

Dear Parents

"You're training as a priest while leading a Jewish school? What's that about?" This question, or variations upon it, has been the starting point of many conversations over the past three years. The training is now drawing to a close and, unless Hashem decides otherwise in the next 6 weeks, I will be ordained on July 2nd at St Albans Cathedral. This last newsletter before the big milestone feels a suitable time to reflect on it all.

First up, a brief induction into the mysterious technicalities of the Church of England. This is in fact ordination 1 of 2: I will spend a year as a Deacon (a sort of apprentice priest) before being ordained as a Priest in a year's time. During that year, and for a couple of years afterwards, I will serve as Curate (assistant minister) at St Mary's Church, East Barnet. From July I can officially use the title "Rev" (like a Rav, but with different outfits...) and wear the clerical collar; I have no plans, however, to do either at JCoSS, and the day job will continue just as before. Able and ambitious readers might be interested in the nuances of 'priest', 'minister', 'vicar' and 'rector', and I am happy to run a masterclass on the topic subject to demand. On the other hand you may feel you know enough about the impenetrable internal differences of minority religious groups...

Affectionate exasperation aside, it is an exciting time, and I thank the whole JCoSS community for the interest, support and encouragement I have received in treading this rather unusual path. The dialogues it has prompted have been fascinating – whether with fellow ordinands, with JCoSS parents and friends, or at a particularly rough gig at the St Albans Mothers' Union. They have ranged over such weighty matters as the purpose of religion, the limits of human knowledge, the purpose of suffering or the nature of leadership...but whereas you might expect those to be conversation-stoppers if not taboos, the boundary crossing in my situation seems to free people up to talk with freshness and animation, as if given permission to say what they really think. It is all very JCoSS!

In the midst of thinking about all of this, Monday's horrifying events in Manchester have torn the fabric of our lives again. The attack was especially callous and cynical in targeting a concert where so many young people were gathered: had it been in London, there would surely have been JCoSS students in the audience. It was an assault on the open-hearted optimism of youth from those who know only closed-hearted despair. For me it has gone deep, touching three key aspects of my life – as a Headteacher to over 1200 teenagers, as a father to seven musical children, and as someone about to be ordained.

Those three roles – vocations, one might say – all involve protection, support, education and encouragement, and are all places we might look to for wisdom in this situation.

I have no easy answers, but instead can perhaps offer the wisdom of a symbol. It is taken from the design of my ordination stole – the liturgical scarf with which new Deacons are symbolically 'clothed'.

An ancient Celtic design, it speaks to me of diverse energies held together in a creative tension, of a timeless strength animated by an endless dance, of unity within difference. As we reel from an attack on the life-affirming vibrancy of music by those who seek only the cacophony of explosions or the silence of death, it reminds us of the need for harmony, in every sense of the word.



You can read in the pages that follow about the leave-taking departure of our very first JCoSS cohort. In their final assembly I said to them, "the world sorely needs your energy, creativity, hard work and love – all of what it means to be a Mensch." May JCoSS continue to be place where all those qualities are nurtured and honoured.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

History is made – Leavers Day for our first ever cohort



The first cohort in Year 7



.. and again in Year 13





IJE News

This term has been another busy one for the IJE team. It started with a powerful Yom Ha Shoah ceremony for the whole school led by the students who attended the Poland Journey. The students' creativity and depth of understanding shone through the whole ceremony.

On Rosh Chodesh Iyar we also welcomed Rabbi Joseph Dweck to school. He spoke to our Key Stage 4 students about Jewish peoplehood. This completed the Key Stage 4 Rosh Chodesh speaker programme which saw senior Rabbis from the Progressive, Masorti and Orthodox worlds address our students throughout the year.

A week later it was time for Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The school celebrated Israel's 69th Independence day with a wide range of sessions on Israeli politics, food, culture and dancing and of course blue and white candy floss!

Our Year 8 Interfaith programme continued this term with a group of boys from Year 8 visiting Tawhid (Muslim) school in Hackney. Having hosted the boys at JCoSS last term we were excited to have the opportunity to go and visit them at their school.

