Spring 2022

Dear parents/guardians,

As we approach the end of another full and productive term I want to share with you some of the highlights. Your children have certainly been busy.

We have held parents' evenings for years 7, 8, 9, 10, & 12 and it was lovely to be able to welcome parents back into the building for some of these events. It was also nice to be able to meet some more of you in person.

In February our music department put together a wonderful school concert. A very diverse programme featured some extremely talented and dedicated musicians from all year groups and all sections of the school. The performers really appreciated having the opportunity to perform in front of a full hall. Thank you to the music department, and to all who supported this event.

Also in February some of our year 11 scientists attended the ‘Science Live’ event at the Opera House in Manchester where we listened to **Sir Robert Winston**, **Prof Alice Roberts** and **Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock**, amongst others, talk about the positive impact that studying science can have on society. Thank you to Miss Hirst and the science department for arranging this.

February also saw our 36 hour fundraising campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our trustees, governors and community the campaign raised over £800,000 to help continue to offer the excellent standard of education that we do at King David and Yavneh.

During half term we took 52 year 12 students to Poland. This was my first experience of Poland, and of an overseas trip with King David students. I was enormously proud of the conduct of all the young people. There was much evidence of reflection and contemplation throughout the visit. I have already written to parents about the emotionally challenging experience of meeting Ukrainian refugees in Krakow in the early stages of the conflict. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all those displaced by war and conflict. Thanks to Rabbi Avi Schwartz and all the staff who made this experience possible for our students.

The school marked International Womens’ History Month in March. Mr Leventhall and Miss Allwood coordinated a month-long programme of activities, assemblies, international messages and cross-curricular learning focused on women and equality studies.

This resulted in 2 celebration walls filled with letters [34] from women all over the world who have written specifically to our students including **Ursula von der Leyen** (President of the EU Commission), **Fiona Devine** (Head of Manchester Business School), **Dame Nancy Rothwell** (Chancellor and President of Manchester University), **Kate Green MP** (Stretford and Urmston), **Baroness Ros Altmann** (Life peer and pensions expert) and **Diane Modahl** (Olympic Athlete). These letters offer words of advice and encouragement to our students, valuable career advice, speaking of their experiences and resilience, tips on how to find confidence and to believe in themselves. Please do read some of these next time you are in the school building.

I was treated to my first experience of Purim in March. The children in the lower school enjoyed magicians, Purim activities, gift giving and being able to come to school in their fancy dress. I’m delighted to say the history department were the inaugural winners of the Purim cup for staff fancy dress. Mr Cheetham seamlessly changing from Henry VIII back to Head of Upper School at various points throughout the day. I would like to thank Rabbi Schwartz and the Jewish studies staff (or Three Musketeers) for arranging a much-needed day of fun for all.

This term our swimming teams competed in the Manchester Championships. In the boy’s gala Benjamin Jacobs won 1 Gold & 2 Bronze medals, Theo Clyne won 3 Gold medals setting a new KS4 Freestyle record as well, Smith Seymour won Gold in the Butterfly and many others won Silver and Bronze medals. Our female swimmers had similar levels of success, Evie Bell winning Gold and Silver and setting a new record in the KS4 Freestyle, Elizabeth Jacobs won 2 Golds and a Silver medal, setting a new record in the KS4 Butterfly, many other swimmers winning Silver and Bronze medals.

Our Year 7 Badminton Team were crowned Manchester Champions. In the Doubles Championship, Joseph Cohen & Josh Stonefield won their competition, but then had to play one another in the singles final! Joseph claimed the Gold medal. Congratulations to all who took part. The King David girls team won the Manchester Table Tennis Championships, the KS 4 Boys team securing a bronze medal.

Towards the end of term we welcomed the Chief Rabbi into school. It was inspiring to hear him speak about the impact of the pandemic on mental health, and the lessons we can all learn from the challenges of the past 24 months.

We said farewell to Mrs Janette Ganson after 20 years supporting the art and food technology departments. We wish her well.

After their visit to the school last November the OFSTED report was finally published in March. Thank you for all the messages of support following the publication of the report. Please be assured that we have wasted no time in responding to their findings. All the staff here are continually committed to offering an even better school experience to all of your children.

Whilst we always recognise that there are areas for improvement, this school remains a lovely place to work and study. Your sons and daughters are polite, hardworking and generally get on very well with each other, and their teachers. I would like to thank them for this.

We hope all our students have a relaxing a well-earned break ready for the challenges of next term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 25th April.

Yours sincerely

D J Dalziel

Acting Headteacher