

THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL
The Headteacher's Report for the Spring Term 2013

Prospective New Pupils

At the time of writing we have 126 Year 6 pupils who have accepted places for entry into the High School in September 2013. We have also received applications from the vast majority of our Year 11 King David Students, as well as applications from other schools for our Sixth Form in September 2013 totalling 108 students to date.

Staffing:

New appointments:

Teaching: Mr P Lovatt - Music

Charities:

The pupils, as always, have been very generous with their donations. Year 9 pupils have launched their fundraising initiative and they are collecting money to take to Israel with them in May for Zichron Menachem, a charity which supports children with cancer. School has a target to reach of £12,000 for this appeal, Rabbi Goodman is co-ordinating this initiative. Special thanks go to Year 10 pupil Hannah Fine who was sponsored for having her hair cut and raised a staggering £5,600.00. Yavneh Boys raised over £1,700 from their sponsored bike ride.

Educational Trips/In School Events:

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

Parents Evenings:

This term there have been evenings for parents of pupils in the Main School and Yavneh Boys and Yavneh Girls.

All these evenings were well supported and highly informative for parents.

Taster Days

Year 6 Children from our feeder schools and other schools enjoyed spending the day in the Main School and Yavneh. As always, lunch in the canteen was a special highlight for them all!

Main School:

Aish

Aish has been inspiring our students to engage with their traditions and love their Judaism by presenting an array of activities in school. The activities range from 'Lunch and Learns' to trips away. The Year 9 Israel trip will also be run in conjunction with Aish, who promise to provide an exciting itinerary. This term activities have included a Shabbaton for 62 Year 9 pupils who are going on the Israel trip in May. One parent wrote:

"Thank you all for your hard work and effort on making the Shabbaton so much fun for and her friends. She came home absolutely raving about how much fun she had and how amazing the whole weekend was. I have never heard her so animated. It was so nice to hear and she has come away with a really positive attitude from the whole experience. Big thanks to all involved."

Other activities have included Tu B'Shvat gifts to Heathlands Village and various informal lessons.

The 'Lunch and Learn' sessions still prove very popular.

With thanks to Rabbi Kampf from Aish, 10 Year 12 students went on a Yeshiva/Sem pilot trip to Israel during half term. All the students came back inspired after an amazing trip.

Art

Check out the Art Department on:

Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram – search for kdhslovesart and hit FOLLOW.

Bat Chayal

In preparation for the Bat Chayal ceremony next term, Mrs Engle organised a Shabbaton for the Year 7 girls. The Shabbaton is one of the most enjoyable and educational highlights of extra activities we hold in the school for the Bat Chayal programme. During the Shabbaton the girls have the opportunity to enjoy a unique Shabbat atmosphere and special activities. Thanks go to all the Sixth Form girls who helped make this weekend so special.

Business and Economics

A-level Business Studies students enjoyed an intensive trip to New York where their visits included a matzo factory to learn about production and marketing, Wall Street Finance Museum to learn about the current financial crisis compared to the great depression, Sony Technology to learn about ways to compete and J and R's electronic department to study about external influences which involve a presentation and tour.

Year 12 OCR business students: As part of their coursework in OCR Dual Business Studies, students got involved in 'events management' and organised fundraising events such as Valentine cards and balloon sales, led by Michael Leviten. Money was donated to Zichron Menachem. Mr Hodgson raffled a football kit and Mrs Mulgrew also organised a candy floss sale to raise funds for the trip to New York.

Year 12 and 13 students also attended a workshop in the Lowry as well as a revision day at Salford Quays where they were set challenges and meet numerous business speakers.

OCR Year 10 pupils visited the job centre for a talk about links with the local community led by Miss Callan and Mrs Airley.

Charles Burns came in to speak to OCR Year 13 students about employment routes other than university and his experiences of the graduation scheme at Tesco. Daniel Radnor and Adam Selby are due to speak to Year 12 Business students about their business ventures.

Year 13 A level business students Deborah Mehlman, Benji Radivan, Ben Taylor, Natasha Baker, Robert Berman, Lily Modlin, Leo Addleman, Spencer Glass (who was amazing!) and Max Davies competed in the A2 Business Competition at Salford City Reds Rugby Stadium. It was a competition run by the ICAEW (Institute for Chartered Accountants). The teams had to present a business strategy in front of 100 people and competed against 14 other teams. They came a very well deserved third place in the regional final. Thanks go to Mr Hodgson.

