

Dear Parents

As a newly ordained Anglican priest, I presided at the Eucharist ('led the service' in plain English) for the first time at the beginning of this month. The sermon ('shiu' in plain, er, Hebrew) was preached by my former school chaplain David Lindsay who has been a formative influence ever since. He told the story of a sheikh who left his camels to his three offspring in his will in specific proportions: the oldest was to inherit half, the second a third, the youngest a ninth.

The problem was that the sheikh had 17 camels and so a row ('broigus', in plain Yiddish) was brewing with every likelihood of bloodshed, and just of the camels. Along comes a fellow sheikh who temporarily loans one camel to the proceedings. 18 being more a more readily divisible number, the oldest sibling could now have 9 (half), the second sibling 6 (a third) and the youngest 2 (a ninth). One camel was left over, so the loaned camel could be returned and peace ('salaam' in plain Arabic) could be restored.

Your holiday homework is to spot the Mathematical sleight of hand there...but the message is clear, showing the lasting and transforming difference that can sometimes be made by small gestures or indefinable combinations of people or circumstance. Something like that is what we mean at JCoSS by being a Mensch: lasting and unquantifiable value is added when people are decent, honourable and kind, and it can transform not just moral behaviour but our learning also. As always, there is plenty of evidence of all of that in the pages that follow.

Meanwhile, talking of lasting differences arising from a loan... a new piece of art graces the front of the school from today, a sculpture by Batia Lichansky commemorating the Camp David Accords. Brokered by US president Jimmy Carter at his country retreat and signed in 1978 (about the time I first met David Lindsay, in fact), the Accords are perhaps the most lasting and significant step in the last 40 years toward peace between Israel and its neighbours. The deal, between Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, was sealed with a handshake, and it is this that the sculpture captures.



Begin had emerged from a background of militancy (he was at one point wanted by the British authorities), but signed a deal which exchanged 'land for peace' and secured the approval of 85% of Israelis. There were greater reservations from the Arab side, which contributed to the assassination of Sadat in 1981, but the principles of the Accords have survived on both sides over the decades since, weathering huge political upheavals across the region. Nothing is uncontentious in Middle East politics, and JCoSS does not shrink from addressing contentious topics, but a set of Accords that saw both leaders awarded the Nobel Peace Prize will, we hope, be a symbol and a talking point in the best possible way.

Harmonious agreement may seem a distant vision to us, with even the UK Cabinet unable to agree with itself and with a US President happy to undermine long term allies (or did he simply fail to avoid not omitting to undermine them...?). So a reminder of what is possible in this most intractable of conflicts is important to celebrate and cherish. We are hugely grateful to Michael Marx – a friend of the school and of our Trustees – for the loan of such a 'JCoSS' statue, and there is added joy in unveiling it just as Menachem Begin's great-granddaughter Shira completes her year's placement at JCoSS as our 'shinshin'.

Who knows how the global political scene may have evolved by the time we return in September, but it will at least probably be cooler by then! I wish you a restorative and enjoyable summer break, and look forward to seeing 1300 students (the biggest the school has ever been) filing past that statue on their way to changing their school, their community and their world for the better in lasting ways.

Patrick Moriarty



JCoSS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents

I am delighted to inform you that this school year has been a huge success for the JCoSS Parents' Association. Unfortunately the heavy snow meant that the Year 7 disco was cancelled and rescheduled to January this year, but many students were still able to come and we managed to raise £980.37. Many thanks to all parents that came to help. We also held a JPA Non-Event which was held in January and raised £1,050.17. The JPA has also raised additional funds through selling refreshments, snacks and school uniform at many parents' evenings and events throughout the school year. These funds have all been raised through many hours of hard work from each JPA helper doing their bit.

The school have used some of the money to fund:

- £675 on the Year 7 Bookbuzz Reading Scheme.
- £2,795 to purchase a wireless 12 way headset which was used in the school production of The Wiz and will enhance forthcoming shows.

Hopefully every JPA helper and parent can see the positive impact and benefits our Association has achieved. The JPA's objectives are to continue nurturing community spirit and fundraising for the school. Should you have any queries, please email [jcosspa@outlook.com](mailto:jcosspa@outlook.com)

May I take this opportunity to wish all the parents and students a good Summer break and I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

Best wishes

Elaine Pitter, Chair - JCoSS Parents' Association.

