



Message from the Headteacher

The education world constantly changes, with new priorities and initiatives arriving in an unstoppable stream. This year, for example, has seen the introduction of a new Ofsted inspection framework which further raises the bar for achieving a 'good' or 'outstanding' judgement, re-emphasises the importance of safeguarding children and scrutinises the promotion of community cohesion. Another example has been the introduction of new specifications (what was wrong with the term 'syllabus'?) for A levels and GCSEs, with the consequent need for teachers to re-write schemes of work and precious school funds to be spent on new textbooks.

Some of the many changes are, of course, welcome and long-overdue e.g. GCSE coursework done at home, with all of the opportunities for assistance that that affords, is being replaced by 'controlled assessments' completed under exam conditions in lessons.

Other changes seem pointless - e.g. the introduction of an A* grade at A level, when greater precision could be achieved by publishing the actual marks achieved by the candidate - and with a general election in the offing, there is yet more change to come.

In the midst of all this change, at Yavneh College we shall continue to focus on our priorities; offering our pupils the best academic and pastoral support that we can, helping them to develop their talents to the full and become confident young people who are proud of and knowledgeable about their Jewish heritage and who are determined to make a positive contribution to the community.

Help Haiti

Miss Nysenbaum

In response to the Haiti Earthquake which occurred on 12 January 2010, Am Echad (the Yavneh College charity committee) helped to raise £250 for the World Jewish Relief emergency Haiti appeal. Present in the dining room during every break time and lunch time, Am Echad pupils collected money from other pupils in return for a Help Haiti sticker. Presentations about Haiti and news clips about Israel's aid in Haiti were shown throughout the week. Pupils learnt about their responsibility as Jewish people to help others in the world and about their obligation to do Tikkun Olam. Well done to all pupils who helped to raise money for the people of Haiti.

Council Chambers

Mr. Clemson

On Thursday 10 December, Ms Seamark and pupils from Yavneh College attended the local council chambers. The pupils met both the mayor and the leader of the council to ask probing questions about the running of the council and its day to day activities.

Francesca Fox, 9CR wrote:-

On 10th December, Yavneh College pupils from the Politics enrichment went to Hertsmere Borough Council to meet with the mayor, Rosemary Gilligan. We learnt about how the meetings are convened and what takes place in the meeting. We all had a chance to ask a question to the mayor and at the end we got asked some questions about how the council looks after their parishioners. We then listened to a very interesting talk from the mayor about what her everyday duties involve and responsibilities. It was an extremely informative trip and we all came away with a greater understanding on how the Borough Council is organised and run.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO PUPILS WHO
ALREADY ACHIEVED THEIR END OF YEAR
TARGETS OR CHALLENGE TARGETS LAST
TERM!**

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

**PLEASE SEE THE LIST OF PUPILS ATTACHED
TO THIS NEWSLETTER**

Year 8 Shabbaton

The rain and snow did not stop 50 Year 8 pupils having a wonderful and meaningful Shabbat together in Yavneh College.

The Shabbaton in January gave the pupils the opportunity to experience a beautiful Shabbat as a year group. The theme of the Shabbaton was Chessed, acts of loving kindness, and together the pupils came up with their own Chessed ideas.

They enjoyed delicious meals together, sang Shabbat songs and played games.

After Shabbat Year 8 wrapped-up warm to take part in an exciting game of laser quest around the school grounds.

The dates for Yr 7 & Yr 8 Shabbatons for the rest of this academic year and next academic year are:

Yr 7: 5th-6th February 2010

Yr 8: 14th-15th January 2011
Yr 7: 4th-5th February 2011

The dates for Yr 7 & Yr 8 Shabbatons for 2012 are:

Yr 8: 13th - 14th January 2012
Yr 7: 3rd - 4th February 2012

חופשת החורף

השנה בחופשת החורף היה שלג, או
הלכתי לשחק בשלג עם חברים שלי.
היה קר מאוד, כי היה לי שלג במורד
הגב שלי.
הלכתי לראות מופע תיאטרון עם
המשפחה שלי. זה היה נהדר. נסעתי גם
למרכז קניות. קניתי קלע, זה עובד ממש
טוב.
ביום האחרון כתבתי מאמר בשביל
שעור אנגלית. זה היה צריך להיות
לפחות 1000 מילים! למרות שאני לא
הייתה הדרך הטובה ביותר לסיים את
החופש, נהניתי מזה מאוד.