Duke of Edinburgh

This term has seen two pupils, Natanya Grant (Year 11) and Yehuda Dresner (Year 12), along with over 30 others from across the country, travel to the Brecon Beacons for a residential trip to carry out training for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They've made a great start already working towards their Gold Awards and have a practice expedition scheduled for April, and their assessed expedition taking place over the summer.

Across the Main School, Yavneh Girls and Yavneh Boys, there are nearly 50 students enrolled for their Bronze Award this academic year. Expedition season is fast approaching which means that training is in full swing for the Bronze participants and all are enjoying their weekly sessions. There is still space for any students wanting to take part in their Silver Award, to register in order to achieve such a well-respected award. Thanks go to Claire Lieberman who is the JLGB Northern Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator.

Drama

Year 12 Drama students have presented this term monologues from a range of plays. The Year 13 students presented their final year play to family and friends. The Lower and Upper School Drama Club presented lunchtime Theatre Drama Showcases. The Drama Department 'Big Breakfast' continues; where students share their learning over bagels. Theatre visits this term included The Lion King and One Man Two Guvnors.

English

Thanks to Mr Marvin Year 10 pupils went to The Bolton Octagon Theatre to see 'Of Mice and Men'. Mrs Silver will be taking Year 12 students to 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at the Royal Exchange in March to relive their memories of studying it in Year 11. Miss Earner has entered Year 8 poems into the Manchester Libraries Poetry Competition and we are awaiting the results.

Geography

Year 12 students made it to Malham Tarn in February and got snowed in! Last year the Malham trip was cancelled first time round also due to snow. But a very good time was had by all. Year 7 pupils are doing new fieldwork into Microclimatology around the school campus.

Headboy/Headgirl Initiatives:

Headboy Sam Bentwood and Headgirl Ariella Jones have organised a quiz for the end of term in order to raise money for Zichron Menachem. They have also established, with their deputies, a Professions Society which allows Lower School pupils to participate in moral debates and be informed as to possible future careers. The Israel discussion group has continued this term and has expanded to include discussions surrounding current global affairs.

History:

Mr Walsh accompanied his Year 12 History students to Central Hall Manchester for a revision conference on Henry VIII.

ICT

As a result of the new curriculum changes within ICT, pupils have been successfully introduced to a range of new programming languages. The ICT Department is continuing to develop further links with external organisations to build up our skill-base and provide pupils with a range of experiences. Miss Cooper obtained a complimentary 'Gadgeteer' kit for school and is working with some keen pupils in Years 9 and 10 to prepare it for use in the Computing STEMNET Club. As a result of the school's active participation in STEMNET, it was selected to participate in the first ever 'Raspberry Jam' event, which is an inter-school competition.

Speaker Dr Derek Magee, from Leeds University, presented a careers advice session to pupils in Years 10 and 11, and another to Sixth Formers about the opportunities available to graduates of Computer Science.

Danny Moss, Year 13, secured a job for his Gap Year with IBM. He will take on the role of Portable Storage Media Analyst – An excellent achievement as IBM has an extremely rigorous recruitment process.

Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies and History Department have developed a joint initiative with Abraham Moss High School pioneering a programme linking Year 9 pupils from the two schools to learn about Holocaust education and issues of tolerance and community. Activities this term included a team building meeting and a 'Holocaust Studies' programme at Abraham Moss, and pupils from both schools attended a Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration at the Cornerhouse Theatre. Thanks go to Rabbi Rickman and Mr Leventhall.

Maths

A group of Year 9 and 10 pupils took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge this term. This is a one hour problem-solving competition. The overall results this year were particularly strong with 8 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze certificates. Matthew Demby, Fabian Bor, Nathan Domnitz and Sam Prais have also qualified for the 'European Kangaroo' round of the Competition taking place on Thursday 21st March. Tamar Prais received her results from the 'Senior Kangaroo European Maths Challenge' taken at the end of last term and we are pleased that she achieved a merit.

Mr Dowling prepared a team of Year 8 and 9 pupils for the regional final of the Junior Team Maths Challenge at Manchester University. The students are Fabian Bor, Sam Prais, Max Berkeley and Daniel Moss.

Mr Milejski prepared a Year 10 Team for the Further Maths Support Programme Challenge at Manchester University. One of the rounds in this competition requires study of some A level content! Students taking part are Eli Basger, Ari Gold, Sam Pliener and Matti Radivan.

Mrs Dowdall started a code-breaking club with KS3 students this term, which is proving very popular.

Students were invited to take part in a Maths Puzzle competition over half term, organised by Liverpool University. So far we have sent off several dozen entries. Thanks to Mr Dowling and Mrs Spindler.

