

Dear Parents

'April is the cruellest month' says TS Eliot in *The Wasteland*, 'breeding lilacs out of the dead ground'. Spurning predictable joy at the coming of spring, he finds in it only bleakness and 'a heap of broken images'. The lilacs do not burst forth at the return of the sun; rather they are forced reluctantly out of the hard earth...like getting a student out of bed in the last 3 days of term when all other schools have already broken up. Eliot is truly a poet of our times! He is right, however, that sometimes new beginnings feel more like loss than like liberation. Sometimes the heaviness and grief of living is such that we can't muster the energy to lift our spirits. As the Israelites complain shortly after the Exodus, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt...for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger": slavery is misery, but at least it is familiar misery.

Recent weeks have felt like a meditation on loss and liberation: Article 50 triggered (whether loss or liberation is a matter of opinion...); Scotland's future in the UK once again in question (is the union a shackle or a lifeline?); attacks on democracy at Westminster, and on the innocent in St Petersburg (one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter...?); Chuck Berry dies of a heart attack (but let us hope he is rocking and rolling in ha olam ha ba); while education funding cuts lead even moderate voices such as ASCL to declare that 'Schools with low levels of deprivation will almost certainly have insufficient funding...and many will become insolvent'. Perhaps there can be no liberation without loss of some kind, but it has certainly felt at times like loss without liberation.

As well as being themes for pondering over Pesach, they are themes picked up in this bumper edition of the newsletter. There is plenty of loss in the plot of *Les Misérables*, but what a fabulous and heart-lifting production was crafted and led by JCoSS students – the highlight of my term without doubt. Mr de Jong was all too close to events in Westminster, and his reflections on it on page 4 have his trademark combination of chutzpah and careful consideration. As we prepare to say farewell our first home-grown student cohort, there is exciting news of their various destinations. And there is plenty more besides which I commend to you with thanks, as always, to colleagues and students for the depth and breadth of their commitment and generosity of spirit.

May I take this opportunity to request some political engagement from you: the 384 bus route, which hundreds of JCoSS students rely on for their journey to school, faces a reduction in service. This has been announced without any consultation, nor any response to our requests for explanations. We would be grateful if as many parents and students as possible could sign the online petition set up by our local councillors at <http://www.barnetlabour.org.uk/384bus>. The irony of this coming just as the first JCoSS Youth Travel Ambassadors win £250 (see p8) is rather bitter.

One final piece of bittersweet news: Elaine Robinson, Deputy Head for Jewish Ethos and one of our founding members of staff, has been appointed as Headteacher of the Sir Manasseh Meyer International School in Singapore. This is a very exciting appointment to a unique Jewish school, which will make very good use of her experience. Her influence on JCoSS has been enormous: she was responsible for writing our innovative Jewish Education curriculum from scratch, for establishing our unique pluralist ethos, for inducting hundreds of staff and students into that ethos and for continuing to guide and direct it over the past 7 years. Her investment into JCoSS has been huge and her commitment unwavering. We are both delighted for her and proud of her achievement, and wish well to the whole family for whom this will be an exciting adventure.

Chag Pesach Sameach

Patrick Moriarty

# 6<sup>th</sup> Form News

## UCAS Successes

As we come towards the end of this year's UCAS cycle, we would like to congratulate our Year 13 students on an excellent range of offers. So far, 2 students have gained offers for Cambridge University to read Natural Sciences and Theology; nearly 50% of all offers have come from Russell Group universities and over 90% of students have received at least 3 university offers. On top of the 4 students gaining places for Medicine, one has a place for Dentistry and one for Veterinary Science; our science students reflect the diversity of interest in STEM subjects at JCoSS ranging from 6 places for Biochemistry/Biomedicine, 7 for Psychology and 3 for Engineering while other students have been offered places for Pharmacology, Radiology, Computer Science, Maths and Nursing.