## Year 8 Reward Trip to Footgolf



## Read for Barnet Challenge

25 Year 7 students attended the Read for Barnet challenge, along with students from seven other Barnet secondary schools. The students have been reading and reviewing books from 6 shortlisted authors over the last few months and we were fortunate to have 4 of these authors in attendance at the event – Nat Luurtsema, Anthony McGowan, Non Pratt and Ruth Eastham. Students went to presentations by 2 authors, plus a Q&A panel discussion with all 4 of them, and got copies of their books signed. The winner of the Read4Barnet 2018 prize – voted for by the students – was Nat Luurtsema, who wrote ‘Lou out of Luck’. 2 JCoSS students also won prizes for their reviews – Bali Peretz and Joe Willis.

Sonia Ostrovsky 7W commented:

As one of the students lucky enough to go on the trip, I thoroughly enjoyed the whole visit. Each of the authors was inspiring and had helpful, interesting, things to say.

My favourite author was probably Nat Luurtsema as she was really funny (not surprising as she used to be a stand-up-comedian!). Her books are totally relatable for teenagers especially as they are inspired by her own difficult experiences of growing up. She told us how she always begins writing a new novel “by exploring an idea, especially something personal I have been grappling with. It’s always something I know about, something that has actually happened to me.” Hearing this, made me realise that it is important to write about ‘what you know’.

Students also had a chance to ask their favourite authors some questions. The kinds of questions asked were on topics like: “What inspired you to write this book?” and, “What obstacles did you have to overcome when you were writing the book?”

I agree with Non Pratt’s comment that “a good book makes you feel seen” and I would definitely encourage students to take the opportunity next year to participate in ‘Read for Barnet.’ I guarantee you will like reading the books, love going on the visit and especially enjoy meeting your favourite author in person as well as taking part and being able to ask your own questions. It is all really worthwhile!

The advice the authors gave us offered some insight into how I could improve my own writing and how to encourage myself, especially by writing more often. I’m glad that I was able to be a part of this trip and I hope that I can go again next year.



# An insight into the Year 9 Israel Journey by Gabriel Koppel 9s

The Year 9 Israel trip is an enthralling, thought-provoking and exciting journey that I will never forget. I could write a whole dissertation about it but sadly I am limited. We started off in Jerusalem, moved up to the North, then came back towards the South and returned back to Jerusalem at the end of the trip. A particular highlight was visiting a charity called Shalva which helps people with 'diffabilities' (a term used by Shalva instead of disabilities) from infancy to adulthood. Seeing this amazing charity and how it runs really inspired me to do more charity work and give back to the world. We spent our time there packing tea bags into decorative boxes for them to sell. Shalva use the earnings to fund new and improved equipment and expand their reach.

Whilst in Israel we did a lot of swimming, including in the Dead Sea. We climbed up Masada and enjoyed many other hikes, all of which were fascinating and provided great photo opportunities! We went camel riding in the desert and rafting along the Jordan River – a definite highlight for many! We also met up with many different cultures and saw their way of life including Druze and Bedouins; we also got a taste of the ultra-orthodox Jewish community and enjoyed getting to see the many sides of Israel.

I have run out of breath, so now it's time to finish off. The Year 9 Israel Trip is not a typical holiday and I would not miss out on this once in a lifetime experience – I would advise everyone in Year 7 and 8 to sign up when the time is right and have the experience of a lifetime!



# Year 9 Programme

Eighty Year 9 students participated in the two-week programme which included helping the local community, visiting museums, learning new skills and participating in work experience.

The first week began with the students visiting Tesco with GIFT (Give It Forward Today) and shopping for a meal for a family of five on a £10 budget. The students enjoyed their shopping experience and the competition of who could be the most economical with their food choices.

Visits to The Design Museum in Holland Park and Jewish Museum in Camden followed, with students undertaking their own work experience completing the end to the first week.

The second week started with learning new Kayaking and Teambuilding skills at Phoenix Activity Centre, Welsh Harp. We were blessed with exceptionally good weather on both days and students had a great time participating in these activities. A trip to the Bank of England Museum and the grounds of St Paul's Cathedral followed.

FZY (Federation of Zionist Youth) organised a whole day of event in school during the middle of the week, with the Business, Economics and IT Faculty and Science Faculty organising in-school activities at the end of the week.

