



The weather may have been windy and snowy, but inside Yavneh College it's



been a smooth start to the new term.

We have had a number of special events, which you can read about in this newsletter, the pupils are enjoying their new enrichment activities and our Pastoral Manager Mrs. Spelman has quickly settled into her new role.

I am very pleased to inform you that 17 of our pupils have been accepted for membership of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (their names are not listed here because some of the children concerned would rather that I not do so). Membership of NAGTY is only open to individuals who have achieved very high scores in nationally-accredited tests such as Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) and who have produced work of exceptional quality at school. NAGTY members are able to participate in special activities designed to provide outlets for the development of their talents. These activities are a wonderful opportunity to do something challenging and enjoyable, such as attending a university summer school.

I look forward to reporting further items of good news in the next newsletter!

### YAVNEH COLLEGE BUILDING UPDATE



The main block has now reached roof height

## Storage of personal possessions

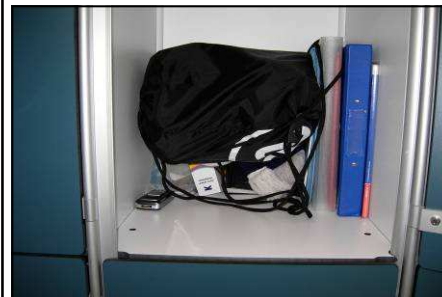
**Lost property** As explained in the last newsletter, unclaimed lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term, as we cannot store the huge quantities that accumulate. We hope that this warning will be taken to heart; a child who does not reclaim a lost coat, uniform item or piece of equipment from the school office needs to appreciate that their laziness will mean an expensive trip to the shops for their parents. (A tip for parents—insisting on a contribution from their pocket money can help to ensure that your child mends their ways!).

**Valuable items** A personal, padlocked locker is provided for every pupil so that they can store items of value safely during the school day. Mobile phones, purses and wallets are, however, routinely being left in unattended schoolbags and coat pockets. All schools experience opportunistic thefts; although we have had no such problems so far, it would be naïve to believe that we will never have. Please insist that your child gets into the routine of using their locker to store their valuables.

**Schoolbags** Unattended bags are a security problem and trip hazard. When pupils are in classrooms, bags must be placed in the bag stores provided. At other times, bags must be kept in pupils' possession or stored in their lockers. The internal size of the lockers is 38 cm W x 42 cm H x 44 cm D, which is large enough for an adequately-sized backpack or wheelee case. A small number of pupils have brought large wheelee handluggage cases and large rucksacks to school, more suited to a weekend away than a day at school! These do not fit the lockers or bag stores.

**PE Kit** PE kit should only be brought to school on the day your child has PE and should be taken home the same day, to be washed. Most pupils use a draw-string bag marked with their name, which can be stored easily in a locker or hung on a coat hook or placed in a bag store. A few pupils, however, struggle into school carrying their kit in a huge bag as well as their normal schoolbag, although there is no room to store both.

**Textbooks** Pupils who have schoolbags that are not over-large and who keep their lockers tidy and free of rubbish are able to fit in all their textbooks as well as their schoolbags. Alternatively, as there is no requirement to keep textbooks in lockers, they can be kept at home as long as your child brings in the books that they need each day.



Excellent use of a locker: the mobile phone is being left here during the day, the PE kit bag is not over-large, the only books are those needed for today, plenty of spare room for a schoolbag.



Need we say more!



Too big! Will not fit in a locker or a bag store



Just right!



Good choice! This school bag and kit bag will easily fit into the same locker

### All your own work

The first case of plagiarism has occurred at Yavneh College. A pupil presented work copied from an online site, as their own work.

Whilst we appreciate that research from the internet can have real value, to then present this as your own work is unacceptable.

The pupil concerned and their parents have been informed and warned about the consequences of any such repetition.

At this stage this is an internal matter, but as our pupils progress through the school, such incidents could have much more serious implications, including being barred from entering exams or having examination grades changed.

