



Message from the Headteacher

The final two months of the autumn term have been marked by so many events, that it is difficult to know which to highlight. As well as sports fixtures, theatre and gallery trips, they included: a fantastic Shabbaton for Year 10; the Mitzvah Week Collectathon; the Celebration of Faiths; a lively Arts Festival which showcased the talents of pupils to enthusiastic audiences over two evenings; a Year 12 Open Evening attended by a record number of prospective sixth formers and parents; the finals of a contest to pitch ideas for a new app to be developed in conjunction with educational publishers Excite-Ed; a series of keenly contested House competitions; the annual 'Mastermind of Yavneh' competition; and presentations of entries for the Happy Puzzle Company's challenge to design a new, commercially viable puzzle.

As we reach the end of term, we have to bid farewell to Miss Landsman and Mrs Amir. Miss Landsman leaves us to begin a new career setting up her own nursery school. A member of staff since the school opened in 2006, Miss Landsman has made a key contribution to the success of Yavneh College by creating a vibrant music department which provides our pupils with an outstanding musical education, both in the classroom and through a fantastic range of enrichments, workshops, concerts and whole-school productions, in addition to which she established our award-winning YC Singers. Our new Head of Music, Miss R Dickson, has been greatly impressed by the quality of the department that she will be inheriting and she joins us in extending our grateful thanks and best wishes for the future to Miss Landsman.

Mrs Amir, who joined the school in 2008, is leaving to take up a promotion as Head of Modern Hebrew. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role and thank her for all her hard work, especially on behalf of the many pupils she has helped through the Catch-Up Hebrew programme.

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Dear Parents

As you know, we hope to open a primary section at Yavneh College, extending the age range of the school to 5 to 18 years. Our planning application was approved unanimously by Hertsmere Borough Council in September 2011 but we said at the time that there were a number of pieces of the jigsaw yet to fall into place, one of which being the funding required in order to build and create the primary section.

The Education and Skills Panel of Hertfordshire County Council has now concluded that for the school year commencing September 2012, the need for primary school places in other areas of Hertfordshire is more pressing than in Borehamwood. It has therefore decided to prioritise these areas for distribution of the limited capital funds available to it. This means that the Council is unable to offer the necessary funding to Yavneh College to enable us to proceed with our application to the Secretary of State to open a primary section in September 2012.

We are extremely disappointed with this outcome and know that our disappointment will be shared by the many families who have been calling for Jewish primary provision in this area and working so hard together with us to achieve this.

County Councillor for Borehamwood South, Cllr Morris Bright, has responded as follows: "This is a very frustrating situation. Local councillors, the school and many residents can see such a school is much needed by the Jewish community in Borehamwood. However, County officers were keen to stress that the decision not to grant £4 million was for now only and that they will reconsider the decision in a matter of months. What needs to happen now is for the school, local councillors and residents to continue working hard to make the case as to why this primary school is so desperately needed. I pledge my personal support to this campaign".

In the meantime we will continue to work very actively with the Council and others in order to secure funding to enable us to open a primary section in September 2013, or possibly in September 2012 if funding is provided through another funder or donor coming forward.

Mrs Sue Nyman
Chair of Governors

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This year's 'Junior School Mastermind of Yavneh' competition was a close-fought contest, with only one mark separating the top two contestants. The winner was Sam Karet 8MC, with Josh Zucker 7CB in second place. Sam's specialist subject was 'The Edge by Alan Gibbons' and Josh's was the 'Olympian Gods of Greek Mythology.' Sam won £15 cash prize and 25 points for Merkaz House.

The battle for the title of 'Middle School Mastermind of Yavneh' was even closer, with three of the eight finalists achieving 20 correct answers and no passes: Elliot Goldberg 9BB, whose specialist subject was 'The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins', Aaron Conway 10 ADN, whose specialist subject was 'The Arsenal 1st squad 2006-2011' and Lawrence Rosenberg 10 RN, whose specialist subject was 'The 2011 NFL'. Elliot, Aaron and Lawrence each won £15 and 25 points for Merkaz, Hula and Carmiel Houses.



May I take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues for all their hard work and support throughout this term. I wish all staff and pupils an enjoyable holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed, in January. Chanuach sameach!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Cohen'.

Request from Tesco

When dropping or collecting your child at Tesco, please could you park in designated parking places and not use the area at the side of the store as this obstructs an emergency exit.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mazel tov to the following pupils who have achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Lawrence Rosenberg, Ben Chilton,
Josh Wannon, Jonathan Gordon,
Josh Brickman, Daniel Levy,
Gemma Adams, Jack Schapira

And to Elliot Millet who achieved his Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Music Theory Results

Miss A Landsman

Six pupils sat music theory examinations at the end of November and we are delighted to report that that all achieved a Distinction (over 90%).

