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JCoSS

Jewish
Community
Secondary
School

JCoSS

Prospectus



NORWOOD
Change a life



UJIA
The heart of Jewishlife

רבים
RAVSAK
Jewish Community Day School Network

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



Welcome

It is with great pride that I introduce you to JCoSS (the Jewish Community Secondary School) – the UK’s only inclusive, cross-communal Jewish secondary school. It has been my pleasure to oversee the building and opening of this magnificent new school with its state-of-the-art facilities and highly qualified and skilled staff.

Choosing a secondary school with your child is one of the most important decisions that a family will make. It is my hope that the passion and vision for JCoSS, which we present in this prospectus, will excite you as much as it does us. I am sure you will agree with me that JCoSS is one of the foremost schools in the country.



Gerald Ronson,
JCoSS President

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Headteacher's message

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We each bring to JCoSS our own heritage, beliefs, practices and abilities – each is equally valued and each is helped to flourish.



Shalom
JCoSS is the UK's only state cross-communal Jewish secondary school – inclusive and outward-looking, challenging and innovative, we embrace excellence in all that we do.

We teach, with equivalence, the full range of Jewish beliefs, practices and values of our community. We work with each one of our students – whatever their background or upbringing – so that, over time, they can take their place in the Jewish and wider communities as proud, self-confident ambassadors for Judaism and well-rounded, positive individuals. Students will leave JCoSS as articulate, informed and tolerant young adults who are as comfortable and confident in the lecture theatre as they are in the synagogue.

JCoSS is founded on the core principle of academic excellence. We have high expectations of standards of work and behaviour. Our wide-ranging formal and informal curriculum has been designed to challenge students to take ever greater control of their learning and life choices. We take the time to understand how each child will best learn and tailor our teaching to their individual needs.

Our principal aim is to encourage individuality and excellence within a broad-based Jewish context. Our teachers work with parents to develop their child's full potential.

שלום
Having achieved the rare accolade of Science Specialist Status as a new school, we are especially excited about the enrichment opportunities that our science specialism will bring throughout the curriculum.

Accelerated setting in half of the curriculum ensures that all JCoSS students are supported and challenged to achieve their potential. Information from primary schools informs initial sets and all students are tested in their first few weeks at JCoSS to ensure they are in learning groups that stretch and challenge them.

Our learning environment is outstanding: unrivalled facilities in a purpose built, state-of-the-art building, on the edge of the greenbelt. This is complemented by state-of-the-art technology to enable parents to support their child's education online, and ensure that our students develop the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.

JCoSS is a high-achieving school with a uniquely inclusive, Jewish ethos. Our mission is to excite, to inspire, to drive and to challenge.

I look forward to welcoming you to JCoSS.

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner
MBA, BA (Hons),
Cert.Ed, NPQH

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turning the concept of a Jewish school

pe'enu shtu uo

As a forward-looking and welcoming Jewish school, we are committed to providing the most stimulating and wide-ranging learning environment.

JCoSS is a school for the whole Jewish community – Orthodox and Progressive, religious and secular. Our belief in inclusion shines through everything we do and we extend the choice of a Jewish education to Jewish children throughout our community.

Committed to excellence

We expect first and foremost to be judged on the quality of the education we provide. Our expert educators promote excellence by challenging and stretching the most gifted, and by working with all students and parents to ensure that every child follows a curriculum that enables them to achieve their own unique potential.

Within the Pears Special Resource Provision we are also proud to work in partnership with the Jewish charity Norwood to provide outstanding support to enable students on the autistic spectrum to achieve their full potential.

Unparalleled choice

The curriculum and our Jewish Education programme, both inside and out of the classroom, encourage all students to make informed choices about the lives they wish to lead. We invite students to question, analyse and challenge each other and their learning.

True inclusion

Our commitment is to ensure that all families feel included regardless of how they choose to practise their Judaism.

