

Social media

Spring Round-up

Dear JCoSS Parents,

As we approach the end of what has been an exceptionally long Spring Term, I would like to reflect upon the successes and triumphs which we have celebrated as a school community during these last weeks. Despite the challenges presented by the unusual timing of Easter and Pesach this year, our staff and students have shown remarkable resilience, dedication and enthusiasm for learning. Throughout the term, we have celebrated numerous milestones, achievements and events that have enriched the fabric of our school community. From academic achievements to artistic endeavours, from sporting triumphs to community outreach initiatives, each day at JCoSS has been filled with opportunities for growth, discovery, and celebration.

Our students have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in all aspects of their education, embracing challenges with determination and a thirst for knowledge. Students have been extending their Maths skills through participating in the national Maths Challenge Competition and enjoying a fantastic 'Numbers Day', where Maths related puzzles and problems had to be solved in creative and curious ways! JCoSS celebrated World Book Day in style by welcoming authors Lisa Williamson and Tia Fisher into school who both ran fantastic sessions with our students. Students have grasped amazing opportunities in Sport and Art throughout this term – we are especially proud of our KS3 students who performed magnificently at the Barnet Dance Festival in March, superbly guided by our wonderful PE teacher Miss Harrell. And a shout must go to our Year 9 Portrait Artists who once again produced some stunning work, as judged by Sam Richards of Sky Arts TV Portrait Artist of the Year.

We have been so fortunate to welcome many JCoSS Grandparents into our school for two wonderful Grandparents Afternoons – these were joyous times and it was clear that students and Grandparents loved spending time together in our beautiful school. We have marked Neurodiversity Week, celebrated the relaunch of 'Kol' our Student Voice programme and are proud to congratulate many individual JCoSS students on their incredible achievements. The Spring Concert last Thursday went off with a bang with inspirational performances across all year groups. Miss Berg and her Music Team excelled themselves and it was a fantastic way to draw this term to a close. It has been a busy term, but I must say Purim was a beacon of happiness and joy for our school community. Once again, Ms Gold enriched our Purim experience with another brilliant JCoSS Purim Video, so an enormous thanks to her for all the time and dedication which went into producing what is arguably the highlight of the JCoSS year! Thinking about making our world a 'Better Place' set the tone for our Purim celebrations and in true JCoSS style the day was genuinely special and memorable. Huge thanks go to Mrs Barth and the entire IJE and JE Teams, and indeed every member of staff for making the day superb from start to end.

As we approach the upcoming holiday, we are reminded that Pesach is a significant time in the Jewish calendar – it is a time of reflection, remembrance and renewal. Whether we gather with family and friends for a traditional Seder, engage in acts of charity and social justice, or simply take time for quiet reflection and gratitude, Pesach offers us an opportunity to connect with our heritage, our values and our community in meaningful ways. As we continue to live through such challenging and worrying times, I hope this Pesach will inspire us all to continue striving for a better, more peaceful world.

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff, teaching and support, for their incredible work this term, for their dedication to providing the very best outcomes and opportunities that they can for our young people. I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Our JCoSS community is extremely special and we are all incredibly lucky to be part of it.

Wishing you a wonderful break and a Chag Pesach Sameach!

Warm regards

Dr Melanie Lee

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 JCoSS

19th April 2024



What an incredible morning we have had celebrating our Y13 students as they move to pastures new and enter the University of Life. The resilience and determination they have shown both inside and outside of the classroom has been amazing. They are simply a brilliant cohort and we all wish them every success in their future endeavours.

With immense thanks to all of those students who helped arrange this morning's events, the video, leavers book, those in the student band, those who hosted the event- and to everyone else who cried, laughed and participated. Thank you for everything you have done for us. Good luck in your exams.

18th April 2024

It was an emotional farewell to the Class of 2024 this morning 💜. Our Year 11 cohort celebrated their final day in style today with a special Leavers' Assembly, student video, musical performances and shirt signing. The morning was full of tears and laughter as we celebrated this incredible cohort who had just joined Year 7 when the pandemic started. They have blown us away with their resilience, kindness and menschlichkeit. We wish them all the best of luck for their upcoming GCSE exams 💜💜💜💜



16th April 2024



We are running an exciting free cycle training this week for a group of Year 7 students. The Bikeability Level 3 course delivers 8 hours of training to each student over four days. The course will provide the children with experience of cycling safely and responsibly, whilst also gaining confidence, independence and a sense of wellbeing. As we continue to promote active travel within our community, the Cycle Confident instructors are teaching the children to use cycle infrastructure and multi lane roads, pass queuing traffic and how to use junctions controlled by traffic lights in a safe and responsible manner.

