

16th July 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of term letter – Summer Term 2024

As always, the wonderful children here have made the most of the wealth of opportunities and experiences the staff here provide for them. This letter lists simply a few highlights of the term.

The Jewish studies department continued to infuse the school with a positive and dynamic Jewish spirit. The term began with our annual commemoration assembly of Yom Hazikaron and then, the following day, celebrating Yom Haatzmaut. It was lovely to see our pupils wearing blue and white, we all enjoyed a delicious lunch time BBQ cooked for us by our Rabbis. In partnership with JRoots, Rabbis Rickman and Schwartz have created innovative programmes to enhance the study of the Holocaust and Israel. All departments in school embraced the Israel themed week and connected their subjects to Israel.

Thank you to parents who helped facilitate the informal activities by contributing £25 at the start of the year. This helps to fund a vital part of the work this school does, there are also opportunities to sponsor particular activities for those who wish to do so.

Sadly, the year 9s were unable to travel to Israel this summer, instead the Kodesh team laid on a fun packed trip to Amsterdam instead exploring Jewish identity and having an amazing cultural experience, visiting Anne Frank's House, the oldest shul in Amsterdam, the Jewish Museum, graffiti museum, floating flower market and more! Each day began with a positive Jewish tefilla experience and reflection with boys choosing to put on their Tefillin and show their Jewish pride.

Trips to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Chester Zoo, and Go Ape at Heaton Park, amongst others, were rewards for good attendance, behaviour and hard work, which most of our pupils manage to achieve without making any fuss at all, and we thank them for this.

The focus for careers this term has been on engagement in the wider world of work. We have aimed to give as many students as possible the opportunity to develop their interpersonal skills, through a successful programme of work experience in Key stage 4 and 5, as well as the numerous opportunities offered at Key Stage 3 through careers interviews, workshops and practical sessions with our excellent range of external partnerships with 'Our Futures', 'The Princes Trust', 'GM Higher' and the 'Careers and Enterprise Company'.

We've enjoyed meeting future pupils of King David High School through our taster lessons for our feeder schools – pupils from years 5 & 6 enjoyed art, drama, food technology and science lessons. Our own year 11 students also attended taster sessions in school to help prepare them for their Sixth Form courses. We look forward to welcoming our new intake in September.

The music department put together a superb Summer Concert Wednesday 3rd July. This concert's focus was to showcase and promote various ensembles including orchestra, percussion ensemble, string

group, choir, rock bands, duos and solos. A great evening's entertainment was had by all from our very talented musical students from years 5 to 12. This featured the debut performance of the combined staff choirs of KD primary and high schools. I hope this won't be the last.

Year 8 pupils created a compelling art installation covering the walls outside the main hall commemorating Yom HaZikaron on, 12th May 2024. We welcomed guests from the Jewish community into school for a very moving ceremony.

You will be aware that our children have taken on the challenge of raising money for MDA in honour of all the wonderful work they do. We raised close to £2000 to help them continue their vital lifesaving work across all communities in the State of Israel.

Years 7 to 10 have taken part in several rounders and cricket fixtures. It's also been nice to see children playing cricket at break and lunchtimes – when the weather has allowed!

The year 9 Set for Success programme has taken place throughout the year. As part of the programme students enjoyed taking part in a careers event at Wimbledon and have had regular visits from their athlete mentor. To end the first year, the group will take part in the Set for Success 'Empowerment event' at the Etihad complex in July.

Our pupils also participated in the BBC Football Festival at the BBC. Students met a number of different people working at the BBC. TV presenters, radio editors, sound creators to name a few. They had the chance to discover and try many different careers in sport.

We have had many interhouse events this term and these will conclude in the last week of term with Sports day and interhouse rounders.

Another highlight of the Summer Term was the King David Mock Election. Students held hustings the day before the election to persuade the 'electorate' based on national manifestos. Instead of running a proportional vote, each class was a constituency, even awarding certain groups the opportunity to act like Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Hence our 'Parliament' had 29 seats.

Towards the end of the term, we hosted a group of 40 Chinese students from our partner school in Nanjing. They spent 2 days with us learning about British culture and education and practicing their English, we also learnt a few words of Chinese. We hope one day that it might be possible to arrange a reciprocal visit.

It is always sad to say farewell to our year 13 and year 11 students at this time of year as they completed their GCSE and A level exams respectively. We were immensely proud of how well they conducted themselves during this challenging time, we eagerly await the outcome of their endeavours in August and wish them well for their next steps.

Year 13 students finished their time at King David with a day of celebration organised by the student leadership team, as well as the, now obligatory, school proms for years 11 & 13. Our thanks to the Parents' Guild for supporting these events. We encourage all our former students to sign up to KDHS alumni by linking to the Facebook page KDHS alumni or joining us on LinkedIn.

Moving on at the end of this term are Mr Andrew Cheetham, Mrs Elizabeth Earner, Mrs Merav Isaacson Mrs Janet Marsden, Miss Ashley Kurtz, Mrs Ola Ogunde, Mr Stephen Wilson, Mrs Lorraine Burns, Mrs Judith Seitler, Mrs Talya Silver, Mrs Joanna Wickham and Mrs Jill Atkinson. We thank them all for their service to the school, well over 100 years between them, and wish them well for their future endeavours.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed my time at King David High School immensely. The best thing about any school is the young people, King David High School is filled with truly exceptional young people with huge potential and bright futures ahead of them. I have made many friends here and I thank the parent body for their support throughout my time here. It's been a privilege to serve the King David community and I look forward to watching the future development of this unique and special school.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely

John Dalziel

As summer approaches, many of our students will feel elated at the prospect of being at home for six weeks. There are however students who will feel: overwhelmed by the change in their routine, worried about the transition from Year 6 to Year7, worried about the expectations required of them for the next academic year or even feeling lonely as they spend time away from school. Those feelings are not uncommon, and we want to signpost you to external agencies who can support you during this period.

Agencies:

Kooth <https://www.kooth.com/>

JaMH - [Jewish Action for Mental Health](https://www.jamh.org.uk/)

Banardos - <https://www.banardos.org.uk>

MThrive - <https://m-thrive.org/>

Samaritans - <https://www.samaritans.org>

Childline - <https://www.childline.org.uk>

The Mix - <https://www.themix.org.uk/>

Shout - <https://giveusashout.org/>

YoungMinds- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Beat- <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

Papyrus - <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/aboutus/>