We are equally proud of the quality of offers, the majority of whom have received all 5 offers. Guidance has been of a very high standard, across the whole cohort which has resulted in students being well informed enough to apply for specialised courses such as Building Surveying, Criminology, Chinese and Anthropology. We wish all students luck for the final exams and look forward to congratulating them on results day!

## Extra Extra on 6<sup>th</sup> form Extra-Curricular activities

Since last September, student leadership in the 6<sup>th</sup> form has grown rapidly. There are now a wide range of 6<sup>th</sup> former led clubs, activities and volunteering taking place; look out for the new posters coming out soon showing where clubs are taking place. New ideas are always welcomed!

Currently on offer:

- Amnesty International
- Alma Primary School volunteering programme
- Choir
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Doodle Club
- EAL paired reading
- Football club
- GSA
- Historical Baking
- Jewish Care nursing home volunteering
- Spoken Word Club
- Medical Society
- Science Soc
- Mentoring
- Memes Society
- Politics Society
- Shivyon
- Subject Ambassadors
- Young Enterprise



# 6<sup>th</sup> Form Prefects



We would like to congratulate the newly elected 6<sup>th</sup> form Senior Prefects: Jay Sands, Benjy Smokler, Noa Marson, Jake Segal, Adam Sheldon, Aidan Raphael, Holly Kraiss, Melody White, Jack Foreman, Adam Aradi-Posylkin, Gil Sherman, Noa Clare-Rees, Eli Harris, Grace Paydon, Max Simmonds, Abi Wander, Cherie Herman, Talia Friend, Sedona Black, Rebecca Wilcockson, Ella Raphael and Emilia Fantoni. 2017 sees the launch of a revised student leadership structure which aims to enhance the student voice and the visibility of student leadership. All 6<sup>th</sup> form Senior Prefects now gain automatic entry into the school council as well as undertaking various prefect roles in sports and performing arts, the house system, fundraising, ethos, student leadership and inclusion. We expect great things from this team and welcome them as our new ambassadors.

Ms Burman and Miss Winthrop

## Visit to the Globe Theatre by Gil Krikler Y11

Studying *Romeo and Juliet* as part of our English Literature course, we are often reminded of the importance of understanding the stagecraft and dramatic nature of the play, for it is all too easily forgotten that the text was intended not only to be read, but more importantly, performed.

Last week, a bus-full of Year 11 students arrived at the famous Globe Theatre, historic home of Shakespeare's productions, looking to gain a deeper understanding of the play and the audience for whom it was originally written. The day began with a skilled demonstration in medieval sword fighting, a common occurrence in the play, from the Globe's own fencing master and two of his students. With perfectly choreographed duels and an array of weaponry, all modelled from real medieval blades, the actors brought the play's brawls and battles to life. They also gave an insight into the subtle clues that Shakespeare leaves us regarding the status of a character depending on their weapon of choice, each coming with their own social connotations.

After a tour of the main stage, we spent the remainder of the day working closely with actors currently performing in a number of Shakespearian productions. Taking extracts from the text, we discussed the prevailing themes and key scenes of the play, analysing each character's wants and fears, then took on the roles ourselves and performed in groups, helping us to see the play from the perspective of the actors and explore the different ways in which the story can be interpreted.



## 6th Form Parliament Trip 2017 – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

When I woke on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, it was with a sense of anticipation that is comparable to that felt by a child on the eve of their birthday. We were going to Parliament and I knew that we were in for a treat! Fast-forward two hours: it's 10.00 and 19 students and two teachers are assembled at Exit 3 of Westminster tube station ready for a day of excitement. I had instructed students to arrive promptly at 10.00 (to mitigate the effects of Jewish Mean Time) ensuring that we had at least 45 minutes to make the three-minute walk to The Palace of Westminster. Lord Glasman, to whom I am immensely grateful for creating the tradition of an annual JCoSS Parliament Trip, was expecting us, and as a JCoSS parent it wouldn't have been proper to keep him waiting.