Congratulations to Sadie-Mae Arellano, Shir Dor, Zoe Grant, Talia Jay, James Lee, Daniella Livingstone

GCSE CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS

There have been a few instances in the last fortnight of parents informing us that they have arranged to take their child out of school for the last days of this term, for the purpose of a holiday. In accordance with the school's policy on pupil absence, these absences will be recorded as 'unauthorised.' Of particular concern was the response of one parent, who – when informed that their child would be missing a GCSE Controlled Assessment by being away on the penultimate day of term - said that they had assumed that Controlled Assessments would not take place so near to the end of term. As explained in the letter issued to all parents when their child starts Year 10, it is essential that pupils do not miss Controlled Assessments, as these cannot be re-scheduled. They can – and do – take place throughout Years 10 and 11, on dates which include the beginning and ends of terms.

Careers Ideas

Mrs Segal

Whatever age your child is at, it's never too early for them to start thinking about their career plans in a little more depth. To help them shape their ideas, the following sources of information may be of interest:

Moodle

The Careers section in Moodle details useful websites designed to help your child explore the world of courses and careers. Some are more general in nature, for example quizzes which generate personalised suggestions on child's likes, dislikes and skills; whilst others are more specific, being geared to choosing GCSEs/ A Levels/ degree courses, a specific career, or a "career family". There are also sites listed there on student finance and on writing CVs.

Form Periods

Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils have an ICT-based form period every week in which they can explore the careers sites recommended in Moodle.

Assemblies

In November, Sarah Hall and her colleague spoke to Year 11 about working as a veterinary nurse and other careers in the veterinary field. It was really useful hearing about the different possible routes into the profession, different roles possible within the profession, and seeing the children so enthused with questions; a reflection of how much they enjoyed the talk.

Sergeant Loebenberg and Constable Morris of the Jewish Police Association spoke to pupils about careers in the police force, thereby challenging their preconceptions and widening their ideas about possible career routes.

Year 11 pupils got a taste of the entrepreneurial spirit when Mr Gavin Ucko spoke passionately to them about building up and running the Happy Puzzle Company!

Year 11 pupils have also been having a number of assemblies led by Heads of Department about the various A Levels that they can choose to study after their GCSEs.

Mr Amit Puni, a mechanical engineer, showed Year 11 the special projects that he has been working on with his company; it was great fun trying things out.

Mrs Danielle Adams talked about her career as a pharmacist, with fascinating insights into how varied her daily work can be and how one can explore different avenues as a pharmacist, such as veterinary work.

Dr Gaunt spoke to Year 10 about his career in emergency medicine in A&E, how he became a doctor and about some of the many cases he has worked on.

Mr Bright spoke to Year 10 about Elstree Studios today. His talk was full of fascinating behind-the-scenes photographs and plans, and showed how central the studios are to Hertfordshire and its people.

During December, Mr Paul McDoughty, a civil engineer, spoke to Year 10 about his work on major projects like the Olympic stadium.

Doug Bennett spoke to Year 10 pupils about a career in architecture. Pupils were very interested to hear about the different aspects of this career and the various routes/ qualifications by which one can enter it.

We are looking for more careers speakers. Please get in touch with Miss Sanford in the school office if you might be willing to offer approximately 20mins of your time at the start of the school day on a Monday or Tuesday morning next term to speak to Years 10 or 11.

Posters

Posters in departments, on the LRC careers notice boards and displayed in Mrs Segal's office suggest careers that can follow on from a love of a particular subject and useful web-based sources of information.

Connexions

Connexions provides independent careers and course advice. Some pupils in Years 9-11, identified by their Assistant Headteacher, are given 1:1 appointments with an adviser at school. All pupils can also contact a Connexions Adviser by phone, e-mail, webchat, text via <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm> or visit the One Stop Shop in Borehamwood for a drop-in 1:1 appointment. (Please see <http://www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org/cms.php?pageid=252> for the address and current opening times).

Lessons, enrichments, special events and community/voluntary work

Subject lessons and enrichments contribute to teaching pupils general employability skills (e.g. leadership and team work) and make links between parts of the curriculum and real-world applications. Enterprise lessons and special events such as "Shoe Day" help pupils plan for employment and encourage them to explore their business acumen. In Informal Jewish Education, pupils are introduced to the benefits of community and voluntary work.

LRC Careers Library

At breaktimes and lunchtimes, pupils and students have access to the careers library which has earned the prestigious Youth Connexions Hertfordshire Information Certificate for the quality of its careers resources (pamphlets, books, CDs/ DVDs, prospectuses and posters).

