

Dear Parents

My 23 year-old stepson has recently left the family home and taken wing with his first job. It's a time of pride and anxiety for all concerned, especially as the job he has landed is a 3-hour drive away in Stockport: both the location, and the field of Engineering Consultancy, are entirely unknown to both his mother and me. We talk lots at school about the need to allow the 'leash' to get longer as children grow up, so here was an object lesson for me in doing just that.

I had the role of accompanying him on the journey north (in his first car, on his first motorway drive – not remotely stressful, since you ask) and we spent an afternoon exploring the area immediately around his new flat. It is a mixed area in every sense, and not exactly humming with life or prosperity, but one thing allowed me to relax and feel he would be all right: in a small play area we saw two boys and a father wearing a kippah, which said this was an area with a Jewish community.

My stepson has had less exposure to the community than me (partly because thanks to schools like JCoSS, those attending other schools are less and less likely to meet Jewish children) so he was interested to know why – apart from my raw positive prejudice – the presence of Jewish families gave me comfort. We have been surrounded as in recent weeks by increased fear and increased incidence of anti-Semitism so this was good question to have to answer.

I suggested three answers to him about what the presence of a Jewish community says to me:

- First, it is probably a place where **learning** is valued, where there are good schools, an expectation that education matters, decent libraries, living centres of worship, and the kind of people – of all faiths and none, and of all walks of life – to whom such things matter. There is enough calm and space for people to yearn for more and deeper knowledge. Only where the conditions for that exist is a Jewish community likely to thrive.
- Second, it is probably a place where **being different** is possible, and where difference is celebrated and respected – and this of course applies to difference of every sort. Only where there is enough freedom to 'behave otherwise,' in whatever way, is a Jewish community likely to settle by choice.
- Third, it is probably a place where **communities** can flourish: where there is enough stability of life, order and space for new enterprises of every kind, and an environment conducive to the nurture of family. Putting down roots has historically more often been a dream than a reality for Jewish communities, but a place where one could want it to happen is a sign of that dream being alive, for people of all faiths and none, and of all walks of life.

At the recent Robert Shrager lecture at JCoSS I met the man whose job includes predicting where the Jewish community might move to next, with a view to planning where schools and shuls might be proactively built. One might guess that this involves evaluations along similar lines, searching for areas which are likely to offer these conditions too. I will leave you to make your own judgment on which areas might be on the list. For now, and whether for logical reasons or not, I am simply glad that my stepson has chosen an area that Jews have also chosen: it must be a mark of good taste!

Learning, inclusion and community are of course core values of JCoSS, and core values of Judaism, but above all they are values that are good for everyone. Would that everywhere in the UK and indeed everywhere on the planet would display them equally, so that we could all flourish in all our glorious human diversity.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

JCoSS Sports News

It has been a very busy time for the PE department and our sports teams.

We have enjoyed participating in cross-country, netball and football competitions and it has been great to see so many students ready, willing and able to join in the JCoSS team spirit, with a mixture of success.

Some notable teams include the girls' **Year 7 Netball** team who won the Barnet netball tournament and went on to play at the London Youth Games. The **Year 8 Netball team** came 2nd in the league, and the **Year 10 Netball team** who came 2nd in the league, also won the Barnet netball tournament. Amazing achievements for all the teams!



The boys' **Football** teams also played well this season, with the **Y8 team** winning the Plate final against Friern Barnet by an impressive 5-0 and also winning the Barnet 5aside tournament. **The Y10 team** also gave us an exciting match in their Plate final but unfortunately were runners up this time. Huge congratulations to both teams.



JCoSS Sports News cont.

The Barnet **Cross Country** event back in January resulted in 6 JCoSS runners qualifying to represent JCoSS/Barnet in the Middlesex Cross Country tournament, where they battled hard to finish, all just a little tired!

Table tennis has continued to go from strength to strength, with Scarlett Anders & Millie Rogove winning at the Maccabi tournament. Scarlett also won the Under 13 Girls' competition at the Inter-Regional Finals. Current England rankings are Millie 4th, Scarlett 6th, Jake 9th, (all playing under 13) and Louis Rogove 66th playing under 18 although he's only 16!

Very impressive.

Jake Grayson won at the Maccabi **badminton** tournament and we also had runners up in the Y8 and Y9 badminton pairs with Mia Fantoni also a runner up.