That being said, we had time on our hands and so we took the wet and windy scenic route; along Millbank, over Lambeth Bridge, along The Thames, over Westminster Bridge and into the Parliamentary Visitors' Entrance at precisely 10.45. All very English. We were warmly greeted by Lord Glasman and a troupe of welcoming police officers, all of whom made time to chat with us as we made our way through Ben Gurion-style security.

We were escorted to Committee Room 15, where Richard Harrington, MP for Watford, joined us. He and Lord Glasman spent some time explaining their roles, careers and views and then they took questions from students which spanned Syria, Brexit, Theresa May, Corbyn's future, and really allowed the students an insight into the functioning of Parliament. We were then taken on a tour of the building, hearing the history of Westminster Hall and its inhabitants, seeing a few notorious faces and chatting with our tour guides along the way. Our tour came to an end at the queue leading into the House of Commons Public Gallery. I was informed that expected waiting time was about an hour.

Being able to look back on the events that followed our arrival in the queue has made me realise that sometimes the most unusual of circumstances can conspire in your favour. I got talking to the 'Parliamentary Queue Manager' and, following a good old fashioned bit of schmoozing, the waiting time had miraculously reduced to 5 minutes – we were in! The students were all able to watch a debate taking place in the House of Commons and at 14.00 we were standing back in Westminster Hall. Much to my disappointment, and I suspect the students' glee, Big Ben was closed for repair and so, instead of another tour, it was home time. Miss Rice and I dismissed the students, happy as Larry, at 14.05 to a chorus of thanks and made a beeline for the gift-shop so that I could stock-up on outrageously overpriced House of Commons pencils. By 14.15 Miss Rice and I were sitting in a café writing reports and toasting a successful trip.

Little did we know that not 500 metres away the horrific events that have since been detailed at length by the media were unfolding: an individual attacking the innocent at the very place we had been not long before: The Houses of Parliament - the bastion of our democracy. But for a matter of minutes, thanks to a queue jump and a dilapidated public building, we were all safe. Call it synchronicity, call it divine providence or call it dumb luck, but our students were unharmed and in no danger.

Sadly PC Keith Palmer, Kurt Cochran, Leslie Rhodes and Aysha Frade all died and scores more were injured in the attack: a public servant running towards danger to protect civilians, and three innocent people going about their business. All lost because one man tried to bring British democracy to a grinding halt. He tried, but failed. On Thursday, Parliament was open for business and London kept calm and carried on.

Similarly we all returned to school on Thursday, politically reinvigorated, but with an added dash of defiance - we will continue to teach, and learn, about politics and I hope that the memories of this day act as a lesson in politics for us all, if not the one I had set out to teach on Wednesday morning.

**By Benjamin de Jong**



## Art News

All Year 8 and 9 Art students were given a project brief to research Careers in the Arts Industry. There were no restrictions as to how to present their research, and some students went above and beyond what was expected of them. They created some amazing Home Learning Projects: from exploring Graphic Design, Make up Artistry, and Architecture to Portrait Artists, Photography and Cake Decorating. Students voted for 3 winners within each class and those winners' pieces were exhibited in a Gallery within the Heartspace. Mr Moriarty, Mrs Abrams and Mr De Jong then selected 2 winners each, who received our Art Award Certificate and a £15 Amazon Voucher.

The Art department are incredibly proud of all our students' creations and how they have been inspired by the careers they researched.

Well done to all our Year 8 and 9 students and Congratulations to the six winners of the Careers Project Prizes:

- Ellie Saipe
- Amy Jayson
- Darcey Gurner
- Albany Maddison
- Leah Talisman
- Ace Rockman



'The Children and The Arts organisation' are currently holding a Secondary School Art Competition, and JCoSS students in Year 7, 8 and 9 were asked to create a piece that related to the theme, 'Perspective'. We have entered a number of students into the 11-15 age category and look forward to hearing the results. Well done to all the students, who produced some amazing work!



