

Dear Parents

The final newsletter of the year reveals no let-up in the range of activities and achievements of our students. On top of what has made it into the pages that follow we have had a very successful (if at times slightly damp) Sports Day yesterday, and welcomed the mental health campaigner Jonny Benjamin as Guest Speaker at Celebration Evening the previous week. The response from parents and students to his words and his story has been striking, and comes just as we have confirmed funding for a joint project next year with the Jewish Charity JAMY to increase our provision in this area with a programme of support run by external professionals as well as our own students. At a time when the anxieties of life are pressing for so many reasons, we are proud to be pioneers in this area.

We say farewell to a number of staff as the year ends: Ms Manore (Ivrit) and Ms Nathan (JE) both leave for new opportunities in the USA, Ms Collins (Art) has a new role at Kisharon, Mrs Gustard Brown (Dance) is moving to a school in Stevenage, Ms Rice (Geography and Government and Politics) is going to teach in Thailand, Mr Stump (Sociology) has a new role as Head of 6th form in Vietnam, and Mr Dhokia (Maths) is going (coincidentally) to the same school. Mr Kennedy (Maths and YLC13) has a coveted and rare position back in Ireland, and Miss Hayeem (Head of Maths) is promoted to an Assistant Headship in Liverpool – both with personal reasons of the best kind for their moves too! Miss Gershon (Geography) has a new role in Hendon, and Ms Sanford (History) a promotion in Enfield. From Modern Languages we say good bye to Ms Bury who moves to Channing School, Miss Heads who after a brief return from maternity leave is going to bring up her children full time, Ms Page and Ms Zanon who are moving to roles closer to home and/or better fitting around other commitments. Mrs Frost leaves from Media, and Ms Miller, Mr Kleomenis and Mr Fitch from shorter term roles in Drama, PE and DT respectively.

Among the support staff we say farewell to Mr Smith, Mr Bloom, Ms Irrgang, Miss Pollard, Ms Shaw and Ms Tamaral-Ramirez from Learning Support, Mr Gordon and Mr Mellor (Jr) our Apprentices on the IT and Site teams, Ms Middleton one of the instrumental staff and Ms Rozencrantz who has been our Israeli Scout this year. We are grateful all these colleagues for their huge contributions to the life of this place – a number of them are long-stayers (in JCoSS terms!) and have occupied prominent positions in the school – and we send them onwards and in most cases ‘upwards’ in their careers with our very best wishes. We will feel their absence – and we know that movements of staff can be unsettling to students – but as always I can reassure parents that the rate of turnover is common to all London Schools, and unlike many schools we are fully staffed for September with some excellent incoming colleagues some of whom have already started work in the past few weeks.

My final assembly to students took its inspiration from Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler’s book “A Squash and a Squeeze”, a retelling of a tale common to many spiritual traditions. A woman complaining about the small size of her house takes advice from a wise old man – who counsels that she takes her animals into the house as well. It makes it worse in the short term, but when he then tells her to move them out again, she really feels the benefit. The message is that sometimes counterintuitive advice acts as a ‘pattern interrupt’ and gives us new perspective and appreciation for the blessings we enjoy. What better time than a summer holiday to act as a pattern interrupt – and perhaps to take on things we don’t believe we have time for. They might bring benefit to ourselves and others, and even solve some problems we thought were intractable.

May it be so for us all. I thank you all for magnificent support during the past year and wish you all a creative and restful summer, full (in the words of Julia Donaldson) with “frolics and fiddle-de-dees”!

Patrick Moriarty
Head Teacher

A Level and GCSE Art Exhibition

An Art exhibition was held last month to show the outstanding work from our GCSE and A Level art students.

It has been a pleasure to watch these students explore their individual ideas and develop their creative journey through their respective GCSE and A Level Art courses.

Miss Shah, Head of Art



Isaac Lobatto - GCSE

'I really enjoyed developing my artistic style'.



Max Mydat - A-level

'My teachers have allowed us all to have a huge amount of creative freedom and I have discovered my artistic niche'



Anna Glasman - GCSE

'At the beginning I found the workload very tiresome but in the end, it has all been very rewarding'.



