

Dear Parents

With deaths from David Bowie to Leonard Cohen, and with political campaigns from Brexit to Trump, there has truly been something for everyone to bemoan in 2016. There is, of course, a crack in everything, and that's what lets the light in (Leonard Cohen's words in Anthem, in case you had forgotten) but there seem to have been too many cracks and not enough light in recent months. Whichever of the events of 2016 have depressed or delighted, many are looking forward to 2017 simply because it is not 2016, and some might feel there could never be a better time for a miracle. Perhaps that is why we have Christmas coinciding with Chanukah this year, so that the combined effect on two festivals of light might shed a little light in the darkness.

Slightly too late for a proper write-up in this newsletter, but certainly a source of light for all who were there, were two wonderful evenings last week: the Drama and Dance Production on Tuesday, and the Music Concert on Thursday. The Tuesday evening had the title "Transformations" but it could have applied equally to both, in the sense that the individual talents of students were celebrated and showcased, but also transformed into something even greater than the sum of the parts. On Tuesday we watched examples of transformations from fiction, film and theatre from Dickens to Disney; on Thursday we heard individual and ensemble pieces from Elgar to Stockholm Syndrome (and including several led or composed entirely by the students themselves. Both nights we were brought to our feet to join the action.

Both evenings were also transformative in that they combined excellence with inclusion – a whole range of talents and styles, of ages and stages of students from right across the school, and with repertoire skilfully chosen to allow everyone to contribute to a harmonious whole. Our thanks and admiration go in particular to Mr Roberts, Mrs Gustard-Brown, Mr Brookman and Mr Leffman – and an extra mention to the latter two because the show has not stopped, with students performing this week at Jewish Care and at Southgate Synagogue, as well as in final assembly. The light of JCoSS Expressive Arts thus spreads across the community in small ways.

Education is sometimes described as changing the world one student at a time, and there are plenty of us who work in schools who would echo that sentiment as a motivation that brought us into the profession. Small transformations that turn out to be bigger than one ever imagined, flickering flames at 11 that grow into beacons of light by 18...this is the stuff of the job, and watching the UCAS offers come in for our first full cohort has been a time to reflect on the journey. A significant proportion of offers are unconditional – in other words students have a guaranteed place whatever the outcome of their A levels – which indicates the faith of the universities both in the students and in the school's reference. We, and those students, just have to make sure that the light stays on evening though the heat is off, as it were!

As always, I commend to you the pages that follow and the glorious range of activities they document, and I wish you a restful holiday, Chag Sameach and best wishes for Christmas or any other festivals you might be celebrating, and a fruitful and happy New Year.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 High Achievers

The Year 7 Year Learning Coordinators students of the month

The November award goes to Isabel Godfrey 7N.

Not only has Isabel made great progress since starting JCoSS but she has been very proactive in helping a fellow student in her form group.

Her whole attitude appears to be one of a caring and sensitive nature who genuinely wants to support her peers and be part of the true ethos of our school community. Isabel has been given 360 achievement points this term showing us all what a positive and hardworking student she is. Well Done Isabel!



The December award goes to Michaela Jackson 7B.

Not only has Michaela had 100% attendance and punctuality but she also has 'zero' behaviour points. She has settled into JCoSS incredibly well, achieving 7 A's for her SA1 last month and contributes to the wider community representing the school in both football and Netball. Well done Michaela on your impressive first term at JCoSS.



Year 8 and 9 Top Achievers of the term

Year 8 Top Achieving Girl



Jade Nairi (8W)

Year 8 Top Achieving Boys (joint top)



Sam de Pomeroy Legg (8B)



Joshy Bentwood (8B)



Millie Sherr 9N



Ethan Stollar 9F

Classics Week

Who were the Greeks and Romans? Why do they still matter? How do they help us to understand ourselves? Questions tackled head on during a week-long immersion in all things Classical.

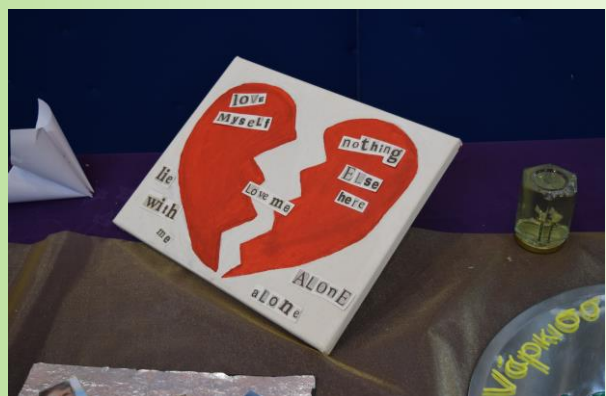
The week of December 5th saw the entire school community engaging closely with the Greco-Roman world, for JCoSS' second annual Classics Week.

