

THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL
The Headteacher's Report for the Autumn Term 2014

Staffing:

The following staff are leaving/have left this term. We thank them for their contributions to the school and wish them all the best for the future:

Teaching:	Mr L Ashcroft	- English	full time	ill health
	Mr J Balson	- Physics	full time	change of career
	Mrs S Marks	- Art	part time	maternity cover

New appointments:

Teaching:	Mr M Crookes	- Physics	full time
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Charities:

The pupils, as always, have been very generous with their donations. Rabbi Goodman successfully launched the Campus Charity – Keren Malki. Keren Malki was set up by Mr and Mrs Roth in response to the loss of their daughter 'Malki' who was killed in the Jerusalem Sbarro terror attack that took place in 2001. The organisation aims to provide care and support for families with handicapped children in Israel. The students, especially Year 9, have been working hard with bag packing in Cheadle, raffles and charity collections outside shops. The campus has already collected just over £4000 so far.

The activities of the Year 9 charity drive are being 'blogged' on the school website by a group of pupils:
<http://www.kdhs.org.uk/yadsarah2015>

Educational Trips/In School Events:

As well as the extra curricular activities within the school (see attached list), 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:

Open Evenings:

These were well attended and generated a good, positive response for both prospective Year 7 pupils and their parents, as well as prospective Sixth Form students.

Parents' Evenings:

Main School and Yavneh Boys Year 7 – Form Tutors only.

Yavneh Girls: Years 7 and 8.

Main School and Yavneh Years 12 and 13.

These evenings resulted in very positive feedback.

Art:

Year 12 and 13 Sixth Form Art students attended the 'Design Your Future' Exhibition. This was a unique opportunity to talk to representative, colleges and other organisations about the study prospects available within the creative arts and associated career avenues. Subjects covered included: Media, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Fashion, Architecture, Ceramics, 3D Animation and Mobile Phone Technology.

Bat Chayil:

Year 7 girls enjoyed a wonderful Shabbat in Broughton Park thanks to Mrs Steinberg. The girls slept with host families on Friday night and enjoyed activities throughout the day with madrichot from Aish.

Business Studies:

Miss Airley arranged for the Year 11 Vocational Business Studies students to go to the Christmas Markets to conduct some market research for a project that they are currently working on. Miss Airley and Miss Williamson's Year 11 Vocational Business Studies class also set up and ran an event for Chanukah, selling cakes.

Careers:

This term has seen the launch of a weekly careers drop-in session which has proven popular. Individual interviews will take place next term for Year 11 pupils to discuss their career options. The Careers Evening had representatives from a wide range of professions and Universities available for pupils to talk to in Years 10 to 13. Thanks go to organisers Mrs Burton and Mrs Haley.

Classical Civilisation:

Mr Walsh organised a trip for Year 12 students to see Euripides' *Medea*.

Computing:

Over the last year, the Computing Department has enthusiastically adopted the Government's Programmes of Study for Key Stages 3 and 4, working with a variety of agencies, including Computers at School, NAACE and STEMNET. New programming languages have been incorporated into the 'Schemes of Work' in order to teach the fundamentals of programming concepts. Google have donated a specialist computer, with components designed to separate into modules, in order to provide a practical demonstration of computer architecture. In association with Mr Curati in Science, the Computing Department has been running lunchtime clubs for two groups of Year 9 and 10 pupils, who are using Lego MindStorms to build and program a robot to negotiate an obstacle course. Four Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Mr Curati, participated in the regional heat of the First Lego League 2014 competition at Daresbury Laboratories in early December and conducted themselves with great sportsmanship against strong opposition. The Year 9 pupils will compete later this month at Bradford University.

Debate Club:

This term, debates have included:

Jakob Marsh and Annabelle Marks - Should the UK Arm Police with Guns?

Shannon Tobias and Jessica Donn - What is More Entertaining: Books or Films?