Daniella Kay - A level

'I have realized that art has truly become my passion'.

JCoSS Student, Evie Kaufman Y8 is a Finalist in the BBC 500 Word Competition

In January, Y7 and Y8 were asked to write a story during English lessons for entry into the BBC “500 Word” competition. We are hugely proud of Evie Kaufman, Y8, who was announced as one of 25 finalists in her age group, a phenomenal achievement. This is the second time JCoSS has had success in the competition: two years ago Tal Cohen (now year 10) was also a finalist.

Evie was invited to a star studded event at the Tower of London. This was broadcast live on the BBC R2 Chris Evans show and included a host of celebrities including Olly Murs and David Walliams. Below is her account of the day.

You can read Evie’s story at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4G76ISyrChtBWscZDpPCJwK/peter-pan-and-the-lost-boy-gang>

My trip to the Tower of London, compliments of the BBC, by Evie Kaufman

On June 16th, I was lucky enough to be chosen to attend the Tower of London regarding the BBC 500-word competition. My modernised fairy-tale/poem was picked out of over 130,000 other entries and I came in the top 25 of my age group (11-15).

As we live in Bushey, the BBC put us up in a West End hotel so we could be at the event early; the downside was that we had to get up at 4am on the morning of the broadcast.

Once we had eaten breakfast, we were taken by coach from the hotel in Drury Lane to the Tower of London where the winners of the competition would be revealed.

Luckily, the early start began one of the best days this year. When we got there, it was a struggle to get in because so many people had come from all around Great Britain to attend.

At around 7am when all the contestants had sat down in the room, Chris Evans came onto the stage so the competition could be recorded on live radio on his show.

Throughout the show, singers such as Niall Horan, Olly Murs, Louisa Johnson and Anne Marie performed famous songs to entertain everyone between breaks and at the end we got the privilege of meeting all of them and taking photos with them.

Famous actors and authors such as Jenny Agutter, David Suchet, David Walliams, Sir Derek Jacobi, John Bishop and Noma Dumezweni read out the winners’ poems and then appeared at the lunch at the end of the show along with Camilla Duchess of Cornwall.

It was an amazing experience and I will do my best to try and win the competition next year.



Evie with David Walliams



Evie with Olly Murs



Evie with Niall from One Direction

Penny Joelson's visit to JCoSS

On Tuesday 11 July, author Penny Joelson came to JCoSS to run writing workshops with Year 8 students. She began working with disabled people when she was a teenager, which gave her the inspiration and insight for her first Young Adult book, 'I Have No Secrets'. She teaches creative writing and lives in Hertfordshire with her family.

"The aim of the workshop was to write a story in the point of view of someone who has some sort of learning difficulty. We needed to emphasize with the character we had been given and write a paragraph of what they would be thinking if they went to the party. I found this very interesting and fun and I cannot wait to read her book." - Sam Gold 8W

"Penny asked us to create a character in a different perspective. We did a series of writing activities to get our minds flowing with ideas to do with that character, such as an interview or a diary entry. Then we wrote the opening of a story that some of us read out to the rest of the class. Overall, it was a really interesting experience as I learnt how to create characters in different perspectives. I definitely recommend her book." - Natasha Werblow 8W



Barnet Lit Quiz

Year 7 students Zach Gilbert, Adam Jacobs, Sam Rosenberg, Hannah Meyerowitz and Eva Zur represented the school at the Barnet Lit Quiz against 9 other schools earlier this term, which took place at JCoSS. All students went through six rounds of questions all based on Young Adult books. Although Queen Elizabeth's Boys left with the winning Cup, we were very pleased to come third. Congratulations to the team.

"The Lit Quiz was something we will never forget. It was fun, interesting and very challenging. We managed to come 3rd out of a group of 9 schools! The questions were very difficult, and so much pride came across when one of our team got one right! A lot of them asked for specific details about the book, so even if you had read the book, you did not know the answer, which was at times frustrating. Overall, the Lit Quiz was a very enjoyable experience." - Adam Jacobs and Eva Zur



Barnet Carnegie Shadowing Group

During this term, a group of Year 8 and 9 students met weekly during afternoon form-time to discuss the books shortlisted for the Carnegie Shadowing event. They watched videos from selected authors and wrote reviews which were uploaded on the Carnegie website. <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowingsite/>.



