

Dear Parents and Carers,

Three events have brought home to me what is so special about our school. The Norwood Chanuka Party, hosted by JCoSS for 200 Norwood adults and young people with special needs, was a wonderful event and demonstrated the strong relationships and common goals of both Norwood and JCoSS. What made the event extra-special was the time, enthusiasm and kindness demonstrated by the many JCoSS students who helped to make decorations and serve food and drink. Thanks go to Miss Minsky and the JCoSS students (and parents who collected their children in the evening) for making a special festive contribution to Tikun Olam, repairing our world.

The second event was of course the Chanuka Concert. No-one could have failed to have been impressed by the talent, comradie and joi de vivre of this wonderful celebration of Chanuka and our students. It was not just the winner of JCoSS Has Talent (Congratulations Sam M) who proved that we have superb talent in so many areas of the school. Well done to Miss Miller, Mrs Kos and all staff and students who thrilled and excited us all with this musical and dramatic extravaganza.

The third event is relatively unnoticed but fundamental to the success of our students and school. The Senior Team have been reviewing the progress that students have been making through the assessment grades that students have been given this term. Almost without exception, JCoSS students are making outstanding progress in their learning and we are very excited about our imminent Ofsted inspection (we're waiting to hear when it will be) which we hope will verify the progress and learning of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our community a restful and enjoyable Chanuka break.

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner
Headteacher

Amazon Wish List

If you would like to donate a book to commemorate your child's birthday, bar/batmitzvah, or any other occasion, we have a wish list on Amazon. To access the list log on to www.amazon.co.uk and click on gift and wish lists. Enter JCoSS in to the name bar. Select the book you would like to buy. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative plaque in the donated book. Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!



The Year 7 netballers ended the term on a winning high, beating QE Girls 8-3 in their final match. It was also good to see Mr Stowe-Lindner and so many of the teachers who came down to support the girls for the last game this term. We start the season again in Feb playing the toughest team in league, Palmers Green High School.

The Norwood Chanukah Party was a wonderful occasion. If you want to see a 2 minute video which sums up the evening beautifully, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A2ryl8qsxg>

New Teachers, New Roles

Miss Korn takes on a new role as Assistant Headteacher from January, joining Mrs Lightman and Mrs Follett in the role. She will continue as Head of Maths, and use her statistical expertise to be in charge of school data, helping departments and students to track their progress in learning. She will also take the lead in promoting good behaviour until we appoint our additional Deputy Head in September, and from then on she will be our first Head of 6th Form as we welcome our first cohort of Y12 students.

Mrs Amir joins the teaching staff in January as our new teacher in charge of Ivrit. Mrs Amir comes to us from Yavneh College and will work alongside Mrs Kroter for the first few weeks before taking over the reins in her own right from half term.

Mr Todd will be covering Mrs Beale's maternity leave and joins us from January to work with her in the PSRP so that there can be a smooth transition. Later in the term Ms Robinson will go on her maternity leave, and the post of acting Director of Jewish Education will be filled by Mr Rosenberg.

We are very pleased to be able to manage these transitions with such high quality staff, and to keep the impact on students' learning to a minimum. Next term will see the recruitment of our next cohort of staff for September, and we are confident of appointing the same high calibre of teachers and support staff.

Think computer science

On Wednesday the 7th of December, Miss Korn and Mr Moriarty took ten students to the Imperial War Museum, in Duxford. In the museum there was a one-day programme being run by Microsoft for children from selected schools, who were gifted and talented in ICT. The programme was about computer science, and throughout the day, there were many talks, on subjects to do with computer science. For example, one was on gaming, and another on programming. During lunch, there were demonstrations of new products by Microsoft. My personal favourite was the hovercraft, which was operated with a joystick, and was flown as if you were in the hovercraft, with a camera on the front of the hovercraft. There were many different talks and demonstrations, some of which were interesting or fun, and some of which were very hard to follow, but at the end of the day, the general feeling was it was a great day.

By Nathan C



Dates for the Diary

School restarts for lessons at 8.30am on Tuesday 3rd January.

Year 8 parents evening is on 12th and 18th January.

We are working on a parent calendar for the website, which will be ready next term.

Mobile Phones

Whilst we recognise that some parents would like students to carry phones, we would like to reiterate that carrying phones increases the chances of losing them, having them stolen and being mugged for them. Students may hand in phones to Reception each morning for collection after school, without sanction.

If a phone is seen or heard inside the school perimeter (including playgrounds), it will be confiscated for one full school day in the first instance, 2 school days in the second instance and 7 school days in the third. No exceptions will be made under any circumstances. Thank you for your support.

JCoSS Parents Association

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREERS,

The JPA has and continues to compile an email list for parents of students at JCOSS.

This list is independent of any held by the school and all email addresses are offered by the parents to the JPA with the sole intended use of keeping up-to-date with JPA events and meetings.

Some parents have stated that they haven't had any emails from the JPA but would very much like to. If this is your position, it is likely that we don't have your email address on file.

If you would like to be on the mailing list please email me directly and I will add you immediately to the list and you will get the up-dates when they go out.