IJE was pleased to participate in the school's Gap Year Fair, showcasing a range of Israel-based Gap years offered by the Zionist youth movements. We enjoyed having many robust conversations with students about the value of taking time out from study to mature and have new experiences.

Looking forward, we would like to highlight our big fundraising project for the summer term, the 'Schlep to School'. Students will be choosing to walk to school on the 7th June in order to raise money for Tzedek, one of our chosen school charities. Please sponsor your child generously if they are taking part and best of luck to everyone involved!



Year 9 Latin trip to the Museum of London, by Lucy Ritter and Matthew Woolf, Y9

On the 28th of March,
In 2017,
Mrs Trup assembled
Her Latin scholars team.

We went up on the tube,
Into London town.
Our first session began with wearing
A regal Roman gown.

We then looked at old objects,
And tried to deduce
What, where, when and how
Those artefacts were produced.

The objects that we handled
Were thousands of years old,
And each of those artefacts
Had a story to be told.

One was an ancient pot,
An amphora was its name,
Used by a travelling merchant
To store oil and his gains.

After that we heard the story,
Of Boudicca and her plight,
Her long and fearsome struggle
Against Rome's power and might.

She rose up against the Romans,
Who robbed her of her pride;
Though much is known about her life
It's a mystery how she died.

After lunch we carried out,
Some research of our own,
About how the great city
Of Londinium had grown.

We searched around the museum
For different important facts,
For a story we would have to write
After we had got back.

A tale about the Romans,
Our own historical story,
A great empire that finally fell,
In a haze of flame and glory.

This trip to the museum,
We would highly recommend,
And the staff that came with us,
We definitely commend.



JCoSS students Schlep to School to support education in Ghana

Next month, up to 200 JCoSS students will walk to school for over an hour in solidarity with children in Ghana raising money to support Tzedek's education projects in Northern Ghana.



Josh, Year 7, said "I have seen how hard it is for children to get to school in Ghana and I realised how I complain about little things that don't matter. I feel inspired and I want to Schlep to School to help children like me to go to school and learn, so that they can have great jobs in the future."

Benji Rosenberg, Informal Jewish Educator at JCoSS, said "Tikkun Olam is a key part of the students' journey at JCoSS, and taking part in this incredible project provides them with a deeper understanding of those living in extreme poverty".

Jonathan Middleburgh, Chair of Trustees at Tzedek and a Y13 JCoSS parent said "It is amazing to see how the whole school has taken on this challenge. Schlep to School brings awareness of global poverty and the challenges young people face in the developing world to access education. By taking part in Schlep to School, we hope that students will understand how privileged they are here in the UK to have wonderful resources, well-trained teachers and a great education."

Year 10 Latin trip to 'Aquae Sulis' by Hannah Byrne-Smith and Nicole Clif

On the 3rd of April, Year 10 GCSE Latin students set off for Bath early in the morning. We left Paddington Station to embark on an hour and a half-long journey to a city we have, through our Latin lessons, come to think of as 'Aquae Sulis'. When we arrived, we spent some time exploring central Bath, the limestone facades of the buildings gleaming in the morning spring sunshine. This was followed by an artefact handling workshop at the Roman Baths Museum where we discovered, to our disgust, the strange bathing habits of Roman citizens, such as using an iron 'strigil' to remove dead skin and hair from respectable Romans' bodies. The excess from the process was then bottled and sold to admiring plebeians, who would anoint themselves with it in an effort to become more like their 'superiors'.

After lunch at a local park, we proceeded to visit the bath houses. It was amazing to see the actual baths that we, as Latin students, have learnt so much about whilst reading Latin stories set in Roman Britain. They are breathtakingly beautiful and brilliantly constructed and the experience helped us to understand life and leisure in first century AD Britain. While wondering through the bath houses, we encountered an actress imitating a rich Roman 'matrona' who had just received a pampering session at the baths. Although this was in many ways very civilised, she explained to us that her clothes had been washed with urine! A powerful reminder that, while the Romans were very sophisticated and advanced in many respects, they didn't perhaps have all the answers.



