



# JFS Newsletter

Volume 7 - Issue 14

Iyar 5776 - Mid May 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents

Over the last week we have marked Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) with a number of events taking place in school together with participation in a number of communal events. Remembering the events of the Holocaust is an important aspect of our Jewish Education programme and we are grateful to the Jewish Studies, JiEP, English and LRC Departments for their hard work in preparing the impactful events. You can read full details on pages 2 and 3.

Today and tomorrow we are building on these experiences with commemorations and celebrations of Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) ably led by JiEP, our Jewish Informal Education Department, with the assistance of our 'Shinshin' (National Service Volunteer), Guy Levi. Guy has been with us for this academic year as part of a Jewish Agency programme to further Israel Education programmes in the Diaspora. This

ensures that students across the School have the opportunity to learn about Israel and explore their personal connection to the country through enjoyable educational programmes and experiences.

Later this week we will be saying farewell to our examination classes in Years 11-13. We know that students have been working extremely hard in recent weeks and months to ensure that they can achieve the best outcomes in their upcoming examinations. It is also clear that many staff members have been organising extra revision sessions and giving of themselves to help students achieve their maximum.

Thank you to all the staff and best of luck to all the students.

Yours sincerely

*Simon Appleman*

Acting Head of School

*Debby Lipkin*

Consultant Headteacher

## Inside this Issue:



**Yom Hashoah Events**  
Commemoration events were held across the School.

Page 2-3



**Competition Winners**  
Proud annual debate competition Winners.

Page 4



**Catering Information**  
Parents' Catering Information evening follow-up.

Page 6



## Saddened By Our Loss

The JFS community was deeply saddened to hear the tragic news of the passing of Liora Rosenberg, a former student.

Liora was a popular, hard-working student and teachers described her as being a pleasure to teach. One commented, "Her fascination with colour, shape and pattern as well as use of natural forms, was a starting point for her exciting Art portfolio that secured her a place at Ravensbourne Art College."

Liora was the recipient of the Michael Webber Scholarship Prize, a special prize, awarded by the Art Department to a student who is studying Art at university. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Rosenberg family at this difficult time.



## Commemorations of Yom Hashoah

Our students marked Yom Hashoah with a number of moving and informative activities.

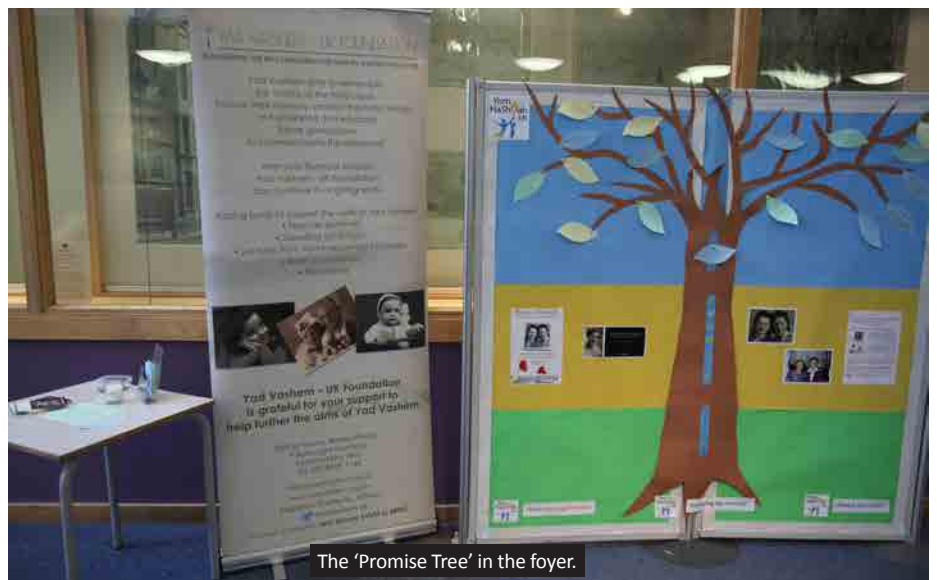
The day began with Year 10 students hearing from the CEO of Mizrahi UK, Rabbi Andrew Shaw. In a poignant assembly, Rabbi Shaw spoke of our duty to "never forget" whilst retaining a sense of Jewish pride in our longevity as a nation. Despite enduring one of the darkest moments in our history, we can gain strength from the fact that we continue to maintain the link in the long chain of our rich heritage. Rabbi Shaw punctuated his talk with a series of videos which traced the chronology of pre-War Europe, Kristallnacht and the War itself. He also shared footage of survivors and the work of the late Sir Nicholas Winton, the founder of the Kindertransport. The ceremony was made all the more emotive with singing from Chazzan Jonny Turgel along with a keyboard accompaniment.

