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The YC

Yavneh Chronicle



Message from the Headteacher

This newsletter brings you the exciting news that we have been granted Specialist Business and Enterprise College Status from September 2008. To find out more about what this will mean for the school, please look at the various articles in this edition.

Preparations are well underway for the final phase of major building works at the school, which will provide the additional accommodation we will require from September 2009. The former Hillside School buildings will be fully refurbished and a large new double storey teaching block will be constructed, providing the permanent location for a number of departments - JS, mathematics, modern languages, humanities, design technology, music, art, ICT, SEN - and a school hall, hard play outdoor courts and additional offices. The contractors will begin work on site in the next few months.

We are also pleased to inform you that thanks to a generous donation, work on the renovation of the former Hillside School gymnasium begins shortly, to create a beautiful synagogue for pupils' use. Furniture commissioned from Kibbutz Lavi in Israel will provide a contemporary look, complementing the design of the rest of the school and providing a fitting home for the Sefer Torah specially commissioned for the school in loving memory of Joe Gordon Z"l. We look forward to welcoming all parents and pupils to the Hachnasat Sefer Torah on Sunday 3 February at 10.00 - 12.00pm.

Finally, please note that the newsletter is now posted on the school website each month, so if you would like to enjoy it in colour, please log on to www.yavnehcollege.org.

SPECIALIST STATUS ACHIEVED

Yavneh College is delighted to announce that we have been successful in our bid to become a specialist Business and Enterprise College.



After submitting a thorough and detailed application and undergoing a rigorous assessment visit, the DCSF and Specialist School and Academies Trust felt that the vision of the school for an enterprising approach to education was first rate.

Business & Enterprise Specialist Status covers three main curriculum areas:- *Business & Enterprise, Mathematics, ICT*

Achieving the status will allow the pupils of the school to make even greater progress and have even more opportunities in these three teaching areas.

Our thanks go to Mr Slater who has worked tirelessly on putting the bid together since his appointment as First Deputy, and to Dr Coleman, Mrs Cohen and Mr Last who were invaluable contributors.

The school will officially begin the new and exciting opportunity from September 2008.

A word to our Sponsors

To Dedicated Doctors, sponsors of Ethics House



stgilesgroup.co.uk

**and to the St Giles Group,
sponsors of Venture House**

THANK YOU

Without your help and support, we could not have become a specialist school.

Building a House System

From September we will be launching the Yavneh College House System. Described as 'one of a kind', 'unique' and 'inspirational', our Houses will be related to key concepts and skills in business, which have an impact on school life.

Each House will be sponsored by a local/national/ international business. Currently only two of the Houses, Ethics House and Venture House, have been sponsored, giving the opportunity for three more businesses to become involved in the future success of our school and your children.

So if you want to sponsor:-

Innovation House or Industry House or Endeavour House

Please contact Mr Slater

Hachnasat Sefer Torah

As part of their preparation for this special occasion, all pupils attended a Torah writing workshop during January 2008 which was very enjoyable and informative.



We would love to see as many of you as possible to help make the day unforgettable.

TU B'SHVAT 5768

To celebrate Tu B'shvat this year, Year 7 enjoyed a Tu B'shvat Seder delivered by the JNF. Through tasting various fruits and different types of grape juice, the children experienced the beauty of this festival first hand. Fun was had by all.



Year 8 went on an educational visit to the National History Museum where they focused on plants, ecology and environmental issues. The outing was a joint venture between the JS, Science and Art departments.

Mr .Marcus

The Year 8 Shabbaton organised by Mr Marcus, Mr Davis and Miss Bharier was a resounding success with an exciting Shabbaton atmosphere combining fun activities and interesting debate. The Shabbaton also saw the launch of the Yavneh College Year 8 Yoni Jesner Award Scheme whereby Year 8 pupils will be going out into the community and volunteering in a number of different ways such as helping the disabled and supporting underprivileged children.

Some words from the pupils -

'I gained more knowledge and special experiences over Shabbat'

'I feel I can now keep Shabbat, which I didn't before'

'A nice Shabbat and an experience to talk to people I couldn't normally'

'Very fun, would like to do it again'

'I gained the knowledge of how to keep Shabbat well and enjoy it with my friends. I loved singing the songs'

My favourite activity was the quasar and football'

'I really enjoyed the Shabbaton and I think that it was one of the best weekends I have ever had'

'I bonded with my friends'

'My favourite activity on Shabbat was the Big Brother Competition Talent Show'

'I love Shabbat it is a time of joy and rest'

'I learnt many more Jewish songs and had a fantastic experience'

The Jewish Studies Department wish to thank staff, Madrichin and most importantly, all of Year 8 for being so wonderful!