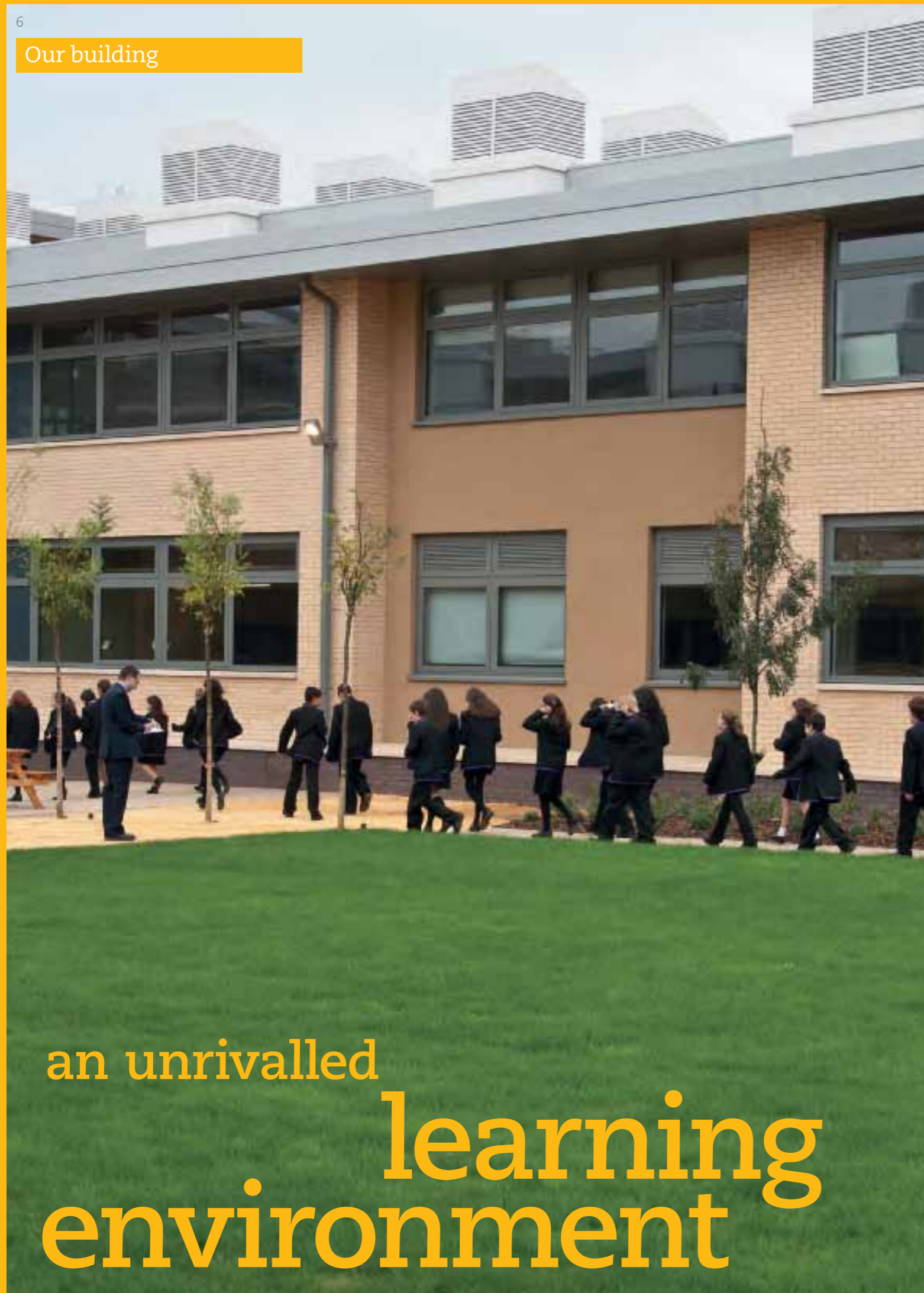
All food at JCoSS is kosher and we offer a range of prayer options. We close in time for Shabbat and festivals, while offering optional, non curriculum-based activities on the second days of Shavuot and Sukkot.

