

# newsletter

תמוז Tamuz 5771

July 2011

Dear Parents

As the summer holiday beckons, the minds of everyone here at JCoSS are focussed on three things:

- the wonderful year that we have had and the outstanding opportunities that our first cohort of students have experienced;
- welcoming our second cohort of enthusiastic young students;
- having a holiday!

Our first year was neatly summed up by Tim Loughton, the Minister for Children and Families when he came to 'officially' open our beautiful new school. "Bricks and mortar are, of course, only part of a school but if more of the pupils are anything like the ones we have seen, clearly the community this school represents is something to be very proud of."

So what is it that we are so proud of? Is it our hardworking students? Is it the sporting and drama opportunities that have resulted, for example, in our being finalists in the Year 7 football league or winning the Welwyn Drama Festival? Is it our curriculum, praised by Ronnie Cohen, a Pikuach and Ofsted inspector, as "outstanding"? Is it our facilities, buildings or our new £1.2m all-weather pitch? Is it our social action programme and the wonderful achievements of our Yoni Jesner Award winners? Is it the superb activities and opportunities that our Science Specialism brings? Is it our gifted and talented programme? Is it our in-curricular opportunities such as our Alice in Numberland day, our celebration of Jewish and Israeli landmark days such as Yom Ha'atzmaut and Purim? Is it our Student Parliament?

Whatever it is, we all have something to be proud of. Whether we are a student, a parent, a teacher, a member of the support staff, a governor or a trustee, we have built a beautiful building here in Barnet. But we are still building something even more special: a community of high achieving mensches who seek to have a positive impact on their families and communities.

Have a restful summer break.

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner  
Headteacher

## Important messages

### Term Starts:

Year 7: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept

Year 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept

From September, the school day will end at 3.55pm.

You will find the updated coach routes and times on our website. Please note that the cost is now £7.25 per day if you pay termly, £7 per day if you pay for the whole year in advance.

The 2011/12 and 2012/13 terms dates are also on our website.

## Pause for Thought

It is this time of year when some communities in the Jewish world fast (refrain from eating for a day). There are two fasts which commemorate the destruction of the two Temples (586BCE and 70CE), the 17th Tamuz and the 9th Av. Whether or not we believe that the destruction of the Temples all those years ago is relevant to our lives today, there is a lesson that can be learnt that is relevant today and always.

Some people believe that the Second Temple was destroyed due to *sinat chinam* - groundless hatred. We might not relate to the baseless hatred during the Temple times, but no doubt we can relate to the baseless hatred which exists in the world today. I would say that there is clearly too much of it about, and that we are all guilty of it. From the hatred that we aim at those we don't know with flippant and glib comments, to the hatred that we show to those around us because we are tired, think we are making a joke or just not thinking at all.

Perhaps if we all took a minute or two out of our day to think about the baseless hatred that we show toward others we might be more hesitant and prevent ourselves from saying or doing harmful things to those around us.

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, first Chief Rabbi of Israel, famously wrote that if the Second Temple was destroyed and the people scattered through *sinat chinam*, then the Temple will be rebuilt and the people gathered together again through *ahavat chinam*, causeless love.

My challenge to us all over the summer is to increase the causeless love we show to those around us and imagine what a better place the world will become.

Ms Robinson

Director of Jewish Education

## Environment Week

31st May to 3rd June was Environment Week in school. Although a short 'week', due to the Bank Holiday, the Environment Department of the Student Parliament (Nathan Caplan, Daniel Goldstein and Ruby Rose) devised some fun activities to raise awareness about environmental issues. The week was 'kicked off' with an amusing and informative assembly, and it ended with a Green Mufti day. You should all have received a Promise/Call To Action Form for you to pledge to make some small difference to the environment, with ideas for you to choose from. There was a form competition to compose a song, rap or poem about the environment, and there was even a lunchtime showing of the Pixar film Wall-E.

The winning form was 7W and selected members of the form attended a ceremonial tree planting and plaque unveiling with Mr Stowe-Lindner. The tree and plaque are located to the right of the MUGA in the school grounds.