Abigail Tucker, Year 9



Gabriel Griffith Year 8.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Form Trips

## New York Trip, by Arabella Shifrin

During the recent February half term twenty Year 12 students had the opportunity to participate in a six day incredible trip to New York. Staying in a fantastic hotel just a few blocks from Central Park, we went on a tour of NBC Film Studios and the Saturday Night Live set learning how a television studio really works; a tour of the United Nations HQ where politics and careers in the field were discussed; a tour of the whole financial district learning about Finance and Economics; and a behind-the-scenes tour of MACYS with a fashion merchandising director. Aside from all the educational tours we also visited the typical tourist attractions including the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Central Park, shopping on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Soho, all topped off with ice skating at the Rockefeller Centre on the last evening. I highly recommend this trip to everyone as it was six days full of fun whilst also educating us in a brand new way about world events, cultures and careers in different fields.



## Poland Trip, By Joshua Mauice, Noa Lightman and Jake Segal

Despite the high levels of education and exposure to the atrocities of the holocaust, nothing can quite prepare you for what you'll see in Poland. Learning facts, reading testimonies and watching documentaries doesn't even begin to compare to seeing the sights with your own eyes. We'll never forget casting out eyes on Majdanek Concentration Camp for the first time. The sheer contrast between the pristinely kept relic of destruction in the middle of the bustling city of Lublin perfectly mirrors Poland, a bright present with a dark past. The journey we took was a powerful one. We learnt about the rich Jewish heritage embedded in early 1900s Poland in Warsaw, experienced the deep, spiritual side of Judaism from Lublin to the pain and tremendous suffering in Auschwitz. We saw the thriving centre of Jewish life come to an abrupt standstill. But most importantly, we saw the rebirth of the Jewish community in Krakow. The solemn experience challenged our views on society and human nature itself, but as we walked out the gates of Auschwitz Birkenau, we realised how blessed we truly are to be free to live Jewish lives today.



## CERN – A Level Physics trip, by Joseph Dee, Year 12

Our A level physics group recently had the fantastic opportunity to explore some of the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments through various guided tours and educational exhibitions. I feel as though I gained a thoroughly deepened understanding of the fundamentals of particles and the magnitude of the discovery of the Higgs-Boson, which only furthered my passion for the topic of physics. I had been so excited to go for many reasons, especially to see the Large Hadron Collider, which was the highlight of the trip. This, amongst various other aspects of CERN, made me appreciate the history that has been created there. It was a great and informative trip for those interested in science and surrounding subjects, as it had a nice balance of science and engineering. It was a privilege to be invited to go on this trip and I will take a lot away from this trip particularly the passion that all of the workers have for physics.

## Young Chef of the Year Competition

Ruby Shefras 10Y entered the Young Chef of the Year competition run by Oaklands Colleges in partnership with Lussmans, a restaurant in St Albans. She was shortlisted for the main course category and was asked to go along to Oaklands College during February half term to prepare the dish, a white fish curry served with basmati rice.

We are delighted that Ruby was awarded second prize, (with a boy who had previous experience working in Piccadilly coming first)

**Congratulations to Ruby!**



## Commended Writing

The English and Media Centre is an independent educational charity with a national and international reputation as a Centre of Excellence. Every year they run a competition for 6<sup>th</sup> form English Literature students who have to write a 500 word close reading of a literary extract. This year the extract was taken from the opening of 'The Glorious Heresies' by Lisa McNerny.

We are delighted that Year 12 student Pandora Molteno received a 'Commended' award, making her in the top 10 out of hundreds of entries. Congratulations Pandora on a wonderful achievement.

## Yossi Sassi visits JCoSS Music Department

The Music department was lucky enough to have a visit from Israeli Musician Yossi Sassi. Yossi is a guitarist and producer from Israel who merges traditional and contemporary music, and is the inventor of the Bouzoukita. He is known for pioneering & evolving [Oriental Prog-Rock](#), as well as the main composer, arranger and co-founder of [Orphaned Land](#), an Israeli progressive metal band formed in 1991.

Yossi came and gave a guitar master class to an enthusiastic and attentive audience of about 25 of our musicians, explaining how he came to invent his hybrid instrument and gave a demonstration playing his own music. It was an enthralling and entertaining visit, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



## Youth Travel Ambassador Programme

For the first time, JCoSS is participating in the Youth Travel Ambassador (YTA) programme. This is an exciting new venture forming part of our School Travel Plan.