Maths Achievements by Mr Senessie

It has been a fantastic year so far for the Mathematics Department. We have experienced many successes which are testament to the effort, determination and aspiration of the students here at JCoSS. In March Miss Viner accompanied four Year 10 students (**Poppy Simons, Ethan Levenson, Lia Avidor and Stefan Tucker**) to the 'Year 10 Maths Feast' organised by the FMSC. In a competitive environment students are able to feast on mathematics puzzles to their hearts content. The event allowed them to explore the discipline of mathematics without the constraints of the curriculum and really stretch and challenge their thinking and understanding. We were able to celebrate finishing 2nd in the competition and whilst disappointed we didn't win, we understand that this was a significant achievement. It has motivated us to be more determined and train harder with our currently Year 9 group in order to go back next year and win.

With this in mind we move onto our second significant achievement. Thursday 23rd March saw JCoSS send four students (two Year 8, two Year 9) to the UKMT intermediate Region challenge. We have been entered for this competition for a number of years and the highest we have come was 7th. This year I am thrilled to announce that we came 4th. As if this wasn't good enough we were elated to find out that all the schools ahead of us were private and/or selective. **Well done to Aran Haber (Y9), Adam Tobiansky (Y9), Ava Gubbay (Y8) and Eitan Richards (Y8).**

We were also able to celebrate a record number of students getting to the 'Kangaroo' stage of the UKMT individual challenge. 11 students reached this stage with 6 students **Daniel Garaiebner, Aran Haber, Isaac Lobatto, Itay Yaniv, Daniel Turaev and Samuel Lachmann** achieving a merit (awarded to the Top 25%).

James Saker reached the Olympiad round - a paper reserved for the highest 1,000 scoring pupils - a wonderful opportunity for him. With just over 140 pupils entered, 17 achieved Gold, 21 achieved Silver and 31 achieved bronze. We congratulate everyone who sat the challenge! We are still awaiting the results for Year 7 and 8 who sat their challenge in April.

Net2Work.com

We had the pleasure of having Net2Work to come and speak to the 6th form recently. This is a platform for young people aged 15 to 25 at all stages of education, which connects them to opportunities for work experience, internships, apprenticeships and employment in their chosen career area.

N2W provides an innovative social media element to assist with career guidance as well as affording students the opportunity to be engaged and updated in their chosen career areas. N2W will provide opportunities for youth from all backgrounds in the UK and it aims to improve diversity and opportunity within companies.

The site also has a large section dedicated to different industry sectors ranging from business, media, tech, hospitality, engineering and trade, public sector, non profit, the arts, sports, amongst others. The platform provides a place for companies to share their message and company values with a targeted young audience and allows these companies and young people to interact in a very exciting and innovative way.

The feedback from JCoSS students was very positive – one even called it a 'game changer'. An exciting and growing range of companies and organisations, both public and private, are subscribing to the N2W platform, including a number of FTSE 100 companies, and we intend to continue the relationship into the future – it is an excellent resource for our students and gets better every time another organisation joins. For this reason we have agreed to bring it the attention of parents in what could be a win-win relationship.

If any parents have connections to companies, non-profit organisations or charities who would like to use the platform to display your message and company values to a targeted young audience and interact with them in an exciting and innovative way please get in touch with Net2Work team directly via natalie@net2work.com.

Enrichment

The enrichment program at JCoSS is about offering students the opportunity to choose and study subjects which are beyond the confines of the normal examination curriculum. In the past half term, students have been enjoying programmes on offer such as beginners' Japanese, design and construct challenges, junkyard fashion, bird watching and woodland walks to name a few. Students have really got stuck in and have engaged with their sessions, and staff have really excelled at bringing their personal skills and passions to life. The atmosphere around school on a Wednesday morning is filled with excitement and enthusiasm.



Year 7 Students of the Month

Due to the holiday and the Key Stage 3 exams, there are 2 students of the month in this newsletter.

The April Student of the month goes to Sam Brodin. Sam has been the most accommodating and supportive student recently. He has shown empathy and consideration for other student's feelings during PE lessons and has given support within form time. His cheerful disposition is always welcome whether it is during lessons or at break times.



The May student of the month goes to Dylan Berger. Dylan is a modest young man who is respected by his peers and shows leadership qualities. His general approach to school and his attitude towards any other student is worthy of praise. He is a credit to himself and his family.



