



## Message from the Headteacher

The end of the autumn term was due to be marked by the dedication of our new Sefer Torah, but the heavy snowfall meant that it had to be re-scheduled for the last day of this term. Although we were once again honoured with the presence of the Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, we wanted this Hachnasat Sefer Torah to be primarily a pupil-centred event rather than one for the wider community. Thus it was held on a school day rather than a Sunday and every pupil took part in the celebrations, giving them a wonderful opportunity to witness an event that rarely happens. A great time was had by all.

Now that we have Key Stage 4 pupils and sixth form students, the provision of a fully-fledged CEG (careers education and guidance) programme has been a priority for this academic year. The programme includes talks delivered by guest speakers and Heads of Department, weekly sessions where pupils use careers software, interviews with Connexions careers advisers, the introduction of a regular careers section in the school newsletter and the development of a careers library within the LRC. We are pleased to inform you that, following an assessment undertaken by Hertfordshire's careers service, we have now been awarded the Youth Connexions Hertfordshire Information Certificate in recognition of the quality of our careers library, which takes into account such factors as the range, quality and age of resources; signage and posters; and the extent to which the library provides users with an attractive environment. Our thanks go to Mrs Segal, who is responsible for the CEG programme, and to our librarian Mrs Kaiser.

In the last newsletter I explained that we are currently trialling a number of ideas designed to speed up the flow of pupils using the dining hall at breaks and lunchtimes. One such trial involved replacing the two short breaks on winter Fridays with one longer break. This proved to be very successful and will therefore be adopted as a permanent change. Another successful trial involved changing the layout of the seating areas in the dining hall; the resultant reduction in congestion means that this change, too, will be adopted. Ongoing trials involve changes to the distribution of hot and cold food service areas, re-organising queuing systems and changes to menus. We hope that the outcome of these trials will result in further improvements to the service.

The management of Tesco Borehamwood has requested that we ask parents to ensure that their children do not congregate in and around the entrance of the Tesco store before school. While the Tesco managers have no complaints about the behaviour of the children and are more than happy to welcome them into the store as customers, they are concerned that many of the children simply use the store as a place to keep warm and stand

around chatting in groups. Please tell your child to make their way instead to the school dining hall, which is open from 8am and provides a safe, warm environment for pupils, where they can buy breakfast and socialise to their heart's content.

This prompts me to remind you that pupils are allowed into the main school buildings at 8.20am so that they can get themselves organised and ready for registration at the start of the school day at 8.30am. Some children do not arrive until 8.30am, which means that by the time they go to their locker, they are late for registration. If your child is in the latter category, please explain that arriving 10 minutes earlier will make all the difference to a good start to the school day.

As we break up for the holidays, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Chag Kasher v'Sameach.

We were concerned to be informed that a pupil who keeps kosher was recently placed in the very embarrassing position of being offered non-kosher food at a simcha to which they had been invited by another pupil of the school. The Home School Agreement which parents sign when their child joins the school states that:

*'Parents/Carers are expected to respect the school's religious ethos in matters pertaining to school life. When Yavneh College pupils are invited to celebrations, parents are encouraged to ensure that the laws of kashrut, Shabbat and the festivals are maintained for them.'*

In signing this agreement, parents who arrange a non-kosher function are acknowledging the importance of being sensitive to the needs of observant pupils who they invite and to offer these children the opportunity to have a pre-packed meal from a caterer such as Hermolis or at least to inform them in advance that the meal will not be kosher, so that they have the opportunity to decline the invitation.

READ ABOUT OUR PROJECT FOR YEAR 7 PUPILS  
WHO ARE GIFTED IN ENGLISH

**The 'Affinity' Project**

Adam Steinberg - 7AK

The Affinity project is a new joint project set up between Yavneh College and Hertswood School. For this project, ten pupils from both schools came together. We had a day session with an author and were told that in pairs (one Yavneh and one Hertswood pupil) we would have to write stories with the theme of 'bullying'. We were told to let our imaginations run wild! We worked really well together and only needed the odd 'nudge-in-the-right-direction' from the teachers.