Our YTAs are 10 students from Year 8: Lucy Pitter, Albany Madisson, Arielle Spivac, Lily Marson, Ollie Sugarman, Mia Rabilizirova, Sheli Appel, Ben Harringman, Erin Walfisz and Adam Daniels.

With the support of a Barnet Council officer and a TFL representative, the YTAs have spent months researching and working on a common issue found amongst the JCoSS students and staff, namely Pedestrian Road Safety. The YTAs were challenged to prepare a pitch with all their ideas of how to educate their peers on this topic, and to present to a panel of judges in a 'Dragon's Den' style event at Hendon Town Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The students did an amazing job and presented confidently and enthusiastically in front of 4 judges and 5 other Barnet secondary schools. They handled challenging questions from the panel with ease and were awarded the full £250 prize money to bring their campaign to life.

Well done to our YTAs!



## Year 7 Student of the Month

### Millie Rogove 7R

For her contribution to JCoSS extra curricular activities (table tennis) and her general attitude towards school and our expectations. Congratulations Millie.



## Year 7 Maccabi Netball Tournament Joint Winners 2017,

Article by Isabella Jacobs and Shana Fantoni

It was February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 and the Year 7 netball team was ready for action. Isabella Jacobs was the captain – flipping the coin before every match – hoping for heads every time. The first match wasn't much of a success; we were against the JFS 'A' team and sadly the score was 11-1 to them. We came bouncing back and won our next match against Immanuel which was a real confidence booster and it got us through to the semi-final against JFS B team, where we won. Here is where it gets interesting – we were in the final against the JFS A team again. At full time, the game ended 7-7, and an additional two minutes extra time was played. During extra time we scored first and thought victory was upon us, but in the last 30 seconds JFS equalised. The match was declared a draw at 8-8 and both teams were crowned joint 1<sup>st</sup> place. We shook hands with a smile on our faces and said our three cheers.



### Winning Team

Lucy Brent, Isabella Jacobs, Michaela Jackson, Jaime Grogan, Scarlet Anders, Georgia Ryb, Shana Fantoni



# The Annual JCoSS Science Week

Science Week, held earlier this term, included a wide range of activities and assemblies throughout the week, with a focus on Food Science

Every day in assembly, each year group was treated to an informative presentation by Ruth Launer and Yoni Wade (Y12) which included a couple of 'whizz bang' experiments to delight the audience. One was the screaming Jelly Baby (or in this case a screaming Jelly Bunny) experiment, which involve heating Potassium Chlorate until molten and dropping a jelly bunny into it. The practical demonstrates the amazing amount of energy in the sweet, as seen by the very dramatic reaction. There was not much screaming, but the jelly bunny didn't fare well!

Each lunchtime, there were lectures and demonstrations in the Science Lecture Theatre by JCoSS **Sci Soc** members. **Sci Soc** is a science club devoted to members of the sixth form who meet regularly to engage in current scientific thought and practice. Formed at the beginning of this academic year, it has a significant participation from Year 12 & Year 13 students. There are external visitors who give lectures and a chance to do some exciting practicals which are not on the curriculum.



For Science week, Sci Soc members purchased their own **Sci Soc** hoodies in pale blue with the club logo on the back.

## This is what took place each day:

**Monday** – Vivian Guiloff and Noga Oren (Y13) had a sizeable audience across many year groups for a very informative presentation on 'Why is Food Yummy?' There was audience participation which added to the fun: participants got to try different foods whilst keeping their eyes shut to see if blind tasting alters the way we experience food.

**Tuesday** – Miriam Austen and Yoni Wade (Y12) demonstrated the extraction of Limonene from orange zest using steam distillation. In true Blue Peter style they had also previously prepared Limonene from Lemon Zest. Additionally they showed us how turmeric and tonic water glows in the dark when exposed to a U.V. lamp.

