

THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

The Headteacher's Report for the Summer Term 2012

Prospective New Pupils

At the time of writing we have 108 Year 6 pupils who have accepted places for entry into the High School in September 2012. The transition evenings were well attended by parents and new pupils and there was a good, positive attitude. We have also received applications from our year 11 Main School Students as well as from other schools for our Sixth Form in September 2012.

Please see attached breakdown list for pupils on roll as at 13th July 2012.

Staffing:

New appointments September 2012:

Mrs Black	- Special Needs	part time
Rabbi R Cohen	- Head of Yavneh Girls	full time
Miss Pietralski	- French and Spanish	full time
Mr Powell	- Chemistry	full time
Mrs Steinberg	- RS and Special Needs	full time
Mr Walsh	- History	full time

We are saying goodbye and good luck to the following staff:

Rabbi Benson	- Israel	Head of Yavneh Girls	full time
Mrs Brownlee	- End of temporary contract	Art	part time
Rabbi Field	- Further Education Post Grad	Jewish Studies	part time
Miss Pinder	- End of temporary contract	History	part time
Mr Pitt	- Relocating	History/Head of Sixth Form	full time
Mr Rich	- Retiring	Art	part time
Mrs Rosenberg	- Retiring	English	part time
Mrs Shoham	- Israel	Jewish Studies	part time
Mrs Werner	- Primary School	Teaching Assistant	full time
Miss Woodcock	- End of temporary contract	French	full time

Head Boys and Head Girls 2012-2013

HEAD BOY

Sam Bentwood

HEAD GIRL

Ariella Jones

YAVNEH HEAD BOY

Avishav Engle
Max Seitler

YAVNEH HEAD GIRL

Nina Lustman

DEPUTIES

Daniel De Wijze
Gary Fagen
Harrison Goldman
Simeon Goodman

DEPUTIES

Aimee Benmayor
Chaya Fligg
Ruby Glaskie
Amanda Spindler
Natasha Woolfstein

DEPUTIES

Benjamin Pawlowski
Gideon Prais
Jack Radivan

DEPUTIES

Ariella Prais

Charities:

The pupils, as always, have been very generous with their donations to lots of charities, which include Jewish and non-Jewish organisations. Thanks to Rabbi Goodman, pupils raised a staggering £14,125 for their chosen charity which this year was Magen David Adom. A cheque was presented to MDA in Israel by the pupils in Year 9 during the Year 9 Israel trip.

Educational Trips/In School Events:

As well as the extra curricular activities within the school there have been many successful events this term, and thanks go to those staff who have arranged and given much of their time to these events which include the following:

Aish:

Aish continues to inspire our students to engage with their traditions and love their Judaism by presenting an array of activities in school. This term activities included assisting with the Yom Ha'Atzmaut session on the importance of Israel and its achievements and helping to organise the Fun Run and Raffle which raised money for Magen David Adom. The Year 9 Israel trip was run in conjunction with Aish who also sent some of their young leaders on the trip. A short film of the trip was shown to parents and pupils at a reunion brunch that Aish helped organise. Year 12 students from Main School and Yavneh visited Poland on a 5 day trip. All the students, without exception, who went on the trip, say it was a life changing experience. The 'Lunch and Learn' sessions for Years 10 - 13 continue to be very popular. Thanks go to Rabbi Goodman and Rabbi Kampf.

Art:

The Expressive Arts Evening, proved to be a wonderful event recognising the achievements of GCSE and A level students in Art and Design. It was well attended and beautifully organised by Mrs Waxman and the Art Department. We are very fortunate to have such talented students in the school.

Trips were organized to Leeds University and MMU for A level students.

The Art Department officially set up an art BLOG, to browse, comment and rate student's works of art: <http://kdhslovesart.wordpress.com/>

Bat Chayal Ceremony:

This ceremony for the girls in Year 7 was, as always, a special event, held at Higher Crumpsall Synagogue. The girls performed in front of a packed audience. Special thanks go to Mrs Engle and Mrs Campbell. Yavneh Girls will also be holding a Bat Mitzvah ceremony in the Yavneh Girls School.