Sam Massias, Y9

Skellig Theatre Trip

Mrs. Lazarus

On Thursday 21 January we took a group of Year 7 pupils to see a production of 'Skellig' at the Bloomsbury Theatre in the West End. This was a production based on the David Almond novel we have been studying in-depth as part of our English lessons since the beginning of the year. The show was a fantastic interpretation of the text, really bringing to life some of the vivid description we have been analysing in the classroom. We took up two whole rows of the theatre and watched with wonder as Skellig, an angel abandoned in a dilapidated, old garage, spread his wings to fly once more after the young children Mina and Michael helped him. This production was made extra special by the presence of live musicians on stage adding sounds to the show that really built the tension and added to the tense atmosphere of the story. Our young theatre critics were really impressed by the show, some saying it was 'fantastic' and that it had 'brought the classroom reading to life'.

We are hoping to build on this experience by looking out for other productions linked to our English curriculum in the future.

GCSE Trip to Kew Gardens

Mr. Newbey

On Monday 25 January, the GCSE geography class spent a day at Kew Gardens developing a better understanding of climate and the types of plant that can be found in a range of ecosystems. The aim of the trip was for them to see in real life the plants and ecosystem structures they have been learning about since last term. Part of the day was taken by a Kew expert who was full of information and helped the pupils develop an understanding of the diverse nature of the rainforest.



In the Palm House

Every Good Boy Deserves Favour GCSE Theatre Trip

Ms. Saunders

As part of the course for GCSE Drama, pupils are required to attend a number of theatre productions. So one cold Thursday night the GCSE group and a pair of keen pupils from Year 9, ably assisted by Mr Macaulay and Mr Raymen who very kindly gave up their evening to accompany the group, set off for the National Theatre.

The group went to see Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn's collaboration 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour'; a piece of theatre that relies on an on-stage orchestra as much as dialogue. The pupils behaved impeccably as they have every time I have accompanied them on a trip and I look forward to many more successful theatre trips.

LRC NEWS

Mrs. Kaiser

We are still collecting Nestle cereals 'Box Tops for Schools'. We would be grateful if you would send these in to school, as we will be able to use them to obtain some excellent new resources for the LRC. Thank you to those families who have already sent 'Box Tops' in.

January Book Club magazines have been distributed to pupils (further copies available from me in the LRC). Please send completed order forms and payment (all cheques should be made payable to 'Yavneh college') in by half term.

Forthcoming events:

10 February: The Children's' Bookshop are providing a book fair in the school foyer at Year 7 Parents' evening – an opportunity to browse and possibly buy some recommended fiction for your children to enjoy reading. The Bookshop will be offering a small discount on purchases.

1 March: Year 7 outing to 'Schools Day' at Jewish Book Week (further details will be sent out to parents soon).

4 March: World Book Day 2010. All pupils will receive a £1 voucher, which may be used to buy special £1 books published for WBD, available from most bookshops, or to obtain a discount on other books in store, The voucher may also be used as payment towards purchases from the March Scholastic book club catalogue.

Year 8 Poetry

Mrs.Segal

A kenning is an old Norse technique used in writing or story-telling, a way of making a colourful description of something without naming it. One of the Year 8 English groups ended last term with some fun poetry writing in class, experimenting with kennings, description, alphabet and rhyme. Enjoy!

The Rabbi's Cat is ...

An alcoholic called Alky
A believer called Baruch
A cool cat called Cheryl
A delicious cat called Dessert
An elegant cat called Elvis
A fat cat called Fernando
A grumpy cat called Grandpa
A heroic cat called Hercules
An Italian cat called Israel
A jazzy cat called Jasmine
A kickable cat called Kim
A left-footed cat called Lucas
A mighty cat called Moshiah
A nameless cat called
An odd cat called Ollie
A popular cat called Pedro
A quiet cat called Quincy
A relaxed cat called Rafi
A sassy cat called Shakira
A tiny cat called Tina
An unknown called Uyen
A valuable cat called Vienna
A wacky cat called Willy-Wonker
A xenophobic cat called Xenon
A Yiddish cat called Yoni
A zealous cat called Zachary

Rafi Galkoff 8IAT

Kennings poem: A model

A clothes - modeller
A make-up - wearer
A photo - poser
An advert - actor
A contract - winner
A hair - straightener
A figure - watcher
A jewellery - shower
A catwalk - dancer
A party - goer
A healthy - eater
A keep - fitter
A shoe - tester
A vanish - checker
A magazine - reader
A water - drinker
A eyebrow - puller

Gabriella Lawrence 8IAT

We are entering a period of the school year when there are many parents' evenings, so we thought it would be an appropriate time to explain why it is not possible for a few of our teachers to make an appointment with the parents of every child that they teach.

These are teachers who teach a lot of classes in the same year group and therefore don't have enough time slots to fit them all into a parents' evening e.g. a teacher who teaches every child in Year 8 would have to offer 150 appointments, which - at 5 minutes each - would take a total of 12 ½ hours.