## **Wednesday – Science fair in the heart-space.**

Demonstrations included the Whoosh Bottle Rocket across the Heart space, making plastic from milk, sugar rainbows & corn-starch speakers!

**Thursday** – Rebecca Middleburgh and Gemma Oberman (Y13) did some fun experiments using foods; rising and falling raisins in carbonated water (a bit like a dried fruit lava lamp!), what happens to full fat milk when washing up liquid is added, and how hard an egg shell really is!

**Friday** – Jade Smith, Tzofiah Abramov and Gaby Greenhouse (Y12) did science with sugar. They showed a very impressive demonstration of how concentrated sulphuric acid reacts with sugar.

**Many thanks to Sci-Soc members for entertaining us all week with fun, educational science.**

By Karen Hancock, Senior Technician



Students getting messy with Non-Newtonian fluid (corn-starch and water)



6<sup>th</sup> Form Sci-Soc members giving a demonstration at lunch time

# Les Miserable Production (to read the full article, go to the 'latest news' section on our website)

## Dreaming The Dream - Maximilian Stapleton, Director

As the first ever JCoSS students, the school evolved according to our own experiences, and we set a precedent for the years following us. We had taken a risk by turning to an untested vision for a school; the same breed of risk that prompted the deep breath and plunge into *JCoSS Les Misérables*. This idea was spawned when we contemplated what legacy our cohort would leave once we were gone. Our departure seemed greyer when considering the immense talent within our school, and how we had never fully witnessed it. *Les Misérables* became the colourful solution to this problem, specifically chosen due to the popular appeal it held over all ages and the enthusiasm we shared for it. The idea bloomed, leading us to propose our bold idea to Senior Leadership, and they chose to entrust us with the challenge.

## Building Les Miserables - Max Mydat, Set Designer

By November of Year 13, rehearsals were in full swing. Performers used classroom objects as makeshift props and set pieces. I joined the team as set designer and sat down with Max Stapleton to discuss how we would translate these rehearsals on to stage. Our goal was to design set pieces that could be used throughout the show in a variety of ways, keeping costs minimal.

Over the winter break I drew up the designs for each scene, referencing Max's initial drawings. As a lover of all things DIY, I found it enjoyable labouring these designs into practical pieces of stage by sawing and drilling as fast as humanly possible in the Art and Design Technology Department, whilst rehearsals constantly took place in the music rooms below.

## One Day More - Ayala Gottlieb Alter, Musical Director

The excitement was tangible as cast, crew and chorus congregated in the main hall early on Sunday morning, one day more before the show. As the dress rehearsal began, it was beyond inspiring to finally see the set, performers, band and costumes come together for the first time. Students from Years 7 to 13 united in pursuit of our common goal: to make JCoSS's first full school production the best it could possibly be. It was touching to see everyone working in harmony, and noticeable how the younger years seemed to look up to the sixth formers. For us Year 13s who never had such role models at JCoSS, we really started to understand the lasting impact this wonderful, insane project would have.

Waiting in the wings on Monday night for the bubble of chatter to subside, anticipation charged performers and stagehands alike. As the house lights dimmed, those first cohort students took a moment to appreciate that we were on the cusp of realising our director's dream and affirming the legacy of our year group.

We were euphoric as the final show approached its end on Tuesday night. Thanks were given through moving words, chocolates and sunflowers. Emotional speeches backstage with cast and crew culminated this incredible journey, following our last triumphant encore of One Day More.

## Quotes from the Audience

"The singing was unbelievable and it's so so impressive that it was all done by sixth formers."

"For a school production it was an incredible tour de force of the highest quality."

"I was particularly impressed that all school year groups were able to participate, and the evening will live long in the memory. In short - Wow!"