15th April 2024

Creative Expressive Arts have been very busy over the Spring Term! Drama Department trips have been to watch Metamorphosis (Year 12 & 13 Drama), Till the Stars Come Down at the National Theatre (Year 11 Drama) and Woman in Black (Year 11 Drama) to prepare for the live theatre section of the upcoming GCSE exam. Good Luck to all the Year 13 & Year 11 students with their upcoming study leave. Thanks to all of the CEA teachers for their hard work on these trips - the students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the theatre. 🎭🎭💜💜💜



11th April 2024



The amazing Spring Concert went off with a bang last night with performances across all year groups. It was an incredible array of musical talent - from Jazz Band to Choir, Tuned Percussion to Samba and so much more. A huge congratulations to all of the JCoSS musicians who took part. With thanks to the Music Department teachers as well as some of our wonderful peripatetic teachers, who worked extremely hard to provide support and preparation throughout the Spring Term. It was a resounding success! Another proud JCoSS moment & a great way to celebrate the (almost) end to this long Spring Term! 💜



10th April 2024

Students from Y7-10 met this week for the relaunch of the new student voice programme, named student KOL (the Hebrew word for voice). They were expertly trained by our Head student team to think about how best to actively engage with students in their form group to collect their voices on a range of topics. They discussed how to actively listen and engage with their peers and think about issues that affect them. The whole school will be discussing issues in form time this Friday and we will all meet to discuss topics and ideas on the first day back after Pesach holidays. We really look forward to hearing student views on a range of topics and implementing changes to make our school even better.



9th April 2024



Chodesh Tov from JCoSS. Today we celebrated Rosh Chodesh Nissan with lively and informative sessions. We were joined by Israeli scouts, Norwood Myisrael Jewish Care @jbdcharity and Habonim. KS3 enjoyed all of the informal sessions, and we look forward to welcoming more organisations next year!

8th April 2024

Mazel tov to the students who were chosen to be Mensch of the Month for March. Students were nominated from each year group by their Head of Year and were rewarded with a tea with Dr Lee and Mr de Jong. Well done to everyone 🍌🍌💜💜



4th April 2024



Earlier this term 22 of JCoSS' Year 13 physicists and staff from the Physics department went for a 2 night whistle stop tour to Geneva in Switzerland to attend CERN - Europe's Centre for Nuclear and Particle Physics Research.

This was a truly inspiring and potentially life-changing trip and was made even more incredible by our fantastic students and their drive for knowledge about our universe. We wish them the best of luck in their A-levels and beyond!

3rd April 2024

Mazel tov to the winners of our Bookbuzz front cover competition! Each Year 7 form was asked to design an original front cover for the Bookbuzz book that they had received as a gift from the JPA. There were some brilliant entries from our talented Year 7s, and it was tough for the LRC to select the best. One winner was picked from each English class, and their prizes – books that the students had chosen – were given out during Assembly. Now we are keeping our fingers crossed for the overall winner, who has been entered into the national Bookbuzz competition to compete against schools all around the country!



2nd April 2024



We are so proud of Jake in Y13 who was invited to attend the Sports Journalism Awards last week along with the top sports broadcasters in the UK. He was selected as a rising star in sports journalism, along with a small number of other young aspiring journalists from across the country. Jake has written many football articles as well as commentating. A huge mazeltov to Jake! 🥳🥳🥳🥳🥳🥳

28th March 2024

Winners of our annual Classics Week Myth competition enjoyed a Roman object handling workshop with Chloe Lewis from Artefacts in Action. From authentic silver coins depicting Alexander the Great, to oil lamps, theatrical masks, wax tablets and the xylospongium - (luckily a clean replica of one) – students were able to handle and investigate them all and left with a load more knowledge – and questions – about how the Romans thought and lived.