Well done to all the students who have participated in any individual or team event so far. We look forward to a Summer of exciting cricket, rounders & athletics!

For updates on our fixtures and events, follow us on **Twitter @JCoSSPE** or like our '**JCoSS Sport**' facebook page.

And finally.....It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two of our fantastic PE staff members.

Daniel Mitman, our Head of PE, will be leaving us at the end of this half term. He has seen some great sporting prowess within the JCoSS community and will no doubt take away some fond memories of pupils and staff, from all the time he has been here. Mr Mitman will be deeply missed and we wish him and his family all the very best for the future and hope he will keep in touch.

Also leaving at the end of the school year is **Nicole Cara**. She is moving on to pastures new and we wish her well at her new school and lots of luck for her future. Again, she will be greatly missed and will no doubt stay in contact with many of her friends and colleagues here at JCoSS.

Planetarium comes to JCoSS!

On Monday 23rd April some of our Key Stage 3 students had the privilege to experience a planetarium in school during their science lessons. The planetarium gave our students an immersive theatre experience of exploration with a 360° digital view of space and other areas of science that they are currently learning about in lessons. We were able to bring the thrill of science and the wonder of the night sky to our students in this new way and were pleased to see how enthusiastic they were about these areas of science and what a positive impact it has had.



Barnet Lit Quiz

On the morning of Tuesday 24 April, we took a team of five students from Year 7 to represent JCoSS at the Barnet Lit Quiz, which took place this year at Totteridge Academy. The Team were Arielle Citrin Miller 7R, Ella Haber 7S, Sonia Ostrovsky 7W, Matan Goldman 7Z and Archie Paulo 7Z.

Eight schools participated in the competition, where students went through six rounds of questions plus a marathon round, all based on children's books. We are very proud that the JCoSS team came 2nd, missing out on the top spot by just 1 and a half points!

Sonia Ostrovsky commented:

"The Literature quiz was a really nice experience. When we arrived at the Totteridge Academy we went into the library where seven other Barnet school teams were waiting to start the competition.

We began round one which we all particularly enjoyed as it was on general knowledge. We knew quite a lot of answers and we achieved the highest score of 9.5 out 10 points.

In the end, we came in very close second to The Archer Academy who scored 48 points and we scored 46.5! We all had a lot of fun and we are glad we got the opportunity to participate in this event."



Y11 Romeo and Juliet Workshop at The Globe

The English faculty took some of our able and ambitious Shakespeare scholars in Y11 on a trip to The Globe. They were given a tour of The Globe, learning about the history of the theatre and putting Shakespeare's drama into the context of performance. This was followed by two workshops run by professional actors/directors in which students took part in drama activities based on the play to deepen their knowledge and understanding of it.



Jami Peer Listeners Program for KS3

JCoSS is delighted to be working once more with Jami (the Jewish mental health charity) to recruit a group of selected 'Peer Listeners', who will be trained to listen and talk non-judgementally to other students in school. They'll work with concerns regarding study, stress and friendship groups, or anything else on fellow students' minds.



These sixteen Year 9 students have been hand-picked after a careful application process, and will be working with students in Year 7 and 8 at JCoSS from July. They'll take part in a specially designed two hour training course, delivered by Jami and will have continued support from the charity over the course of the year.

The Peer Listeners programme is an incredibly powerful programme, with benefits that are reaped by both the students and the Peer Listeners themselves, and we are extremely excited to be continuing to work with Jami to deliver this.

Mrs A Goschalk

PiXL Debating Competition

On Monday 26th March we embarked on our rigorous debating journey to Harrow School. With much support on our side and months of preparation, we were ready. When we arrived we were taken in to a big hall and the chief judge explained how the day was going to plan out. At this point we were all nervous but as the day progressed we grew in confidence and thoroughly enjoyed the day. The debates were very competitive and the atmosphere was permeated with excitement and we felt no different. Our first two debates were planned, with an impromptu debate following later on in the day. We debated whether junk food should be taxed, if antiquities should be returned to their country of origin and finally whether gambling should be banned.

We not only learned how to stand up and debate in front of a crowd, but to be more confident individuals who now love to debate and will start one at any time, even if it's around the dinner table on a Friday night. The day was extremely enjoyable and we know that the day would not have been anywhere near as fun without the help and support from Madame Armon and Miss Politzer. They truly are mensches.