Sandwiched between those days was the most popular of all events – the obligatory trip to Thorpe Park.

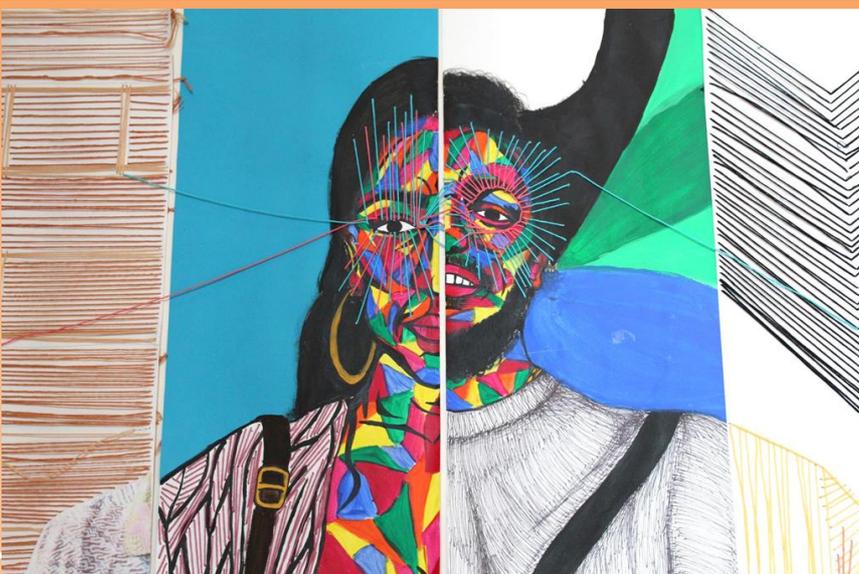
Thank you to all the staff who supported the trips and the students for their enthusiastic participation



# Art at JCoSS

## LGBTQ Wall

All Year 7s and Year 8s made pieces that represent something they love or care about inspired by the artist Keith Haring. These were then displayed in the Heartspace, alongside the GCSE Art exhibition. There were some really wonderful discussions and beautiful, thoughtful and sensitive pieces in response.



## GCSE Work

We held a GCSE Art Design and Technology (ADT) Exhibition in the Heart Space. A great range of students' skills and talents in both Art and DT were displayed.

Work above by:  
Marni Cohen

Work below by:  
Louise Zelman

Check to see if your work is featured on the JCoSS Art Instagram Page!

@JCoSS\_ArtStudio

## Mr de Jong speaks at the Palace of Westminster

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June Mr de Jong, accompanied by Year 12 Politics student Denis Antor, travelled to The Palace of Westminster for a conference, hosted by Lord Turnberg, entitled 'Teaching controversy in schools: Understanding the history of Israel and Palestine'. Mr de Jong had been invited to speak about showing both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives on Israel Journeys and Denis was invited as an audience member.

Mr de Jong shared his reflections on the value of teaching both sides, or in the case of the JCoSS Israel Journey, seeing both sides. He explored students' changing attitudes, the impact of dual perspectives on learning about other controversial topics and his ability to teach with balance from the perspective of a half-British and half-Israeli Jew. Denis was able to offer his perspective as a previous participant in the JCoSS Israel journey. Both faced challenging questions from the audience, some of whom struggled to reconcile our Zionist ethos with teaching more than one perspective. Both Denis and Mr de Jong showed why JCoSS is the remarkable place that it is: a cross-communal, pluralist, inclusive secondary school with a strong commitment to teaching with equivalence and a strong emphasis on Zionism.



## Institute of Chartered Accountants BASE Competition

A team of 5 JCoSS Economics students competed in the final of the Institute of Chartered Accountants BASE competition. Over 4000 Year 12 students from the whole of the UK entered this competition and just over 400 were at the final which was held at the Birmingham Hilton Hotel in June.

The students were challenged in four knockout rounds, having to firstly to complete an online strengths test that put them into teams according to their mix of abilities. The second round involved making calculations and recommendations for a charity on how to achieve its goals. In the third round the students recorded a presentation and answered questions about sales for a tech company and at the final, they gave a face to face presentation on a possible merger for the company.