We wish your son or daughter the very best in his or her exciting education/career journey!

Remembering Alan Senitt

Mrs S Max

The Alan Senitt Community Leadership Programme was launched to all Year 10 pupils during an assembly in November. It is a project run by Streetwise and the Alan Senitt Memorial Trust. It trains Year 10 pupils to become active communal leaders and links pupils from Mainstream and Faith schools. There are 5 schools from Middlesex & Hertfordshire participating; one mainstream multi-faith school, two Jewish schools, one Sikh school and one Church of England school. Together, pupils attend seminars which include leadership skills training and interfaith dialogue as well. Within the programme each school organises and runs a local community project and tries to involve more people in that project.

Alan Senitt was a bright young communal leader and political activist who was murdered aged 27 in July 2006. The Trust was set up in his memory and the aim of this particular project is to give young people the necessary skills to become active leaders in their own communities and the wider community. It also aims to bring young people of different faiths together.

Several Year 10 pupils have applied for this programme but there are only 10 places for Yavneh College. Watch this space to find out who is taking part and what they are up to!

Calling all Year 8s! The Yoni Jesner Award needs you!

Mrs S Max

The Yoni Jesner Award which aims to encourage as many young Jewish students as possible to involve themselves in volunteering projects, was launched to Year 8 pupils this term. The scheme is dedicated in memory of Yoni Jesner, a Bnei Akiva leader who was tragically killed in a bus bomb in Tel Aviv in September 2002. He was committed to encouraging young people to do as many acts of chesed (kindness) as possible and was a truly inspirational role model for many young people. Year 8 pupils are invited to take part in 20 hours of volunteering before the award ceremony in June. In the past, pupils have packed mishloach manot, helped at GIFT packathons, visited old age homes, helped in the LRC, taken part in the Am Echad and Yad Yavneh enrichments and much more. We hope to see many year 8s taking part this year! For more information contact Mrs Max.

Year 11 Israel Tour

Mrs S Max

The UJIA spoke at a Year 11 assembly to encourage pupils to consider taking part in an Israel Tour. They explained to pupils that a summer tour in Israel is a unique way to make new lifelong friendships, have fun, discover their roots and learn about their heritage through a wonderful adventure in Israel. There are several youth movements who run their Israel tours through UJIA. UJIA offer bursaries to those who need them. They ask that parents contact the youth movements directly if a bursary is needed.

Celebration of Faiths

Mrs S Max

During Interfaith Week in November, the Hertfordshire Forum of Faiths organised an evening event called Celebration of Faiths. 20 pupils from Yavneh College joined pupils from other faith schools and organisations in Hertfordshire at Allum Hall for a very interesting and inspiring evening. Each school ran a stall which gave information about an aspect of their religion. At our stall, Yavneh pupils informed other faith pupils about Jewish festivals and gave them some festive food to eat including latkes, challah and honey cake. When visiting other stalls, pupils found out about customs and laws from other religions including Islam, Christianity, Hare Krishna and Buddhism. During the interval, Yavneh pupils taught other faith children how to play Dreidial following our presentation about Chanukah. It was an enjoyable evening and pupils and teachers are already looking forward to next year!



Year 10 Shabbaton

Mrs S Max

72 Year 10 pupils spent an enjoyable and meaningful Shabbat together in November. Having turned classrooms into dorms, pupils arrived at school on Friday afternoon smartly dressed for Shabbat and ready for a weekend of fun. The Shabbaton gave pupils the opportunity to catch up with their friends, spend time with teachers and madrichim from YCIT as well as Year 13, sing, eat, pray and roller skate! Pupils spent time in sessions looking at different aspects of their Jewish identity and exploring which parts of Judaism mean the most to them. The ruach (atmosphere) during mealtimes and davening was fantastic as it was full of tunes and songs which pupils have learnt throughout their time in Yavneh and on YCIT. After the energetic roller disco on Saturday night, pupils went home for a well-deserved sleep.



Calling all poets!

If you think you could write a creative poem, no more than 24 lines in length, have a look at details of the iF Poems/ The Times Young Poet competition at thetimes.co.uk/poetrycompetition

The winning poets will get their poems published in The Times and a trophy.

Closing date: January 1st 2012.

Good luck!
The English Department

Collecting for Mitzvah Day

Mrs S Max

The 14th – 18th November was Mitzvah Week at Yavneh College, which enabled pupils to take part in the nationwide Mitzvah Day project. Supporting our three school charities, JAMI (provides mental health services to the Jewish community), Jeremy's Circle (provides support to young family members of families living with cancer or coping with a cancer loss) and Herts Young Homeless Group (supports young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across Hertfordshire), pupils took part in 2 activities which the charities asked us to do.