## JCoSS Careers Fair 2017, By Cherie Herman, Year 12

### Giving students the opportunity to explore different paths

Students in Years 9, 12 and 13 got a real insight into more than 20 career areas at last week's JCoSS Careers Fair. The annual event, which this year ran throughout the school day, featured exhibitors representing a wide range of careers, from PR and Marketing to the Metropolitan Police, from the Army to Accountancy; there was something for everybody. The exhibitors, who included a number of JCoSS parents, were impressed by the interest shown by students, reflected in the many intelligent questions asked. One exhibitor, Lorna Landells, a surveyor and Director of commercial property firm Cushman and Wakefield, said she found students "polite and engaged" and that the event provided

an opportunity for students not only to learn more about possible careers they hope to pursue, but to learn about other options too. Year 12 student Charlotte Levine said she visited the Careers Fair "in the hope of finding out how to get into the media industry".

And she was not disappointed: She found the experience extremely helpful and one exhibitor in particular – Beverly Law, of branding and graphic design firm 'All Creative Branding', offered her a work experience opportunity. "She told me what I should be doing to get into the industry - I now know I need to build a media portfolio".

This was a successful event, exchanging knowledge, experience and opportunity; we look forward to next year's Careers Fair.



## JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Summer Term 2017

Date	Time	Description
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am	Students return to school after Spring Break (week one)
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> April		Yom HaShoah (normal school timings)
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> April		Rosh Chodesh. Year 8 girls' HPV vaccinations
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> May	All day	Public holiday. School closed
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>2.05pm</b>	Yom Ha'atzmuat <b>Early closing for staff training</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> May – Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> May		KS3 (years 7,8 & 9) end of year assessments
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> May		Public exam season starts
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> May		7B, 7F, 7N & 7R (surnames A-K) White Water and Orienteering trip
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> May		7R (surnames L-Z), 7S, 7W & 7Y White Water and Orienteering trip
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May		Rosh Chodesh. Last day before half term break. School timings as normal Summer Friday

School closes at 2.05pm on all Fridays in the Summer Term

Students return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June after half term at 8.30am (Week 1)

## Classical Object Handling Session, by Guy Altarace-Sherman, Year 9

Year 9 and 10 Latin students were invited to an exciting workshop with Mr Paul O'Mahony from the Kallos Galery in Mayfair, where we had the opportunity to handle extremely rare - and eye wateringly valuable - items from Ancient Greece, Egypt and Turkey.

We were able to handle a fantastic bronze horse (most likely used as an offering) from the Geometric Period (approximately 750BC) and three coins, one of which was from the first batch of minted coins discovered anywhere in the world. It was minted in approximately 560 BC under King Croesus with the image of two wild beasts. We also handled a solid gold coin from Ptolemaic Egypt (approx. 200 BC) depicting Arsinoë II and a coin from Koson in Thrace depicting a politician on one side and an eagle on the other (this was after the Roman Empire captured Thrace and may well have been their way of showing who was boss). Staggeringly, the collection was worth over half a million pounds!

Mr O'Mahony told us all about the origin of each artefact and brought to life the context of each piece, highlighting the extent of inbreeding among the Egyptian ruling dynasties, the mysterious dark age that befell the Greek-speaking world between the 11th and 9th century BC and the story of rich Croesus and his downfall. He also raised fascinating questions about ethics in the antiquities market and we discussed the serious issues that arise for collectors during periods of political unrest when museums and ancient sites fall prey to looters.

It was thrilling to come into such close contact with these ancient objects that have survived the millennia against such high odds. The session had a profound impact on my ability to connect with the ancient past and helped to put my study of Latin into a wider context.



'Paul O'Mahony shows Y9 and 10 Latin students various precious objects from the Kallos Gallery's collection'



'A geometric period bronze horse dated to approx 750BC and valued at £400,000'

## LRC News

### World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated at JCoSS on Thursday 2 March and all students received a £1 World Book Day token to exchange for a book especially written for the occasion or to get £1 off any book or audio-book worth £2.99 or more in a bookshop.

To celebrate, an excerpt from the short story "Mazel & Shlimazel of the Milk of a Lioness" by Isaac Bashevis Singer was read at the beginning of each lesson throughout the day and staff also shared reading experiences with students in assemblies about books that had changed their lives.