All in all, this was a day to remember and we urge anyone thinking of starting your career of debating or public speaking, quite simply DO! You will not regret it and you will hopefully have the same great experiences like we did.

Article by:
Sam Gold, Joshy Bentwood, Noa Shapps Year 9



Congratulations to our Brilliant Club Scholars!

We are very proud of our Brilliant club Scholars, who had their Graduation ceremony on Wednesday 9th May, at Keble College, University of Oxford. Everyone involved put a vast amount of effort in the programme, and as well as they gaining the ability to write an A Level standard essay, they developed in many other ways – the maturity shown has been astounding!

Mr J Forman



Amazing Results for the UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) Maths Challenge

14,000 of the most able mathematicians in Years 9-11 nationally sit the UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) challenge every year. Once the challenge has been marked, only 600 students are chosen to sit the elite 'Olympiad' round. We are delighted that one of our students was invited to take this round and even more delighted to announce that James Saker in Year 11 was placed as one of the top 40 students in the whole of the UK. He was presented with a medal, his name will be published in the UKMT book released next year and he was invited to attend a special Master Mathematics course.

A further 8 of our students took the Kangaroo challenge for the top 5,500 students in the country. Noticeable achievements in this round were Stefan Tucker, Ethan Levenson and Benjamin Conway who received a merit in this challenge, placing them in the top 1375 mathematicians in the country.

All students have received a Headteachers commendation for their efforts and achievements.

Mr A Senessie

Students of the Month

Student of the Month for Year 8

Jacob Hirshler is Miss Hoskin's student of the month for April. Jacob is a positive and cheerful member of the year group and has excelled in his performance in the Wiz and the Year 7 and 8 Dance Evening. Jacob is a credit to the year group in every respect. Well done Jacob!



Student of the Month Year 9 – April

Hollie Shack (9W)

Hollie has received this recognition for significant improvement in all aspects of school life.

Student of the Month Year 9 – May

Sam De Pomeroy Legg (9B)

Sam has received this recognition for consistent hard work, good organisation and being supportive to peers.



IJE News

This term is affectionately known in the IJE team as the term with the 'Yoms' and is the time in school when we mark, in quick succession Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) Yom Ha Zikaron (Israel's Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day). The whole school assembly for Yom HaShoah was led by a group of students who had recently returned from the school trip to Poland. It was thoughtful and moving and reflected the immensely powerful experience that the students had had on the programme. We were also privileged to have 2 more Shoah related projects running in school. Lenna Rosenberg worked with a group of Year 9 students to produce a play for younger students about the Shoah which was performed for Year 7 at JCoSS and Year 6 at Clore Shalom School. We also welcomed Anthony Lishak to school from the charity 'Learning from the Righteous', who brought a wonderful display about Irene Sendler to school.

A week later we were marking Yom HaZikaron, with a whole school assembly arranged by our Shinshinit Shira Begin. She is here for the year from Israel, and it was made even more poignant by the knowledge that she will be serving in the Israeli Air Force next year. We welcomed speakers from Bet HaLochem, the charity which rehabilitates and supports soldiers injured in combat and heard from 2 hugely inspiring individuals who brought the realities of the day to school.

Finally we spent Yom Ha'Atzmaut in the blazing sunshine, learning and discussing aspects of Israeli culture and politics in a truly JCoSS pluralist environment. The whole school took part in a learning programme throughout the morning and a lunchtime fair and celebration with our traditional Israeli DJ party, Israeli food experience and of course the traditional blue and white candy floss. Huge thanks to Jason and Susie from MINIMELTS for sponsoring the sweetest aspects of the day.

In other news, we were very excited to take Year 11 PSRP students to the Maccabi Challenge Orientation weekend. The students, accompanied by 2 JCoSS staff will be taking part in the Challenge Israel trip in October and we are very excited to be partnering with Maccabi on this fantastic trip. Further updates to follow!



HE Day and Gap Fair give 6th Formers a taste of Life after JCoSS

Representatives from Universities, Apprenticeship Providers and Gap Year programmes came to JCoSS this term to participate in two events designed to give Year 12 students an insight into future opportunities.

The HE Day, open to students and their parents, featured speakers from Universities including Cambridge, City, Loughborough, Lancaster and the London School of Economics. The ASK Apprenticeships Project were also represented and JCoSS Alumni returned to school to talk to current students about university life.