Our aim is to nurture all the students in our care so that they leave us as responsible and communally active young adults. Not only are they encouraged to achieve their academic potential, but they also develop a love for learning and a sense of identity which encompasses the very best of Jewish and British values and heritage.

a commitment to
excellence

unparalleled
choice

and true
inclusion



an unrivalled
learning
environment



From its breathtaking open spaces to its state-of-the-art study areas, our school offers an unrivalled learning environment.

No one walking into JCoSS could fail to be inspired.

Our buildings are not simply examples of showcase architecture. This is a school that has been designed with a soul. No expense has been spared to create a stimulating space that delivers a truly outstanding learning environment for all of our students.

ICT, Technology and Science

Our science laboratories and technology provision are unparalleled. The entire school has been planned to make creative use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with generous provision of desktops, laptops and whiteboards inside and outside the classroom. All students have extensive access to ICT and parents can keep in close touch with their child's progress at any moment – and in real-time – through our virtual learning environment.

Creative arts

The creative arts are equally well-served with extensive facilities including a multitude of music practice rooms, sprung-floor dance and gym facilities, a recording studio, technology spaces and room for informal education.

Communal spaces

Our Synagogue and Sukkah, together with our kosher kitchen, underpin JCoSS's Jewish ethos and provide a focus for Jewish learning which is both inspiring and respectful. Our central 'Heart Space' is light and airy and welcoming to all. In time it will house an all-day café, which will help to make the school the real heart of the community.

Sports facilities and outside learning

Set on the edge of the greenbelt, our grounds include bespoke areas for outside learning that are literally a breath of fresh air. Our impressive facilities include an outdoor classroom, allotment and outside sports areas. Indoors, our large sports hall, gym and multi-purpose hall offer varied opportunities for an active and exciting curriculum.

core curriculum

First and foremost, JCoSS will provide an outstanding education – at every level of ability and potential.

Key Stage 3: The foundations

All students follow the full range of National Curriculum subjects, and setting in many subjects from Year 7 ensures stretch and challenge for all. Our accelerated Key Stage 3 creates a brisk pace for the more able, and rigorous, personalised target-setting gives every student goals for which they can aim. Our goal is to support all students to become outstanding learners, equipped for a fast-changing world. All lessons develop learning skills as well as building knowledge and understanding.

The curriculum covers the following subjects: Maths, English, Science, Humanities, Art & Design Technology, Music & Drama, French, Physical Education (PE) and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). It also covers Jewish Education and Modern Hebrew, and Enrichment. In Year 7 we also run a "Learn to Learn" course, which teaches children how to learn and encourages resilience and independent learning. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is taught throughout the curriculum.

Key Stage 4: GCSE

GCSE courses begin in Year 9 or Year 10, depending on ability and need. All students study English, Science, Maths, Jewish Education, ICT, PE and PSHCE. Some will study the 3 sciences separately, while others may take up new subjects such as an additional foreign language, Business Studies, or vocational options. More able students may take some GCSE exams at the end of Year 10 and embark on AS Level in Year 11.

Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form): A Levels or vocational qualifications

The sixth form opens in 2012 with a range of AS and A Level courses. Exciting vocational options will be developed for future years, alongside traditional academic courses. Details and specialist advice will be available in good time, to ensure the right choices are made.

Jewish curriculum

We are passionate about creating an inspiring and inclusive Jewish educational journey for all our students and families.

JCoSS is committed to educating students as literate British Jewish citizens who have a substantial knowledge and skills base that will inform their Jewish identities and will secure their commitment to a life-long Jewish journey.

There is a strong emphasis on skills acquisition, to ensure that a JCoSS student is fully equipped to continue their Jewish journey far beyond the school gates.