Jeremy's Circle said that they needed help promoting the charity here in the UK. Pupils created "Helping Hands" with reasons why people should help others. The "Helping Hands" will be used to publicise the charity. These reasons include:

"Always give Tzedakah. Every penny helps no matter how much you give."

"One moment of giving can change one lifetime of sadness to fun."

"It doesn't cost anything to put a smile on someone's face."

JAMI and Herts Young Homeless Group said that they would benefit from a 'collectathon' and together, we have collected 18 boxes and bags full of items which will be given to these charities.



A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part!

UNIFORM REMINDER!

As the weather becomes colder, some pupils feel the need to wear an additional layer of clothing under their uniform. Pupils have been told that this is perfectly acceptable, as long as the additional clothes are not coloured items which can be seen. In the past few weeks we have had to ask a number of pupils to remove pink, green, yellow and blue T-shirts and sweatshirts, which were visible at the neck, cuffs or waist. Examples of acceptable items are plain white T-shirts or white vests.

Please could parents ensure that boys have hair clips with them at school to prevent their kippot from falling off.

Many thanks.

A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILD WILL BE BAR/BATMIZVAH

If your child is due to celebrate their bar/batmitzvah, please note that they are NOT allowed to take a day off school before the event. Any such absences have to be recorded as UNAUTHORISED on the child's attendance record.

Absence on the day after the bar/batmitzvah is also not allowed, although the child may arrive a little later than usual if they are very tired. (This does NOT apply to guests!).

Yavneh College pupils
If you are worried about bullying, contact us in confidence at:
btb@yavnehcollege.herts.sch.uk

Parking in Hillside Avenue

If you are collecting your child from any after-school activity whether it be a GCSE revision session, homework club or sporting event after 5.00pm, please remember that you must use your car park pass and enter the school car park.

Please DO NOT park in Hillside Avenue.

Pupils will wait to be collected inside the main car park and should be collected from there.

Parking in Hillside Avenue at this time can cause chaos for residents so please DO NOT park there.


Save the Date!!

A ski trip which will be open to pupils/students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 has been arranged for February half term in 2013.



More information is now available from Mr Taylor.

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Important dates for your diary!

Spring Term 2012

Term begins:	Tuesday 3 January
Yr 9 KS4 Options Evening	Tuesday 10 January 7.00 - 9.00pm
Yr 9 Parents' Evening	Monday 16 January
Yr 10 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1 February
Yr 8 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 7 February
Half Term:	Monday 13 - Friday 17 February inc.
Yr 7 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 21 Feb
Yrs 11 & 12 Mock Exams	23 February - 2 March
School closes on 7 March (Fast of Esther) at 2.40pm	
School closes on 8 March (Purim) at 1.00pm	
Sixth Form Parents' Evening	Monday 12 March
Yr 11 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 20 March
School Production (West Side Story)	Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 March
Term ends	Friday 30 March (final 'Winter Friday')

Summer Term 2012

Term begins	Tuesday 17 April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 7 May
Shavuot	Monday 28 May
Half Term	Monday 4 - Friday 8 June inc
Yr 9 exams	18 June - 22 June
Yrs 7, 8, 10 exams	2 - 6 July
Term ends	Friday 20 July at 1.15pm

My name is Samuel and I'm currently studying here at Yavneh. I know as well as anyone how hard it can be dealing with pressure, practice and panic leading up to your Bar Mitzvah - especially when you don't have anyone 'in the know' to help practice with you. So that's why I'm here; I can offer unique one-to-one mentoring for boys who find the whole experience a little overwhelming, helping them during the run-up to their B'nei Mitzvot. I am gifted and talented in Hebrew Studies and I have already, successfully helped a Bar Mitzvah boy learn his Bar Mitzvah. I was praised for being able to be 'firm and constructive whilst encouraging success and improvement'.

If you are interested in me helping your son or daughter with their Bar Mitzvah or Hebrew reading skills, please call

**0208 953 3099 or email
samueldisaac@live.com**

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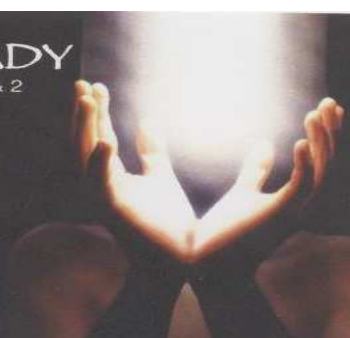
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