The money raised from the mufti day will be put towards a green initiative.

Mrs Hancock

Senior Science Technician



## Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty

In the space of just under 11 months, the Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty has landed firmly in the limelight.

Mr Mitman's PE Department has displayed excellence on the football pitch with the boys' football team. In addition, his students have been successful in table tennis and cross country events. He is nurturing several superb young sportsmen and sportswomen, leaving no doubt that as they grow into young adults, they shall achieve outstanding success in the field of PE. I would like to thank Mr Mitman and Ms Goddard for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm in putting PE firmly on the JCoSS map.

Our first public performance was the Chanukah Concert. Once again, the talents of our young students shone through – this time in the performing arts. Several soloists enthralled the audience with their superb voices. Other acts included our Ensemble, JCoSSE. Most of the students had never performed in public before and one of them only started playing violin in September! Congratulations to all members of the JCoSSE. I would like to thank Ms Gottlieb for devoting her Wednesday lunchtimes to guiding our young players through this and then on to the Barnet Borough Music Festival in June. I look forward to the JCoSSE developing into the JCoSSO – JCoSS Orchestra – under the baton of Ms Howe, our new Head of Music.

Also at the Chanukah Concert, JGLoSS – our very own Glee Club – aired their talents for the first time when they performed a version of 'Don't Stop Believing'. They repeated this at the official school opening along with a version of 'Eleanor Rigby' by The Beatles.

In May, JCoSS participated in the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival, performing a 20-minute version of the Dr Faustus story – The Legends of Dr Faustus. Once again, Mazal Tov and congratulations to the 19-strong winning members of the cast who relinquished so many lunchtimes (and two of their winter Friday afternoons) to rehearse. JCoSS won the Junior section of the Festival. We shall hopefully return next year to defend our title!

This month, over a third of the school participated in a cross-curricular project with the Art Department for the recent Celebration Evening. Officially launching the long-awaited 'Corridor Theatre' the young actors performed Commedia dell'Arte improvisation work around the Heart Space and the canteen. Included in this was also a whole group movement section.

Thank you to all the students who have contributed to making the first year at JCoSS so special for the Faculty of Creative and Expressive Arts.

Ms Sonja Miller  
Head of Creative and Expressive Arts

### JCoSS launches the new 6th form website!

JCoSS has launched our new 6th form website; [www.jcoss6thform.org](http://www.jcoss6thform.org)

Please tell all your friends and family!

And if you know of any year 10 students who are considering their 6th form options, then please ask them go to the website to register their interest.

**JCoSS**  
SIXTH FORM  
JEWISH COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL



# Making

## Alice in Numberland



What happened on the 23rd of June? Something that had teachers and students alike waiting with anticipation for days before the event... any guesses? Fine. The answer is Alice in Numberland. No, that was not a mistake. On the 23rd of June, JCoSS hosted its first "maths drop-down day." Ms Korn (Head of the maths faculty) organised the event, with the aim of showing students where math is: - everywhere.

At 8.30 on the dot, students were startled to hear Tom Lehrer's song "That's Mathematics" ringing through the school, marking the start of the school day. Perhaps it was this, or maybe it was because instead of going to lessons they had magic shows, workshops, and maths games in store for them, but everyone knew one thing for sure. There was a very exciting day ahead!



"I learnt that we use Maths in everything. We use it on a day to day basis – the day was really fun and educational!" Rebecca M

"I loved everything that we did, it made me look at maths in a new way" Lucinda B

"I never knew how many things maths could be in – the day was amazing" Joel A



# Maths Fun!

## G&T Workshop

After a brilliant day of maths, twenty math G&T students met Andrew Jeffery- the maths-magician himself- for a special workshop. Mr Jeffery didn't waste time. Within two minutes of coming in, the maths teacher/ magician set to work, showing us a card trick based on math and then set us the task of trying to work it out.

Twenty very noisy and rewarding minutes later, we took a break, to hear other people's ideas. By this time most teams had figured it out, but it was still fascinating to see how others had gone about the problem.