Year 13 and Year 9 students enjoyed a powerful assembly from author of the award-winning memoir, 'Rena's Promise', the acclaimed Heather Duna Macadam. A number of the Year 9 cohort had been reading excerpts from the book in their English classes and were therefore able to fully comprehend the picture she painted of war-torn Europe. Ms Macadam's message was one that explored the meaning of a promise and how it can channel noteworthy attributes such as loyalty, leadership and love.

In a cross-curricular programme that saw the combined efforts of the Jewish Studies and English departments, the

Jewish Informal Education Programme and the Learning Resources Centre, students experienced further opportunities during their lunch break. Firstly, students gathered in the School's library to hear staff and

students reading various extracts from Holocaust literature, the tone of which, centred on prayer, poetry and prose. In keeping with the 'promise' theme of Ms Macadam, students and staff alike were invited to post a leaf



The 'Promise Tree' in the foyer.

on the School's 'Promise Tree'. This initiative encouraged those present to make a worthwhile promise for the year in commemoration of Yom Hashoah.

Running concurrently to this, selected students in Year 9 participated in a workshop with Ms Macadam. Following a 'Question and Answer' session with the author, the students were divided into groups and were distributed a specific photo of an object that features in her book. In their groups, they were charged with a creative writing task, to compose a written piece from the perspective of one of the individuals in the book. The end products were read out at the end of the session.

The day was one of revelation and inspiration for both staff and students. In an age which has recently seen an increased wave of anti-Semitism throughout Europe, it was all the more important to re-explore the atrocities of the Holocaust and the need to pass on the baton to the future generation. Nina Le Blanc, Head of the Jewish Informal Education Programme commented, "It was amazing to see so many students engaged in different yet meaningful ways to remember the Holocaust. But even more importantly, there was a sense of looking towards the future with hope and pride, and this is hopefully a message that students took away with them today."



Staff and student participation in the LRC Yom Hashoah programme.

JFS students at Mill Hill United Synagogue community event.



