take place in March 2018. Please contact Mr Abram for more information.

Mr B Abram



## Year 7 Netballers have a great start to the season

Well done to the Year 7 netball team who played their first match of the year. The final score was 17-1 against St. Michael's Catholic High School.



# Parents Needed for JCoSS Careers Workshop

Parents who work in particular professional areas are being asked to give an hour of their time to talk to Year 12 students about their careers.

The **Careers Workshop** takes place early in the day on **November 30** (8.30am) and is designed to help students nearing the end of their time at school with the important career and Higher Education decisions they will soon be making.

A poll of this cohort of students identified the following career areas as those they particularly wanted to hear more about:

**Law, Medicine, Accountancy/Finance, Creative Arts, Media, Computer Science and Psychology.**

Parents are asked to prepare a talk lasting 15 minutes covering how and why they chose their job, qualifications and training needed, what they do on a typical day, skills/qualities required, what they like best/don't like about their work and any tips on what students can do now to increase their chances of getting into those careers.

To ensure all students get to hear all speakers we are asking parents to repeat each talk three times with a five minute Q and A session in between. The event will end at 9.40am.

Please contact either Clare Raff or Helen Lewis in the Careers Office, if you are able to help. We look forward to hearing from you and greatly appreciate your support. [craff@jcross.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:craff@jcross.barnet.sch.uk) or [hlewis@jcross.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:hlewis@jcross.barnet.sch.uk).

Thanks

Clare Raff and Helen Lewis



Hello everyone – I would firstly like to introduce myself as the new Chair for the JCoSS Parents Association. I am very excited to be taking on this role and I look forward to ensuring the continued success of the JPA.

I am pleased to announce that this year's JCoSS Parents Association Year 7 Student Disco will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and will be held at JCoSS. This event has been organized by KP Events, a North London based events company who has kindly offered to give their services to the school completely free of charge.

The cost of the ticket is £13 which includes kosher food and drink. Please go to the link to purchase a ticket:

<https://www.billetto.co.uk/year7disco2016>

KP Events have pulled in many favours from a host of suppliers to create a memorable night for the children. In addition to a full disco with DJ, they will be bringing in lots of fun entertainment including a photo booth, magician and a fairground stall with prizes.

We would like to thank Kati Pauk, director of KP Events, who is an experienced and reputable party planner, well known for organizing many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other wonderful events. For further information about KP Events, please call 020 8883 7411 or check out the website at [www.kpevents.co.uk](http://www.kpevents.co.uk) or the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/KPEventsLondon](https://www.facebook.com/KPEventsLondon).

Best wishes

Elaine Pitter – Chair JPA

# LRC NEWS

## Bookbuzz

Once again, we are pleased to be part of the Book Trust's "Bookbuzz" scheme this year, kindly funded by the JPA. Year 7 students have been able to choose a free book each from a list of specially selected titles. The books will be distributed to students during their LRC lessons after half term.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme and enter a competition, please look at their website: <http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/>



## Parent help needed

Our popular Half-Price Book Fair is coming to JCoSS soon. If you could spare some time during the day to help us run the Fair which is taking place from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November** for the whole week, please contact Mrs Mulkis in the LRC. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



## Amazon Wish List

If you would like to donate a book to commemorate your child's birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or any other occasion, we have a wish list on Amazon which is frequently updated. To access the list, log on to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and click on "Wish list / Find a wish list". Enter "JCoSS" into the name bar. Select the book(s) you would like to buy and put it into your basket. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative plaque in the donated book(s). Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!

## Hebrew Fiction wanted

If you happen to have any good fiction books for teenagers in Hebrew that you no longer need, we would be delighted to store them in the LRC and to offer them on loan to our Israeli students or to our students who would like to improve their Hebrew language.

Mrs C Mulkis

The LRC Team

