



JCoSS NEWS

News from the UK's first cross-communal Jewish secondary school

Issue No.3 • Summer 2010

In partnership with

NORWOOD

On track and on schedule

With just a hundred days to go before JCoSS's first students walk through its doors, the school has confirmed that everything is in place for a successful opening.

As Headteacher, Jeremy Stowe-Lindner, explains: "Our first students have been offered and have accepted their places, our staff for Year One have been appointed and are starting work, and the building is progressing nicely, to ensure that everything is in place for 6th September."

Despite the unusually cold winter, building work is on track (see page 2) and the school expects its outstanding facilities to be open to pupils on day one. These include, the school says, purpose-built dance and drama studios with sprung floors, state-of-the-art science laboratories, numerous music rooms, sports facilities, the latest information and technology systems throughout the school.

JCoSS's senior leadership team has been strengthened still further by the addition of Patrick Moriarty, as Deputy Headteacher. He joined the school in January from Haberdashers Girls, where he had personal responsibility for over 300 successful Oxbridge applications. He is taking charge of the creation of a system of

accelerated setting to stretch all JCoSS students to achieve their full potential (see page 4 for details).

From the summer term he is joined - as Assistant Headteachers - by Hayley Follett, who was Head of Science at Friern Barnet and by Kate Lightman, who joins JCoSS as Head of English from JFS.

Also joining JCoSS from JFS is Victoria Kemp who will head up the school's modern languages programme, which will include French and Ivrit in its first year.

"Incredible team with some of the best teachers in London"

David Wilson is to head up the Pears Special Resource Provision, which will cater for the needs of children on the autistic spectrum. Developed in partnership with Norwood, it is believed to be a unique facility within a faith school.

Stowe-Lindner says: "We now have in place an incredible team comprising some of the best and most experienced teachers in London.

"One of the outstanding benefits we will be able to offer all our



JCoSS's Senior Leadership Team on the roof terrace of the new building

pupils is that, unlike in many schools, these teachers - who all have proven records of success - will spend much of their time in the classroom. Our first years will be taught by senior and experienced educators," he added.

JCoSS's success in attracting students even before opening has astounded many involved in local education. Its first students are set to include those with backgrounds from secular to Lubavitch and will be drawn from public and private, and

cross-communal and Orthodox Jewish primary schools.

Despite its popularity, JCoSS has reiterated its commitment to offer smaller than average class sizes at least for its first years.

"JCoSS offers excellence, choice and inclusivity to our whole community," Stowe-Lindner explains.

"It is clear that this appeals across our community and that we have not only succeeded in offering further choice to those who already favour

faith education for their children, but we are also attracting parents to Jewish schooling who would not previously have considered such an option for their child. Our catchment share with us a passion for cross-communal inclusive Jewish education together with an unrelenting determination for every child to thrive and achieve."

JCoSS opens to its first students in Sept 2010. For further information and to apply please visit www.jcoss.org



JCoSS open days for 2011 intake

Weds 6th October 6-9pm • Sunday 10th October 2-4pm

Register today, call 020 8922 2120 or email admin@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk



For and of the community



**Jeremy
Stowe-Lindner**
Headteacher

Shavuot is a time to celebrate newness, life and fresh beginnings. So it is with JCoSS. A new school for the community and of the community.

As I spend more time in the JCoSS building and less time in our temporary office, I never cease to be impressed by the hard work, energy and imagination of our construction team. The windows are in, the electrics and the plumbing are installed. Only a few weeks ago I watched the Jerusalem stone being placed above our magnificent entrance with its giant Hebrew inscription 'Bruchim Haba'im', Welcome.

All is ready for our first cohort of students when JCoSS opens its doors on 6th September. What will they find?

First, an excellent education: with our senior staff in place I can confirm that all have extensive experience of running large departments and faculties in their existing schools. We are thrilled that they will bring to JCoSS not simply outstanding leadership and curriculum gravitas, but also experience in the care and nurturing of young people.

Second, an inclusive Jewish experience unlike any other: together with our Director of Jewish Education, I have been working to ensure that both the formal and informal curriculum is genuinely open and welcoming to all. We are not in the business of judging how our students, or for that matter their parents, approach their Judaism. We recognise that each will be on a different journey. We look forward to walking the Jewish journey with all of our families, whichever paths they choose to take. At JCoSS we do not simply respect the students who walk into our gates – we also respect and learn about, with equivalence, the lifestyles and beliefs of all their backgrounds and communities.

And third, an education that is outward looking: we are already working closely with the family of Barnet schools. We share facilities with East Barnet School and are looking to twin with other secondary schools of other faiths and of none. As we prepare for Science Specialist Status, we are building curricular and pastoral links with Jewish and non-Jewish primary schools, secondary schools of other faiths and of none and even a high performing sixth form college. So JCoSS students will not only help to bring the whole Jewish community together, they will also reach out to the wider community so as to become proud self-confident ambassadors for Judaism.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, a community of mensches – good people, children and adults, who look out for others, care, smile, respecting and hard working.

