

# Social media

## Winter Round-up

Dear Parents

As the calendar year and first term of school draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your continued help and support. Having been your Headteacher for one year now I really am immensely grateful for the strong, effective relationships that we are building because when we are able to work together, we can achieve powerful things for our young people.

We have welcomed many visitors into our school this half-term including Dr Ana Hastoy from Oxford University who ran an outstanding workshop with sixth form students. We are also very grateful to Jnetics, a charity dedicated to improving the education and prevention of Jewish genetic disorders, for visiting JCoSS and working with our students. We were especially delighted to host a wonderful afternoon for Head Students from JFS, Immanuel College and Yavneh College. All the Head Student Teams discussed ideas and opportunities for future joint projects. It was fantastic to see our young people from across the Jewish Community work together and learn from each other - well done to our JCoSS team for initiating this excellent idea.

As ever, our students have been incredibly busy this term inside and outside the classroom. Year 7 are very much settled into life at JCoSS. Many of them have been participating in a lunch time volunteering programme making Chanukah decorations which were warmly received by Norwood residents at the Norwood Chanukah party – thank you to all our Year 7 Mensches. The Year 7 Shabbaton in Kent was a huge success as was the Year 7 Disco held at school a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to all the staff who led these brilliant events and a huge well done to the students for having such good fun and behaving beautifully throughout. On the sporting front we have much to celebrate, but a special Mazel Tov to our students who represented JCoSS in the Maccabi Girls Table Tennis tournament – we had many winning teams and performances, well done to everyone who took part.

This half term has seen the relaunch of the JCoSS House System and we wish our newly appointed Year 12 House Captains every success in their important roles. I'm not sure if it's the students or the staff who are more excited for the upcoming House competitions! And this week I was privileged to be part of the Head Student Team interviews – all the students should be extremely proud of themselves, they were mature, articulate strong champions for JCoSS and I look forward to working with the new Head Student Team from January.

Just a couple of weeks ago JCoSS celebrated Chanukah. This year the Festival of Lights allowed us to step out of the darkness and our school embraced the joy and miracle of Chanukah with open arms. The JCoSS choir shared some of our love and happiness with guests at the Jewish Care Sam Beckman Day Centre – it was a lovely afternoon filled with singing and dancing, a highlight for many. Chanukah is over but much light and joy has remained in school this week, not least thanks to the brilliant Music Department for putting on a phenomenal showcase of talent in the Winter Concert on Tuesday evening. Lunchtimes in the Heart Space have been filled with end of term music and this has been an uplifting, heart-warming final few days.

As the term draws to a close, we are saying goodbye to Mr Taylor who is retiring from teaching, and to our wonderful Learning Support Assistants Miss Gee and Miss Simons who are going on to new adventures. Thank you all for everything that you have given to JCoSS, we will miss you and wish you happiness and success in your next chapters.

This term has been memorable and possibly unprecedented. I am so proud of our school - JCoSS provides the light that enables us to navigate the dark times in which we find ourselves. Thank you to every member of staff for supporting each other and for supporting our students. I wish everyone an enjoyable Winter break and please join me in hoping for a peaceful, safe 2024.

Very best wishes

Dr Melanie Lee

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



This term has marked the 10th Anniversary for 19 staff at JCoSS and today they had a special tea to celebrate. We now have over 50 staff members who have passed their 10 year anniversary at JCoSS and we feel so proud and privileged to have such a wonderful, passionate and dedicated staff body.



**20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The JCoSS Winter Concert took place last night and was a phenomenal showcase of talent from the Music Department! The concert highlighted bright talent in jazz, drumming, choir, student bands, tuned percussion and more. We had an outstanding audience and we are very grateful to the parent community for their continued support. Well done to the Music Department for a wonderful evening of musical magic, it filled our hearts and souls with light.



**19<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



After a rigorous and comprehensive process, concluding with interviews yesterday, we are delighted to announce the new Head Student Team from Year 12.

- **Nicole Rovniaguin** and **Joe Rudling** are our Head Students
- **Abi Caplan, Gideon Chapman, Maddie Noah** and **Lara Sitton** – Deputy Head Students
- **Ariella Boyd** PSRP Head Student

The quality of applications was exceptionally high, and all the students should be extremely proud of themselves – they were mature, articulate, strong champions for JCoSS who will be proud ambassadors for our school. Mazel tov to them all.