27th March 2024

Mazel tov to Jesse in Year 9 who represented, JCoSS and Middlesex in the National Schools Cross Country Championship. Jesse qualified through District and Regional rounds to get a place in these Championships where 45 different counties were represented! We are so proud that Jesse came 48th in the whole of England! Well done!! 🍌🍌🍌



26th March 2024



Students in Y9 took part in a join art/IJE project called 'In our footsteps' in conjunction with Holocaust charity, Learning from the Righteous. Students replicated shoes created by artist Jenny Stolzenberg, who developed clay shoes in memory of her father, a Holocaust survivor. The shoes return a sense of identity to the victims of the Holocaust. Jenny was inspired by the shoes abandoned from the victims of Auschwitz, and her inspiration was to rescue the anonymity of the shoes to create these amazing pieces of art.

25th March 2024

A huge Mazeltov to Eleanor in Yr 8 who has been elected as a Barnet Youth Ambassador!! 🍌🍌🍌🍌

The Barnet Youth Ambassadors scheme elects two Youth Ambassadors who will be involved in council decision-making at local level including representing the views of young people across the borough for two years. Eleanor is pictured with Isaac Reuben, a JCoSS alumnus, who was a Member of Youth Parliament and currently studies Politics at the University of Leeds. He visited JCoSS to encourage and support applications for both Youth Ambassadors and members of Youth Parliament. Thank you Isaac for coming back to JCoSS and for your support!



25th March 2024



JCoSS A Level Politics students were invited to a Student Conference at Westminster last week. The conference was recorded to make an episode of 'The Rest is Politics' starring Rory Stewart and Alistair Campbell. Speakers also included Wes Streeting MP, Lord Dubs, Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE PC, Richard Tice, Ed Vaizey, Sarah Olney MP, Zack Polanski AM and Sir Jacob Rees Mogg MP. Students relished the opportunity to listen to a range of politicians speak on issues affecting British Politics today. Many were enthusiastic to ask to pose questions - Elan and Adam in Year 12 had their questions answered live at the conference, Maddie (Year 12) and Theo (Year 13) will have theirs answered in a later episode of 'The Rest is Politics'. Well done to them all 🍌🍌🍌

22nd March 2024

We have had an amazing day celebrating Purim today! We celebrated in style with live music, drumming workshops, Spy Games, Crystal maze, musical Bingo and we have even had a visit from a travelling circus! There has also been the much anticipated return of the JCoSS Purim Talent show! Forms sent each other spectacular Mishloach Manot, we had a special interactive Megillah reading, and of course, the legendary staff Purim video! Purim Sameach from everyone at JCoSS!



21st March 2024



It was Grandparents Day again yesterday and this time we were delighted to welcome our Year 7 Grandparents to JCoSS! It was a truly wonderful afternoon, filled with music, speeches and of course tea and cake! It was so lovely to meet them all and everyone left with huge smiles 💜💜

20th March 2024

This week we were fortunate to host a group of students from the Gaza envelope area. Six teenagers aged 15-18, who all live in villages around the Gaza strip (Mefalsim, Netiv Ha'Asara, Kfar Aza, Erez, and Bror Hayil), accompanied by 2 teachers, met with some of our Ivrit GCSE and A-Level students. The visitors introduced us to life in their area before 7/10. They also gave personal accounts of their experiences on the day of the attack, and provided an insight into their life since then, as evacuees.

At the end of the session the Israelis gave our students yellow ribbon pins, bracelets and dog-tags, as part of the campaign to bring all the hostages home now.

We were all mesmerised by the visitors' courage and resilience and were grateful for their candidness. After the session the visitors were treated to a lunch at the JCoSS canteen, during which they were approached by students from all year groups who wanted a chance to talk to them. Participants on both sides were left wanting the session to be longer. 💜💜💜



19th March 2024



This week we are Celebrating Neurodiversity week. Norwood were back for their popular lunchtime volunteering club making Purim decorations for all the people with learning disabilities and Autism who they support. Well done to all students who participated 🍌💜🍌💜 Norwood
[@norwoodcharity](https://www.norwoodcharity.org.uk/)