Next Year in Israel!

Is there anything different about the curriculum in specialist schools?

All specialist schools must still teach a broad and balanced curriculum, meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum. Alongside this they will provide enriched learning opportunities in their chosen specialist subjects.



On Friday 18 January, we were privileged to host a very special assembly by the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yonah Metzger.

He addressed pupils and staff and toured the campus. He told the pupils how lucky they were to be in a school like this and how they had to make the most of every opportunity it offered. Our thanks go to AJEX for helping to arrange the visit.

CHANUKAH 5768

The pupils celebrated Chanukah in true Yavneh style with a blend of charity fundraising and fun activities. Am Echad organised a very successful and memorable Fair raising over £1,000 for the school's three chosen charities. Following that, the pupils enjoyed their time on the various inflatables in the sports hall, especially the sumo wrestling activity!

CANDLE LIGHTING

Various Rabbis and other dignitaries were invited to light the school's chanukiah at the end of each day. Our guests included an inaugural visit from Rabbi Brawer, who addressed pupils on the meaning of Chanukah. Another highlight was the special lighting ceremony with Holocaust survivor, Mr Kolman. Mr Kolman went to school at the Jawne Gymnasium in Cologne which was decimated in Nazi Germany. He said that lighting the Chanukiah here brought life back to Jawne. A special plaque remembering pupils and staff of his former school was unveiled.



LeviLuca.com

Kosher Deli And Grill 020 89051118

We are delighted to announce that Levi Luca in Shenley Road, Borehamwood has very kindly offered a 10% discount to Yavneh College pupils off a meal if they are in uniform (for identification purposes!) before 5.30 pm.

Enjoy!

What additional funding does the school get?

Specialist schools receive two tranches of additional funding:-

£100,000 for a capital project. This will be used to convert part of the C block into specialist teaching rooms for Business and Enterprise, and to create a Cyber Café.

Recurrent funding of £129 per pupil per year .



Will there be any new developments in the school?

We will continue to develop enterprising approaches to the use of new technology (such as the visualisers that are in every classroom).

We will continue to develop our 'Assessment for Learning' approach to marking.

We will develop an 'entrepreneurial' and 'can do' approach throughout the school.

We will also be launching an in-house radio station. Radio Yavneh will be launched on the internet in September 2009.

In September 2008 we will launch our unique House System.



E-SAFETY

In December, Mr Last gave an assembly about e-safety and the introduction of a code of conduct for pupil ICT use.

ICT and the related technologies are an important part of learning at Yavneh College. We believe that ICT has the power to assist in pupils' learning and expect all pupils to be responsible for their behaviour when using the school network, ICT and the internet.

It is also essential that pupils are aware of e-safety and know how to stay safe when using ICT. Social networking sites, such as Facebook, Myspace or Bebo are used by many pupils at Yavneh College outside of school. The dangers of using these sites were discussed during the assembly and pupils were given practical advice on e-safety, such as limiting the amount of personal information listed on such websites and being cautious about some of the people who may try to communicate with them.

BBC's Panorama investigated this issue and screened a programme on Monday 7 January called 'One Click from Danger'. This was an excellent, though startling, insight into the dangers of social networking, and is thoroughly recommended viewing for pupils and parents alike. This is currently available to watch online at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/programmes/panorama/default.stm>. For any further guidance regarding this important issue please do not hesitate to contact Mr.Last, Head of ICT.

THREE FAITHS FORUM

As part of our ongoing commitment to develop positive relations between our pupils and other religious groups, the Three Faiths Forum was invited to again lead an assembly in January. The chosen topic was free choice within each of their religions. In the absence of the Christian representative due to illness, Mr.Slater ably filled in. In a letter which the Forum subsequently wrote to the school, they praised the pupils on their engaging attitude and respectful questioning.

Mr.Marcus

JANUARY MATHS PUZZLES

Mr Brown has 8 black gloves and 12 brown gloves in his closet. He blindly picks up some gloves from the closet. What is the minimum number of gloves Mr Brown will have to pick to be certain to find a pair of gloves of the same colour?



Suppose 8 monkeys take 8 minutes to eat 8 bananas. How many minutes would it take 3 monkeys to eat 3 bananas.

Last school holiday, my cousin came to stay at my home. We made the most of her stay at my place and I even earned a few chocolates.



Everyday, we would play a game of chess. Whoever lost the game owed a chocolate to the other. After the last game we played (that was the day she was to leave), we counted the number of games each of us had won and lost. Wow! I had won more than her. So, she handed me 8 chocolates...though she herself was the winner in 13 games.

How many days did my cousin spend at my place?