JCoSS is clearly an outstanding school. If you are looking for a home for your child in 2011, please do come to one of our many Questions and Answer sessions and visit us in October to learn more. If you are still looking for 2010 and would like to be considered for a place, please get in touch with our Admissions Officer as there may be places still available.

I look forward to welcoming you all in the years ahead.

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner BA(Hons) MBA NPQH Headteacher

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JCoSS takes shape

Work is continuing apace to ensure everything is ready for JCoSS's first students.

The building's hallmark sweeping steel roof stretches across its four teaching wings and gives shape to its magnificent centrepiece, a three storey atrium.

With the external work now almost complete, the team is now flat out on kitting out the classrooms, communal spaces and special facilities, such as music rooms, science laboratories, and dance and recording studios.

JCoSS is confident that everything will be ready for the beginning of September when the school opens to its first students.

So now that JCoSS is nearly there, what do its students and parents think about the prospect of being the first to join the school? We spoke to some of them and here's what they said:

What the parents say...

"From the beginning we were attracted to the inclusive Jewish ethos of the school. It is exciting to be part of something from the beginning, and the fact that JCoSS is so conveniently located for us is a huge bonus."

— *Samantha Benson*

"Because it is a new school, JCoSS will have a lot to prove, and I feel that will be a benefit to Ruby as she will undoubtedly receive a top class education in a beautiful space with incredible facilities."

— *Nicole Rose*

"The initial appeal of JCoSS was the mix of cultural, educational and religious opportunities that the new school was going to offer. I wanted my daughter to go to a school where the opportunities were open, not closed off even before she started. The fact that JCoSS was going to be new meant that none of the teachers would be burnt out and their enthusiasm would in turn feed into the children and make them excited about working hard to be successful."

— *Marc Dinner*



The building's hallmark sweeping steel roof gives shape to its magnificent centrepiece, a three storey atrium





Artist's impression of the final aerial view

And the students...

"I am very excited to be going to JCoSS. I feel it will be fun to be part of the first year of the school and to make decisions that other students will benefit from in further years."

— *Harley Benson*

"I'm going to be in the first year at JCoSS which is really special and the facilities are great. I'm really looking forward to having science lessons in the labs and having different teachers for each lesson. Also there will be lots of sports and activities that I can do. I'm so happy that I'm going." — *Ruby Rose*

"I feel very happy about going to JCoSS and experiencing all that it offers. I am excited to be learning about Jewish history and language in a new school, meeting new people and making new friends." — *Ella Dinner*



Adding the final touches to one of JCoSS's classrooms



The external work is almost complete

Photos by Graham Chweidan, JCoSS parent

News in brief

JCoSS firms up its travel plans for pupils

As JCoSS's offers go out and are accepted, school staff have been firming up plans for private coaches and other travel arrangements for pupils.

JCoSS travel coordinator, Lara Samuels, has announced that responses to the school's travel survey show that there should be enough demand to run five separate private coach routes to and from JCoSS, serving Borehamwood, Edgware, Finchley, Golders Green, Muswell Hill, Northwood, Radlett and Redbridge.

JCoSS is also in talks with Transport for London about improving public bus routes serving the site and is arranging for students who want to cycle to school to receive free one-to-one safety tuition.

Commenting on the school's travel plans, Ms Samuels says:

"JCoSS is well served by both private coaches and public transport. We are also encouraging walking and cycling in line with our green travel plan. All these options mean that the school should be accessible to all with plenty of alternatives available to parents to save them from ferrying their children around by car." For full details of the JCoSS's proposed private coach routes, see www.jcooss.org/how-to-get-there

JCoSS and US reach agreement on Kashrut

Following discussions with the Kashrut Division of the London Beth Din, JCoSS will operate under the Kashrut arrangements used by the majority of other Jewish schools and communal organisations. The Kashrut arrangements will be supervised by Rabbi Pollak.

Commenting on the arrangements, JCoSS Chair of Governors, Mike Grabiner, said:

"We are delighted at the outcome of these discussions which underpins JCoSS's inclusive ethos and commitment to ensuring that the school is open to all Jews regardless of background or beliefs."

Speaking for the United Synagogue, Chief Executive Jeremy Jacobs added:

"This is a sensible way forward in line not just with the arrangements for the majority of other Jewish schools but also those used by Jewish Care and other similar cross-communal bodies."

Wilson to head Pears SRP

JCoSS has announced the appointment of David Wilson as the first Director of its 50-place Pears Special Resource Provision (PSRP) for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). The PSRP, which will open with seven 11-12 year old students this September, is believed to be a unique facility within a faith secondary school. It will cater to pupils who, while able to benefit from some time spent in mainstream schooling, would be unable to cope with full-time integrated education.