On Friday 16th June, 9 JCoSS students went to the Archer Academy along with students from 9 other Barnet Schools to discuss the books that had been longlisted for the Carnegie Awards. JCoSS students presented their thoughts on **Wolf Hollow** by Lauren Wolk. They also met Nicky Singer whose book **Island** was longlisted for Carnegie.

Students voted for their favourite book, and **Salt to the Sea** by Rupa Sepetys won.

JCoSS students that attended were: Sam DePomeroy Legg 8B, Erin Walfisz 8B, Bethany White 9S, Adam Tobiansky 9F, Gili McEwen 9B, Maya Rockman 9B, David Glukh 9N, Jamie Richardson 9R and Richard Garfield 9S.

“The Barnet Carnegie Shadowing day started off at the Archer Academy in the cafeteria. We were put on tables with one other person from our school and a few others from other participating schools. We were able to get to know each other before meeting Nicky Singer who was longlisted for the award. I already had one of her books, **Island**.

Now, I have bought her other young adult books and I love them.

Everyone presented their books in creative ways, and then, we had to decide which book we wanted to win.

It was an amazing experience where we met so many people. I loved it and would be honoured to do it again in the future.” – Erin Walfisz



Opening Times for the LRC

From next September, the LRC will be open at the following times:

Monday and Tuesday: 8.40 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday and Thurs: 8.20 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Friday: 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Preparing Students for Oxbridge

Ten of our Year 12 students have recently attended the Lumina conference at Harrow School. This prestigious conference runs over the course of a week and is aimed at preparing the highest attaining and most ambitious students in the country for their applications to Oxford or Cambridge. This reflects the school's commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and academic rigour in supporting and inspiring our most able students.

Israel Journey 2017

Our 5th Israel Journey took place in June, with 91 Year 9 students and 10 intrepid staff boarding buses Aleph and Bet for a whirlwind 2 week journey around Israel. Our programme is unique in many ways, and while the students did the mandatory Jerusalem, Masada and Tel Aviv sights, we also spent time packing food parcels for families in food crisis, learning about coexistence in Jerusalem's only mixed Jewish-Arab school and meeting young new immigrants to Israel who had come to live in Israel without their families. Students meditated under the desert skies, rafted down the Jordan river and explored the graffiti art of South Tel Aviv. We were lucky enough to spend two beautiful shabbatot together as a group, in Jerusalem and on Kibbutz Nes Amim – a centre for interfaith learning and encounter.

As staff we were hugely impressed with the students' maturity and stamina as well as their willingness to try new experiences and their insatiable curiosity. New friendships were formed across the year group and new skills were learned. A huge thank you to all the staff who worked incredibly hard with virtually no rest at all.

We are excited to report that planning for the 2018 Journey is already underway and we look forward to sharing the plans with the new Year 9 parents and students early in the new school year.



A Big Thank You to Minimelts Events

Thank you so much to the wonderful Minimelts Events for sponsoring our Yom Ha'Atzmaut refreshments stands.

For all parties, events and bnei mitzvah go to www.minimeltsevents.co.uk

JCoSS “ECO Warriors”

This summer term, the JCoSS “Eco-Warriors” have been very busy. It has become very clear throughout this pilot that there is a whole school consensus to do more to promote a greener/sustainable environment for the future.

With the support of the Jewish Ed Department, Ms Viner and Mrs Pop, the Eco-Warriors were able to lead an enrichment course; this enabled a mix of year groups to participate in exploring the Edible garden, planting organic produce and collectively learning information provided by the Eco-Warriors. This included how to promote consciousness of eco issues and be more engaged in the school environment. The students that took part were instrumental in their efforts and will receive postcards and additional achievement points.

During the enrichment course, small teams were formed to achieve certain tasks. This varied from collating quantitative and qualitative data through questionnaires, to observing staff and students’ Eco-consciousness. Students volunteered to ‘litter pick’ and they also created an array of posters/artefacts to encourage recycling around the school. Students also designed a JCoSS Eco pledge and recorded a podcast!