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

JCoSS is a very special school with very special staff. This is a photo from a non Jewish staff member of their tree outside their house during Channukah.





**15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



Yesterday Year 13 Politics students took Mr de Jong and Ms Taylor on an exciting trip to Parliament. They toured the Palace of Westminster, watched debates in both the Houses of Commons & Lords and were then welcomed by both Lords Pannick and Glasman for an hour of riveting Q&A. They then found a conveniently located Chanukah bush to pose in front of! Chag Chanukah Sameach / חג חנוכה שמח



**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

JCoSS were delighted to be invited to 10 Downing Street earlier this week for a Chanukah reception. It has been a wonderful and special Chanukah week at JCoSS and staff and students have really enjoyed celebrating the light in these dark times. 💜💜



**13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



We have been celebrating Channukah this week with candle lighting assemblies for all year groups. There have also been Channukah themed activities and games in the Heartspace all week, as well as live music each day. This special week celebrating Channukah as a community has brought some much needed light into the darkness.



**12<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Thank you so much to the JCoSS Parents Association (JPA) who have sponsored delicious Chanukah doughnuts for all staff and students - they have been appreciated by all!



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**JCoSS**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Last night we saw over 170 year 7 students attend the annual Year 7 Disco.

It was a great evening and everyone danced, had fun, ate pizza and used the magic Mirror photobooth.

A special thank you to Jake Marco who is the most amazing DJ, to Assare for the Magic Mirror, the Security and Site Teams, all the parent and friend volunteers, the JPA, and to the following staff who helped make the night a great success:

Mr Berman, Mrs Kaye, Mrs Herman, Ms Weston, Mr Salbstein, Mr Marco, Mr Lawrence, Miss Harrell, Mr Sawyer, Ms Hersko and finally a huge thank you Mrs McCombe for organising the night. 💜💜💜💛💛💛



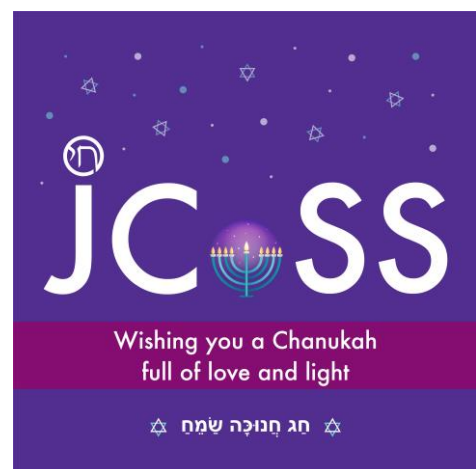
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



Yesterday, the JCoSS choir along with Miss Berg were invited to [Jewish Care](#) to perform and celebrate the first night of Channukah with Sam Beckman Day centre guests. It was a lovely afternoon filled with singing, dancing and joy. 💜💜🎵

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Wishing the whole JCoSS community a Chanukah Sameach. A special thank you to the JCoSS JPA who donated all of our doughnuts for staff and students 💜💜



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**6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



We are so proud of our Year 10 students who, after a rigorous selection process have been accepted onto the Alan Sennitt Upstanders Leadership Programme. The aim is to create a social action project in partnership with students from other faith schools in London. Yesterday, they visited Guru Nanak Sikh School for their first seminar and we are looking forward to hosting and visiting other schools later this year.