Media

This year our school will be participating in the BBC School News report, a scheme where pupils learn the skills associated with compiling, filming and presenting a 'professional style' news report – this is then accessed by the public from the BBC News website. A number of Year 9 pupils have been preparing and learning the skills of 'reporting.' This term Year 9 pupils will be out on location interviewing people in preparation for their report on ovarian cancer. Thanks to Mr Sills and Miss Thomas.

Year 12 and 13 Media students visited the Harry Potter Studio Tour run by Warner Brothers on a day trip. A magical trip! Media students will be working with Key 103 on an exciting radio project in school this term. Students have also attended a day event on Film Certification at the Cornerhouse, Manchester, where an examiner from the BBFC presented a film and lecture on how films are certificated in the UK, exploring how for example decisions are made to award a 12A certification rather than a 15. Thanks to Mr Frankell.

Music

The School Choir sang at the M.E.N. Arena as part of Young Voices, accompanied by our voice teachers, Mrs Marshfield and Mr Peters. The Spring Exam Recital, featuring performances by our Year 10 to Year 13 exam pupils, will be held this term. Year 10 pupils have been working with professional Recorder player Chris Orton in a series of workshops, preparing their recorder ensembles for performance exams. Music Department Parents held a second 'pop-up' restaurant to raise funds for student activities in music, including the biannual music tour. The two restaurant events have raised close to £1500 so far. Thank you! And thanks to Dr Siemens.

P.E.

This was another busy term for the PE Department. Events included the annual swimming gala; won by Galil Boys and Girls. There was an incredibly high standard of performance and even more importantly fantastic team spirit. Also this term was the House Basketball and Gymnastics won by Negev and Sharon respectively.

Fixtures and Clubs this term have included Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Dance, Football, Netball, Rugby, Running, Squash, Swimming and Trampolining.

Natasha Rabinowitz was runner up at the North Manchester badminton competition.

At the City Wide Swimming Finals, King David won more medals than ever before. Joshua Oehely won Gold in Front Crawl; Marcus Shonfield won the KS4 breast stroke, a year young. Other medals were won by Louis Barr, Jay Rose, Oliver Dennison and Joey Castle.

At the girls' City Wide finals it was a similar success story with lots of heats being won, we eagerly await the final results!

All Year 10 girls and half Year 10 Boys have passed their Bronze Medallion swimming course. Most Year 9 girls have also completed their Bronze Medallion.

Some Year 7 pupils have taken part in the Track Cycling championship; competing at the Manchester Velodrome, home to our successful GB Olympic Team.

Our first GCSE PE Residential trip took place during February half term and was an outstanding success with all pupils gaining at least one outstanding mark in Climbing, Mountain Biking & Orienteering.

Year 11 leaders hosted a netball and Sports Hall Athletics tournament for King David Primary School pupils and neighboring schools.

The Year 7 and 9 football teams are in with a strong chance of winning the North Manchester Football Leagues with a round of fixtures to go.

Science

Biology students from Year 12 and Year 11 superset were taken to hear presentations by Israeli Scientists at the Museum of Science and Industry. Presentations included 'The discovery of a new drug for Parkinson's Disease', 'From boiled eggs to neurodegenerative diseases', 'How misfolded proteins affect our lives' and 'The immune system is less perfect than we thought'.

Dr Hampson accompanied Year 13 Biology students to the Polymerase Chain Reaction workshop at the Nowgen Centre. Some Year 12 students attended lectures at the RNCM on The Quantum Universe and Critical Care in Action, and Mrs Senior accompanied Applied Science students to Chester Zoo. At the end of this term there is a trip for Year 12 and 13 students to a Workshop at Manchester University Museum, they will be exploring current research techniques in diabetes and finding out about life as a scientist through a series of interactive discussions and debates. Thanks to Dr Hampson.

Physics students Noa Kirsh, Tamar Prais, Rivka Simon, Joe Landes and Jacob Feddy won the UK 'Safe Cracking Competition' in London and are now taking their 'uncrackable' safe to the Weizmann Institute in Israel to take part in the international competition. We wish the team good luck! Thanks to Mr Curati.

Sixth Form Prospective Evening

This evening was attended by all Year 11 students who are planning to attend the Sixth Form in September. The evening was designed to help students on deciding the right mix of A levels.

Thanks to Mrs Mulgrew and team this was a highly informative and successful evening.

UCAS Evening

At the end of this term there is an important evening arranged by Mr Frankell that provides information to students about their university applications, student finance, personal statements and choosing a course. Speakers will be coming from various Universities together with the able and committed in-school UCAS team. There will also be representatives joining us from the Union of Jewish Societies. All Year 12 students will also be attending the UCAS Convention in the GMex Centre. Thanks to Mr Frankell.