Business Studies:

Year 13 students came second in the British Accounting Standards Competition, led by Esther Radnor and Charlotte Moore. OCR Year 12 Students went to Camelot Theme Park to meet the management team to learn about marketing strategies and competition at the venue. Year 10 Vocational Business pupils also went to Camelot Theme Park with Mrs Mulgrew and Miss Callan. OCR students ran several charity events to raise money for Magen David Adom, ranging from cake sales to football tournaments to quizzes to basketball tournaments. Bobby Lee and Sam Inerfield won the basketball tournament and received tickets to see the Harlem Globetrotters and actually got to go back stage and meet the players!

Careers:

8 pupils from Year 10 attended an event titled 'A Guide to Becoming a Solicitor' at a top law firm in Manchester (Cobbetts). Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and learned a lot about the steps necessary for a career in law.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme:

The summer term has seen a busy season for the participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, as this is the main expedition season. For the first time in many years 15 students from the main school completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice and assessed expeditions. They celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee weekend in Skelmersdale completing their assessment and making it look easy in the process. With 25 students from the main school as well as 9 Yavneh Girls and 8 Yavneh Boys the Bronze groups have also completed their practice expeditions. 4 students from the Sixth Form are heading off to Snowdonia in mid-July to complete their Gold assessment with a 4 day 3 night expedition in the glorious Snowdonia National Park area. These 4 students are well on their way to completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh and then heading for a date at St. James' Palace to meet the Duke himself. King David pupils through the award scheme have also been learning new skills and have given a combined total of over 1000 hours of voluntary work in the local community. Thanks to Steven Weller for all his help and support as well as to Mr Gold, Miss Morrison, Miss Cogbill and Rabbi Cohen who have all given of their time.

Drama:

Year 12 Drama students performed the Steven Berkoff play 'The Trial' in the new drama studio to family, friends and members of the community. There were also performances from Years 7, 10 and 12 at the Expressive Arts Evening.

English:

The English Department held a competition for Year 7 & 8 pupils to write a newspaper article informing readers of an up and coming British Olympic athlete. The winning entry, by Galia Shomron, was then entered into the national competition and she was awarded tickets to see Olympic football.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet workshop day was held for all Year 9 pupils.

Numerous students across all years have entered the 'Foyle Young Poets' competition. Winners will be announced next academic year.

All students in Year 7 received a free copy of a book of their choice through the government scheme 'Booked Up'.

Food Technology:

The Food Technology Department were asked by the Parents' Guild to help make cakes and biscuits which could be sold at their coffee evening.

Year 10 pupils studying GCSE Food Technology joined the GCSE Spanish group to make a selection of tasty Spanish tapas food that they all enjoyed sampling during lunch!

During Year 5 Taster Days the pupils made small cakes which they were allowed to take home.

Geography:

Mr Gold is delighted that more pupils than ever are opting to study Geography GCSE and A-Level.

Year 12 students went to Malham to prepare for one of their AS examinations and Year 13 students went to Manchester City Centre and Bury to prepare for their A2 examination.

We are delighted that Mr Gold is slowly returning back to school after his road traffic injury.

ICT:

Mr Simeon Kesler, computer games programmer, provided careers advice and mock interview practice for Sixth Form students applying to study Computer Science at university.

Israel Trips:

The main school Year 9 Trip to Israel is a fantastic highlight for all pupils in Year 9.

Mr Leventhall and Miss Thomas downloaded daily photos during the trip onto 'Facebook' and kept family and friends updated on a daily basis.

Rabbi Goodman deserves special thanks for all his efforts 'behind the scenes'. He was responsible for raising £14,125 for Magen David Adom and he invited Mr Richard Simon, MDA Regional Director, to speak at a reunion brunch for Year 9 families.

Yavneh Girls Year 9 were joined by Rabbi Benson and Mrs Hoffner on their annual Pen Pal trip to Israel which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the girls. The Yavneh Boys were accompanied on their trip by Rabbi P Cohen and Mr Aldcroft.