Wilson, 48, joins JCoSS from Moselle School, a special school for pupils with autism and learning difficulties in Haringey, where he has held the post of Assistant Head since 2000.

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "We are working in partnership with Norwood, one of the UK's leading charities supporting people with learning disabilities and children and families in need. Our aim is to be a beacon of excellence with close links with other providers of support for individuals with autism and their families, both within the community and beyond."

Stretching the most able

Former Head of Sixth Form at *Haberdashers' Girls'*, **Patrick Moriarty** is used to working with some of the brightest students in the country. He has supervised over 300 successful Oxbridge applications. How will he exploit that experience in his new role of JCoSS's first Deputy Headteacher? Ben Rich finds out....

Patrick Moriarty exudes enthusiasm. He talks softly and clearly but with enormous energy and confidence, underlining each point with a welcome hand gesture that would grace any political debate. Why, I ask him, would he want to swap the comfort of Haberdashers for JCoSS?

Patrick laughs: "Who wouldn't? Seriously, the chance to be involved in this project was too good to miss.

"The team behind JCoSS is the most professional and ambitious I have come across," he explains, "and the chance to help shape a school with an inclusive, open ethos is irresistible.

"JCoSS already has many of the key ingredients of success," he adds, "the natural advantages of dedicated parents who care passionately about their children's education, fantastic facilities and a commitment to excellence."

Moriarty, a practising Christian, explains that he is a huge admirer of the Jewish community's attitude to education and knows that this will be reflected in JCoSS's record. "In my experience," he says, "parents can make a huge difference to any school and all our parents have bought into JCoSS's ethos root and branch."

Moriarty is taking the lead in designing JCoSS's Gifted and Talented programme alongside Victoria Kemp, who will be joining JCoSS from JFS. He explains:

"My time at Haberdashers', and before that at Latymer in Edmonton, means that I know how to get the most from talented pupils and I am bringing that experience to JCoSS.

"It is important to stretch children to make the most of their abilities. For some that will mean accelerated learning and taking exams early. We are planning an accelerated Key Stage 3 to give opportunities for the most able to start and take some GCSE early, be stretched and enriched at Key stage 4, and perhaps start AS courses

early or undertake extended projects to stimulate independent learning.

"Outside the classroom there will also be a range of extension activities to engage and stretch the most able," Moriarty continues. "We will encourage students to take up opportunities beyond school such as IGGY (the International Gateway for Gifted Youth) run by Warwick University, which provides all sorts of online and face-to-face opportunities for students in the top 5%.

"Accelerated setting allows all students to move faster in subjects at which they excel, to make the most of their strengths, rather than limiting their opportunities because they may find one or two subjects harder."

I ask Moriarty to explain how setting will work:

"Right from Year Seven, we will be introducing accelerated setting in a majority of subjects, which will become increasingly fine-tuned as students go through the school. As well as Key Stage 2 SATS data we will be testing all pupils on entry, so we can adjust setting during the year in the light of evidence. We will use data from the highly-regarded Fischer Family Trust to set the most demanding targets for progress, benchmarking our students against their peers at the most successful schools nationwide."

"Accelerated setting not accelerated streaming"

Moriarty contrasts his accelerated setting approach (where children are set in individual subjects) with the accelerated streaming (where students are streamed in groups of subjects) used in some other schools. He says:

"The latest neuroscience and educational research suggests that, unlike our setting approach, streaming can easily limit opportunity rather than stretch the most able. Each child needs to find his or her own individual learning pathway, rather than be funneled down a separate learning corridor.

"But," he adds "I do not think setting is the only answer. I want our curriculum to focus on making students into better learners for life. If we know anything about the future,



Patrick Moriarty makes his point to Headteacher, Jeremy Stowe-Lindner

it's that it's going to be different from the present. What students learn at school can quickly go out of date, so we need to equip them to be resourceful and resilient learners with the right habits of mind and character to make the most of whatever comes next.

JCoSS will be more like a gym than a petrol station – a workout for the mind and soul, not just pouring in a few more gallons that won't last."

Moriarty's enthusiasm is infectious and it is clear from our conversation that he is passionate about helping

each individual child to make the most of their ability. I leave with the impression that this is a man just getting into his stride and that no one – pupils, parents or staff – will be getting away with any excuses come September....

Jewish
Community
Secondary
School

JCoSS

Question & Answer Sessions

All your questions about JCoSS answered

Tuesday 8th June
Barnet:

7pm, Livingstone Primary School,
Baring Road, EN4 9BU

Tuesday 15th June
Pinner/Northwood:

7.30pm, Pinner Village Hall,
Chapel Lane, HA5 1AA

Monday 5th July
Hendon/Finchley:

7.30pm, Hendon Town Hall,
The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

Please register by calling us on
020 8922 2120
or email admin@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk.



Scaffolding comes down to reveal JCoSS's new building

