

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

Staffing:

New appointments:

Teaching: Miss E Borodenko - Art (maternity cover)

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 Leket Israel. This charity supplies approximately 8,000 prepared sandwiches to underprivileged children from 120 schools in over 40 cities across Israel. Reports show that there are approximately 850,000 children living below the poverty line, many of whom go without breakfast every day.

School has already reached its £12,000 target for this appeal mainly due to the tremendous efforts of Rabbi Goodman.

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's activities have included a Shabbaton for 83 Year 9 pupils who are going on the Israel trip in May, and a Shabbaton for 89 Year 10 pupils in Dublin.

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 Steinberg organised a Shabbaton for the Year 7 girls. During the Shabbaton, the girls have the opportunity to enjoy a unique Shabbat atmosphere and special activities. As part of chesed work for the Bat Chayal classes, the girls have been raising money for The FED's Big Birthday Appeal.

Business and Economics

Mr Hornsby took Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students Abe Lisberg, Joe Gertler, Arron Gabel, Jamie Yaffa and Ilan Crawford to a stock market challenge event at Manchester University. They came fifth in the challenge and only narrowly missed out on a top three finish.

Miss Callan arranged for Year 13 Business Studies students to attend a revision workshop at the VUE cinema at Salford Quays where they learnt essential exam skills.

Miss Airley arranged for the Year 12 AS Business Studies students to attend a revision workshop run by Tutor 2 U.

The OCR Year 11 class went to visit the Manchester Christmas markets. This visit had been arranged as part of the OCR Business Studies specification and the students were able to carry out observations, take pictures and interview stall holders. The visit went very well and many of the students incorporated their findings into their Business Plans for their controlled assessment. Thanks go to Miss Callan and Miss Airley for organising this as well as arranging a successful mini enterprise day for Year 11 pupils.

Mrs Mulgrew accompanied Year 12 students – Natanya Grant, Mollie Silvert, Josh Dover, Simon Ibgui, Annabelle Marks and Max Festenstein to the BASE Manchester ICAEW Accounting and Finance Competition. Students created a presentation advising a business on a course of action, and presented it to industry experts. King David won the first round and got to the final four. Speakers this term have included Mr Jonathan Bishop who spoke to Year 11 to 13 students about how to develop a career in stockbroking. Mr Neil Lazarus spoke to students about bias in the media. Mr Mike Shaft, DJ at BBC Manchester, spoke about how he got into radio presenting and Reverend Steve Williams spoke about Lent and Easter.

Computing

This has been a busy term for the Computing Department as many new innovations are rolled out, particularly at Key Stage 3. As the curriculum has changed over from ICT to Computing, pupils are becoming acquainted with the intricacies of programming. It is expected that the familiarity with programming concepts will smooth the passage to GCSE Computer Science, and this has already resulted in a potentially greater take-up by pupils in Year 10 for the year 2014-15.

As the first tranche of pupils prepare to sit the exams for GCSE Computer Science, there is also the possibility of running 'A' level Computing in 2014, for the first time in a number of years. The enrichment programme is progressing well, with Key Stage 3 pupils developing entries for the Harper Adams University Robot Design competition and AQA's own Computer Science competition. Additionally, whilst the school was not successful in the Lego Mindstorms competition at the end of last year, it was an enlightening learning curve and should hopefully make us more able to enter this sort of competition in the future.

In March, 10 Year 9 pupils accompanied Mrs Kesler and Mrs Partington to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry for an iTech event, sponsored by STEMNET. They were also able to talk to a number of professionals in the Computing, Engineering and Film Industries about possible careers.

Year 9 pupils attended a talk from ex-pupil, Simeon Kesler, who is now employed by a major player in the video games industry as a Computer Games Developer. He discussed career paths in Computing and demonstrated some of the coding he has been writing to produce commercially viable games. He also spoke to Year 11 GCSE Computer Science pupils and discussed the application process and realities of university life for Year 12 students who are considering applying to Oxbridge on a Mathematics or Science-based course.

Duke of Edinburgh

This term has seen the first girl from Yavneh Girls, Elisheva Goldman, Year 11, join over 40 other young Jewish people from across the country, travel to the Brecon Beacons for a residential trip. They have to carry out training for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have made a great start already, working towards their Gold Awards and have a practice expedition scheduled for April, and their assessed expedition is taking place over the summer. Elisheva will aim to follow in the footsteps of former pupil Talya Lewis who recently completed her Gold Award on the 10th February 2014. She received her certificate from the Earl of Wessex in The Banquet Room in St. James' Palace.