Finally, Andrew Jeffery introduced several new parameters in which we had to make it work. This proved far more difficult than we expected, but by the end we had cracked this problem too.

Saying goodbye to the math-magician, we headed back to class. One thing was for sure... we would never think of math (or any other subject for that matter) in the same way ever again.

By Nikita



## Barclays 'pay' a visit, with 'interest'!

By Jessica, 7F

Lining up for a maths lesson; preparing ourselves for a big (but most importantly fun!) portion of learning. But this lesson had a small twist!... As I walked to my classroom, everyone was whispering and a student said "Have these people come to torture us with maths?" The answer to that, however, was no! These mysterious people were Bankers!

Why, though, would Barclays bank come to our school??! To get our pocket money? No, not at all, just to teach us about the importance of money in our lives, through worded problems and fun worksheets. Not to mention the great prizes for those who put in just that little extra effort to participate. For most, the freebies was also a special treat! Pens, pencils, piggy banks and calculators; all for free? No catch? Yes please! Finishing off, a final word from the students: we're Bonkers about Bankers!



## A Day on the Virtual Stock Exchange, by Nikita

At 9:30am on Friday the 1st of July, 45 very lucky and excited pupils from several Barnet secondary schools sat down at computers to experience what it is like to invest in the stock market. With about six schools participating- each school entered six students, who were split into two teams of three- the challenge was on. With the ring of a virtual bell, the stock exchange day at Friern Barnet School began.

Earlier that morning, six students from JCoSS's Year 7 boarded a mini-bus bound for Friern Barnet, offered the chance of competing against Year 9 students from five other schools in a "Stock Market Challenge".

Upon arriving we were ushered into the school's Learning Resource Centre, where the challenge soon commenced.

The rules of the game were simple enough: decide which companies to invest in by analysing a simulated (and very realistic) news feed and looking at simulated stock prices. In practise, this was far harder than it appeared.

For instance, a "news" bulletin reported that a hacker had managed to break through ABC Company's secure programmes. A few minutes later, the computerised stock ticker indicated ABC's share price had fallen by 10%.

By the end of the second 20-minute "day", one of the two JCoSS teams rose into third place on the leader board.

Unfortunately, on the following day, we found ourselves leaving the leader board, only to be replaced by the other team, who, by the end of the day had managed to climb to second on the charts. By the fourth day, JCoSS's three Year Seven students were in first place, and by the end of the fifth day the JCoSS team was a safe \$20,000 above any other team, claiming victory in the 2011 stock market challenge!

When asked to sum up what we'd learnt from the day, we all agreed on one thing: stock investing is very, very tough.



**I'm a Scientist  
Get me OUT of here**



**Meet the Scientists...**



In association with the Wellcome Trust, Y7 have recently participated in an online event called 'I'm a Scientist get me out of here'.

I'm a Scientist is like school science lessons meets the X Factor! School students choose which scientist gets a prize of £500 to communicate their work.

Scientists and students talk on this website. They break down barriers, have fun and learn. But only the students get to vote.

Feedback from JCoSS Students was very positive and we hope to be selected to participate in future 'I'm a scientist get me out of here' events.

Mrs Follett

Assistant Headteacher - Science & Specialist Status

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE  
Se

Awards Medals, Awards & Prize lectures Medalists Committees Nominations more

## Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

This book prize celebrates the best books that communicate science to young people.

The prize is open to books in which science is a substantial aspect of the book's content, narrative or theme and which are written for young people aged up to 14. Books submitted for the prize must have been first published in English in the calendar years 2008, 2009 or 2010. The authors of the shortlisted books each receive £1,000 and the winner receives £10,000.

Next term JCoSS students will form part of the Judging panel for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Young People's Book Prize.