So, pupils, please make sure that you use the internet in a constructive manner and do not present someone else's work as your own. Make it **ALL YOUR OWN WORK**.

Mr. Slater

### Young Persons' Poetry Competition

**Lily Unerman  
Susanna Fantoni**

**Both have had poems published in the Herfordshire Poetry Anthology after being selected as 'stand-out creations'**

**Well done to you both**

Ms.Lovett

Should parents ever have any concerns about security in the vicinity of the school, please contact the CST on **020 8457 9999**

### Hillside parking chaos

Parents who picked up children on Tuesday 23 January will have realised exactly why the school has encouraged parents not to park in Hillside Avenue.

At around 5.00pm, at the end of Homework Club and Football Club, Hillside Avenue became almost impossible to drive along. This was caused by a number of parental cars being parked opposite the school at the same time as a number of residents from Hillside and adjoining roads were attempting to get home.

The result was a number of very unhappy drivers and local residents.

The last thing the school wants to do is create disharmony with our neighbours. Please park away from the school entrance and with due regard for the local residents.

Mr. Slater

### Holocaust Memorial Day Assembly

On Friday 26th January an assembly commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day was held at Bushey Meads School for pupils in the Hertsmere Borough. Yavneh College sent a delegation of ten pupils accompanied by Mr Marcus and Ms Lovett. Speakers included Doreen Lawrence OBE (mother of Steven Lawrence) and Mayor Heywood. Bushey Meads pupils performed appropriate sketches, songs and poetry readings. It was a very moving event which was appreciated by all. Later that afternoon, Yavneh held its own Holocaust Memorial assembly at which pupils were mesmerised by Mrs Bertha Leverton. She told pupils of her experiences in pre-war Europe and helped them to empathise with the plight of those who came to England on the Kinder transport. Our pupils were particularly caught up on the dilemma posed by Mrs Leverton as to what they would pack in their one permitted bag if they had been faced with the same devastating journey as she.

Mr. Marcus

### Remembering Ilan Ramon

*30th January was the anniversary of the Columbia disaster in which the first Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon perished.*

*Speakers from the Jewish Agency delivered a special assembly in his memory. Pupils were enthralled by their description of the items Ramon took with him into space, many of which were of a religious nature.*

### Canada Life Young People of the Year

Mr Tony Dering, founder of Young People of the Year (YOPEY) joined us for assembly, to describe his campaign to find role model citizens amongst young British people. Following this, we nominated *Jake Jacobs and Harrison Posner* and our charity committee *Am Echad* to be considered for the award. The nominees were contacted by YOPEY journalists and local newspapers who have shown great interest in the story. Details of the nominations now appear on the YOPEY website [www.youngpeopleofthe\\_year.org](http://www.youngpeopleofthe_year.org). Jake and Harrison both have siblings at the Colnbrook School catering for children with significant learning and physical difficulties. The boys have worked very hard in the past months and raised over £2,500 for the school in their own time. Am Echad has been enthusiastically run by over thirty pupils since its formation in September 2006. Through various projects, pupils have already raised over £2,000 for the school's three charities. The pupils have learnt how to organise and manage fundraising events in the process.

### Thank You

The school would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, relatives and friends for their generosity in helping raise over £1,000 for the ongoing Tu Bishvat tree project. It is a staggering amount!!

Mr. Marcus

### NOVELTIES DIRECT

Wholesale Party Novelties For your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Based in Borehamwood [www.novelties-direct.co.uk](http://www.novelties-direct.co.uk) or call Simone Snow **08453 31 34 31**

### Simcha Make-up By Michelle Abels

Professional make-up for that special occasion by one of the UK's most experienced Film, TV and celebrity make-up artists 25% discount for Yavneh Parents **Call Michelle on 07850 054634**

### Important dates for your diary!

**Monday 26 February** 7PL Parents' Evening  
**Wednesday 28 February** 7SHS Parents' Evening  
**Monday 5 March** 7DJ Parents' Evening  
**Friday 20 - Sunday 22 April** Year 7 Shabbaton