The week began with the premier of 'Classics Week: The Movie', directed and produced by a talented crew of Year 9 students and starring Mr Moriarty, Mrs Juggler, Mr De Jong, Miss Stock, Mr Senessie, Ms Sanford and Daniel Rainbird (Y9). The JCoSS choir gave a live lunchtime concert in the Heartspace, of Beatles songs translated into Latin, Mr Brookman was at the piano in full gladiatorial gear.

Each day, a passionate team of 'Classics Ambassadors' (a.k.a. Year 9 Latin students) led a range of activities, including a charity slave auction, with Mr Rosenberg Senior as 'venalicius' (slave-dealer), various Latin quizzes and Roman board game stands. The A level drama students gave a series of impressive performances of extracts from Euripides' 'Trojan Women' in a series of assemblies. Kvutzah was themed around decoding famous Latin sayings and students across the school competed for House Points with a student-made form time Classics Quiz. In their LRC lessons, students enjoyed browsing a display of the school's wide range of books relating to the Classical world. The week culminated in a series of consecutive workshops at school led by the Globe Theatre focusing on Shakespeare and the Romans. Participation in these workshops was a prize for the winners of our KS3 'Myth Making competition', in which students from across Years 7, 8 and 9 had, in the run up to Classics Week, produced a magnificent array of creative responses to the story of Echo and Narcissus. These works, inspired by the timeless tale of vanity and unrequited love, formed an impressive display in the Heartspace to be enjoyed by the entire school community throughout the week.

Thank you to the charity, 'Classics for All' for supporting JCoSS' growing Latin Department, enabling it to stage what has now become an annual fixture in the school calendar.

Mrs H. Trup, Head of Latin



Informal Jewish Education Round-Up

It has been a very busy half term for IJE with 2 Rosh Chodesh sessions, JCoSS Shabbat and the launches of our leadership, interfaith and fundraising programmes which will run throughout the year. We also celebrated Sigd for the first time in school. This Ethiopian Jewish festival is a state holiday in Israel and is celebrated on the 29th Cheshvan. Students learned how to write their names in Amharic and practised some uniquely Ethiopian phrases.



We are lucky enough to have an Israeli Scout (shinshin) - May Rozenkrantz - who is here in the UK for a year before she starts her Army service and who comes to our school twice a week and brings fresh Israeli ideas, culture and activities to our IJE programme.

May also ran a series of assemblies marking the anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. She spoke about her personal connection to the Rabin family and the impact the assassination had and continues to have on Israeli society.

JCoSS marked Interfaith Week in November with a series of assemblies in which staff members formed a panel and were interviewed about their faith and beliefs. It was a truly illuminating week with many of us learning new things about each other. Students asked thoughtful and searching questions and it was a good reminder that interfaith work, promoting tolerance and respectful dialogue, really does start at home.



We were delighted to welcome all the Zionist youth movements into school this term on more than one occasion; they come to school to run activities and clubs for students and to promote their summer camps and Israel programmes. JCoSS is proud to be the only Jewish secondary school who works with all the Jewish youth movements across the political and religious spectrum and to be able to give our students a real sense of choice over who they choose to affiliate with.

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Congratulations to Year 10 who blazed the trail in running the first Yom Tzedakah of the year. This year we are aiming to increase the amount of money we raise for the school charities, and each year group has been given a day in the year to put all of their fundraising ideas into action. Sponge the Teacher, Beat the Buzzer and a brilliant doughnut eating competition were among the activities, as well as the school's first wii competition. More Yamei Tzedakah to come throughout the year.



Although we are disappointed not to be able to celebrate Chanukah in school this year, we have taken the opportunity to invite representatives of all the school charities to our symbolic end of term Chanukah lighting. They were able to tell us about how their charities bring light to the world whether through supporting women with breast cancer in Israel (The Lemonade Fund), projects in the developing world (Tzedek) or research into genetic heart conditions in children (Max's Foundation). We have awarded our first 'Chanukah Mensch-ions' – a celebration of students who bring light into the world through charitable or fundraising initiatives and acts of volunteering and kindness carried out in their own time. Congratulations to all those honoured and to the many more mensches we look forward to hearing about.

Finally, the first linking day between JCoSS and Tawhid boys, Islamic school in North London, took place last Wednesday, and was a great success. Eight boys from Year 8 took part in the schools linking project supported by the Three Faiths Forum. The day focussed on faith and football, and how the beautiful game brings people together, regardless of backgrounds. Both schools had the chance to visit the brand new Hive building, home of Barnet Football Club; the boys watched the first team train, and had an exclusive sneak peak at an advert with a undisclosed world famous footballer. They then took part in various football drills, and played a football match with mixed-school teams. After lunch the group opened up a lengthy discussion about each other's faith, with thought provoking questions and a sincere interest into the differences and similarities between both faiths.