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

We are delighted to announce the relaunch of the JCoSS House system. We continue to use eminent Jewish scientists who have made a significant contribution to society as the House names. All faculties have been involved in creating a varied programme of inter-house competitions and we look forward to our students participating in them over the coming year. After a rigorous selection process, this important programme will be led by our newly appointed Y12 House Captains, pictured with their House Flag. They are:

Baer - Emily B  
Franklin - Edor A  
Noether - Millie B  
Rothschild - Ollie W  
Sagan - Dina L-B  
Winston - Noah D  
Yonath - Rocco B  
Zomer Penn - Maya R



**4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



Huge mazel tov to the students that represented JCoSS at the Maccabi girls table tennis tournament last week! We are proud to announce that JCoSS were overall team winners for Y7 and Y9! Also, Ella in Y10 'played up' and participated in the Y11 competition and won! Well done to all the students that took part 🏆🏆🏆



Year 7 - Kitty, Gracie and Ella

Year 8 - Lexi and Naama

Year 9 - Lily and Tilly

Year 10 - Grace, Gabi and Ella



**1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Year 10 Drama students had the amazing experience of 'Guys and Dolls' on Tuesday evening. The Year 10 Drama groups attended the immersive experience at the Bridge Theatre in central London. The students were watching from on the stage, as part of the crowd, in this wonderful, colourful production. The GCSE cohort had a lot to talk about afterwards, creatively, musically and dramatically. Thanks to the JCoSS Drama Department for making it happen. 🎭🎭



**30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



The Scholastic Book Fair has been at JCoSS all week! The Fair has been held in the Heart Space every break and lunchtime and students have really enjoyed browsing and purchasing new books. A percentage of sales will go towards new books for the LRC, so thank you to all that have bought books. Thank you also to our fantastic parent volunteers who have helped run the fair. There is one day left tomorrow for any students who still wish to come and have a look around. [#importanceofreading](#)

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Students in Year 7 and 8 participated in a robot workshop last week, provided by Engineering4Kids. Students worked in threes to build a robot - each one was named after an engineering hero. Next it was time to battle and robots were getting flipped out of the arena! Students worked impressively quickly to fix them and return for more. Then students coded the robot using scratch based code, developing a crucial skill for many STEM-related careers. As a result, the robots automatically made their way across a variety of mazes which were laid out on the floor. Mathematical skills at play here include estimation, measurement and application of angles. After students demonstrated their code in action, they regained the controllers to take on opposing teams in a game of robot football. It was great to see such enthusiasm, problem-solving skills and teamwork amongst the students! 🤖🤖🤖



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JCoSS

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



With thanks to the JCoSS Parents Association, every student in Year 7 has now received a free book of their choice! This has been an annual event for many years now and we are so grateful to the JPA for their donation to this initiative and to the JCoSS LRC staff who are instrumental in the organisation. Enjoy reading your books Year 7! 😊😊 [#importanceofreading](#)

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Earlier this week, our talented student Milly Bryk had her playwright's debut performance at JCoSS! Milly, now in Year 12, wrote 'On Track?' when she was in Year 11 for The National Theatre New Views Playwriting competition. After a successful workshop of the play, the drama department decided to support Milly in producing and directing her play with the Year 12 Drama A Level group. The Year 12 performers, plus one talented Year 11 student, made a stunning job of their performance - an evening rich with comedy, reflection and satire. 💜💜💜💜



**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**



Mazeltov to our fantastic PSRP students and their friends who raised money for charity in a bake sale in the PSRP today. The students worked hard to make the cakes in their DT lessons and staff and students came to buy them during break time and lunchtime. Well done to them all! 💜💜💜💜

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

JCoSS GCSE Music Groups in Year 10 and 11 were lucky enough to attend the Youth Prom last week. The young JCoSS Musicians travelled to the Royal Albert Hall to watch a selection of youth talent, in an array of different musical genres. The group had a fabulous time watching the show, which was performed by talented young musicians from across the UK.





**21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

JCoSS staff, students and alumni joined over 6,000 people on Sunday in central London to proudly recognise and honour the Jewish servicemen and women from the British Armed Forces at the annual AJEX parade.

[#standingtogether](#) [#remembrance](#)  
[#neverforgotten](#)



**20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



This weekend, Year 7 were whisked away to Kent for a fun filled Shabbaton where students celebrated Shabbat as a JCoSS community. They ate, sang and took part in Shabbat themed activities in a beautiful setting. Thank you to the IJE team and wonderful support staff for making the weekend happen! We can't wait for next year! [#shabbat](#) [#shabbaton](#)

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Last week Year 12 and 13 A Level Drama groups had the privilege of seeing the incredible 'Dear England' production staged by the National Theatre at the Prince Edward Theatre in Soho. If you haven't seen it - the CEA faculty highly recommend this production! It was thrilling, emotional and beautifully staged and will help our A Level students immensely. Another wonderful CEA JCoSS Trip!



