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| **THE JEWISH DIMENSION IN THE SIXTH FORM**  **The Morasha Programme** |

*Morasha* is our exciting Jewish education experience for all Sixth Form students.

Each element of the *Morasha Programme* is part of the inheritance that the student stands to receive. Some of these elements, such as the curriculum, are ancient in origin but still have a direct relevance to their lives. As well as looking at traditional texts and Jewish values, the programme will enable students to encounter today’s Jewish organisations and leaders. The combination of all of this is their inheritance.

Within the Jewish community, there are plenty of opportunities for people to share their talents and skills. We have designed the *Morasha* *Programme* to allow our students to have more of a bespoke educational experience. They can now select different tracks within the course and this will have a consequence on the type of Jewish education they will receive. We hope that this will ultimately lead to students finding their long-term place in the Jewish community and continue to be active members long after their time here at JFS.

**Overview**

The programme is non-examined but the lessons are compulsory and attending JS is a requirement of being a Sixth Form student at JFS. Year 12 students have four lessons over two weeks whilst Year 13 has three lessons over two weeks (although there are many opportunities to have additional hours for those who wish it).

Topics will include social media, Israel, life and death decisions, practical Jewish skills (and many more), where students have the opportunity to learn about the ways in which Jewish teachings and values are applied to modern life.

The entire programme is enhanced by top class speakers who come in to school to share their life experiences with the students. Some speakers represent some of the wonderful organisations within the Jewish community. In addition, we invite speakers from other faiths and cultures as we profoundly believe in the importance of learning about and respecting those with different backgrounds to ourselves.

Overall, we hope that this programme will give students a diverse Jewish experience that will make them proud to be part of the Jewish community.

**Jewish Studies Curriculum**

The Jewish studies curriculum is designed to focus on relevant and useful issues whilst learning about the Jewish approach to these matters. Lessons seek to engage the student with contemporary topics and students are presented with a variety of modern day case studies.

The course is an opportunity for students to grapple with their own approach to a wide range of issues. Examples include:

• Ethical use of social media

• Free speech parameters

• Relationships

• Financial transactions

• Trading hostages

• Military action

• Medical dilemmas

• The death penalty

• Female roles in Judaism

• What is Judaism?

The lessons are punctuated by speakers who are relevant to the topics being studied as well as seasonal activities that occur around the time of certain Jewish festivals as well as social action opportunities.

**Speakers**

Lessons are complemented by a diverse range of speakers from organisations across the world. Each speaker gives the students an insight into the practical applications of the theory from their lessons. Furthermore, whenever a speaker is brought in, we are hopeful that some of their life story and background will educate the students on what path was followed in order to get to where the speaker currently is. Speakers have always been willing to give out contact details and this has been a great way for students to gain some valuable internship opportunities.

**Poland Trip**

In Year 12, we offer you the opportunity to take part in a very special visit to Poland. The visit is predominantly geared towards further developing students’ Holocaust education but also enhances their Jewish identity. Participants will be able to identify the different stages of the Holocaust through visits to key sites as well as gaining an understanding of the Jewish presence in Europe prior to the tragic events that took place during the War. The students also experience a Shabbat in Krakow.

**Festivals**

During the course of the year, we celebrate various Jewish festivals with special events. The events set out to give the student an experiential form of education in addition to what is learned in the classroom. In the past we have had keynote speakers as well as interactive carousel sessions where students. Most recently, we were able to run sessions making hamentashen on Purim and matzah around Pesach as well as helping to pack food parcels for people in need.

**Special Events**

Occasionally, we run special panel events that involve experts from a certain field that relate to the topics being studied in the classroom. Past events have included a panel discussion on International Women’s Day as well as a debate on religion with students on the panel.

**Volunteering Fair**

Part of the *Morasha* experience is about giving back to the community, something that we hope students will continue to do long after leaving JFS. To that end, we hold a volunteering fair where many worthy charities and organisations pitch for their time.

**Enrichment**

In the Sixth Form, students must select at least one enrichment option. This is known as their ‘REC’ option. The Jewish studies department offers four options alongside the choices from other departments (see above). Traditionally, these options involve a lot of trips and visits and are largely oversubscribed.

* **The Iyun (‘depth’) Track**

This programme is for students who are keen to take their Jewish studies one step further. They are given a separate (and additional) provision, including advanced lectures from international and dynamic scholars as well as a bespoke learning programme during lessons.

In addition, we bring in university students, who have all studied Torah in yeshivot and seminaries across the globe, to learn in small groups with the students (chavrutot). Aside from the obvious enhanced educational benefits of such an initiative, this programme provides students with a young mentor figure who can also guide students through the next few years of their lives. We invite representatives from yeshivot and seminaries to meet with the students and guide them through the application process and preparation for studying at these institutions should this interest them.

* **The NXT Track**

The NEXT programme takes students to visit successful Jewish business professionals at their workplace. The students get the opportunity to ask questions about their profession as well as getting a taste of the corporate world. The experience will help to guide students make better choices for their university courses as well as mapping out a path towards professional success.

* **The GIFT Track**

The GIFT volunteering REC programme inspires students to give by combining inspiration, training and volunteering. This enables students to go out into the world and make a difference. Through a series of sessions students will meet people from the not for profit world and learn from some incredible people. The students will also get the opportunity to put the knowledge into practise when visiting the charities and engaging with those in need.

* **The JLIV Track**

Accompanied by the newest members of the 6th Form team (Rabbi Bentsi and Michal Mann), participants will learn all about Jewish live and how it integrates into our day-to-day life. The programme will include a multitude of topics ranging from learning how to cook a Shabbat meal to engaging in debates about Israel. Students selecting this option can even hope to learn a bit about budgeting and kosher shopping whilst at university from a range of ex-JFS students.

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