The Gap Year Fair, held earlier this month, provided information to students about volunteer projects in Israel and other parts of the world from organisations including the Jewish Volunteer Network, Projects Abroad, Aardvark and Raleigh International. Again there were representatives from providers of apprenticeships, internships and work experience: White Hat and Net2Work.

Both these events are part of our programme of activities designed to help Year 12 in their decision-making about future study, training and work. In April we took the whole of Year 12 to the UCAS universities and apprenticeships Convention at the ExCel Centre in Docklands and next month (June) we will be taking the same group to visit both Birmingham University and Birmingham City University.

Meanwhile we have just started our weekly series of UCAS and apprenticeship application support sessions which will continue well into the autumn term.

Helen Lewis and Clare Raff, JCoSS Careers Team



Dr Adele Julier visit

Over the past 4 weeks, some of our Year 9 students have been part of the Kochav lecture series. This is a set of lectures run as one of our enrichment sessions, with the aim of inspiring our students and exposing them to topics beyond the school curriculum.

We've had talks from Mr Moriarty and Mr Berman as our internal speakers along with Dr Nolan (the fight against Malaria) and Dr Julier (What is pollen good for) from Imperial College and The Open University respectively.

We look forward to the next round of Kochav lectures for Year 10.

The picture shows Dr Adele Julier in her talk 'What is pollen good for'

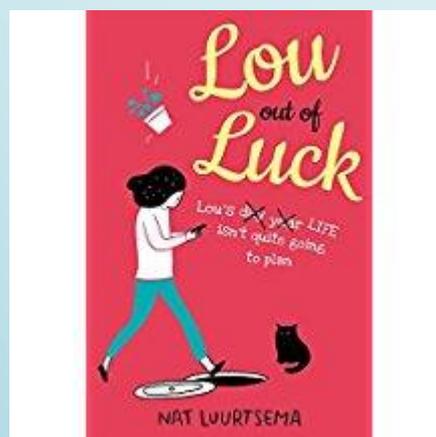
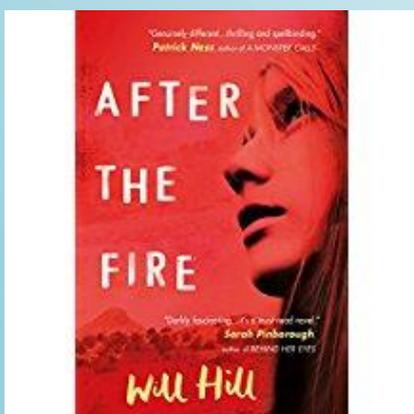
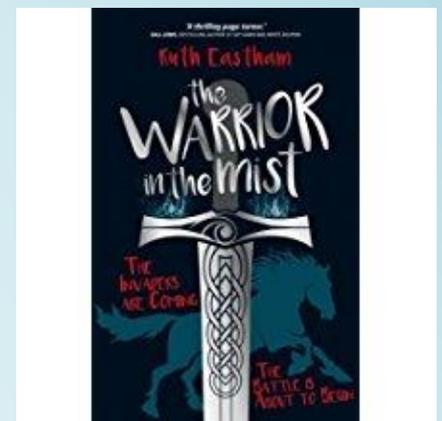
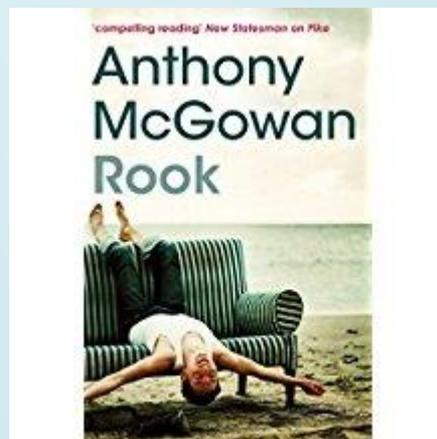
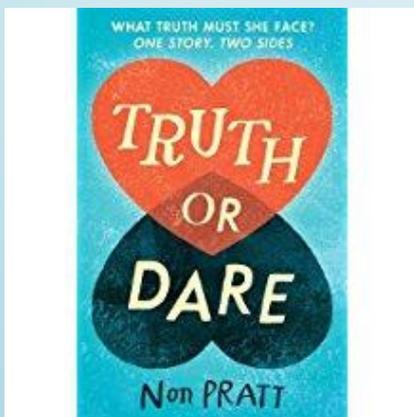


Read4Barnet

27 JCoSS Year 7 students are participating in the Read4Barnet reading project after the success of last year's event. The aim is to encourage students from schools across Barnet to read and review 6 books which have been chosen by librarians from participating schools. The students' reviews will be posted on a Read4Barnet website. Later in June, students taking part from seven participating schools will meet at Wren Academy in North Finchley for a day of author talks and activities.