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**16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



Thank you to our wonderful Year 7 students who have been participating in the 5 week lunchtime volunteering programme with Norwood. Students have been giving up their time to make Channukah decorations for the Norwood Channukah party and for the Norwood residents. A brilliant effort from our Y7 Mensches 💜💜💜 [@norwoodcharity](https://www.norwoodcharity.org.uk/)

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Performance in Education were at JCoSS last week delivering 'Streetwise' - a live pedestrian safety show to our Year 7 cohort. Our students enjoyed the highly engaging road safety education, which was delivered in a fun and theatrical way, followed by an interactive workshop exploring issues surrounding pedestrian safety.



**14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



We were celebrating Rosh Chodesh Kislev today as a whole school community, KS4 heard from Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism during their morning assembly. KS3 attended various informal sessions run by youth movements and organisations from the community, and everyone was treated to our ever popular moon shaped biscuits! We look forward to celebrating Channukah in a few weeks' time, a symbol of peace and light. Chodesh Tov from everyone at JCoSS.

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

As the war in Israel continues, JCoSS continues to keep in our minds and hearts the 239 hostages who were taken into captivity on 7th October by Hamas Terrorists. The empty chair in the Heartspace stands as a powerful reminder of their absence. Each day, we will be displaying the name and photograph of a hostage with hope that they will be returned home safely soon.



10<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Mazal Tov to our incredible Year 13 students who completed the first ever Jewish Women's Aid School Ambassador Programme.

We marked the achievements of the graduates in a Celebratory Tea with Dr Lee and JWA's interim CEO Monica Tuohy. Earlier in the summer term these students planned and delivered Healthy Relationships sessions to all Year 7 students and have worked hard to promote healthy relationships and consent within the JCoSS school community. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and commitment. Well done to all! [@jewishwomensaid](https://www.jewishwomensaid.org.uk/) [Jewish Women's Aid](https://www.jewishwomensaid.org.uk/)

Details will be available shortly to any current Year 12 students wishing to be part of this programme for 2024.

9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Our JCoSS Head Student team were delighted to host their Head Student counterparts from JFS, Yavneh and Immanuel yesterday. All four schools came together to share best practice and discuss ways to work together on future collaborative projects. They also discussed a range of topics, including the importance of student voice and the school responses to the situation in Israel. The afternoon was a huge success and it was a wonderful example of our community coming together. We are so proud of all of these young people who are a credit to their schools. 💜💜💜



8<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Yesterday, 40 Year 8 students visited Bletchley Park for a day of maths exploration. During this educational visit, students explored mathematical encryption and encoding techniques that have been used throughout history, tackling complex processes to solve a code-breaking challenge. The workshop included a unique opportunity to see a genuine Enigma machine and be introduced to its design and role in World War Two. Staff and students had a thoroughly great day! [#mathsisfun](https://www.mathsisfun.com/) [#importanceofmaths](https://www.mathsisfun.com/)

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**7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Mazel tov to our October Mensches of the Month, chosen by their Heads of Year for being great JCoSS mensches! This is a new opportunity this year for students to be rewarded and we look forward to welcoming even more mensches in the coming months. 💜💜



**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**



Thank you to the Jnetics team and volunteers who visited JCoSS earlier this week to screen over 190 JCoSS 6th form students for 47 recessive Jewish genetic disorders. Jnetics is a charity dedicated to improving the education and prevention of Jewish genetic disorders and we are very grateful for their visit to JCoSS. [Jnetics @jneticsuk](https://www.jneticsuk.org/)

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

Today, Year 12 students were invited to an Oxbridge workshop where we were privileged to welcome Dr Ana Hastoy, an Admissions Officer from Oxford University. The workshop was part of the JCoSS Scholars Programme, an internal programme which helps our students prepare for the most competitive University courses.

Dr Hastoy explained to our students the Oxford admissions process and they were able to ask her questions. We are very grateful to her for taking the time to visit JCoSS and well done to our students for asking interesting and excellent questions.



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