Across the Main School, Yavneh Girls and Yavneh Boys, it is another record breaking year with 52 Year 9 pupils enrolled for their Bronze Award this academic year, and 10 pupils from Year 10 taking on the Silver level. Over the last weekend in March and the first weekend in April, the Bronze groups all successfully completed their practice expeditions and they are now getting ready for their Assessed Expeditions in July.

There is still space for any pupil wanting to take part in their Silver Award to register in order to achieve such a well-respected award. Thanks, as ever, go to the JLGB team for helping to make all of this possible.

Drama

Theatre visits this term included 'War Horse' and 'Macbeth'.

GCSE Drama pupils presented their devised performances to family and friends.

In collaboration with the Music department, the show 'You Can't Stop The Beat' was a huge success, involving 120 performers from both the High School and the Primary School. This was a wonderful opportunity for school to showcase its young performers as actors, singers, dancers and

musicians. Special thanks go to Mr Sills, Mrs Cohen, Miss Burberry, Mr Lovatt, Ms Yu, Mr Loughrey and Mr Sidorenko.

English

Thanks to Miss Earner, Year 10 pupils went to the Bolton Octagon to see 'Twelfth Night' and GCSE pupils went to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to see 'Of Mice and Men'. Year 11 pupils went to see the ballet of 'Lord of the Flies' at The Lowry Theatre, and 'A View from the Bridge' by Arthur Miller at the Liverpool Playhouse.

Geography

Year 12 students went on a 3 day residential trip to Malham Tarn Field Studies Centre. They looked at river channel processes, flooding and flood management and rural settlements. All had a fantastic time and benefited hugely from seeing topics covered in class out in the real world.

Year 13 students went on a one day field trip to study retail patterns in Bury and Manchester.

Headboy/Headgirl Initiatives

Headboy Harry Lewis and Headgirl Fabianne Viner ran a debating club with debates such as 'Is Vivisection Moral?', and a charity debate with Rabbi Rickman and Miss Hirst titled 'Does Facebook have a Greater Positive Impact on Society than Twitter' in order to raise money for Leket Israel. They have also started a chess club with help from Eli Korn.

History

Mr Leventhall accompanied Year 12 History students to a conference on Stalinist Russia, and Mr Walsh led students to a conference on 'The Kaiser' and 'The Tudors'. Thanks to Mr Walsh for organising these trips. A special Holocaust Memorial Day assembly was held in conjunction with the Religious Studies Department.

Jewish Studies

A special Holocaust Memorial Day assembly was held in conjunction with the History Department. Special guests at the assembly included: Lord Mayor Councillor Naeem ul Hassan JP, Ivan Lewis MP, John Leech MP, Anjum Anwar MBE, Ms Tahira Parveen – Manchester Islamic High School for Girls, Sheikh Hammad Fahim, Mr Frank Baigel and Mr Jonny Weinberg. Thanks go to Rabbi Rickman. The Pre-Purim Bingo event attracted 180 pupils and raised £3000 for Leket Israel. Thanks to Rabbi Goodman. Guest speaker Rabbi Jung from USA spoke to Year 10 pupils about 'Belief in G-d'.

Maths

A group of Year 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 very good. Nathan Domnitz and Dania Mann-Wineberg achieved Gold certificates. We also had 13 Silver and 8 Bronze awards, which is a higher overall total than last year. Nathan had the highest mark in the school and has just taken the Maths Olympiad paper, which is the next level up.

Year 13 Yavneh Girl, Tamar Prais has won the Ulpaniada, an international Maths challenge competition for girls, held in Israel. She has an offer to read Mathematics at Cambridge and we wish her well as she prepares for the STEP entrance exams this summer.

Mr Hilton prepared a team of Year 8 and 9 pupils for the regional final of the UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge held at Manchester University. The pupils representing the school were Max Bennett, Rebecca Harris, Max Berkeley and Daniel Moss. We came a respectable fourth in the competition.

Mrs Dowdall is running a code-breaking club with KS3 pupils, which is proving very popular. She will be taking a group of pupils to a cryptography day at the University next term.