Many barriers were broken down, and new friendships formed, and we're very much looking forward to the next two meetings, one of which will take place at JCoSS and the other at Tawhid Boys.



LRC NEWS

The half-price Book Fair was a fantastic success with many students visiting the fair at break and lunch times and where possible, during their LRC lessons. By the second day of the Fair, the shelves were so empty that we had to order more books!

Apart from students being able to purchase books at half-price, the school was also entitled to 10% of the total take of the Fair in free books. We managed to get 56 free books to put in the LRC, which would amount to £400 worth of books at shop prices!

A big thank you to the kind parents who offered their time to help us and also to Benjy, Isabelly, Nikita, Abi, Rebecca and Lucinda, our lovely 6th Formers who volunteered to help us. Our gratitude also goes to the English teachers who helped us during breaks with crowd control!



Bookbuzz book cover competition

All the free books sponsored by the JPA have now been distributed to Year 7 students.

As part of their Home Learning, we will be asking Year 7 students to create a book jacket, consisting of a picture and blurb on their chosen book. This should be returned to the LRC straight after the winter holidays.



The students may also submit this book jacket to the Bookbuzz competition by **20 January 2017**:

<http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/bookbuzz/fun-stuff/competitions/41/>. We will also be running an in-house competition too.

Sci Soc Update

Sci Soc had their first external speaker at JCoSS last week: Professor Aharoni, a leading biochemist of the Weizmann Institute gave a talk on investigating biochemical pathways in plants, which his lab is currently researching. Professor Aharoni shared some of his favourite quirks of plant biology such as the defence mechanisms of mustard and opium plants as well as methods and potential uses for genetically modified plants.

Sci Soc have also met to kick off plans for Science Week, which our students are going run, to showcase Science to the younger students in the school.

Upcoming events:

Daniel Susser – A Research Strategist at Cancer Research is coming in to discuss a scientific career in one of the world's leading research charities.

Sam Freeman – A 5th year medical student will be visiting to share his experiences and give his insights in applying for and studying medicine.

Mr J Foreman

Assistant Head of Science



JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Spring Term 2017

Date	Time	Description
Wed 4 th Jan	10.45am	First Day of Term. Please note late start time. Week 2
Thurs 5 th to Fri 13 th Jan incl	All day	Year 13 'A' level Mocks. Y13 students studying 'A' levels only (ie. not BTECs) on study leave on 4 th Jan. No 'A' level lessons during mocks. BTEC lessons run as normal.
Wed 11 th Jan	4.30 – 7.30pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thurs 19 th Jan	All day	Y11 Further Additional Triple Science ISA
Wed 1 st Feb	6.30 – 8pm	Year 9 Options Evening
Wed 8 th Feb	2.05pm	Early Closing for Staff Training
Thurs 9 th Feb	4.30 – 7.30pm	Y13 Parents' Evening
Fri 10 th Feb	School day as normal	Last day before half term break

School closes at 1.30pm on all Fridays in the Spring Term.

1st Candle of Chanukah is 24th December. 8th Candle of Chanukah is 31st December.

Students return to school after Spring half term on Monday 20th February at 8.30am (Week 2)

JCoSS Girls Football Team Triumph!

The JCoSS Girls Football Teams had a highly successful afternoon at the Maccabi Tournament on Dec 14th with outstanding performances by all of our teams. It is wonderful to see the Year 7s already taking on the winning ways of the girls' football programme. They won their tournament after finishing top of their group and producing convincing wins in the semi final and final. The Year 8s came second in their tournament, winning 4 out of 5 of their matches. The Year 9s and 10s were grouped together, with their only real competition being each other... JCoSS Year 9s won the final, beating our Year 10s into second place.



Architecture to Zoology - Year 9 and Year 12 Careers Fair

We are starting to plan for our annual careers fair, which will take place at JCoSS on **Wednesday 22nd March 2017**. This year will be slightly different, with the Year 9 session taking place in the morning and the Year 12 session in the afternoon. Both these year groups are considering their future plans and so meeting professionals from a range of jobs and careers is a great way to help students with this planning. As always we rely on the goodwill of parents to participate in this event and share their experience of their jobs and professions with our students. If you are free to help on this date please email us in the careers office (craff@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk and hlewis@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk). Students are looking at all types of careers from architecture to zoology, medicine, accountancy and law as well as property, music, business, creative arts, engineering and health and social care. We want to find as many ways as possible to help students learn about the world of work and your participation makes a real difference to them.