We plan to visit the ‘London Assembly’ at City Hall to participate in a seminar by assembly members, and gain more knowledge and understanding of the UK environmental policies and legislations.

Sponsored walks, more cake bake stalls, and more planting of organic produces with a chance to share at a JCoSS picnic will be revealed in September 2017. Students have so many ideas at JCoSS and there are exciting times ahead for the Eco Warriors!...more will be revealed in September 2017

However, The Eco-Warriors would like to hear from you... Parents and Friends.. What ideas can you share that can promote a more ‘Eco-Friendly’ environment here at JCoSS? (Please discuss with your children and they will have an opportunity to share your ideas in the new academic year)

A wealth of activities has taken place and in terms of moving forwards the plan is to now enrol a group of Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students who will be prominent within our school in achieving a more ‘Eco-Environment’. They will serve a term and this will in turn give opportunity for other ‘Eco Student Voices’ to be heard.

Thank you for reading our Eco update and remember being Eco-friendly is cool!

JCoSS Eco Warrior Students and Ms V Bossman-Quarshie



PSRP Volunteering Projects

This year, 6th form PSRP students have been volunteering every week at Norwood venues including Golders Green and Southgate Norwood Charity Shops, Norwood Warehouse in Acton, Norwood Head Office, Norwood Interfaith Food Bank Project, Sufra (a Muslim food bank), the Gardening Project at Woodcock Dell Nursing Home and Kennedy Leigh Centre.

Students have been learning many skills from selling and helping customers to learning basic office skills, including scanning, photocopying, filing and interview skills. They continued their Interfaith work by preparing and cooking a variety of food for Sufra, including fruit salads and pasta bakes.

The garden project at Kennedy Leigh included cleaning the garden areas; weeding the beds; planting plants that were donated by JCoSS that had grown in the Edible Garden. They also labelled all the plants which included tomatoes, pumpkins, peppers, mint and chard. This was alongside the gardening project at Woodcock Dell where students tidied up the beds and plants they had planted last year, planted additional flowers, herbs and vegetables.

The PSRP students have also completed work-based learning placements at **Action for Kids**, a charity that works with young people from 14 to adulthood who have learning disabilities. The purpose of this is to help each student develop skills and become confident in making choices about what they would like to do on leaving education. The placement ran for 6 consecutive Monday mornings and was based in the Action for Kids office in Turnpike Lane. Students travelled to and from the venue on public transport.

The programme gave participants the chance to learn many office skills including: answering the telephone, passing on messages, shredding, binding and laminating resources and preparing mailings. The tutor, Luke, made sure that students were able to perform each task to the best of their ability, and that they reflected on what they had achieved at the end of each morning.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this placement, and were presented with certificates at the end of the placement along with a portfolio of all of their work.

Students also made weekly visits to Oakleigh School to volunteer with Y5 pupils with global development delay. They had the opportunity to lead art and music sessions and small group work, following the teacher's guidance. The focus was on volunteering, employability and working together. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and has helped to develop students Key Skills and experiences of working with others who need support.

Aldenham Country Park also offers a weekly work experience in a real-life setting. PSRP students experienced hands-on work with animals and customers and helped to improve the farm. The key skills which they were working on include: improving their own learning and performance, working with others, planning and carrying out research, planning and giving oral presentations, communicating through discussion and problem solving.



Read4Barnet

20 Year 7 students from JCoSS have been working hard over the last few months reading and reviewing a shortlist of books selected by the Barnet secondary school librarians for a project called 'Read4Barnet'. On Friday 30 June their efforts were rewarded with a fun day out at Queen Elizabeth's School in Barnet where they were able to meet 5 of the authors, get their books signed and hear the authors talking about their books and what inspires them to write. Congratulations to Lucy Brent and Elisha Koseleff who won prizes for their reviews! You can find more information – and all the reviews – on the Read4Barnet website www.read4barnet.wordpress.com.



Year 7 Students of the Month

Congratulations to Marni Norton and Levi Sasson who are the Students of the month for June.