JCoSS students celebrate success in the National Theatre New Views Playwriting Competition 2017

“Brother Missing,” “The Production,” “Chimera’s Institution,” – three inspiring new plays which were longlisted for the prestigious National Theatre New Views playwriting competition, and all written by extremely talented JCoSS students Dora Hirsh, Hannah Kieve and Lily Sheldon.

For the past six months Dora, Hannah and Lily and seven other students, have been busy writing their own original 30 minute script, all vying for the ultimate prize of having their play staged by a professional cast and crew at the National Theatre this July.

The three Year 11 students were longlisted from a strong field of more than 300 scripts submitted by schools and colleges across the country. Although, they did not make the final shortlist of 10 plays, they could still be selected for a playwriting master class at the National Theatre later in the year.

As part of the competition process, the students took part in a series of after-school workshops in which they were taught the fundamentals of playwriting by English teachers Mrs Kellaway and Ms Stock. Additionally, professional playwright Paula B Stanic visited JCoSS to lead a ‘starting writing’ workshop and to hold 1:1 tutorials with each student in which she gave valuable feedback on the first drafts of their plays. We also had a hugely enjoyable evening together, seeing the acclaimed National Theatre production of Peter Shaffer’s ‘Amadeus.’

The New Views competition is the leading playwriting competition for 16-18 year olds in the UK. It challenges young people to write a 30 minute play about an issue that matters to them. The other students taking part this year were from year 11: Adam Lee, Lena Stein and Isaac Lobatto; from year 12: Ella Garai-Ebner, Cherie Herman and Lucas Samuel and year 13: Gemma Eshkeri.

This is the second year that JCoSS students have entered the competition. In 2016 sixth formers Kezia Niman, Jordan Rubinstein and Louis Gershon all made the longlist. While they also missed out on the longlist of nine plays, Kezia did so narrowly and instead was invited to a workshop at the National Theatre to work on her script with award winning playwright Chris Bush.

We congratulate them all on their achievements.

CREATIVE PARENTS SOUGHT TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

With creative arts now a major financial contributor to the UK economy, JCoSS is running an off-timetable day for Year 8 students to enlighten them to some of the careers they could get into by studying the Arts.

We need volunteers from among parents and friends of the school to help us. If you work in a creative field – from fine art and crafts to graphic design, photography, make-up, prop-making, fashion, stage lighting, costume and jewellery design, millinery and all things in between, we would love to hear from you.

Ideally, we want participants to be able to demonstrate to students what their work involves by bringing along tools and any portable equipment which illustrates this.

The event will take place on a morning in the autumn term – late October/ November– from about 8.30pm – 1pm.

If you are interested in helping or finding out more, please contact:

Clare Raff, Head of Careers on: craft@jcoass.barnet.sch.uk Tel: 020 8344 2220 ext 3328

Table Tennis Sporting Successes

JAKE GRAYSON, Year 7 came away with a silver medal at the Under-12 National Table Tennis Cup after producing outstanding performances against some of the best young players in the country. Jake was among ten players invited to take part in the event in Preston by virtue of his standing in the national rankings. He was seeded fourth for the tournament and took on everyone else in a round-robin format, winning seven of his nine matches to finish in second place. Congratulations to Jake on this wonderful achievement.



Brother and sister MILLIE ROGOVE Year 7 and LOUIS ROGOVE Year 10 also achieved Gold and Silver medals respectively at the Table Tennis National Championships consolation event. They were ranked 32 and 39 respectively, and finished in 17th and 18th position, out of the top 32 in England. Millie beat no.15 in the final and Louis beat no.17 in semi final. Congratulations to them both.



JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Summer Term 2017

Date	Time	Description
Mon 5 th June	8.30am	First day back after half term – week one
11 th – 25 th June	All day	Year 9 Israel Trip and Year 9 Programme
13 th June	All day	Year 12 Birmingham University and UCAS Convention Visit
26 th June – 4 th July	Timetables will be issued	Years 10 and 12 Exams
Tues 4 th July	6.30pm	Year 12 Welcome Evening (Current Year 11)
Mon 5 th July	2.05pm	Early Closing for Staff Training
10 th – 14 th July	All day	Year 12 Work Experience
Thurs 13 th July	7pm	Celebration Evening. Invited students and parents will be e-mailed.
Thurs 20 th July	All day	Sports Day. Details will be e-mailed.
Fri 21 st July		Last Day of Term. School closes at 2.05pm.