Students will get a chance to meet four of the shortlisted authors, attend presentations and get signed copies of their books. In previous years students have voted for their favourite book and prizes have been awarded for the best reviews. JCoSS students have featured highly in these awards in the past so we hope our current Year 7 students can continue this exemplary tradition!

The 6 novels selected for Read4Barnet this year are:



Mrs Marie Levontine, Librarian Assistant

Year 13 Leavers

To a fresh faced Year 7 student, Year 13 seemed a life time away. Sitting here now, we can't quite believe how seven years have just flown by.

Being the second ever cohort at JCoSS, our version of Year 7, and indeed of the JCoSS experience has been so vastly different to anyone else's. Remembering a school with only 300 students, 25 teachers and classrooms that were yet to be furnished, is worlds away from the established and flourishing school community which we are graduating from today. We are so grateful to have been able to watch JCoSS grow and develop alongside us, and we feel lucky to have contributed to that even a small amount.

Last week, Year 13 students and teachers gathered in the PSRP hall for a (not so final!) final goodbye. As expected, there were tears but more importantly laughter as memories from over the years were shared and re-visited. With exams imminent, pressure and tension is running high, so to have a pause for reflection and celebration was greatly appreciated and certainly needed.

Our 6th form, and indeed JCoSS experience may be coming to an end but we will always carry a little piece of JCoSS with us.

Abi Wander, Ruth Launer and Noa Clare Rees



The world has a plastic problem and JCoSS Eco Warriors have a plan!

The Eco Warriors have been a force of nature recently, especially during the last few weeks when they have been particularly busy. There has been a new surge of students wishing to volunteer in Eco responsibilities around the school and they have joined with a wonderful and positive attitude.

A pilot scheme was carried out, co-ordinated by a number of Year 7, 8 and 10 students who collected empty plastic bottles around the school. Unbelievably over 250 plastic bottles were collected in two days – we were shocked by the amount of plastic bottles (mainly bottled water) that were purchased and drunk in a short period of time at JCoSS.

A week later, we had collected over one thousand bottles! The Eco Warriors and I started to think about the big waste cycle, and the amount of plastic we were using.

A few of our forward thinking Year 11 Eco Warriors, Max, Oscar and Robyn, had the idea to build a spring water fountain within the JCoSS grounds. As the JCoSS Eco-champion, I thought this was a great idea - what if JCoSS was the top Eco Champion school of the Country, which could really make a difference by reducing plastic waste, or even eventually banning plastic usage across schools?

In 2017, JCoSS staff were encouraged to drink more water and reduce plastic waste and so were given JCoSS branded water bottles. However we would like to go a step further and find a solution for students.

Next on the agenda is for the EcoWarriors to meet the school council and Head Student team to investigate our idea and plan a bigger meeting with school governors, the staff wellbeing team and The Head Teacher.

We will continue to keep you updated...

Also, the winners of the Eco Warriors Competition will be announced in the first week back after the mid break. Thank you for reading and remember...you're amazingly great when you recycle!

JCoSS EcoWarriors and Miss V Bossman-Quarshie



JCoSS Key Dates – Second Half of Summer Term

Date	Time	Description
Mon 11 th – Fri 29 th June	As per exam timetable	Year 10 End of Year Exams
Mon 11 th – Fri 22 nd June	All day	Year 9 Programme & Year 9 Israel Journey (nb. Israel is 10 th – 24 th June)
Mon 25 th June – Fri 6 th July	As per exam timetable	Year 12 End of Year Exams
Wed 4 th July	1.45pm	Early close for staff training
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th July	All day	Year 12 Work Experience
Tues 24 th July	1.05pm	Early close for end of term

School closes at 2.15pm on all Fridays in the Summer term

School starts again for the first half of Autumn term at 8.30am on:

- Wednesday 5th September for Year 7s and Year 12 (current Year 11)
- Thursday 6th September for all other years (current Years 7 - 10 and current Year 12)