## Yom Hashoah Mill Hill Community Event

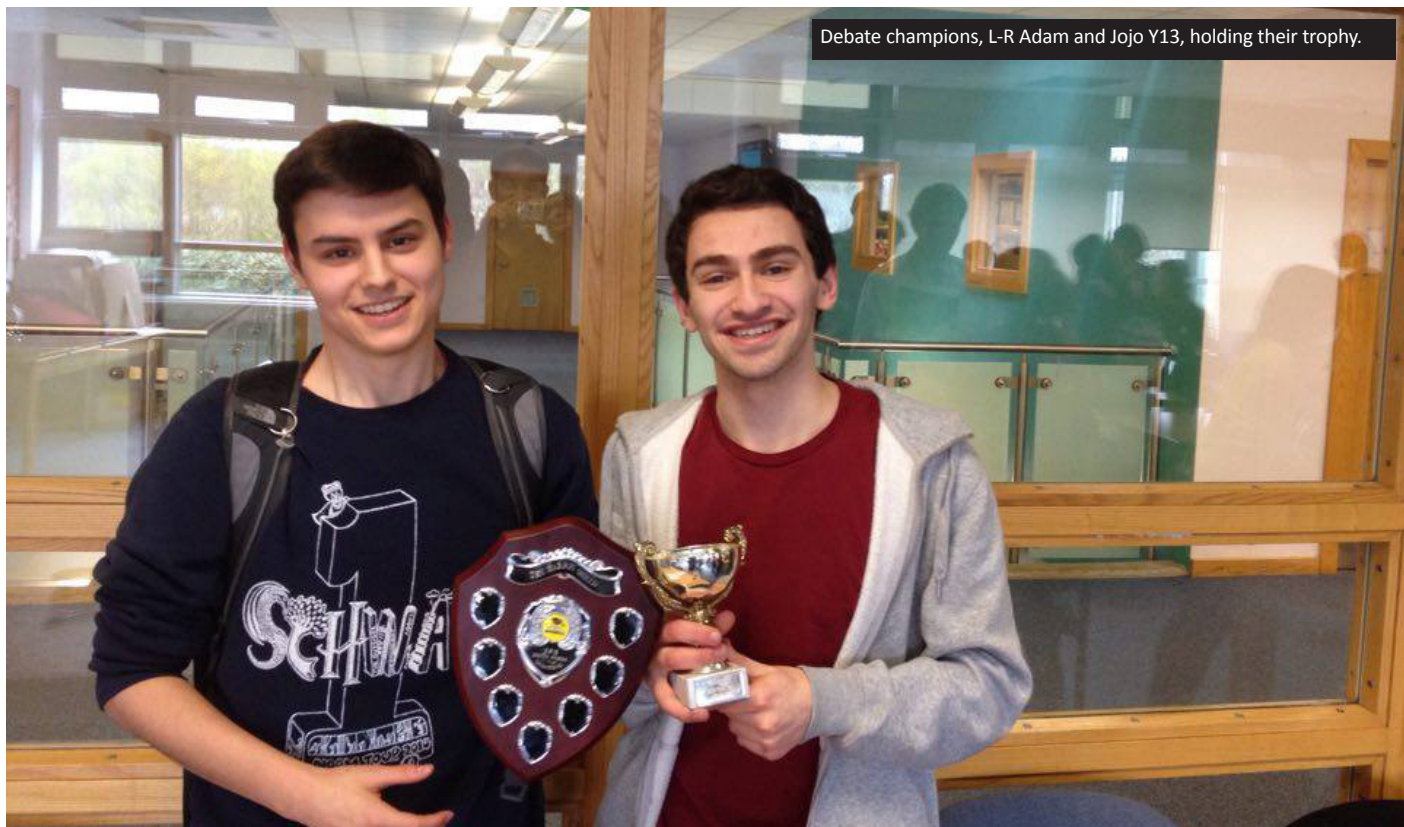
JFS students that are members of

Mill Hill United Synagogue were invited to join the whole community in a commemorative Yom Hashoah evening last week.

They enjoyed an evening of music,

poetry reading and candle lighting. Freddie Knoller, the guest of honour, shared his personal experiences and some of the JFS students shared their inspirational experiences of their visit to Poland with the School.

Debate champions, L-R Adam and Jojo Y13, holding their trophy.



## The Big Debate

The popular Sixth Form Debating Society held its annual competition recently with 20 contenders for the crown.

In the first round, teams argued the controversial motion of legalising prostitution. The teams considered the notion of individual rights, the social and economic risks and benefits for society as well as for prostitutes. They also included the health risks involved, particularly the pros and cons of government regulation, with some debates even focusing purely on the point of clash between decriminalisation and legalisation. The teams were judged on content,

structure and style with all the teams demonstrating an exceptional standard of debating.

On the last day of term, the two highest scoring teams faced each other in the Final with the motion 'This House would ban no platform policies'. This was highly topical, particularly with current discussions over the role and actions of university student unions and their level of censorship. Our esteemed judges were Mr Suter, Ms Barrett and Mr Flack. The debate considered viable limitations to free speech, the role of safe-spaces on campuses and the notion of giving credibility to speakers given a platform. However, in this debate it was the proposition's arguments

over the academic necessity to hear and challenge opposing views and the difficulty of objectively and fairly defining limits to free speech with regards to 'offence' that emerged triumphant. This perhaps served as a stark reminder that, from September, many of the current Year 13 cohort will indeed be facing a plethora of opposing views at their many universities, with debating as one of the principal tools with which to address them.