Maths:

A group of Year 7 pupils were entered for the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Max Berkeley won Gold and 'Best in School', Joe Press and Ethan Judah also won Gold. We also achieved 3 Silver and 9 Bronze certificates.

Tamar Prais took part in the Intermediate Maths Olympiad and achieved a Merit.

Two pupils submitted entries to the Liverpool Maths Challenges. The challenges were open to Year 8 and Year 10 pupils. Nathan Domnitz was awarded a certificate for 'Best Year Entry' from King David. Oliver Hayes won Second Prize for his age group. Thanks to Mr Dowling for organising the entries.

Some Year 9 students took part in a cross-curricular design project organised by the Engineering Development Trust. They designed an eco-friendly extension to the Music block. They were ably assisted by Mrs Dowdall and Arup Consulting Engineers.

Year 5 pupils from King David, Bury and Whitefield, North Cheshire and Brodetsky took part in a 'Maths Puzzle Workshop' in July.

Media:

The Media Dept organised trips to the cinema to see 'The Angels' Share' by Ken Loach and 'Prometheus' by Ridley Scott. Year 13 students have all achieved Distinction grades (except for one). Students have been devising their coursework projects for next year and will have the opportunity to visit Warner's new Harry Potter Studio as part of the study of advertising and marketing within the film industry. Media students also enjoyed a discussion session with Mike Shaft - presenter/producer at BBC Radio. There has also been a visit to the Bradford Museum and a photography project in Tatton Park.

Modern Hebrew:

There was a GCSE inset day with Dr Hakak, the Chief Examiner for Modern Hebrew, who gave some interesting ideas regarding exam preparations. He also had a Q&A session with the students and was impressed by their ability, especially with Eli Korn who gave an impressive presentation in Hebrew. Mr Vardi is also working closely with the JCP (Jewish Curriculum Partnership) who are developing special interactive materials for teaching Modern Hebrew in the UK.

Music:

Year 9 Music Students visited the BBC Philharmonic at their new home in Media City, Salford. One student, Jessica Baskind was given the amazing opportunity to conduct this world-class orchestra in a section of Debussy's *La Mer*.

GCSE Year 10 participated in the "Cloud Forms" workshops organised through the Bridgewater Hall – culminating in a performance of piano pieces composed by the students at the Bridgewater Hall. Their work was very well received, the school receiving a letter from an 'outside' audience member commending the pupils' work and highlighting Jakob Marsh's composition.

Members of the school's recorder consort and guitar ensemble spent a cold, wet bank holiday Sunday busking outside Brackman's Bakery. An enjoyable experience for all, despite the numb fingers!

The Chamber Choir participated in the FED's summer fete at Heathlands Centre, presenting three mini-concerts during the day.

The Summer Concert featured all of the school's main ensembles – Choir and Chamber Choir, Recorder Consort, Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra. The evening was full of fantastic performances by all, including several soloists giving their debuts – Ruth De Wijze, Brett Balaban and Sophie Burlison.

Several students have taken external instrumental exams this term – from Rock Guitar to Singing. We are expecting great results!

In July, 30 KD musicians were joined by a few KD alumni and the 'musical' staff for our fourth European concert tour, to Cologne, Germany. The tour featured concerts at the rebuilt Roonstrasse Synagogue in the city's Old Town and in the spa town of Bad Neuenahr.

Thanks go to Hannah Salter, who spent most of this year as a volunteer Gap Year Intern in the music department. Her assistance was greatly appreciated.

P.E. Events:

Year 8 girls reached the semi finals in the Manchester League Rounders Tournament.

All the girls who entered the Bronze Medallion swimming award passed, and at the City Wide swimming finals we received gold, silver and bronze awards.

Clubs this term have included badminton, rounders, Commando Joe and swimming. Thanks to Mrs Senior and Miss Cooper for their help.

Pupils from Years 9 & 10 were praised by the Primary School for their leadership skills at the Tri Golf.

Several medals were won at Manchester School Athletics held at Sportscity.