At the end of May, Year 7 were fortunate to go to the Lee Valley White Water Rafting centre. Marni had been a little unsure about the rafting, as had a lot of the year group, and voiced her concern as we left. However she managed to overcome her fears and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This show of resilience was the reason I felt she should receive the award this month.

In addition Levi was also quite concerned and when observing his peers rafting he mentioned to teachers that he was enjoying 'just watching all my friends enjoying themselves'. Attitudes like this are so important for the success of a school and Levi thoroughly deserves my student of the month award.

Well done to both students.



DofE Expedition by Ely Tiefenbrun 9N

Last week we completed our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. In groups of five or six, we went on a 2-day hike in the English countryside, each carrying a 15kg rucksack with our tent, food, clothes and other supplies for the trip – so heavy!

We had to get to the starting point at 9 o'clock and proceeded to collect our equipment and pack. Once we were ready we found out which way we were going and went on our way. Almost immediately we got lost for 10 minutes, then we found where we were meant to go and carried on. We found map reading much easier when we were outside the city. The walk there was roughly 18 kilometres and to pass the time we talked and played games.

By the time we got to the campsite we were sore and tired. However, nothing could dampen our spirits. We put up our tents, then sat down, relaxed and ate. Soon enough most other groups had arrived and everyone was happy. The campsite, when there were 90 of us cooking, relaxing and chatting, was one of the highlights of the trip. We then made dinner which went well and soon went to bed. As you can guess, sleeping in a tent, in a campsite full of kids is quite hard.

Next morning, the madrichim woke us up at 6:00am. We had to make breakfast and pack away our things, but we were out of the campsite by 8:00. The walk home was easier and we got to the endpoint at 12:15 with minimal mistakes. Although, at one point we got trapped in a field and we had no idea where to go.

DofE is such an enjoyable and rewarding experience; you learn loads of new skills including map reading, cooking, teamwork and many more. You also must think about what happened on the practice and how you can improve from it. For instance, we packed lighter, read the map more carefully and were more organised about packing our food. Overall it is a great experience and I would definitely want to do it again because It was great to be with all your friends in an environment when you have to be self-reliant.



Maccabi Games Participants

We are proud and delighted that a number of our students represented GB in the Maccabi Games in Israel this month. Students were:

Alex Rose- Futsal
Chiara Whitefield- Rhythmic gymnastics
Jack Earle- football
Joel Alexander- track & field athletics
Josh Shack- Football
Nathan Anders- football
Zoe Harris- Artistic gymnastics

Ben Felt- Tennis
Eliana Jackson- football
Jacob Bennett- football
Josh Hennes- Tennis
Lulu Rose- football
Tal Pelmont- Track athletics

Congratulations to all students and especially to Zoe Harris who won a silver and a bronze medal and Joel Alexander who also won a bronze.

Grant Birke and Rio Rosenberg will also be travelling to America this summer to represent GB in football.

For all the latest sports news, please like our JCoSS Sports Facebook page



Gigging for Charity - by Aaron Maurice, Y9

On Saturday, the 1st of July, Noam and Lior Solomons-Wise, Alon Issler and I, played a concert at Alyth, fundraising for the charity Spread a Smile. It was a dream of ours, 2 years in the making after our first performance at Lior's bar Mitzvah.

The weeks leading up to the performance were very stressful, as the Israel trip meant that we were very pushed for time. Every lunchtime was spent in the music department, and every evening after school became a band rehearsal. Additionally, we played at the Spread a Smile charity dinner on the Wednesday before the concert, in front of an audience of 285.

On the day, we arrived at Alyth early for setup and a soundcheck, and the time passed very quickly as we were on stage before we knew it. Our set was a mix of originals and cover arrangements, most falling under the category of jazz fusion. Playing on stage was extremely exciting, seeing our 2 year old dream come into fruition. Looking at the faces of the audience after each song, we got the sense that they were enjoying the music just as much as we were. Overall, the gig was a great success. We raised around £330 for Spread a Smile, a charity that was set up by my Aunt, which provides entertainment for kids who are in hospital for long periods of time, just like I was a few years ago.