The judges, from a variety of branches within accountancy, found the JCoSS team to be bright, engaging and humorous. The Economics staff congratulate **Harley Morris, Omer Samuel, Eddie Lisberg, Arian Osmanagiq and Gabe Cooke** on their excellent performance and for representing the school and department so well.



## Birmingham Universities Visit for Year 12

Year 12 students got a first-hand look at university life on a trip to Birmingham last month.

More than 100 students signed up for the visit to Birmingham University and Birmingham City University and were able to contrast and compare these two very different institutions on the same day.

The visits included guided tours of departments and facilities plus talks from university staff about how to go about choosing a university and write a winning personal statement.

The day was part of a programme of activities for Year 12, designed to support students in the process of researching and applying to Higher Education.

Weekly sessions to help students with their UCAS applications are now underway and will continue through the autumn term. Alongside these we are also running workshops and information sessions to assist students who are interested in taking the apprenticeship route.

### *JCoSS Careers*



**Congratulations to Ruby Rose Mansoor (12W)** who has successfully gained a scholarship from the army to pay for her University fees and train as an officer at Sandhurst.

Ruby Rose has had an outstanding 'career' with the Army to date, with a very significant investment of time and energy alongside her commitment to school life. We are hugely proud of her for gaining this prestigious award, a fully-deserved recognition of her skills and qualities of character.

## IJE at JCoSS

The summer has been an interfaith term at JCoSS, with our final days taking place with our link schools, Tawhid Boys' School and St Augustine's Priority. The linking programme, which takes place over the whole year aims to create close and ongoing bonds between students and schools, which evolve over the year. We look forward to starting our new linking cohorts next term.

Of course, the jewel in the crown of the interfaith programme is the Interfaith Tent, our two-week programme for Key Stage 3. Students had a wide range of interfaith encounters in the tent, as its occupants changed each day. From Islamic spoken word poetry to learning about what it's like working for the Archbishop of Canterbury, each day brought new insights and experiences.

We also marked Pride Week with a series of assemblies run in conjunction with Keshet UK. Each day students met a volunteer from Keshet UK who came to school, shared their own stories and gave information about the charity. Thank you also to the staff committee who organised the Pride art display and the sale of rainbow ribbons in the Heartspace.

Well done to Year 7 who raised over £200 on their Yom Tzedakah for school charities, bringing the grand total raised this year for school charities to over £10,000. By the time this newsletter goes out, the school will have chosen its new charities following the annual Charities fair.

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who completed the Yoni Jesner Award this year and were celebrated at the annual Graduation Ceremony. Students completed either 30 or 50 hours of volunteering during the year and were very proud to be honoured along with students from other Jewish schools for their community volunteering efforts.



# JCoSS Sports

It has been an amazing term of sport starting with rounders and cricket and finishing with our athletics fixtures.

The Girls Rounders teams in Y7/8 and Y9/10 had lots of fun at their tournaments. They had a great time playing against other Barnet schools and have extended their batting and fielding skills in their PE lessons this term.

We managed to squeeze in a few cricket matches but not at many as we had hoped due to the Y9 trips and Y10 mock exams. However, the Y7/8 team played three great matches, winning 2 and losing 1, and the Y9/10 team managed to get one match under their belt albeit a loss.

JCoSS then took to the track at Allianz Park in both the Barnet Athletics League for all years and Barnet Champs for Y10. At each meeting there were some impressive performances, despite the extreme sunshine we had on occasion, which was a blessing and a curse! We were also incredibly impressed with the fantastic attitude, behaviour and effort from all who took part.

The PE department have a new extra-curricular timetable from September and we very much look forward to welcoming the new Y7 students along with new and old sports men & women who are keen to show off their sporting prowess!

For updates on our fixtures and events, follow us on **Twitter @JCoSSPE & Facebook JCoSS Sport**

Have a great Summer from all of the PE Department.

## Congratulations to Joel Walters, Y12...

...who single-handedly organised a football tournament and raised over £2,000 for STEM4.

Almost 100 young people turned up to the tournament to support the event, including Scott Leigh who recently lost his brother Ollie. Scott suggested STEM4 as a worthy charity as it is a teenage mental health charity aimed at improving teenage mental health by stemming commonly occurring mental health issues at an early stage.

It was a nail biting tournament with 12 teams competing.

The trophy went to winners from the team 'Highgate 2' and runners up from the JCoSS team 'Untold Scenes'.