Jakob Marsh and Aaron Seitler - Should We Allow More Immigration to the UK?

Suzy Goldstone and Zach Wolfson - Feminism

Aaron Seitler and Leonie Jones - The Death Penalty

Duke of Edinburgh:

2014 has proven to be another great year for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Nearly 50 students from the main school, Yavneh Boys and Yavneh Girls registered for the award and we are pleased to say that ten pupils have completed their Bronze and one Yavneh Girl has completed her Silver. Many students took part in various different tasks to finish their volunteering sections including helping out in Children's Services on Shabbat, volunteering in charity shops and helping to raise money for the school charity project. The 2015 Duke of Edinburgh season has now started and everyone who has finished or has nearly finished their Bronze can register for Silver and, of course, those who have finished Silver can now register for the Gold award. Completing the world's leading youth award is a great achievement and most enjoyable! Special thanks go to JLGB for all their hard work in continuing to ensure that King David students benefit and enjoy everything the Duke of Edinburgh's Award can offer, and in making sure the students are prepared for their expeditions. Special thanks go to the JLGB team and also to Miss Morrison for all her help during the expeditions and during the sign-up and training process.

Drama:

Drama students presented a modern 21st century adaptation of 'Oliver Twist' for A Level English students, and they will be performing a devised piece of highly visual 'Physical Theatre' for both GCSE and A Level students. Theatre trips included 'Edward Scissorhands', 'Insomnia' and Shakespeare's 'Othello'.

Year 13 Drama workshops involved working with a Norwegian Actor and visiting puppeteers. Year 8 pupils appeared in the BBC Broadcast of a Newsround Special.

English:

Year 13 English Language students attended a one day seminar on 'Language Change and Language Acquisition' in preparation for coursework and examinations. BBC Bitesize observed Year 11 lessons to help shape the content of their website used by schools across the country. Following these lesson observations Mrs Silver has been invited to contribute material for the website on the texts studied by King David classes. Year 11 pupils have entered poems for the national Young Writers' Competition and are awaiting results.

Geography:

Mr Faraday, Mr Chappelle and Miss Ainsworth accompanied GCSE pupils to the Lake District to collect data for their Controlled Assessment. Mr Chappelle took Year 13 pupils to the University of Manchester for a series of fascinating lectures on 'Plate Tectonics and their Associated Hazards'.

Head Boy/Head Girl Initiatives:

Over the past term, new Head Boys and Head Girls reformed the school council system to allow each student to have a voice. Through this they extended the school lunch menu to provide new dishes including sushi, frozen yoghurt and shwarma. They implemented a tutoring system whereby A Level students can help GCSE students reinforce and support their learning in class during lunch times and free periods. Thanks to the Heads: Max Festenstein, Yonatan Levy, Natanya Grant and Mollie Silvert.

History:

Mr Walsh co-ordinated a 'Tsar to Revolution' Master Class for Year 12 Russian History students, and a lecture by JJ Scarisbrick (one of the most eminent Tudor Historians). The 'Peoples History Museum' Drama Group delivered a really informative and enjoyable drama production on the 'Peterloo Riots' of 1819 which is key to Year 9 studies on Suffrage and Voting Change in the 19th Century. Co-ordinated by Mrs Jacobs and Mr Cheetham. Mr Leventhall organised a World War 1 commemorative football match for Year 9 pupils.

Jewish Studies:

Pupils from Year 8 Yavneh Girls represented the School and the Jewish faith at an interfaith event held at the Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College in Altrincham. They joined with Catholic and Muslim pupils to discuss their own faith whilst learning about the lives of students who have a different faith. The girls looked at themes from different religious texts and learnt about personalities who promoted tolerance and understanding from all faith backgrounds. The Yavneh Girls reported that they enjoyed the interaction with other girls who also live with the challenge of living a religious life in the modern world. Before leaving the girls davened mincha in the school's designated prayer room reaffirming their commitment to be proud Jews wherever they go.