Students were invited to take part in a Maths Puzzle competition, organised by Liverpool University. So far we have sent off several dozen entries. Thanks to Mrs Spindler for organising this.

Mrs Spindler has also launched a monthly Maths puzzle competition for KS3 pupils, posted on the school learning platform with a prize for the first correct solution drawn out of a hat.

A group of Year 12 students attended the most enjoyable and stimulating annual IMA Sixth Form lecture with the title "Greatest Unsolved Puzzles of Mathematics".

The Maths Department is seen as a centre of excellence by MEI, the curriculum group behind the A Level course taught here. Mr Milejski worked with MEI to organise a conference for KS4 and KS5 teachers in the North West. This was attended by over 30 teachers from across the Region. It allowed all staff in the Maths Department to receive training which should enhance teaching further. Feedback from the delegates was outstanding.

Media

This term the Media Department has been engaged in the Insight Film Festival, with Rabbi Rickman. There have also been visits to exhibitions of photography and art at the Portico Library and the City Art Gallery. Media students filmed short documentary films on the recent show 'You Can't Stop The Beat', using footage of rehearsals and performances to create a picture of the creation of the show. Students have also helped promote the school photography competition and they have been creating magazines on wildlife and fashion.

Modern Hebrew

A new programme is being developed for KS3 pupils in Years 7 to 9. Teachers have been given pilot samples and are set to attend a seminar in the summer to introduce the program. Mr Vardi and Mrs Isaacson have completed a new program for A Level students.

Music

A busy term in the Music Department started with our school show 'You Can't Stop The Beat', in collaboration with the Drama Department. Involving many of our talented musicians, both in the band and as singers in the show, it was a huge success and a really exciting experience for all involved. Elsewhere around the department, our GCSE and A Level students have been preparing for their upcoming exams with performances at our Spring Recital. The evening provided a perfect platform for the students to showcase the work they have done this year as well as gaining valuable performance experience. Plans for the Music Tour to Rome in July are coming together and fundraising is in full swing. The most recent event being a piano marathon held in school. Starting at 8.30am and finishing at 4.30pm, a string of students kept up continuous piano playing for eight hours. We had a really good response from both staff and students who thoroughly enjoyed the musical accompaniment throughout the day. As usual, a big thank you to our peripatetic staff for doing such a fantastic job with their students and contributing so much to the Department.

P.E.

This was another busy term for the PE Department. Events included the annual cross country; won by Galil Boys and Yehuda Girls. There was an incredibly high standard of performance and even more importantly fantastic team spirit. Also this term was the House Basketball and Uni Hoc won by Yavneh Boys and Negev respectively.

Fixtures and Clubs this Term have included Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Fitness, Dance, Football, Netball, Personal Survival, Squash and Swimming.

Charlie Simpson was fifth at the City Wide Manchester badminton competition having qualified from the North Manchester competition in second place.

Our 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 and Orienteering – many pupils came away with full marks in two activities.

King David once again took part in the Manchester indoor rowing competition; our Year 10 team came second overall and Yoel Levy finished as the individual 'runner up' as well.

Ethan Gilmore Year 10 won a bronze medal in the KS4 Backstroke at the City Wide Championships.

The Year 10 Boys Football team finished 'runners up' in the Manchester Football Championship, having tied on points won but losing on goal difference. The Year 9 Team won the Manchester Football Championship having gone through the season with a 100% record winning all matches.

Girls: The netball teams continue in Years 7 to 10. KS3 table tennis team qualified to the Manchester game (Coco Hinde, Amelia Tyler, Pasha Bloom-Crook, Adi Lampert). The girls Year 7 and 8 swimming teams came fifth in the gala. Lucy Wolfenden came third in the City Wide Cross Country Championship and eleventh in the following round. Badminton – Alisha Chu-Bouskilah came fourth and Maddy Moryoussef came fifth in the North Manchester tournament. This week we have been crowned Year 7 Manchester City Wide team Badminton Champions for Girls. Our Year 7 & 8 Girls table tennis team came third in the Manchester School Games.

Yavneh Girls held their swimming gala.

Science

Year 13 Biology students went on a trip to Nowgen to use PCR to analyse their own genotype for a specific taste receptor, and look for any correlation with phenotype. They also went on a field trip to the Ainsdale Dunes.