Year 10 Yavneh Girls are about to complete the Tennis Leaders award and Year 10 main school girls visited Body Matrix for a 3 week course. Katrina Corrick and Rachel Mehlman came 4th in the City Wide tennis finals and Maddy Moryoussef and Milly Jobling came 2nd.

There was a Year 7 Quad Kids competition, and inter-house competitions included rounders, swimming and athletics.

'Playground to Podium' - For children who have limited access to any PE events -

This year the children took part in: Playground to Podium rackets, Playground to Podium invasion, Playground to Podium athletics, City Wide Athletics at Sportcity, and a Disability Golf Event at Heaton Park. Letters of thanks were received from parents of all pupils involved.

'Creating Links with our Feeder Primary School'.

Relationships have been strengthened between our Feeder Primary pupils and staff. The raised involvement (5 Primary competitions organised by Miss Eaton) and participation has made a massive difference in the pupils.

This term, Sports Captains were chosen from a strong cohort and we are convinced they will all prove to be excellent appointments: Alex Benjamin, Jamie Benjamin, Max Foster, Sam Hatton, Oliver Hayes, Jordan Kay, Yonni Levy, Josh Oehely, and Zoe Gibson, Georgia Benjamin, Chanel Elkayam, Katie Addlestone, Lily Glaskie, Charlotte Moryouseff, Jessica Ailion, Odelya Yechezkel. Representing the North of Manchester at the City-wide Swimming Championships were Marcus Shonfield, Nathan Shepherd, Corbyn Davidson, Louis Barr and Jordan Kay who all won medals. Josh Oehely was crowned the City of Manchester KS4 Freestyle & Individual Medley Champion and also picked up a silver medal in the Butterfly.

Ari Gold, Joel Levy and Sam Bell won the North West Squash U15 Plate Competition at the National Squash Centre.

In Athletics, Ittai Mattan won the City-Wide Discus Gold Medal and the Y10 Athletics Team finished 5th out of all Manchester Secondary Schools.

The Year 7 & 8 Bi-Athlon team won the City Wide Competition.

Numerous fixtures have been completed in athletics, cricket, squash and tennis this term for Boys in Years 7 to 10.

The Annual Sports Day, despite the torrential rain, was a resounding success in the Indoor Athletics Arena with numerous records set.

King David are now offering PE as a GCSE.

Congratulations go to Mr Lamming who has been promoted from Head of Boys PE to Head of PE.

Prize Giving:

Special separate assemblies were held in the high school hall to celebrate the achievements of our pupils. Certificates and prizes were awarded for academic achievement and Midot.

Science:

There were trips to Chester Zoo for Year 10 BTEC and Year 11 Applied Science. Year 12 students visited a Wind Farm, and Biology students enjoyed trips to Ainsdale, Holcomb Hill, Reddisher Woods and Entwistle Woods. Year 12 Chemistry students Amanda Spindler, Daniel DeWijze and Josh Bor entered the Young Analyst Competition and our Year 8 pupils came second at the Salter's Festival of Chemistry, thanks to Mrs Senior. Year 10 BTec Science went on a trip to Heaton Park. Four Year 10 students were selected to go to Edinburgh and Nottingham University for the Salter's Chemistry Camp. Students from Years 11, 12 and 13 entered the National Physics Challenge, the Physics Olympiad. A level Physics students were invited to work with AQA to trial examination questions. Sixth Form Biology students enjoyed a fascinating lecture on the Biology of Spiders, by Dr Dmitri Logunov, Curator of Arthropods at Manchester University Museum. Finally the Flash Bang show was a big hit with pupils from Years 7 & 8.

Taster Days – Year 5:

Pupils in Year 5 from all of our feeder schools joined us for a taste of High School life! A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all the pupils; especially at lunch time!

Taster Days - University:

Thanks to Mr Frankell pupils from Year 11 and some from Year 12 went to Oxford and visited Corpus Christi College. Individual students also visited Cambridge and other universities for the university open days.