This term has seen a restructure to the morning minyan led by Adam Rose under the guidance of Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Goodman. Pupils are able to collect 'Minyan Miles' upon their attendance. There has also been a very positive response amongst pupils to the launch of the various trips organised for Years 9, 10 and 12. Seventy Year 9 pupils will be heading over to Sheffield next term and Year 10 pupils are going to Dublin. There has also been a great response for this year's Year 12 Poland trip in June 2015, as a number of students are passionate to learn from the events of the past as they look ahead towards their future. *A trip that will stay with the students forever, an experience that will be told to their children and grandchildren.* The grandfather of one of our student's is a Holocaust survivor and will be going on the trip to recount his personal experience in the camps. This term will finish with Chanukah activities for Years 7 to 9. Activities will include a Chanukah laser light show as well as a party to reward the pupils for raising money for Keren Malki, the campus charity.

Maths:

This has been a very successful term for the Sixth Form. All of the students who took part in the UKMT Senior Challenge gained a certificate, with one Gold, nine Silver and four Bronze awards being achieved. Dana Kirsh, Year 12, achieved the highest mark in school. Dana, Matti Radivan, Joshua Dover and Oliver Hayes also represented the school in the UKMT Sixth Form Team Challenge. We came seventh this year in the Regional final held at Oldham Sixth Form College. Mr Milejski took a group of Year 11 pupils to the annual series of Maths Inspiration lectures at the RNCM. The lecture titles were 'From Pepsi to Peace Deals', 'Hidden Connections' and 'The Sacred Geometry of Chance'. Top sets in Year 9 took part in a workshop led by an engineer from the Smallpeice Trust. This included a presentation on professional engineering careers and a bridge design task. We are keen to do more to introduce students to possible career pathways in Maths related disciplines. Mr Dowling, now a trainee actuary with Mercer, came to speak to Year 11 and Sixth Form students about actuarial careers. We were also delighted that Jason Cowan, a former student at King David, came to speak to Year 12 students about his career path from A Level Maths through a Joint Honours degree in Maths and Physics, to his current career as a software developer with the Bank of England.

Media:

Media students attended a special screening, at the 'Into Film Festival', of 'The Amazing Spider Man 2' and 'The Maze Runner'. Students organised a demonstration and exhibition at the Sixth Form Open Evening and visited the Manchester Markets in preparation for video and exhibition work. Documentaries have been planned about Jewish youth movements, social media and other topics for their video production unit.

Music:

This term we have welcomed Miss Bateman to the Music Department and she is taking over from Mr Loughrey as a music teacher, and also Mr Harrison who is replacing Mr Friel as our brass instrument teacher. A new event for this year is the 'Lone Star Diner', a pop restaurant run by parents in collaboration with the Music Department to help raise funds for future projects. On Saturday 13th December, students provided the evening's entertainment and waited on tables for our guests. Mr Levy described the evening as 'magnificent'. The Music Department is also planning to go on tour again in July 2015, this time to London. Plans are well under way and the students have already been practising hard. As with previous years, the Year 7 pupils are receiving instrumental taster lessons across this term and next, with a view to boosting the number of students who study an instrument in school. We will also be visiting Heathlands on the last day of term to give a short concert to the residents.

Modern Hebrew:

The new Year 7 programme 'Yesh Vayesh' was launched this term. This new interactive Hebrew teaching program is being developed especially for Jewish schools in the UK by PaJeS (Partnership for Jewish Schools), and it already looks very promising. Mrs Isaacson is heading the development of new materials to support the teaching of the GCSE Curriculum.