Year 12 students attended YPS (Young Persons' Section of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society) lectures on Epigenetics and Industrial Biotechnology.

Year 12 students Max Festenstein and Daniel Birtles both have places for the Chemistry Master Class day at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Guest speakers included:

Dr Charles Walkden, Senior Lecturer in Pure Mathematics, University of Manchester, 'Shuffling Around - why you should not play cards with a mathematician'.

Professor Steve Furber, Chair of Computer Sciences, University of Manchester, 'Computers and Brains'.

Professor Keith Brennan, Senior Lecturer in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Matrix Research, at the University of Manchester, 'Why Working With Fruit Flies Can Be Good For Your Career'.

'Israeli Science Day' for Years 11 to 13 with lectures from 3 visiting scientists.

Year 12 students were encouraged to enter the following competitions:

Corpus Christi College Oxford Schools Science Prize (deadline for entries: April 4th 2014)

Peterhouse College Cambridge Essay competition (deadline for entries: March 21st 2014)

Physics students entered the The Weizmann Institute 'Safe Cracking Competition' in London. Although their designer safe was not 'uncrackable' they had a memorable day out accompanied by Mr Curati.

Sixth Form Prospective Students' 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 her team for this highly informative and successful evening.

UCAS Evening

The UCAS Evening is an important evening arranged by Mr Frankell which provides information to students about their university applications, student finance, personal statements and choosing a course. Speakers came from various Universities together with the able and committed in-school UCAS team. The evening included talks on 'Oxbridge' and other top Universities, as well as on medical based professions, school leavers' programmes, apprenticeships, caring professions, etc. All Year 12 students also attended the UCAS Convention in the GMex Centre. Thanks to Mrs Mulgrew.

Yavneh Girls

The Sixth Form led a very exciting Tu Bishvat activity for Years 7 to 11 and they made a very interesting PowerPoint presentation which focused on each of the Shivat Haminim and what can be learnt from them.

For this first time Yavneh Girls had a Shabbaton in Sheffield which was a resounding success. The Shabbaton was organised by Mrs Hoffner and staff who attended were Mrs Eden, Mrs Woodward, Miss Ainsworth, Rabbi Rickman and Mrs Seitler. A few Yavneh Bogrot also came and led some of the Tochniot over the Shabbaton, and of course enhanced the atmosphere. The Sixth Form were also responsible for a number of activities and they did a superb job.

Guest Speakers this term include Rabbi Eisenberg, who delivers an inspiring message on the Parsha every other Thursday. We have also had Daniella Rothman from London who is a professional dancer. She gave an incredible performance and spoke about her life and how she gradually returned to Judaism. The Head of London Bnei Akiva, Rav Ari Faust, delivered a very inspiring message to the Sixth Form. Rabbi Akiva Tatz honoured us with a talk about Purim.

Every Wednesday evening a large contingent of girls come to a voluntary learning program - Lishma. They start with some nutritious refreshments and learn a topic of their choice. This is ably organised by Pearl Gordon from Year 12.

Rosh Chodesh Adar - as has become the custom in Yavneh - the Sixth Form together with Mrs Hoffner decorated the hall to the theme of 'winter wonderland'. This is really appreciated by the rest of the school.

There was a pre Purim activity for Years 7 to 9 arranged and led by Mrs Hoffner and assisted by a few Sixth Formers. The theme of this year's Purim party was the circus. Year 9 went speling to raise money for Leket Israel. They also sold cards to be given on Purim instead of lots of Mishloach Manot. Other fund raising events included bingo, a sponsored walk and, of course, the famous Yavneh bake sales.

Yavneh Girls are once again producing a Yavneh school Hagada, and will be having a Lunch and Learn about Pesach for the whole school.

The Lunch and Learns continue for the Sixth Form and the rest of the upper school. The Sixth Form and Year 11 have a Friday 'Lunch and Learn' with Shiffy Silverstone.

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

Yavneh Boys

Yavneh Boys Yeshiva High School were proud to combine their Super Sunday this year with the Chief Rabbi's Pesach Shiur. Parents and pupils from Yavneh and Main School were invited to hear Chief Rabbi Mirvis in the main school hall.

During Tu B'Shvat Year 9 pupils distributed fruits to the residents at Heathlands Village.