At lunchtime, we ran a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand book shop in the Heartspace where 44 books were sold, raising £22 to go towards JCoSS chosen charities and during the Year 7 assembly, we announced the winners of the Bookbuzz competition.

## Book Buzz Competition

After receiving their free books kindly sponsored by the JPA, Year 7 students were asked to design a book cover for our JCoSS competition, which they could also submit to the national Bookbuzz competition.

We are very pleased to announce our JCoSS winner, **Ira Halfon in 7S** who designed this very imaginative cover:

The quality of the designs were so amazing that we decided to give prizes to 6 runners-up:

**Jacob Sanders, Elisha Koseleff, Scarlett Sherman**

**Sarah Clif, Ella Dersel, David Winter**

Jacob Sanders was also the runner-up nationally in the Bookbuzz competition from over 1000 entries. This is a fantastic achievement and he was awarded a certificate and a very special book. In addition, thanks to Jacob, the LRC also received 22 free books for our students. Well done Jacob!



## Read4Barnet event – 30 June 2017

30 Year 7 students will be selected to take part in this reading event over the next few months. Formerly called 'We Read', the aim is to encourage students from schools across Barnet to read and review 7 books which have been chosen by librarians from the participating schools. The students' reviews will be posted on the Read4Barnet website. On 30 June the students involved from all the participating schools will meet at Queen Elizabeth's School for an all-day Festival of Reading day. So far 5 authors have confirmed they will attend. Students will get a chance to meet the authors, attend 2 talks and have copies of their books signed. Students will vote for the best book of the 7 selected titles and prizes will also be awarded for the best reviews. JCoSS students have featured highly in these awards in past years so we hope our current Year 7 students can continue this exemplary tradition!

The 7 books selected for Read4Barnet this year are:



## Revision guides

The LRC recently purchased a whole selection of revision guides which are compatible with the new curriculum. These are available to borrow for a period of 7 days to allow many students to use them. Please do come and have a look at our selection.



## Barnet Lit Quiz competition – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Once again, JCoSS is very pleased to host the Barnet Lit Quiz competition. 10 Barnet schools will choose a team of 5 Year 7 students to compete against other schools.

We are in the process of selecting the students who will represent JCoSS on the day and we wish them good luck.

## IJE update

JCoSS celebrated Purim in our usual style this year with a whole day carnival where students took part in a Crystal Maze challenge, a spy games mission, circus and drumming workshops as well as Bingo and a talent show. 6th form students took part in a workshop run by Keshet on Purim and Identity and the whole school enjoyed a live student band and fair at lunchtime. Congratulations to Ellie Parker on winning the Talent Show prize and to all of the students who participated. You can see photos and the infamous video on our website.

This half term we have also welcomed a wide variety of charities and community leaders into school for our Rosh Chodesh programme and look forward to welcoming more throughout the year. We are also delighted to report that some Year 11 students have started volunteering to run Rosh Chodesh services and activities for Year 7 students. This shows exactly the leadership and role modelling that we value so greatly at JCoSS and we are thrilled to celebrate their contribution.

In charity related news, our latest Yom Tzedaka was run by Year 8 who have broken the school record by raising over £700 for our school charities in one day. Congratulations to all the Year 8 forms who were so creative and committed in their fundraising efforts.



We were pleased to host the latest seminar of the Alan Senitt leadership course at JCoSS this half term, and to welcome students from other participating schools to this prestigious leadership course. We look forward to reporting on their wonderful achievements at the end of the year.

We are also delighted to have the largest ever group signed up and on course to achieve the Yoni Jesner volunteering award this summer. In order to win the award, students need to complete 20 or more hours of volunteering over the year and with Mr Rosenberg's support, more students than ever before are on target to achieve this.

Our top fundraisers and volunteers were rewarded this half term with a trip to 'We Day' – a motivational seminar and concert which takes place at Wembley Arena and celebrates young people who are changing the world for the better. Everyone who went had a fantastic day out and returned motivated to do even more social action in school and beyond.

**Sara Levan**  
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