After this day at Hertswood, the Hertswood pupils came to visit us at school. Each writing pair was allocated an artist team also made up of a Hertswood and Yavneh pupil. The artists read our stories and went away to design a front cover and some other pictures and illustrations for each story. They were very talented and the stories would not be nearly as good without them. The artwork really brought our words to life.

The stories that we wrote are going to be published together in a book and there is going to be a presentation at Hertswood during the summer term where parents will be able to see all our hard work. I am really looking forward to being a published writer!

**More First Aiders for Yavneh!**

Dr Coleman

Congratulations to the following pupils who successfully passed the Yavneh College basic first aid course:

*Samuel Abrahams  
Nicholas Barnett  
Eli Ben Gad  
Eli Gordon  
Natalie Jacobs  
Adam Polin  
Jessica Rubens  
Alice Salem  
Jake Sandford  
Charlotte Spivack  
Scott Veiner*

**Careers Ideas**

Mrs.Segal

We are delighted to report that we are now the proud holders of the **Youth Connexions Hertfordshire Information Certificate**, a recognition of the wonderful careers section that we have in the LRC! The assessor enjoyed looking at our resources which come in a range of formats (DVDs, leaflets, books and prospectuses), cover a wide range of interests (careers from accountancy through to zoology) and multiple pathways (apprenticeships, diplomas, FE college and university), and give up-to-date, unbiased information. She was impressed too with the dedicated section, an area of bright, comfy seating and informative noticeboards recommending careers websites and other sources of advice.

All pupils have been introduced to the section and many have begun using and enjoying it. Thank you to Mrs Kaiser, the Librarian, for her hard work in making this such an attractive, useful area!

**PARKING IN HILLSIDE AVENUE**

We have been receiving numerous complaints from our neighbours that parents are continuing to drop off and collect their children by car in Hillside Avenue.

We have had particular complaints that parents are increasingly doing so when collecting their children from after-school activities. May we remind any parents who are driving down Hillside Avenue to collect their child after 5.00pm that they **must** use the school car park, showing their car park passes that have been provided by us for this specific use.

Thank you.

**Singing and piano teachers required!**

Due to the high demand of instrumental lessons at Yavneh College, we require another singing teacher and another piano teacher to join our successful team of peripatetic teachers from September 2010. The posts will be part-time, with days and times negotiable. If you are interested in either of the above posts, please contact Miss Landsman via the school office for more information.

## National Science and Engineering Week

Mrs Shiradski

We were delighted that Sarah Brewer from Setpoint, Herts, was able to arrange for Professor Ron Douglas to give a talk on 'colour' to the Year 10 science triple groups and Year 12 scientists. He held staff and pupils alike spellbound with his humorous, entertaining and highly educational talk.

*On the 9 March, we had an assembly delivered by Professor Ron Douglas. Personally, I do not like physics so thought that an assembly on physics would be torture ... but, surprisingly, it was not. In fact, the assembly was quite interesting! The presentation was very interactive, with 'ask the audience' questions, and much to the boys' enjoyment, several pictures of Cheryl Cole.*

*The presentation was mainly on how we see things, and every person who was there left with a deep understanding of how the eye works. Hopefully, we can apply this to our daily life, even if it's to say to a colour-blind person that they see the same as a horse.*

Jessica Tray 10EC



### Important dates for your diary!

School ends at 1.15pm	Wed 24 March
Summer Term begins	Tuesday 13 April
Summer Fridays - school ends at 3.00pm	From Friday 16 April
Erev Shavuot - school ends at 1.15pm	Tuesday 18 May
Shavuot - school closed	Tues 19 & Thurs 20 May
Half Term	Mon 31 May – Fri 4 June

### The dates for Yr 7 & Yr 8 Shabbatons for the next academic year are:

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

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