Our approach

In true rabbinic tradition, we encourage questions as well as providing answers. JCoSS students are knowledgeable, analytical, articulate, and passionate about Judaism. They celebrate their Jewish identity and are inspired to make lasting contributions to the Jewish community and the world at large.

Mutual respect

Our diverse and inclusive community creates an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students learn about the beliefs and practices of all sections of the Jewish community. We support an appreciation of a shared tradition, dedication to social justice and strong ethics. Students explore their own personal relationships with God, Jewish history, Israel and the Jewish people. Our aim is to strengthen students' Jewish identities and deepen their commitment to clal yisrael (the Jewish People).

Jewish experiences throughout JCoSS

Jewish experiences and learning are also integrated throughout the whole curriculum. School life is enriched with informal learning and a variety of opportunities to explore Judaism: Tefilah (prayer); rituals; Shabbat and Chagim (festivals) celebrations. We have a strong commitment to the principles of Tikun Olam (world repair) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving kindness).



nurturing well rounded children



The formal curriculum is just the beginning of the JCoSS educational experience. In addition to before-school and after-school activities, every week there is a one-hour curriculum enrichment slot. In this timetabled slot, students choose from a range of activities including sports, performance, the school magazine and a variety of clubs to suit the interests of students and staff. During this time we also offer 'catch up' classes in Hebrew, literacy and numeracy for anyone needing extra support.

Our key areas of enrichment include:

Drama

Students interested in drama beyond the formal curriculum are invited to audition for annual productions, as well as to participate in a variety of drama clubs.

Dance

Dance is an important part of the JCoSS experience and we offer opportunities for anyone who wants to take their interest further in our enrichment programme. Our annual productions are always selected to feature dance.

Music

Lessons are available from visiting teachers on the full range of orchestral instruments, guitar, drums, piano and singing. This specialist input helps students to form their own instrumental and vocal groups.

Each year we combine the talents of the music, drama and dance departments into musical events.

Sports

Our superb facilities include all-weather pitches, a sports hall, sprung-floor dance and gym facilities, a multi-gym and playing fields. All students are introduced to a range of sporting activities in the formal curriculum, and these will be available for further practice in extra-curricular activities. We also participate in a range of competitive sports leagues and games against local schools.

Cultural activities and trips

Home and overseas excursions provide valuable educational experiences for all our students. Our range of trips includes evening visits to theatre and cultural events as well as daytime outings to places of historical, geographical, scientific or business interest. Visits to Israel will be organised from Year 9.

Informal education and social action

Thanks to the generous support of the Pears Foundation and the Bridging Trust, JCoSS provides an innovative social action programme to encourage our students to engage with and work to improve the lives of the Jewish, British and global community beyond the school gate.



All students are encouraged to gain experiences outside the classroom. We give them opportunities to delve deeply into a subject or pursue an activity to a high level.

Induction

We begin the process of transition by visiting students at their primary school during the summer term before they join us. Later we invite them to visit JCoSS for an induction day to meet the headteacher, their *mechanech* (form tutor) and staff as well as the other students in their tutorial group. This introductory meeting helps to allay any anxieties that they may have. During their first few days in school, our induction programme eases them into new ways of working and familiarises them with our facilities. Early in the term, parents or carers meet their form tutor to discuss how their children are settling in.

Organisation and pastoral care

JCoSS will remain a small school in its early years. We divide the six forms of entry into seven mixed ability tutorial groups. A Learning Co-ordinator who leads students, together with the form tutor, is normally the first point of contact for parents or carers.

For some subjects, students are taught in their tutorial group. For others, they are taught in sets arranged according to academic ability, prior learning and baseline testing. All lessons are tailored to students' learning needs in order to ensure the right balance of acceleration for the more able and support where it is needed.

Parental partnership

The core of our ethos is parental partnership. Only by working together with you can we achieve the excellence for which we strive. A Home-School Agreement is established in Year 7, which lays out the high expectations of behaviour, attendance and punctuality that we, and you, expect. With your support, the use of our interactive ICT system and regular face-to-face meetings we can ensure that our partnership with you is both meaningful and successful.