After many years of taking part, Adam and Jojo in Year 13 were finally crowned 2016 JFS debating champions. We would like to thank Jess, Kobi and Adam for organising the Debating Society in general as well as the competition.

## Proud of Our Alumni

The Jim Lees Prize at Nottingham University is awarded to the second year, single honours philosophy students who, in the previous academic year, achieved the best overall marks.

We are proud to report that Phoebe Jascourt and Ben Avital (JFS Alumni), in their final year at Nottingham University, both studying BA (hons) Philosophy, were honoured with this prestigious prize for the top second year Philosophy student, 2014-15 (Phoebe) and the runner up (Ben). They were presented with awards at a Philosophy departmental ceremony at the end of April, as part of a special lecture programme.



Phoebe and Ben with the Head of Philosophy at Nottingham University.



## Silver

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition

*Direct entrants must undertake a **further** six months in the Volunteering or the **longer** of the Physical or Skills sections.*

### Practice Makes Perfect

Walking and whining, “Where am I”? These words come to mind when discussing the Year 10 DofE practice expedition. Last week Year 10 students set off on a practice walk that was assessed by a guardian on the route. The real expedition will take place in a few weeks.

The treacherous walk took place in the countryside, filled with raging cows, and seemingly endless journeys through the woods. Each group was made up of either a mixed group of boys and girls or separate. They were each equipped with a cooking stove, a sleeping bag and a mat to sleep on, not forgetting the tent! Prior to all the feuds over who should carry which equipment, one group member was given a tracker and would be tracked through their journey to make sure they did it correctly, with no temptations of cheating.

One group member said, “Even packing the bag is difficult, only do this if you think you are the crème de la crème of physical endurance”. This expedition was the silver boundary of the three DofE medals, most students who are competing for the Silver Medal, had already achieved the Bronze Medal prior to the expedition. As well as the expedition, you have to complete four stages, one being the walk, one is charity work, one is learning a new skill (e.g. singing) and one is competing in a physical activity (e.g. boxing). One student said, “This is by far the hardest section out of three, I would prefer to just do the charity work for longer.”

As the groups set off, the average time of each group to reach base was around, 4-5 hours, with the first group arriving at 3pm and the last arriving at 8pm. They all pitched up tent for the night, in the middle of field. You are probably wondering how they had the energy for the next day. Well luckily

they each had a homemade, mouth-watering dinner, most of which consisted of pasta and chocolate.

The next day was apparently the most challenging, after a not so great night’s sleep, and being awoken by the sound of birds, each group set off for the second day of the expedition, the route was even longer and the majority of groups did not reach the second base till approximately 7:30pm, where they pitched up tents once again.

Refreshed again the next morning, the end was dawning. Every group packed up, quicker than the previous morning. Once they set off it was only a matter of time before the realisation of returning back to reality sunk in, the end was nigh. As each group raced to the finish line, There was an audible sigh of relief. They had conquered the practice expedition. Now bring on the real one in a few weeks!

Samson Tausig 10A3  
Student Journalist



Lukasz Konieczka speaking to Year 13 students.

Our visitor related her tumultuous journey from growing up in North West London, attending the best schools as well as working in a top job for a multi-national company, all marred by the destructive nature of drugs.

The students were mesmerised by her story and how she managed to rebuild her shattered life by becoming totally clean. The audience clearly took much from the stark and powerful message of the talk and realised that if they should ever find themselves in trouble with drugs, help is at hand.

Lukasz Konieczka, director of Mosaic (an LGBT youth centre) spoke to Year 13 students this week. Amongst other topics, he spoke about gender versus sexuality and about the ramifications of prejudice against the LGBT community.

Students were free to ask questions on any related issues which were answered with great humour.

