

Social media

Summer Round-up

Have you ever heard of “the popular kids”? You may recall the type from your own school days: happy, often sporty, good at lots of things and relaxed about the things they aren’t good at; confident, surrounded by friends both in real life and on social media; worry-free, they seem to navigate life with ease. They are life’s winners...or so it seems.

Over my time as both parent and teacher, I’ve heard plenty about these “popular kids”, but I have questions. Above all, I’ve never met someone who thinks they are one. No surprise, of course that no one admits to the less attractive traits that sometimes come with this kind of “popularity”, but no one admits, either, to being an effortless winner, confident, relaxed and worry-free. How can we explain this?

Perhaps these “popular kids” are so unself-aware that they have no idea what they are like – good or bad. But I’m inclined towards a second option, which is that they don’t really exist. They are a projection of our collective neurosis, based in experience perhaps, that we imagine into being and then beat ourselves up with. Because we feel inadequate, we imagine that others thinking it of us and forcing us to that view.

I don’t think it’s just a school phenomenon. These imagined “popular kids” grow into adults who say – or so we fear – things like “I’m living my best life”, or “We’re living the dream”. The pictures of their perfect lives on social media fuel the ‘impostor syndrome’ that dogs many adults, (especially women) so that whatever jobs or successes we land we always feel we don’t quite deserve them. Scratch the surface, though, and I wonder how many people are really like this.

I confessed to a friend recently my sense that other people ‘know how to live’ more happily and easily than I do. He pointed out that as head of a successful school, with a side-hustle as a priest in a flourishing church, kids who’ve got through university, etc etc, I have a life that others probably look on with envy. Even my life – imperfect, embarrassing, conflicted, frustrating as I know it is. Fair point...and if so, perhaps we all need to be rather gentler on each other and on ourselves. The “popular kids” that your child may be wary of are probably feeling just as wary too.

If this is a collective neurosis, then we need to help each other, and our children, to manage it. I had a go in today’s Final Assembly. The good news, I suggested, is simply that realisation that everyone has self-doubt and everyone thinks other people are more successful and together and happy than they are. It’s probably a universal human trait, and it could be that those who make the most noise and look the most flashy are the ones who are most worried – if so, a little compassion is called for. It’s definitely wise to assume that whatever we think we see is not the whole story.

As we know, but are prone to forget, those who make no mistakes rarely make anything at all, and perfection is a burden that saps creativity. It’s normal and necessary to bumble, to fall short, to foul some things up completely. We might admit, too, that the culture we live in is, frankly, a bit weird. Great for freedom, sparkle, self-expression and convenience (for those with the money to afford it), but not so great for those who are quieter, more reflective and self-critical...or want to live more simply. If we can’t see the weirdness, we may need to look more carefully. In the end there’s no correlation between being “popular” and being popular – liked and respected by others, known for kindness and integrity, appreciated for honesty and self-awareness. Those are the qualities that last. They’re also what we call ‘being a Mensch’. I hope the summer holiday is an opportunity to cultivate them.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

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 JCoss

22nd July 2022



JCoSS students had an incredible Enrichment Drop Down Day today, with over 40 activities to choose from. Sessions ranged from T-shirt decorating, film school, performing a condensed version of Matilda the Musical, brownie baking, board gaming, making shakshuka, trampolining and even a mobile planetarium was set up in the hall! It was an amazing day and a great way to spend the penultimate day of term!

21st July 2022

JCoSS bands have been performing every break and lunch time this week to celebrate the end of term. The performances have been absolutely fantastic and have pulled a big crowd! [#Itsallaboutthemusic](#) [#JCoSSbands](#)



19th July 2022



Year 10 JCoSS students had tea with Mr Moriarty yesterday, to say thank you for helping out at the Barnet Primary Schools Athletics Championships and being such great role models and representatives of our school. [#teawiththehead](#) [#RoleModels](#) [#Menschies](#)

18th July 2022

Students finding shade at break and lunch time! [#hottestday](#) [#ifonlywehadaswimmingpool!](#) ☀️☀️☀️



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JCoSS

15th July 2022



Our Interfaith Tent programme concludes today, where students have been hearing from various speakers about their own faith. Yesterday, students heard from our very own Headteacher, Mr Moriarty about his other important role as a Priest #interfaith #importanceoffaith

14th July 2022

Miriam Halahmy, author and poet visited the JCoSS LRC today and held creative writing workshops with groups of Year 7 and Year 8 students. The students were inspired by Miriam's stories to produce some creative writing themselves, which was of a very high standard.

[#creativewriting](#) [#inspiration](#)



12th July 2022



The energy was electric at our first sports day in 3 years! A massive well done to all who took part and our outstanding PE faculty for organising such a brilliant event!



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8th July 2022

It was a fantastic day for Year 7 who took part in the first ever JCoSS Shinshinim Games! Our Israeli Shinshinim (Scouts) planned an incredible day of Israel themed activities and forms competed against each other to win. The lucky winning team were treated to a Pizza party! Mazel Tov to 7S and to all who took part and a HUGE thank you to our Shinshinim Maya and Guy who planned an incredible games!



8th July 2022



The JCoSS Year 7 and Year 8 Rounders Teams played a friendly game against The Totteridge Academy yesterday in the sunshine and both schools really enjoyed the matches.

