

HBHG TEAM NEWSLETTER



OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE

Please contact us
[@jfsbhgteam](#) via
Instagram with any
questions, suggestions, if
you would like to promote
an event, announcements
or to write a comment
piece for the newsletter.
Our DMs are always open!



WRITE FOR US!

SOCIETIES THIS WEEK

Debating Society
Economics Society
Feminist Society
History Society
JiEP Lunch and Learn
Maths and Physics Society
Music Society
Philosophy Society
Politics Society

**For more info [click here](#)
or go to our instagram
[@jfsbhgteam](#)**

Writing is an essential outlet for one to truly explore an area of interest on a deeper level, as well as come to learn new ideas and concepts. As a team, we feel passionate about creating a student community (albeit virtually) in which everyone feels encouraged to use writing as a means to project their voice and contribute to the JFS as a whole. Whether this be through a Dvar Torah or a comment piece, we urge all students and teachers to partake in the newsletter! With our weekly Dvar Torah, it is key in considering the true meaning behind the week's parasha and how it maintains its relevance to our modern day life. More broadly, the comment piece could range from a wide spectrum of subjects, from topical current affairs to areas of interest, specific to the writer! If you are interested in submitting a newsletter entry, contact us via email or DM us on Instagram [@jfsbhgteam](#)

COMMENT PIECE BY SYLVIE GREEN

Purim; costumes; dress up; and a whole lot of self-reflection

What actually is dress-up? Why do we use clothes to reflect out images of class, gender, profession and ethnicity? No one can argue that costumes are a cultural visual of the people, it's our defining aspect, that tool that creates a first impression - and gives a lasting flavour. Whole eras are defined by costume. It's not even superficial. History isn't just epic ideas but also what people decided to wear to the world that day. When we hear 'Greeks' we're transported to a world filled with flowing white tunics; 'Victorian' is huge, puffed-up labour-intensive vibrant dresses, '21st Century teenage girl' is all Air Force 1's and Juicy Couture tracksuits.

So how does the Purim dress-up parade relate to all this? Why are we hiding ourselves behind red curly wigs and stripy socks? Purim is the holiday in hiding; it's hard to find the spiritual dimension that lies underneath the gregors and hamantaschen and the disguises actually underscore the essential hiddenness of the day. The miracle of Purim is a hidden one. The Purim miracle -- whereby the entire Jewish community is saved from destruction -- is a hidden miracle!? The interceding hand of G-d is invisible - His name is not mentioned in the whole Megillah! The theme of hiding is referenced in the name "Esther", whose name is derived from the root str, which in Hebrew means "hidden." Gradually we begin to understand the role of masks in the Purim story... The entire deliverance of the Jewish people is masked. It is a story wrapped in a disguise, hidden behind a costume, concealed behind a mask. There is a paradox: in changing ourselves on the outside we are given a helping hand to look at the possibility of changing ourselves on the inside.

This holiday encourages us to take a step back from the visual; from what is directly in front of us and appreciate the hidden hand of G-d and His works. We mask our normal costumes in order to remind us of what is abstract and behind our appearances. This is in contrast to dwelling on the superficial out in front of us. While we can get caught up in the superficial Tik-Tok self, Purim comes with the message to take time to nurture our thoughtful, spiritual selves laying underneath the costumed surface.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

GIFT: Giving is a great way to help others and to feel good! Find out the many ways to help, [here](#).

WHAT TO DO ON PURIM

- 1) Give Mishloach Manot
- 2) Listen to the Megillah being read
- 3) Give to charity
- 4) Have a seudah

INTERNATIONAL AGUNAH DAY

Thursday was the fast of Esther. It has been declared that this day is also International Agunah Day.

Agunah: A Jewish woman who is stuck in a religious marriage as her husband has refused a get (Jewish divorce bill).

Year 12 was lucky to have Naomi Dickson, the head of Jewish Women's Aid, speak to them on this day.

Jewish Women's Aid helps many women find their voices, as we learn from Esther that speaking up empowers women.

To donate or for further information, please visit [here](#)

FINAL WORDS OF THE WEEK

In reflection, this week has brought us a much-needed dose of hope and happy news.

Boris Johnson announced our exit strategy for Coronavirus, revealing that we will be back at school on the 8th of March! Whilst it will be a gradual process, it is helpful now to be able to have the end in sight.

The sun has come out, the birds are chirping, and the hats and gloves have been stowed away; melting our winter blues as we approach our final hurdles battling Coronavirus.

Finally, today is Purim! A festival filled with fun and laughter. Amazingly, JiEP activities have still gone ahead despite everything, outstandingly delivering a Mishloach Manot package to every JFS student! We personally want to thank JiEP for lifting our spirits and celebrating with us today.

We are excited to see you all back at school soon.

**Purim Sameach and Shabbat Shalom,
from your HBHG Team**

**Chloe Fouladbaksh
Eden Field
Chloe Miller**

**Jake Gilbert
Daniel Grossman
Saadia Klein**