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

Incoming Year 7s and Year 12 (current Yr 11) return to school on Wed 6th Sept at 8.30am.

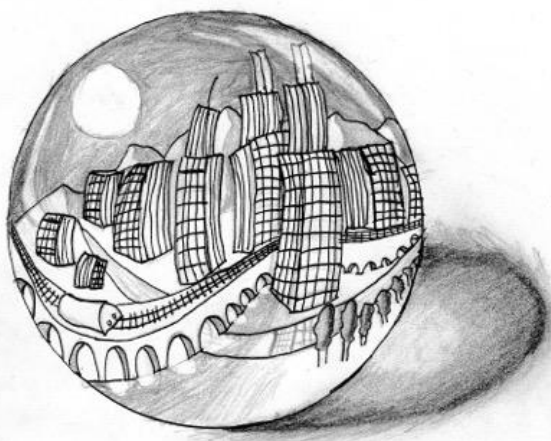
All other years return to school on Thurs 7th Sept at 8.30am. It will be week one and new timings of the school day will be in operation.

Barnet Plate Competition – Under 14 Final – Football Match report, by Mr de Jong

“A solid performance from the team didn’t receive the rewards it deserved. Hard graft and teamwork were abundantly evident with every player clearly trying their best. There was little between the sides and it would have been unfair to say that Compton deserved victory more than we did. The score (3-1) did not reflect what happened over the 70 minutes. We came back strongly after going 2 down and managed to claw back a goal, taking the score to 2-1. From that point onwards it looked like the next goal was going to be ours. Alas, the closer we came to the final whistle, the more players were flung forward to secure the equalizer. It was having so many players in the opposing half that ultimately led to our downfall – Compton broke on the counter and had only the magnificent goalkeeper to beat. It wasn’t to be, but we’ll be back next year. A true team performance – I couldn’t be more proud.”

Performance Summary:

- Benjamin Mallandaine – Commanding ‘keeping. One spectacular fingertip save to push the ball round the post following a speculative shot from the Compton attack.
- Jamie Richardson – Spent the whole game bombing up and down the wing; as useful in attack as in defence.
- Alex Godfrey – A commanding presence in the air; had one of the Compton strikers in his pocket for the whole game.
- Ruben Nourmand – First to every 50-50 and some crunching tackles to remind Compton that they were in a game.
- Ben Brent – A solid display from Ben; dependable and composed, making good decisions throughout.
- Lior Solomons-Wise – A left foot that could split the atom; his excellent trickery and incisive play in the build-up led to the JCoSS goal.
- Matthew Woolf – Patrolling the middle of the park, breaking-up play and turning defence into attack.
- Izzy Fishman – Classy, composed and tenacious; Izzy’s creativity kept the midfield ticking-over like clockwork and helped us retain possession.
- Jamie Berger – Jamie’s determination and composure didn’t give the Compton players a moment’s respite. Hard working and relentless for every minute he was on the pitch.
- Sammy Kebede – Sammy’s instinctive midfield play put pressure on Compton’s defensive players; he appeared to have a psychic link with his teammates.
- Aden Brazil – Talent and work-ethic. Aden’s willingness to run and desire to be part of the game meant that he was playing a dual-role: searching for goals and dropping into midfield to create them.
- Geffen Katz-Kaye – Unbounded energy and enthusiasm. Geffen ran the Compton defence ragged with his pace, stamina and desire to score.



By Gabriel Griffith (8N)
(Correction from last month’s edition)

‘The Children and The Arts organisation’ held 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’.
This was an entry by Gabriel Griffith in 8N.



**JCoSS Student
16 year old Zoom Rockman's
Latest Art Show
Features his Local Haringey Landmarks!**

New Exhibits include: Dixy Chicken on Tottenham Lane, Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green [famous for tweeting Piers Morgan the the whole of Harry Potter] and Hornsey's Iconic last Gas Holder [which Zoom managed to draw the week before it was dismantled!]