P.E. Events:

Boys: House Sports events this term have been Football and Table Tennis. At the North Team Badminton Championships the U14 Team qualified for the City Wide competition as champions. Pupils were Romi Lewis, Jacob Lee, Max Bennett, Louis Collins and Adam Noyek. The Year 9 Badminton team won the City Wide Team competition and now go forward to represent the City of Manchester at the Greater Manchester Championships. Zak Cantor, Year 11, won the U16 City Wide Table Tennis Championship, and Eytan Dines, Year 11, was second in the U16 City Wide Table Tennis Championship. Year 11 Boys hope to continue their successful pursuit of medals in the Citywide Rowing Championships on Tuesday 16th December. Extra Curricular Clubs running this term included badminton, squash, boxing fitness, rowing, swimming, football and rugby. Thanks to Mr Walsh for his help.

Girls: House Sports events this term have been Netball and Badminton. Extra Curricular clubs this term included, squash, table tennis, swimming and badminton. The following girls participated in the U14/U16 Badminton Doubles: Katrina Corrick, Natasha Rabinowitz, Pasha Bloom-Crook and Eden Bursk. Winners of the KS3 North Manchester Championships were Libby Bean, Eden Bursk, Pasha Bloom-Crook and Natasha Kingsley. Charlotte Mehr and Poppy Waxman came third and second respectively in the individual KS3 Table Tennis tournament and Sabrina Kaye won the KS4 Table Tennis tournament with Pasha Bloom-Crook coming in third place. The Year 9 Badminton team came runners up at the City Wide Team competition.

Prize Giving:

There was a special assembly in the high school hall for students in Years 12 and 13 to celebrate their achievements of their last academic year. Certificates and prizes were awarded for academic achievement and Midot.

Science:

Mr Curati took a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils to compete at the first Lego League Challenge, in which students have to build a program for a robot to carry out a number of tasks. Year 11 Separate Science pupils went to Bridgewater Hall for a 'Science Live' trip. Eminent speakers included Prof Robert Winston, Prof Steve Jones, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Prof Alice Roberts and Prof Mark Miiodownik. Year 11 Physics pupils were accompanied to Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, by Mr Christo. The pupils spent time at the College initially, where they were joined by pupils from other schools in an attempt to enthuse them about applying to Cambridge. After a brief tour of Cambridge, they were then taken to the Cavendish Laboratories for practical work on telescopes and lenses, followed by a lecture on light. Year 12 Applied Science students visited Kaye's Soap Factory in Ramsbottom and enjoyed a trip to Chester Zoo. Year 13 Applied Science students went to Abraham Moss Leisure Centre. Year 12 Biology students attended the Annual Medical Society Christmas Lecture and the Year 13 students went on a field trip to Ainsdale Dunes. Year 12 and 13 students attended a lecture by Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society 'Wombs for Rent'.

Sixth Form:

Gwyn Day, Oxbridge entrance consultant, ran an interview workshop in December as a number of candidates are attending for interview this month at both Oxford and Cambridge, and medicine and dentistry students also have interviews coming up. Fridays have seen regular practice interviews and sessions on Thinking Skills, alongside practice for the LNAT law admissions test and the Cambridge Law Test.

For those students who are doing an Extended Project, Mr Vincent and Mrs Raczkowycz organised an EPQ trip to the University of Manchester.

Yavneh Boys:

Special guest speakers this term have included The Fed, 'Caring Sunday', Mrs Zatman. Also Rav 'Micky' Flaumenhaft, Rabbi Kanterovitz from London, Rabbi Pollack from LSJS London, Rav Blachman, Rosh Yeshiva Kerem B'Yavneh, UJIA's Idan Sharabi, and Mr Hammelburger spoke about his memories of Kristallnacht. Bar Mitzvah call-ups this term have included: Eli Prais and Reuven Atlas. There is a wider Learning programme with Shaarei Torah Yeshiva for Years 7 to 9 and the regular Wednesday evening Torat Yavneh programme continues. Rabbi P Cohen hosted a Year 7 Melave Malka in his home, and Friday night dinner for pupils in Year 10 and in Year 11. Trips included a visit to a themed Succah for boys in Years 7 to 9. Thanks to Rabbi Schwalbe, boys from Year 13 went on a Yeshiva tour. They visited five Yeshivot with a view on making an informed decision regarding their Yeshiva application. An enjoyable week was capped off with an all English Shabbaton in Yeshivat Hakotel including Kabbalat Shabbat on the roof of the Yeshiva overlooking the Temple Mount.