This is a common situation in secondary schools. The solution adopted is to do as we are doing i.e. the teacher makes appointments for those pupils about whom they have concerns and uses the remaining appointments for any parents who decide that they would like to see the teacher even though they have been told that their child is progressing well.

Setting up an additional parents' evening would not help, because the overwhelming majority of teachers would not need it, so we would be using up their contracted time for no reason, and it would also mean that parents would have to come on two evenings in order to see all of their child's teachers.

Careers Ideas

Mrs.Segal

If your child is already thinking about his/ her career and needs some 1:1 advice, he/ she can self-refer to our Connexions P.A. Ms Luisa Grandine by texting/ calling 07748 761 396 between the hours of 9am and 5pm or by e-mail to Luisa.Grandine@hcs.co.uk

Good websites to have a look at for careers information and ideas:-

www.enginuity.org.uk Engineering and technology careers.

www.hertsdirect.org/younginherts Working with children locally.

www.skillset.org/careers/ Careers in broadcast, film, video, interactive media and photo-imaging and publishing.

www.lantra.co.uk Choose "Young People and Parents" for careers in land-based industries (e.g. florist, veterinary nurse, garden designer, zoo-keeper).

Kudos www.cascaid.co.uk Answer a quiz to find out which careers match your skills and interests, look up careers of your choice, and make an action plan. Click on "Kudos". You need to "create a new user" the first time you use the site and input licence name **c39396** (case sensitive) and licence code **goodeasy48** If you've used it before, put in your username and password. Forgotten your password? Ask Mrs Segal.

eCLIPS www.eclips-online.co.uk Look up careers of your choice, job families or general information such as housing and travel. Enter the password **WD6 1HL** (which must be entered with Caps Lock on and must include the space).

ABRSM Music Theory Exam

Congratulations to all our Music Theory entrants who achieved a Distinction in their Music Theory exam

**Gal Cohen 8BC, Jessica Franklin 9CR,
Jessica Goodman 9ANL, Charlotte Selwyn 7MP,
Victoria Selwyn 9CR**

JEREMY CLARKSON, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

As featured in previous newsletters, Mr Taylor would like to introduce a project which he has undertaken successfully in his previous school. Drawing upon his training as an engineer, Mr Taylor would teach pupils how a motor car is constructed and how it works, by purchasing an older classic car and completely stripping and rebuilding it. Different teams of pupils would be able to take part in the project on different days, to maximise the number of pupils involved. This would be long-term project, taking up to two years to complete, after which the car would be sold, enabling us to buy another car and repeat the project.

Mr Carter has kindly volunteered to assist Mr Taylor. If there are any parents who would also like to offer their expertise, Mr Taylor would be pleased to hear from them.

In order to get this exciting project started, we need £500 to purchase the first car. If any parents can assist us with raising this initial sum, we would be very grateful; please contact Mr Taylor or Dr Coleman.

Textbooks are very costly items, which are expensive to replace. Accordingly, pupils are expected to look after them carefully. We recommend that you ensure that each textbook is covered with a plastic book cover, available from stationers, or with heavy duty paper.

In accordance with school policy, parents/carers will be charged the cost of replacing any textbook which their child damages or loses.

G.C.S

Airport and Simcha specialists

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'You have booked your holiday but have you booked your transfer?'

'Don't worry about taking and collecting your kids from Simchas, let us do it for you'

**Call Trevor on
020 8953 4044 or 07956 699268
or email
trevor@granatcars.com**

(fully Licensed by P.C.O)

We would like to remind parents that if they are driving their children to school, they should not drive down **any** part of Hillside Avenue. You will appreciate that with nearly six hundred pupils attending the school, Hillside Avenue will be chaos if parents use the road to drop-off their children. Can you please use the car park at Tesco, remembering that Tesco do not wish parents to arrive at the side of the store. Please park in the designated parking spaces and do not drop your child off at the corner of the store as this is very dangerous. We should be extremely conscious of the help that Tesco have given the school and comply with their wishes accordingly. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Should parents ever have any concerns about security in the vicinity of the school please contact the CST on

020 8457 9999

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Important dates for your diary!

Year 9 Parents' Evening
Year 7 Shabbaton
Year 7 Parents' Evening
Half Term
Year 9 Enterprise Day
School Production
School Production
School ends at 1.15pm
Summer Term begins

Mon 1 February
Fri 5/Sat 6 February
Wed 10 February
Mon 15 - Fri 19 February
Wed 3 March
Mon 22 March
Tues 23 March
Wednesday 24 March
Tuesday 13 April

*'Winter Fridays' (i.e. School ends at 1.15pm) run from 16 October to 12 March inclusive
"Summer Fridays" will begin on 19 March*