Science Department Guest Speaker

The Science Department are delighted to announce that to kick start National Science Week we are honoured that Dr Max Coleman, Director of the Center for Life Detection at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will be talking to the whole school on Monday 25 February. This promises to be an exciting presentation about how NASA are exploring Mars and looking for life there!

The Science Department and the LRC

In order to raise the profile of science in the Learning Resource Centre, a group of Year 8 pupils are collating a list of science books, DVDs, CD-ROMs etc to be purchased. If any pupils or parents have any recommendations please put the title, ISBN and the publisher clearly on a piece of paper and give to Talia Album or Channie Orchant before 22 February.

Do you have nursery-age children?

You may be interested to know that Herts LEA Children Schools and Families are consulting widely among early years providers, parents and carers on the process for applying for a nursery place in a maintained sector nursery class or school, and the dates when children could start nursery or reception class.

To have your say on a range of admission issues that will impact on the way the council and the schools manage admissions in the future, visit www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations.

LOST PROPERTY

Access to the lost property store is permitted **only between 1.20 - 1.30pm**. All visits to the lost property store will be recorded by the office.

After four visits, a lunch duty will be issued and subsequent visits within the term will result in a debit.

As a specialist school, does the school need to work with the local community?

Yes. This is a key element of the the status.

Yavneh College will be working closely with: **HJPS, Clore Shalom, Newberries Primary School** in Radlett and **St Nicholas Primary School** in Elstree. This will involve running joint projects relating to business, ICT and maths.



Hertswood Secondary School We will be working with their maths and ICT department, sharing our knowledge and expertise. We will also help them in the delivery of Business and Enterprise for their own pupils.

JABE (Jewish Association for Business Ethics) We are working with JABE and other Jewish secondary schools, writing courses and teaching materials relating to ethical business. This material will be made available to all school in the UK.

Hertsmere Worknet Based on the High Street in Borehamwood, Worknet provides training opportunities for people returning to work. We are currently developing an evening course for adults which will develop skills in areas such as communication and customer service.

The Rotary Club We will be supporting the local Rotary in running its annual school Art Show.

Year 7 and Year 8 Chanukah Supper Quiz



The YCA Year 7 and 8 Supper Quiz took place on Motzei Shabbat 8 December in the school hall and was a great success. The evening opened with the lighting of the Chanukiah led by Sam Gilmore's father, Jeremy, and the quizmaster for the night was Reuben Lubinsky's father, Stephen.

Eighty children took part in teams of eight and displayed their wealth of general knowledge while tucking into a supper of filled rolls, doughnuts, snacks and drinks. It was a close race from the beginning but Team Joseph clearly knew their stuff and came out on top with 98 points fervently followed in joint second place by Teams Isaac and Ruben with 95 points. A great time was had by all.

Our thanks to Stephen Lubinsky for creating the quiz and to Mr Carter for clearing up the mess!

If you would like to get involved with YCA (Yavneh College Association) events, please get in touch with Debbie Unerman (Chair) Tel No: 01923 265141 or by email to mummyu@hotmail.co.uk.

We welcome new members to the committee.

How long are specialist schools designated for?

Specialist schools are designated initially for a period of three years. Continued designation depends on satisfactory performance and grading in individual schools' Ofsted report. Schools may be re-designated for periods of three years up to the point of their next Ofsted inspection.



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Premier Coaching are pleased
to announce a Performing Arts
taster camp to include Dance
and Drama at Yavneh College
in February Half- Term 12th -
14th, three days at £75, lim-
ited places available, call the
above numbers.

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Important dates for your diary!

Parents' Evening 7HS
Parents' Evening 7CP
Hachnasat Sefer Torah
Closed for half term

Parents' Evening 7AL
Parents' Evening 7ALB
Parents' Evening 8DL
Parents' Evening 8AD
Year 7 Shabbaton

Parents' Evening 8PK
Closed for Easter Bank Holidays
YCA Boutique Evening
Les Mis Production
Les Mis Production
Les Mis Production
Spring Term ends
Summer Term Begins
Closed for Bank Holiday
Closed for Half Term

Closed for Shavuot
Summer Term Ends

Mon 4 Feb
Wed 6 Feb
Sun 3 Feb
Mon 11 Feb to
Fri 15 Feb inclusive
Mon 18 Feb
Wed 20 Feb
Mon 25 Feb
Wed 27 Feb
Fri 29 Feb &
Sat 1 March 2008
Tue 4 March
Fri 21 & Mon 24 March
Tue 1 April
Mon 7 April
Tue 8 April
Wed 8 April
Tue 15 April
Tue 29 April
Mon 5 May
Mon 26 May to
Fri 30 May inclusive
Mon 9 June & Tue 10 June
Fri 25 July