My personal email address is:

Brad@wheeliegoodparty.co.uk or

Partyhq@wheeliegoodparty.co.uk

I use these addresses for JPA emails, so please add the addresses to your allowed mail to avoid them ending up in the junk folder!!

Currently we hold 114 email addresses for the year 7 parents as well as a disappointingly low 52 email addresses for the current year 8 parents.

Kind regards

Brad Mydat (07956153782)

Secretary JPA



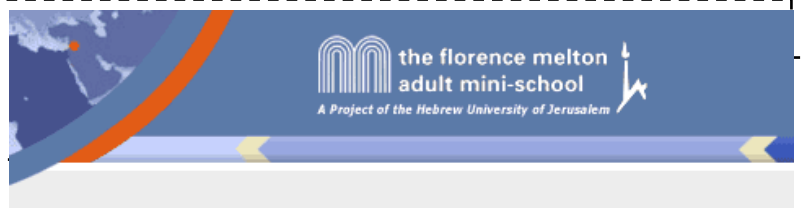
A wonderful model of New London synagogue by Freya in Year 7

News from the PSRP

During the last few weeks each form in Year 7 has had a lesson about Autism. At the start of each lesson we asked the students to write down what they already knew about Autism and we have been really impressed by their answers. The lesson focused on raising their awareness of Autism and included watching a short film about it. The film was made for CBBC by a young girl with Asperger's Syndrome and the students seemed to find it very informative. For those that missed watching it and those who may wish to view it again it can be found on YouTube and is called 'My Autism and Me' and was posted by tordajav.

We are delighted that some of the PSRP students this term have been awarded Head Teacher commendations for their hard work:

Gabriel – Maths
Jack – Maths
Sophie – Maths
Roma – Science
Natasha – Science and French.
Adam – History
Roma - English
Jack - Science
Well done to you all.



JCoSS parents.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a world pioneer in the field of adult Jewish education. With its international headquarters at the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Institute of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Mini-School, a social franchise, forms an international network of community-based schools offering adults the opportunity to acquire Jewish literacy in an open, trans-denominational, intellectually stimulating learning environment.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is the largest pluralistic adult Jewish education network in the world and boasts a sophisticated curriculum: Four text-based courses make up the sequential two-year curriculum written by a team of experts at the Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education - the world's largest academic center for Jewish education.

If you are interested in attending this course please email Elaine Robinson, Assistant Head, Director Jewish Education, erobinson@jcoSS.barnet.sch.uk

Antony Lishak visits JCoSS

We were delighted to host the well-known children's writer, Antony Lishak, for the day in late November. He spoke to all Year 8 students about the research he has been doing for his new book which is based on the diaries and documents that form the Warsaw Ghetto Archive, discovered at the end of World War Two. He spoke movingly about what we have learnt about life in the ghetto from this archive. The idea for his new book, exploring his Jewish heritage, was born out of a conversation with an elderly relative.

Creating a JCoSS Archive

From questions and comments the students made during Antony's visit, it is clear that many of our students also have stories to tell about the experiences of their relatives during the war. We would like to encourage our Year 8 students to have conversations with grandparents/ great- parents/elderly relatives and to record their wartime experiences so that we can collect these stories to create our own historical archive.



The Chanukah concert was a tremendous event. All the students worked incredibly hard to produce a wonderful evening.



What a fantastic term of Jewish learning we've had....

The Year 7s have completed their unit on the Jewish Home and the Heartspace is full of wonderful shoe box Jewish homes, there are some extremely imaginative creations, colourful, decorative – they are delightful. The Power Point Assessment on 'Jewish Homes through the Ages' took us on a journey from the Burnt House in Jerusalem, 70CE to the Shtetl home in 18th Century Poland and back to modern day Israel to the home on a secular Kibbutz. The learning has been fun and interactive.

The Year 8's learning culminated in an inspirational and enlightening visit from 3 Faiths Forum, where a Muslim and Christian shared their experiences of prayer and prayer houses to complement the unit of studies on the Development of the Synagogue. Part of this unit included the Junior Archaeological Research Project which challenged the students to not only be students but teachers as well, as they taught each other about 7 different synagogues starting in Syria in the 2nd Century with the Dura Europus and ending in Los Angeles with the very modern Reform community of Stephen S Wise.

With Chanukah upon us it is a time to think about how we can light up the world with our flame, and we have much in store over the coming term: the first JCoSS Shabbaton (Sabbath residential); the first school Rosh Chodesh (New Month) celebration; a visit from the Israeli Ambassador; the launch of the school Edible garden to name but a few. Their studies will continue with abundance: Year 7's will be learning about the Responsibilities parents and children have to each other; and the Year 8's will be embarking on an odyssey of Jewish History.

At JCoSS we believe that we are the torchbearers lighting up the world. We all felt such pride when our students asked Suhil our Muslim guest how we can break down the barriers between Jew and Muslim? Surely this is what we mean when we say lighting up the world with our flame.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming back our students in 2012.
Chag chanuka sameach.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Head, Director Jewish Education