<http://royalsociety.org/awards/young-people/judging-panels/>

The shortlist for the 2011 Royal Society Young People's Book Prize is:

- The Icky Sticky Blood and Snot Book by Steve Alton and Nick Sharratt (Bodley Head)
- What's the Point of Being Green? by Jacqui Bailey (Franklin Watts)
- What Mr Darwin Saw by Mick Manning and Brita Granström (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)
- The Story of Astronomy and Space published by Usborne
- What Goes On In My Head by Robert Winston (Dorling Kindersley)

### Extra-curricular

2010-2011 has seen an interesting and varied Extra-curricular Programme. The activities have run mostly at lunchtimes, with the spring term Drama and Home Learning clubs offered after school. Next year, we hope to extend the provision of after school options. I would like to thank the many members of staff who have relinquished their lunch hours by committing to the programme. Due to popular interest, our intention is to offer Street Dance/Hip Hop as a Club and I would welcome any parent who could help with this as either a lunchtime or after school activity. In addition, we have the kind offer of a fortnightly Chess Club but need an extra pair of hands to help out. If any parents can assist with either of these activities, please contact me via the school office.

Ms Sonja Miller

Head of Creative and Expressive Arts

## Jewish Education

I am thrilled to have returned from my maternity leave for the final half term of the year to see how the school has grown and flourished.

I would like to thank Mr Rosenberg for his leadership of the Jewish Education Department in my absence. The teaching and learning that has taken place under his sensitive guidance has been extremely impressive. There is a vibrancy and excitement in the corridors of the school that bring this building to life.

May I take this opportunity to remind all students and parents of the kashrut standard (dietary laws) we adhere to in the school: any food brought onto the premises must be fully vegetarian or dairy. (This can include kosher fish). No meat may be brought into school.

Food from home must only be eaten in the designated areas and not eaten in the school canteen.

We are proud of having achieved the Healthy Schools kite mark and encourage students to bring in healthy snacks rather than chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks.

Whereas we appreciate and enjoy celebrating students birthdays' we do not encourage them to bring in cakes or biscuits for them to share with their classmates during Tutor Time. This is because our Tutor Time takes place after the school lunch time (a meat meal) and therefore this may compromise the kashrut observance of some of our pupils. However, please feel free to give out birthday cake etc to be consumed at home.

I would like to wish you a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you all back at JCoSS in September feeling renewed and refreshed and ready for another wonderful year of learning.

B'vracha,

Ms Robinson  
Director of Jewish Education

## The School Shop!

The school shop has equipment for students to purchase. Below is a price list for the items available:

Item	Unit Price
Pen	10p
Pencil	10p
30cm Ruler	30p
Eraser	20p
Sharpener	20p
Colour Pencils	£1.60 a pack
Colour Pens	£1.80 a pack
Berol Handwriting Pen	30p
Mechanical Pencil	20p
Geometry Set	£1.50
Calculator	£6.50
Padlock	£3.50
Book Covering	50p a sheet
Clear Pencil Case	90p

As part of JCoSS's inclusive ethos, we go out of our way to help students with autistic spectrum conditions to participate in lessons. Occasionally a lesson may be streamed into another classroom to enable a student to access the curriculum without actually being in the room. Streaming is not recorded, and since the camera is placed on the teacher's desk and focussed on the board, students are generally not included in the streaming.

## Travel and Parking

We ask parents to park considerately when dropping off or collecting your child from a coach stop. We want and need to keep good neighbourly terms with all members of the wider community.

Please could we ask parents who drive students to school, not to drive along Baring Road past Livingstone Junior and Infant School. Parents should be aware that access to Castlewood Road should be via Baring Road and then right into Fordham Road.

Many thanks  
Mrs Samuels

Congratulations to all those students who obtained their Yoni Jesner Award this year. Students engaged in 400 hours of volunteering including waiting on Norwood members at their Chanukah party, packing matza and other Pesach good for the Jewish Blind and Disabled annual Pack-a-thon, making sandwiches for local homeless people and visiting a Jewish Care Home. 21 student received their award and we were amongst the largest contingent at the Award Ceremony where the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks presented our students with their awards. We are all extremely proud of each of them. Well done to everyone.

Mrs Rose  
Informal Jewish Education &  
Social Action Coordinator



## Sports Day @ JCoSS