Joel was inspired to run this tournament after speaking to Ms Raven about the issues of mental health in young people and how important it was to raise awareness. In Joel's words he said 'I just want to be able to do something about it'.

Congratulations for this wonderful achievement, truly in the spirit of menschlichkeit.



# JCoSS students celebrate success in the National Theatre 'New Views' Playwriting Competition 2018

"To continue is power"; "Crossroads" ; "The vanishing of Catherine Marlow" – three inspiring new plays which were longlisted for the prestigious National Theatre 'New Views' playwriting competition 2018, written by extremely talented JCoSS students Adi Blass, Sam Brenner and Tal Cohen.

For the past six months Adi, Sam, Tal and five 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.

Adi, (Y12) and Year 11 students Sam and Tal were longlisted from a strong field of more than 300 scripts submitted by schools and colleges across the country. Sadly, they did not make the final shortlist of 10 plays; however Adi was highly commended and has been invited to take part in a playwriting master class at the National Theatre this summer.

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 on a second occasion, to hold 1:1 tutorials with each students in which she gave valuable feedback on the first drafts of their plays. We also had a hugely enjoyable evening together, seeing the National Theatre production of 'George and the Dragon' by award winning playwright Rory Mullarkey.

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: Ellie Sassiene-Honeyball and year 12, Talia Krait, Eliana Fitzmaurice, Elliot Rose and Noa Holt.

We congratulate them all on their achievements.

## ORT Jump Celebration Evening

Earlier this term, the following students were recognised at the Ort Jump Celebration evening at JW3.

Darcey Gilston (who won an award); Lily Anticoni; Denis Antor; Phillipa Steen; Nitzan Michman; James Rich

Luciana Berger was the guest speaker and managed (after a very busy day in Parliament!) to speak to the students in a wonderfully engaging way. It was a very inspiring evening, so much so that Ms Raven and Miss Winthrop decided to sign up as volunteers for the organisation.



# Science Excellence

Cambridge University run a Chemistry Challenge for Y12 students (<http://www.c3l6.org>), consisting of a very challenging written paper.

14 of our students entered this year and the results are fabulous, with all but three people getting an award:

Aaron	Aronsohn	Copper
Adam	Caplan	Copper
Jay	Carlin	Copper
Maya	Janowski	Silver
Samuel	Lachmann	Gold
Isaac	Lobatto	Gold
Nuri	Morad	Silver
Miki	Noy	Silver
Antonia	Salem	Copper
Daniel	Turaev	Gold
Itay	Yaniv	Silver

We are very proud of these students as the paper was extremely tough.

Well done to them all

Dr H Oliver

Head of Science

## Congratulations to ...

**Isaac Labato** who has been offered a place on the Cambridge Senior Physics Challenge 2018 Summer School.

The Senior physics challenge residential is held in Cambridge once a year as a reward for those who are particularly active problem solvers on the website [isaacphysics.org](http://isaacphysics.org).

**Congratulations to Jake Grayson 8F and Scarlett Anders** who participated in the Table Tennis England U13s National Championships. Jake was awarded a silver medal in the boys u13s doubles. Scarlett was awarded a gold medal in the U13 girls doubles and a silver medal in the U13 girls singles.

Congratulations on their tremendous achievements.



## Key Dates for the First Half of the Autumn Term

Date	Time	Description
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.30am	School starts for Years 7 & 12 (Week One)
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.30am	School starts for Years 8-11 and Year 13 (Week One)
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Rosh Hashana – School Closed
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Rosh Hashana – School Closed
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Morning	HPV Vaccinations for Year 8 Girls
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1.45pm	Early closing for Yom Kippur
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Yom Kippur – School Closed
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7pm	Information Evening for Year 11 Parents
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1.45pm	Early Closing for Open Evening
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Staff Inset Day – School Closed for All Students
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Sukkot – School Closed
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Sukkot – School Closed
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	All day	Simchat Torah – School Closed
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	All day	Simchat Torah – School Closed
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	6.30pm	Welcome and Information Evening for Year 7 Parents
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8pm	JCoSS Parents' Association (JPA) AGM
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	All day	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Eve	Information Evening for Year 10 Parents
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Eve	Jazz Concert
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Eve	Celebration Evening
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	All day	Last day of First Half of Autumn Term

# Eco Warriors – Summer Term Pictures