JCoSS Key Dates – First Half of Autumn Term 2017

Date	Time	Description
Wed 6 th Sept	8.30am	School starts for Years 7 & 12 (Week One)
Thurs 7 th Sept	8.30am	School starts for Years 8-11 and Year 13 (Week One)
Wed 20 th Sept	2.15pm	Early Closing for Rosh Hashana
Thurs 21 st Sept	All day	Rosh Hashana – School Closed
Fri 22 nd Sept	All day	Rosh Hashana – School Closed
Mon 25 th Sept	8pm	JCoSS Parents' Association (JPA) AGM
Thurs 28 th Sept	2.15pm	Early Closing for Open Evening
Fri 29 th Sept	All day	Staff Inset Day – School Closed for All Students
Sat 30 th Sept	All day	Yom Kippur
Wed 4 th Oct	2.15pm	Early Closing for Sukkot
Thurs 5 th Oct	All day	Sukkot – School Closed
Fri 6 th Oct	All day	Sukkot – School Closed
Wed 11 th Oct	2.15pm	Early Closing for Simchat Torah
Thurs 12 th Oct	All day	Simchat Torah – School Closed
Fri 13 th Oct	All day	Simchat Torah – School Closed
Fri 20 th Oct	All day	Last day of First Half of Autumn Term

School Closes at 2.15pm on all Fridays until the second half of Autumn term

Students return to school after the half term break on Monday 30th October at 8.30am (week two)

There will be early closing (2.15pm) on Tues 7th November for staff training

Interfaith Tent

Entering its third year, the interfaith tent is now a regular and highly anticipated feature of the school calendar. This year we developed the programme further by bringing in new facilitators and further improving the quality of the sessions offered.



Schlep to School

On the 7th June morning 150 JCoSS students and staff took part in the biggest ever 'schlep to school' to raise funds for Tzedek in order to support educational projects in Ghana. Students walked up to 10 kilometers to school in organised groups and raised more than £8000 for the charity.

Event organiser Benji Rosenberg from the Informal Jewish Education team said 'it was a massive logistical task but was worth every moment when 150 students walked up the school drive in the sunshine, singing and chanting and knowing that they had raised over £8000 for Tzedek. We are really proud of the students for their commitment to fundraising and their amazing school spirit.'



PSRP Awards Ceremony

Students in Year 11, 12, and 13 have worked really hard this year to complete their Personal & Social Development course at Entry Level 2 and 3. In addition some also achieved Level 1 passes in the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness and the Award of Personal Effectiveness.

We are extremely proud of all the students and celebrated this success at an awards ceremony where the students received their certificates from Mr Connolly and Mrs Lethbridge.



Other Sporting Successes

Congratulations to Teanna Parmar who entered the London Open Judo competition and won bronze. Younger brother Tej, won silver in a separate Judo competition.

Also, congratulations to Adam Kaffel who has been awarded a new youth contract at Watford.

A Note from Mr White...

April 1st 2016 will long live in the memories of both the Baron-Cohen family and myself. On that Friday, 16 year old Noah suffered a cardiac arrest on the AstroTurf at school during a GCSE PE lesson.

Due to my immediate actions and the expertise of the emergency services, and the London Air Ambulance crew, Noah survived to make a complete recovery and is now studying hard for his A Levels.

The family and I want to make a difference and one of the things we have decided to focus on is raising money for the London Air Ambulance service, without whom Noah's chances of reaching hospital or the specialist care that ensured his survival might not have been possible.

In school there will be a variety of ways of getting involved to raise money for such a worthy cause. Some of these will include: charity football game, interform competitions and many more exciting challenges and events, including First Aid training which could be key in case anyone has to potentially face this sort of tragic incident again.

The support that we have all received from the JCoSS community has been immense and I personally do not know where I would be without the students, parents and staff associated with the school.

I sincerely hope you will support this cause and the events that will be offered through our fantastic school. If anyone has any exciting ideas they would like to promote we would be happy to hear from you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JCoSSLondonAirAmbulanceFundraiser>

JCoSS Higher Education Day 23 June 2017

Past JCoSS students came back to JCoSS to discuss their experience of university life with current Year 12 students.