Guest speakers this term included Rabbi B Simmons and Rabbi A Tatz. The Wednesday evening Torat Yavneh programme continues and there is a Krav Maga programme on a Thursday. All the pupils enjoyed a Ruach lunch. Barmitzvah call-ups included Simcha Cohen, Sam Kershner and Eliezer Simon. Rabbi P Cohen organised a Purim float for the first time and the boys raised £500 for The Fed.

Boys from Years 7 to 9 enjoyed a Shabbaton in Llandudno where there was a full programme of activities organised by Headboy Eli Maman. Rabbi P Cohen hosted a Shabbaton in Whitefield for Years 9 to 13.

Thanks to Mrs Engle for organising and accompanying this year's team of 13 pupils to go to London for the British National Bible Quiz. Year 10 Yavneh Boys Rafi Kleiman, Sam Prais and Shmuel Weisl were winners and will now representing the UK in the International Bible Quiz in Israel after Pesach. Good luck boys !

Other Events Include:

The Art, History and Media Departments held a photography competition. Prizes of Trafford Centre vouchers were awarded to the best photos in the Lower School and the Upper School. The theme was 'Celebration', and there were over 90 entries. You can see the winning entries on this link:

<http://www.kdhs.org.uk/kdhspix.html>

The theme chosen for next term is 'Selfie', and entries close on 8th May.

Assemblies:

Pupils are asked to contribute towards morning assemblies and this term there were assemblies in 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 paid expenses towards 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:

Mr Mike Shaft – BBC Radio Manchester

Tangerine PR – The Juice Academy

Magen Dovid Adom – Presentation of 2 defibrillators

Rabbi Yosef Mendelvitch - Russian refusnik

Mr Rowe

Arnold Roth - The Malki Foundation

Mr Jonathan Bishop – Stockbroker

NHS – Blood Service Team

Rev Steve Williams

Mr David Bouskila the former Mayor of Sderot

Mr Neil Lazarus

Ms Hannah Levy

The Friendship Circle

Michael Cass – Habonim

Future Events:

Duke of Edinburgh Year 10	Sunday 27 th April – Tuesday 29 th April 2014
KS3 Maths Challenge	Thursday 1 st May 2014
Yom Ha'zikaron	Monday 5 th May 2014
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Tuesday 6 th May 2014
House Basketball & Badminton	Friday 9 th May 2014
Presentation Assembly Year 11	Friday 9 th May 2014
GCSE and A Levels	Monday 12 th May – Friday 20 th June 2014
Year 9 Israel Trip – Main School	Sunday 18 th May – Tuesday 27 th May 2014
Year 9 Israel Trip – Yavneh	Monday 19 th May – Monday 26 th May 2014
Presentation Assembly Year 10	Friday 23 rd May 2014
Presentation Assembly Year 8	Friday 13 th June 2014
Bat Chayal	Sunday 15 th June 2014
Year 9 Israel Reunion Lunch	Sunday 22 nd June 2014
Summer Concert	Monday 23 rd June 2014
Year 12 Poland Trip	Tuesday 24 th June – Sunday 29 th June 2014
Presentation Assembly Year 9	Friday 27 th June 2014
Year 11 Yavneh Boys trip to Amsterdam	Monday 30 th June – Wednesday 2 nd July 2014
School Exams Week	Thursday 3 rd July 2014
Music Tour	Sunday 6 th July – Friday 11 th July 2014
Yavneh Girls Camp	Tuesday 8 th July – Thursday 10 th July 2014
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Boys	Wednesday 9 ^h July – Thursday 10 th July 2014
Sports Day	Thursday 10 th July 2014
Yavneh Boys Presentation Assembly	Sunday 13 th July 2014
Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Girls	Sunday 13 th July – Monday 14 th July 2014
History 1914 Day Years 7-9	Monday 14 th July
Year 10 Yavneh Boys trip to Germany	Tuesday 15 th July – Friday 18 th July 2014

Year 10 Art Trip to London
Duke of Edinburgh Year 10
Presentation Assembly Year 7
Yavneh Girls Bat Mitzvah Evening
House Rounders

Wednesday 16th July 2014
Wednesday 16th July – Friday 18th July 2014
Friday 18th July 2014
Monday 21st July 2014
Monday 21st July 2014

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 all the after school activities.

B N Levy
Headteacher April 2014