18th March 2024

We are so proud of our Year 13 students Noa and Sagi for addressing 200 guests at the Jewish Women's Aid Dinner last week, speaking about the JWA School Ambassadors Programme, which was piloted at JCoSS last academic year. Together with four other students, they attended a series of lunchtime workshops with JWA about embedding a consent culture across the school, and delivered their own Healthy Relationships & Consent session to the whole of Year 7. Congratulations to Noa and Sagi, and all the programme graduates, and good luck to all the Year 12s on the programme this year! 💜💜💜💜💜 photo credit: Amanda Ward Photography



14th March 2024



We were thrilled to hold Grandparents' Afternoon yesterday to welcome our wonderful and supportive JCoSS Grandparents from Year 11 and 12. Grandparents were given a lovely afternoon of speeches, music from our students, tea and cake, and then once lessons were over their grandchildren came to meet them and take them for a tour around the school. We all had a great time and it was wonderful to meet them and show them our school 💜💜. Next week we are doing it all again for Y7 Grandparents! - and we are looking forward to meeting them all then 💜💜💜

13th March 2024

This week is DofE Bronze practice expeditions which 80% of Year 9 are participating in. Yesterday's expedition was a bit of a wash out to say the least!! Well done Year 9 for your determination and tenacity! – and good luck to those doing it later this week! 🍌🍌🍌



12th March 2024



We are so proud of our students who performed last week at the Barnet Dance Festival. Students from Year 7, 8, 9 performed a dance titled "Beggin" and a duo from Y10 performed a dance to 'Everybody levitating'. They were all absolutely amazing and did JCoSS proud! 🍌🍌🍌💜💜💜

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7th March 2024

Happy World Book Day everyone!

We have been thrilled to welcome two authors to JCoSS this week to celebrate World Book Day. The author Lisa Williamson gave a fantastic talk to Year 7 on Monday about her latest book, 'Forever Friends'. She also ran excellent creative writing workshops with students from Y7, Y8, and Y9. Today we welcomed the author Tia Fisher for a fascinating talk to Year 8 and Year 9 about her journey as an author and her prize nominated book 'Crossing the Line'. Tia also ran a creative writing workshop with Y8 and Y9 students. At lunchtime the LRC & English department staff ran a 'Big Book Giveaway' event. We have given out over three hundred books this week to students. 💜💜😊😊



6th March 2024



Year 9 students took part in our Portrait Artist of the Year competition. Sam Richards, executive producer of the Sky Arts TV series kindly came to JCoSS to judge and hand out prizes. Mazeltov to all our worthy winners and to Year 9 for producing some fantastic work 🍀🍀🍀

5th March 2024

This week, JCoSS in partnership with Jewish Heritage Tours have taken a group of JCoSS parents, friends and relatives on an informative and powerful trip to Poland. They discovered the rich Jewish heritage of Krakow pre Nazi German occupation and visited both Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. Watch this space for more information about trips like this one in the future.



4th March 2024



We are delighted to announce that a huge number of students - 57 to be exact - in Y9, Y10 and Y11 scored a bronze, silver or gold certificate for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a national challenge that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. Only a small percentage of students nationally qualify for a certificate, so an enormous well done JCoSS students!



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JCoSS

1st March 2024

Yesterday, Y13 student Gabriella met Prince William as part of her role as Ambassador for the Holocaust Education Trust to discuss the current rise in antisemitism. His visit was featured on national news and media, where he met students, community leaders and a Holocaust survivor. We are so proud of the vitally important work Gabriella does through HET and as an exemplary ambassador to our school. Mazel Tov Gabriella 💜



29th February 2024



Dr Lee was honoured to represent JCoSS last night and give the Welcome Speech at the Annual CST Dinner. She spoke to over 1200 guests, along with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who gave the Key Note Speech. We are extremely proud to work with CST and are enormously grateful to them for all they do to protect our school and the entire Jewish Community.

27th February 2024

Norwood were back at JCoSS today for volunteering club at lunchtime. Our Y7 menches are working towards their Yoni Jesner award, and were making Purim themed crafts for the Norwood Purim party later this month. A huge thank you to Norwood for coming! 💜😊💜 [@norwoodcharity](https://www.instagram.com/norwoodcharity)



26th February 2024



As we welcome JCoSS staff and students back to a new Spring term, it is wonderful and fitting to see this sapling that was planted at the front of our school in 2022 by the Association of Jewish Refugees now in full bloom 💜💜💜. Have a great term JCoSS 💜💜💜

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