Yavneh Boys:

During this term speakers have included Rabbi Rubin from Har Nof and former Army Commander Rabbi Weisel. There has been a Shabbaton for Year 7 and Year 9 pupils. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed a learning session in Sharei Torah Yeshiva.

End of year trips included a day out at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, The Crocky Trail and an Inter-School Bowling Competition.

After their GCSE's, Rabbi Schwalbe and Rabbi Benson took Year 11 pupils on a trip to Frankfurt. Mr Leventhall led the Prize Giving morning which celebrated the achievements of the boys throughout the last academic year, with special guest speaker Dayan Berger.

Yavneh Girls:

Mrs Hoffner, as is customary, entertained the Year 7 girls in her home for a Batmitzvah Shabbaton and a mother and daughter evening. They also made challas with Mrs Hoffner in preparation for their Batmitzvah evening in July. Year 7 girls invited the Israeli Soldiers round for coffee in the library during their visit in June. A special assembly was held for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Miss Cogbill, Mrs Dowdall, Mrs Hoffner and Miss Morrison joined the Year 7, 8 and 12 girls on their annual camp which this year was held in Llandudno. Streetwise sessions were arranged for Year 9 girls on personal safety, the safe use of the internet and healthy living. A farewell barbeque was organised for Rabbi and Mrs Benson who will be returning to Israel after 3 years with us at Yavneh. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Day:

Main School and Yavneh celebrated in true Israeli style with fun activities and an outdoor barbecue organised by Mr Mintz. The rain held off and a good time was had by all.

Year 9 pupils ran carnival activities and Aish ran a session on Israel's achievements.

This was a day for pupils to connect to Israel and raise money for Magen David Adom. Thanks to Rabbi Goodman for all his efforts.

Young Enterprise:

The Year 9 Young Enterprise Master Class was organised by Mrs Epstein. All the students were up to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed the day; the theme this year was the Olympic Games. The pupils worked in teams and the winning team produced a prototype of a t-shirt with holograms of various sports. Deiter Cohen was given a special award as the best speaker.

Other events include:

The Israeli disabled soldiers made their annual visit to the High School.

As a reward to those students who have accumulated few IRIS points, Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils had the opportunity to go to Camelot Theme Park. Also those students who have extra Kodesh lessons and attend Bet Midrash have been rewarded by a trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach with Rabbi Goodman.

Mrs Epstein took 5 pupils to the Stock Market Challenge at Manchester University. Jessica Donn astounded the judges with her analytical approach to her buying and selling and she personally won a prize.

Adam Finn and Elliot Singer received awards at the Manchester Educational Awards ceremony at the Town Hall in recognition of outstanding achievements.

Assemblies:

Pupils are asked to contribute towards morning assemblies and this term there were assemblies in Spanish, Poetry, Ivrit news, French and a special assembly for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Parents Guild:

Thanks go to all the committee members of the Parents Guild for all their hard work and dedication involved in raising funds for the campus. The Parents Guild continues to support the school and we appreciate all of their efforts. This term they have held a very successful Coffee Evening in the High School hall and a Summer Fun Day. Contributions were made to the Food Technology department as well as to repairs and insurance for the school minibus.

Guest Speakers:

Guest speakers and lecturers are an enjoyable and integral part of the school day, and visitors and speakers this term have included:

Mrs Newman – Holocaust survivor

Mr Burns – Hatzallah, Jewish Paramedic Service

Mr Shaft - BBC Radio Manchester

Mrs Ferguson- Gospel Singer

Mr Anwar – Muslim speaker

Alex and Mrs Williams –Meningitis Trust

Mr Kos - UJC North West university chaplain (with ex students Ben Lewis, Danya Rosenthal and Abbie Hayton)

Mr Rowe – Israel talk

Mrs Blackston – The Nicky Alliance

Ms Jahoda – Sixth Form mentoring training

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr Rowe, the Governing Body and Mrs Rowe, for their support and help. Also thanks to the staff for their total commitment, not just in the classroom, but also at lunchtime and during after school activities as well.

B N Levy
Headteacher