[#summersports](#) [#friendlymatches](#)
[#localschools](#) ☀️☀️

7th July 2022

Mazel tov to Isaac Reuben in Year 12 who is a runner-up in the National Theatre New Views playwriting competition 2022. This is a phenomenal achievement as 427 plays were entered with only 8 shortlisted.

His prize was to rehearse the reading of his play 'Last Resort' with professional Director Jack Nurse along with a cast of actors. The performance was earlier today at the National Theatre and was a great success.

If any Y11-13 students are interested in hearing more about the New Views playwriting competition as part of the JCoSS Scholars Programme, then please contact Mrs Worely or Mrs Kellaway . @nationaltheatre



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6th July 2022



Year 10 JCoSS students have been helping out today at the Barnet Primary Schools Athletics Championships and have been great role models and representatives of our school.

In addition, Year 9 were tour guides for an Open Morning today where we had over 700 visitors. They represented our school in an exemplary manner and we truly couldn't be prouder of them. Well done to all involved.

#rolemodels #JCoSSAmbassadors
#JCoSSMenschies

5th July 2022

Last night we celebrated the achievements and engagements of our students at our annual Celebration Evening. It was a truly wonderful evening and even more special to have the event in-person again after 3 years. Mazel tov to all the winners. 🏆🏆



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4th July 2022



Today we started our two week Interfaith Tent programme for Years 7-9. Our spectacular Interfaith Tent hosts external speakers of other faiths, to engage in meaningful conversations with our students around their religion and belief. To kick off the fortnight of activities, today students took part in an Indian Dance workshop. #ImportanceofInterfaith

30th June 2022

This week the Art & Design and Design & Technology departments put on a very impressive end of year exhibition of their GCSE and A Level work. All students were represented and this was a great opportunity for them to see their work on display and show off what they have done to parents and staff. The standard of the work was very impressive and we received many compliments about the exhibition.



28th June 2022



Four students in Year 9 at JCoSS completed the EDT Industrial Cadet Bronze programme and were nominated for the determination award at the recent graduation event. The Industrial Cadet programme is a 12 week STEM project, in this case it was on the topic of 'If My School Was An Island' in partnership with GlaxoSmithKline.

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27th June 2022

Today we had a visit from a delegation of Israeli scouts (Tzofim) from Israel. In the UK for summer camps and activities, they took the opportunity to come and see what life looks like for Jewish students in London and to compare it to life in Israel. Lots of new friendships were made and new information learned during the 'mifgash' (meeting) with JCoSS Year 8 students.



22nd June 2022



Day 3 of Year 9 Tiuyl Week was a whole year group trip to Cadbury World! Yum Yum! 🍫

21st June 2022

Day 2 of Year 9's Tiyul Week was snow much fun! Students went to SNOZone for indoor Skiing and sledding ❄️🏂



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22nd June 2022



It was an amazing start to Year 9's Tiyl Week! Students had a brilliant time at Liquid Leisure Water Park and had a lot of fun in the sun! 🌞💧

17th June 2022

To end an incredible Pride Week at JCoSS, students donated clothing for a Clothes Swap event. The Heartspace turned into a pop up clothes shop where students who donated could swap their item for another, reducing the amount of unwanted clothing that ends up in landfill. Well done to all who took part! [#sustainablefashion](#) [#ecofriendlyfashion](#)



14th June 2022

The ten winners of the JCoSS Book Award met with Mr Moriarty last week for a special afternoon tea. The students, from across Years 7, 8 and 9 won from over 500 entries with their fabulous creative responses, ranging from alternative endings to poems, and even a rap!



13th June 2022



LOVE IS LOVE.

This week is Pride Week at JCoSS! We will be holding our first ever Pride Week Film Festival, where students are invited to watch a different film exploring LGBTQ+ themes. Year 12 will also be joined by the writer of the film 'Pride' for a special Q&A session. We will also be joined by [KeshetUK](#) who will be speaking at our assemblies this week. We are so proud that JCoSS is an inclusive space for all students and staff. ❤️🧡💛💚💙💜

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10th June 2022

The Drama Department took Year 10 Drama GCSE students to watch the evening performance of Legally Blonde at Regents Park Open Air Theatre last night. It was a huge pleasure to take such well behaved students to such a stunning venue and to experience an evening full of fizzy, fun, pink, enthusiastic performances displaying themes of inclusion and diversity.



9th June 2022



Yesterday, Year 7 had the opportunity to hold their first ever Yom Tzedakah event, and it was a huge success! Each form group was influential in raising money for the Year 7 chosen charity, Cosmic. The event had everything from tuck shops to sponge the teacher and even mocktails! Through the hard work of the year groups and the student charity committee, they were able to raise a huge amount for Cosmic. COSMIC supports the children's and neonatal intensive care units at St Mary's & Queen Charlotte's Hospital by helping patients and their families, and by enabling our dedicated team of nurses and doctors to treat hundreds of babies and children in intensive care. Well done to everyone who took part!

7th June 2022

Welcome back JCoSS! Let's hope the last half of this Summer Term stays nice and sunny like today! ☀️☀️ #SummerTerm
[#WelcomeBack](#)



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