### Guest Speakers

To tie in with their current unit of

study on the GCSE course, all Year 11 students were privileged to hear the sobering story of an ex-drug addict.

## Catering Evening Parent Update

Following on from our Parents Catering Evening in April, Caterlink have already made some immediate changes requested by parents and students to improve the food experience.

- The chocolate and jam sandwiches that have been phased out over the last year have now been completely removed.

- Pasta is now drained fully as staff will serve it slower and ensure each spoonful is drained before placing on plates.

- We would like to assure parents that all the bread delivered to JFS is fresh daily and often still warm. We have been using a new bakery since September.

- Caterlink would like students to know that they never use butter or margarine in the sandwiches.

- There will be more sandwiches that are plain (without tomato or cucumber in them) and more smoked salmon sandwiches without cream cheese.

- Juliette, the Catering Manager, is very accommodating to students that need a tailor-made menu for food allergies. We would like to ask parents to encourage their children to be more co-operative and actually turn up to pick up the arranged food for that day. Many of the students do not, which creates much waste of food and time, resulting in a student that has not eaten properly.

- Catering assistants will actively encourage students that are fussy eaters to try the different meals on offer. Plastic spoons are available so do encourage your child to have a try.

- Long queues seem to be a popular excuse for students to miss lunch. The reality is that queues are busy until 12:55pm and clear for the rest of break (40 minutes)!





### Dramatic End To An Active Year

This week Year 13 Drama students performed their final practical exams with an external moderator. We wish you all the best of luck!



## **The Killer Character Trait - Ambition**

Ambition is apparently the key ingredient to any successful person's mindset. Ambition is the difference between the students in your class that always want to be the best at everything they do and the students who do not really mind taking their time and generally being average. But is it always a positive characteristic?

Ambitious people can sometimes be thought of as being dissatisfied since they have such a strong desire and determination to reach their full potential.

Some countries look down on ambitious people, as a Japanese proverb states, "The nail that sticks out, gets hammered down." Nassir Ghaemi (a professor of psychology and pharmacology at Boston's Tufts Medical Centre) says that the more self-esteem one has, the more likely they are to be ambitious as they believe that they are able to achieve more.

Furthermore, people in Western nations believe that outgoing people with high grades are also very ambitious. These people care about whether or not they are viewed positively. On the other

hand, introverts do not mind how they are viewed and therefore are not as ambitious. It is also believed that if you have a successful family history you may be more ambitious as it is expected of you to achieve high standards.

Are these judgments fair? Do they really represent ambitious people? In my opinion when you are ambitious, you just want to succeed, is there really any shame in that? Why should you follow the crowd? There is only one you and if you do not believe in yourself and if you do not try your best, nobody will do it for you. Ghaemi says this about successful business people, "They have to be really well liked, but they are also conformists. They are not especially creative, they are not super productive and they are not especially innovative. They just need to be committed to the institution." Ironically, this statement about ambition goes against what I believe.

However, ambition is necessary as a 'stepping stone' into the world. Too much or too little of this ingredient can ruin the cake, you need just the right amount to rise.

Chloe Miller 7A1  
Student Journalist



## **Ambition Sonnet**

From a young age that strong  
desire burned  
To be a brave soldier I simply yearned  
It was nineteen-eighteen I saw  
them home  
From the front trenches where they  
once did roam  
Those young soldiers experienced  
so much pain  
Many young men did not make  
it home again  
But twenty-one years later the  
"Hun" was back  
World War Two was my own  
chance to attack  
Maybe it was understanding I lacked  
Because anger and revenge had  
me backed  
As my comrades' luck ran out and  
they fell  
I realised that war is but pure hell!  
My ambition for a soldier was no more  
I was later killed on Omaha's shore.

Saul Fileen-Orchover 7W1  
Student Journalist



[www.youtube.com/user/JFSwebsite](http://www.youtube.com/user/JFSwebsite)



@JFSSchool



[www.facebook.com/JFSSchool](http://www.facebook.com/JFSSchool)