Yavneh Girls:

This term in Yavneh Girls the extra learning programme, 'Lishma' has got off to a great start thanks to Head Girl, Pearl Gordon. Alumnae come to learn with the younger girls and everyone finds it an enjoyable and inspiring experience. Rabbi Eisenberg continues to come to school assemblies every two weeks on a Thursday to share a lesson from the Parsha. Dayan Steiner addressed the girls about Shmitta, and the practical ramifications, together with a question and answer session, and Dayan Berger addressed the girls with a Pre Yom Kippur message. Before Rosh Hashana girls from Year 7 together with their 'Big Sisters' from the Sixth Form decorated pots of honey as part of the 'Gift' Project. At Presentation Morning the girls' achievements were recognised and prizes were awarded for attainment and effort in Secular and Hebrew subjects and for service to school and the community. The Lower School Drama Group and our young musicians performed. We were honoured by the presence of Mrs Zahava Taub, wife of the Israeli Ambassador, who addressed the girls and presented the prizes. The referendum in Scotland was marked by a special assembly in which girls (with Scottish connections) argued the case for and against Scottish Independence. There were also assemblies on 'What it means to be both Jewish and British' and to mark Anti-Bullying Week. Yavneh Girls joined with the main school on Remembrance Day and to hear the Israeli Ambassador speak. The girls are working hard to raise money for Keren Malki, the campus Charity, and this term they have also raised money for Tomchei Shabbos, which provides food for Shabbat and Yomtov to those in need in our community. The Sixth form are organising a Chanukah party which will take place on the last day of term. One of the Yavneh yearly events is the lecture circuit delivered by the visiting Seminary representatives. The girls heard lectures from ten different speakers. This was followed by the 'Sem Fair' in the Bnei Akiva Bayit, where students were able to speak to the representatives together with their parents. Once again the Sem trip was a resounding success. The trip was led by Mrs Hoffner and assisted by Mrs Seitler, and offered the Year 13 girls a chance to see the various seminary programmes on offer to enable them to choose the best one for them. Yavneh Girls were involved in the North Manchester Challa Bake, which was hosted in King David. There were dozens of volunteers who willingly gave up hours of their free time to help set up the hall for one thousand ladies.

Other Events Included:

The Art, History and Media Departments are jointly running a photography competition. Prizes will be awarded to the best photos in the Lower School and in the Upper School. 'Edit' theme winners will be announced before the Winter Holidays. The deadline for the new theme 'Lights' is 2nd February 2015. Winning entries can be viewed: <http://www.kdhs.org.uk/kdhspix.html>

Assemblies:

Pupils are asked to contribute toward the assemblies and this term included assemblies in Poetry, French, Ivrit, Spanish and Voice of Israel. Sixth Formers Katie Addlestone and Gabriella Savage led an assembly on driving safely, and Yoel and Yonatan Levy gave an emotional speech about children with special needs.

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. New Chairperson Mrs Nadia Joseph and her team organised a Bonfire Evening which was a huge success and resulted in the Parents Guild donating £2000 to the High School. A decision has yet to be made as to what the money will be spent on. As well as this the Parents Guild have helped with repairs to the school minibus.