Monitoring and tracking progress

The progress of all students is closely monitored by a system of assessments, examinations, reports and consultations. Students are set targets based on prior attainment and we compare their current achievement with their targets – intervening where progress is not as it should be. You can also log on to our Managed Learning Environment, accessible via the main school website, to check and support your child's progress.

Class sizes

Our classes are kept as small as possible. This gives teachers and form tutors the time to look after all of your child's academic, welfare and social needs, under the direction of a Learning Co-ordinator.

“The core of our ethos is Parental Partnership. Only by working together can we achieve the excellence we strive for.”

Behaviour for learning

We have high expectations of behaviour and our moral code is rooted in Jewish values of mutual respect and hard work. The basis of our behaviour management is a positive emphasis on rewards for success and moral decisions. We do however reserve the right to take action to protect our learning environment should behaviour not meet our expectations. We operate a zero tolerance policy to bullying; our motto is “Tell, Tell, Tell!” Allegations of bullying are taken extremely seriously. They will be investigated sensitively and discreetly by our specialist team and, where appropriate, action will be taken.

Attendance and punctuality

We believe good attendance and punctuality promote achievement. Parents must let us know as soon as possible if their child is absent. Attendance is checked regularly and we do not authorise holidays during term time. Support of parents or carers to ensure good attendance and punctuality is absolutely vital.

looking after
our children's wellbeing



Fundamental to our inclusive values is the student voice. Our students are our most valuable asset. We involve them in as many aspects of the school as possible.

Student voice

In our early years, in particular, our students have a unique opportunity to shape their school through our School Council. This covers all aspects of how the school is run and helps us to guide our provision and to personalise it to their needs.

Home Learning

Home Learning not only extends and accelerates learning, it also develops essential independent study skills. All students have a Home Learning timetable and a link book to ensure that their tasks are manageable.

Parental voice

JCoSS encourages parental involvement in all aspects of school life. As we grow, our 'Heart Space' will offer parents somewhere to have coffee and use our ICT facilities. Parental support for the Learning Resource Centre and extra-curricular activities is always appreciated.

Our sophisticated Managed Learning Environment helps us to operate as a true collaborative family. Regular meetings and academic reviews give information about the school and advice on supporting your child. Information evenings help you to understand the curriculum and advise your child on GCSE options.

We are proud to be supported by an enthusiastic Governing Body and Board of Trustees. We also look to the JCoSS Parents' Association (JPA) to support the ongoing development of the school via fundraising and events.

Able, gifted and talented

Able, gifted and talented (AGT) children are identified both through our Year 6 induction programme and throughout a student's time at JCoSS. In addition to our accelerated setting from Year 7 upwards, we ensure that students are encouraged in all walks of life, nurturing individual passions and gifts and building the whole person. A named member of staff directs provision for AGT students, and all teachers are aware of their particular learning needs, working hard to extend learning wherever appropriate.

Learning support

The Learning Support Department, under the direction of the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) works with students with special education needs to fulfil their potential. Screening, monitoring and supporting students, as well as working in collaboration with curriculum areas, ensures a school-wide approach. We are a 'dyslexia friendly school' and all staff are mindful of the need to enrich the education of children with dyslexia so that it does not have a negative impact on achievement.

Pears Special Resource Provision (PSRP)

This is a seven place (per year) provision for students with an autistic spectrum condition who have the potential to join in mainstream facilities for part of their timetable. This provision is headed by a Director and has been developed by Jewish learning disabilities charity Norwood. It is a unique service which provides specialist facilities for its students, alongside those of the mainstream school. The school's Governing Body includes three governors whose special interest is in the PSRP.

"JCoSS encourages parental involvement in all aspects of school life."

developing the potential of each child

From their very first day, your child enters a warm family environment where their voice and your wishes are listened to.



Contact information

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