Thank you in advance.

Ms C Raff, Head of Careers

The Bare Essentials Teaching Challenge

Last week, the JCoSS staff team were challenged to teach using only the bare essentials in their classroom, raising awareness and funds for classrooms in developing schools.

We started the day asking all staff to run an introduction session where the students looked at photos from Tzedek classrooms in India and Ghana, discussing what the struggles and implications of learning in these spaces are. The participating teachers were then challenged to teach their lessons with limited resources; only a pencil and paper – no computers, no screens and no slideshows!

We managed to raise £366.27 in these classrooms...



.... So that we can help these classrooms in India and Ghana



Kindertransport By Erin Walfisz – 8B

A few weeks ago, a few students from Year 8 went on a trip to see the play Kindertransport, at the Chickenshed theatre. Personally, I didn't know what to expect and I can honestly say that I was pleasantly surprised. After chatting with my friends and having a few snacks, we were welcomed into the mid 1930's. We travelled into a misty room with a stage horizontally in between 2 collections of seating. The actors embodied their characters so perfectly and the mystery and theme of the play was dark, but intriguing. The play was not so much about World War 2 as it was about mother-daughter relationships. I liked that there was an underlying theme of fear and letting go of the past. My classmates and I were all delighted when we heard that we were having a Q and A session with the actors! Overall, watching Kindertransport was an amazing experience and I'm sure that my classmates and I will never forget it.



King Lear

We are very proud of the cast and crew of King Lear who put in an amazing performance last week. Below is a performance appraisal written by William Isgrove, a Shakespeare School Festival Assessor.

Shakespeare
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

YOUR APPRAISAL

"The wheel has come full circle"

King Lear

Produced and Performed by

JCoSS

Spotlight Theatre

09 November 2016

Appraised by William Isgrove

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of JCoSS on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

The opening scene really established not only the mood of the play, but the unease and imbalance of Lear. The whispering, creeping figures brilliantly foreshadowed the drama to come. A great example of fantastically clear storytelling.

Throughout the play the actors displayed incredible focus and concentration. This intensity helped convey the tension between characters and the power of the story. The actors all had real presence on the stage and



their motivations and desires were well developed and clear to the audience.

The actors showed great command of the language and control of a very complex and demanding plot. The ensemble work was used brilliantly to shift the scenes, moods and locations of the play and to raise the stakes for the characters and the audience.

This was an incredibly powerful and mature production from a very talented and connected cast.

"It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves."
Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

William Isgrove
SSF Stage Director



Extra curricular at JCoSS - Spring Term

Break time

- Meet Pogo

- JCoSS Theatre Rehearsal

- Poetry by heart/ poetry slam

After School

- Y11 Dance Support
- Home learning club

Lunchtime

- KS3 Dance club
- Young Enterprise
- Revision Ready KS4
- Jazz Band

- Y11 Boys Football
- 6th form Boys football
- Netball Y8/9
- JCoSS Singers

- National Theatre News Views
- GCSE Booster for Product Design
- GCSE Booster for Food Tech

MONDAY

Break time

- Meet Pogo

- Israel Club
- Girls football KS3

- String Ensemble
- Guitar Ensemble

After School

- British Sign Language
- Home Learning club

Lunchtime

- KS4 Dance club
- KS3 coding club

- Badminton
- JCoSS Theatre Rehearsal
- GSA

- Team Tikkun
- Sci Soc

TUESDAY

Lunchtime

- Boys Dance Club
- UKMT preparation
- Manna from Heaven
- Chess Club
- Art Club (KS3)

- JCoSS Theatre Rehearsal
- Y7 Boys Football
- Netball Y7
- Shivyon
- Wind and Brass
- History Club

- KS3 Book Club
- Yoga Club
- Alan Senitt Community Leadership Programme

After School

- JCoSS Dance Technique Class
- Home Learning club

WEDNESDAY

Break time

- Meet Pogo

- KS4 Book club
- JCoSS Theatre Rehearsal
- Boys Football Y8
- Netball (Y10/11)
- JCoSS 24

- Percussion Ensemble
- Literary Society
- Y7&Y8 Science club

After School

- Mandarin
- Art club (KS4)
- Home Learning club

Lunchtime

- KS4 Dance club
- GCSE Computing
- Gemmara club

THURSDAY

Break time

- Meet Pogo

- Ukulele
- Kabbalat Shabbat
- Y8 Iggy
- Table tennis
- Edible garden

- Boys Football (Y9/ Y10)
- JCoSS Theatre Rehearsal
- Warhammer club

After School

- Home Learning club

FRIDAY