Guest Speakers and Visitors:

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

Duke of Edinburgh team, presentation of awards
Mr Steve Weller, JLGB volunteering fair
Mr Jonathan Bishop, Stock Broker
Mr Elchana Miller, issues in Israel
Mrs Amanda Zatman, Fed Caring Sunday
Student Finance England
Ms Annette Bamberger, IDC Herzliya
Mr Suresh Mehta, Jain Faith Representative
Mrs Sara Talai, Ba'hai Faith Representative
Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Bishop of Manchester
Colonel Martin Newman
Kingsman Jason Deech
Officer Lutha Magloire
Councillor Michelle Wiseman, Mayoress of Bury
Sister Teresa Brittain
Prof Alan Johnson
Mrs Gillian Merron, Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews
Mr Daniel Taub, Israeli Ambassador

Future Events:

Chanukah Activity	Friday 19 th December 2014
School Exams Week	Monday 15 th December 2014
Mock Exams	Monday 5 th January 2015
Year 6 Assessment Exam	Wednesday 7 th January 2015
Year 9 Pre-Israel Shabbaton	Friday 23 rd January – Sunday 25 th January 2015
House Basketball & Unihoc	Thursday 29 th January 2015
KS4 Maths Challenge	Thursday 5 th February 2015
Swimming Gala	Tuesday 10 th February 2015
Duke of Edinburgh 6 th Form Gold	Sunday 15 th February – Thursday 19 th February 2015
PE GCSE Trip – Skipton	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2015
Year 11 Shabbaton	Friday 27 th February – Sunday 1 st March 2015
UCAS Evening	Tuesday 10 th March 2015
UCAS Convention	Thursday 12 th March 2015
Cross Country	Friday 13 th March 2015
Yavneh Girls Concert	Monday 16 th March 2015
Year 10 Shabbaton	Thursday 19 th March – Sunday 22 nd March 2015
Spring Recital	Tuesday 24 th March 2015
Duke of Edinburgh 6 th Form Gold	Sunday 29 th March – Tuesday 31 st March 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Boys	Tuesday 14 th April – Wednesday 15 th April 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 10	Sunday 19 th April – Tuesday 21 st April 2015
Yom Hazikaron	Wednesday 22 nd April 2015
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Thursday 23 rd April 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Girls	Sunday 26 th April – Monday 27 th April 2015
KS3 Maths Challenge	Thursday 30 th April 2015
Presentation Assembly Year 11	Friday 8 th May 2015
GCSE and A Level Exams	Monday 11 th May – Friday 19 th June 2015
House Basketball & Badminton	Tuesday 12 th May 2015
Presentation Assembly Year 10	Friday 22 nd May 2015
Year 9 Israel Trip	Tuesday 26 th May – Thursday 4 th June 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 10 Girls	Sunday 31 st May – Tuesday 2 nd June 2015

Presentation Assembly Year 8	Friday 12 th June 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Girls	Sunday 14 th June – Monday 15 th June 2015
Year 12 Poland Trip	Tuesday 16 th June – Sunday 21 st June 2015
Bat Chayil Ceremony	Sunday 21 st June 2015
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Boys	Sunday 21 st June – Monday 22 nd June 2015
Summer Concert	Tuesday 23 rd June 2015
Year 9 Israel Reunion Lunch	Sunday 28 th June 2015
School Exams Week	Thursday 25 th June – Wednesday 1 st July 2015
Presentation Assembly Year 9	Wednesday 1 st July 2015
Yavneh Boys Presentation Assembly	Sunday 5 th July 2015
Duke of Edinburgh 6 th Form Gold	Sunday 5 th July – Friday 10 th July 2015
Activity Week	Monday 6 th July 2015
Music Tour	Monday 6 th July – Friday 10 th July 2015
Yavneh Girls Camp	Tuesday 7 th July – Thursday 9 th July 2015
Presentation Assembly Year 7	Friday 10 th July 2015
Sports Day	Monday 13 th July 2015
Yavneh Girls Bat Mitzvah Evening	Tuesday 14 th July 2015
House Rounders	Wednesday 15 th July 2015
GCE/VCE Results	Thursday 13 th August 2015
GCSE/VGSCE Results	Thursday 20 th August 2015

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 lunchtimes and during after school activities.

B N Levy
Headteacher
December 2014