Yavneh Girls:

The Shabbaton in Shropshire with girls from Years 8, 9, 10 and Sixth Form was a huge success and an incredibly inspiring weekend. The girls were joined by Rabbi and Mrs Gold and family, Rabbi and Mrs Rickman and family and Mrs Hoffner.

Year 7 girls enjoyed a Melava Malka in the home of Mrs Hoffner; creating their own pizzas, biscuit decorating and activities around the theme of friendship.

A Tu B'shvat Seder was organised by the Sixth Form; each class created a power point presentation.

Some Sixth Formers, together with Mrs Hoffner, decorated the Yavneh hall in honour of the month of Adar, the theme was 'The Park'. The hall looked very festive and set the right tone for Purim!

The Purim party in the Bnei Akiva Bayat was extremely successful. The theme there was 'The Wild West'!

Yavneh girls are producing their own Hagaddah this term and there was a lunch and learn on the topic of Pesach led by Mrs Hoffner and the Sixth Form.

Speakers this term have included Rav Ilan Goldman, the Bnei Akiva Shliach from London, Mrs Judy Bodner from the USA and Mrs Caroline Pakter spoke about her experiences from 'Showbiz to Shabbos'.

There was a Shabbaton for Year 11 girls in Mrs Hoffner's house. The Year 9 girls went Purim shpeiling for Zichron Menachem, and they are also organising a sponsored walk to raise more money for this chosen charity. The girls have started writing to their Israeli pen pals whom they will meet during the Year 9 Israel trip in May.

The Yavneh Girls concert, ladies only, was a huge success in the High School Hall. Special thanks go to Mrs Eden, Mrs Hoffner and Miss Burberry for all their contributions.

Yavneh Boys:

A special assembly was held at Yavneh Boys for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Sixth Form students enjoyed celebrating Purim with their Rabbanim, Rabbi P Cohen and Rabbi Schwalbe. (Mazeltov to Rabbi P Cohen on the birth of a son.) Purim shpeiling took place for the Nicky Alliance Day Centre where many of the Lower School Yavneh Boys regularly help out. Speakers this term have included Rabbi Berel Wein, Rabbi Jacob Rubinstein and Rabbi Ilan Goldman.

Once again we are competing in the British final of the Bible Quiz to take place in the London School of Jewish Studies at the end of this term. We wish good luck to Sam Prais, Joseph Feddy, Matti Handler, Rafi Kleiman, Shmuel Weisl and Shlomi Strenger.

Other Events Included:

The fire service visited Year 7 pupils to discuss their campaign: 'Safe for Spring'.

Assemblies:

Pupils are asked to contribute towards morning assemblies and this term there were assemblies in Chinese, French, Ivrit – Voice of Israel, Poetry and Spanish. A special Holocaust memorial assembly was also held for the whole school.

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 in many ways and we appreciate all of their efforts. This term they have made contributions towards the Business Studies trip to New York, and they have paid for repairs to our 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:

Manchester Islamic Girls School

Student Finance England representative

USA Gap Year Programme representative

Camp America representative

Rabbi Farhey

Rabbi Gav

Lieutenant Hogioff

Moshe and Sarah Avitan

Future Events:

Yom Ha'azikaron	Monday 15 th April 2013
Yom Ha'atzmout	Tuesday 16 th April 2013
KS3 Maths Challenge	Thursday 25 th April 2013
Yom Yerushalayim	Wednesday 8 th May 2013
Presentation Assembly Year 11	Friday 10 th May 2013
GCSE and A Levels	Monday 13 th May – Friday 28 th June 2013
Year 9 Israel Trip Main School	Sunday 19 th May – Wednesday 29 th May 2013
Year 9 Israel Trip Yavneh	Monday 20 th May – Thursday 30 th May 2013
Presentation Assembly Year 8	Friday 24 th May 2013
Presentation Assembly Year 7	Friday 7 th June 2013
Presentation Assembly Year 9	Friday 21 st June 2013
Summer Concert	Monday 24 th June 2013
Presentation Assembly Year 10	Friday 28 th June 2013
School Exams Week	Thursday 4 th July 2013
Yavneh Girls Camp	Wednesday 10 th July – Friday 12 th July 2013
Sports Day	Friday 12 th July 2013
Yavneh Girls Bat Mitzvah Evening	Monday 22 nd July 2013
Rounders	Monday 22 nd July 2013

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

B N Levy
Headteacher
March 2013