

Dear parent/guardians,

As we approach to end of our first full year in school for three years, I want to thank you all for your support during my first year at King David High School. Your children have been fantastic; resilient, determined, polite and hardworking throughout the challenges of the year, and I want to thank them all for this too. To say it's been a busy year would be an understatement.

With a whole range of sports from Boccia to water polo, sports days, interschool fixtures, music concerts, drama performances, clubs and societies, a whole range of school trips, Shabbatons, field trips and visits, Duke of Edinburgh Awards expeditions there really is never a dull moment at King David High School and I would urge all pupils to get involved in the wider life of the school. This helps build resilience, self confidence, relationships and general enjoyment of school.

The majority of our year 9 & 10 pupils were able to participate in the annual trip to Israel. By all accounts they had a wonderful time (despite lost luggage – which seems to be the norm at the moment). Thanks to the staff who made this possible under the leadership of Rabbi Cohen, Miss Barker, Mrs Hoffner and Mr Leventhall.

Highlights included praying at the kotel, a wonderful Shabbat experience supported by Aish, rafting in the River Jordan, a cruise on the Kinneret, a water fight, the Dead Sea, the Ein Gedi waterfalls, Massada, and the Children's Museum. The trip was enhanced by some of the school's alumni acting as Madrichim.

At the end of the Spring term we said a fond farewell to Mr Levy, who had been a loyal servant to the school for the last 28 years. He was given an excellent send off by the whole school to the 'Frog's Chorus.'

This term we were visited by Bev Craig, the Leader of Manchester City Council, she spoke to some of our sixth formers and was impressed by the calm orderly environment when she had a tour of the school.

The school has also been nominated for a number of local and national awards this term. In May we were delighted to learn that King David High School had been named 'Educational Establishment of the Year' at the Education Resource awards. We received a 'Special Commendation' from Manchester Healthy Schools in their annual awards for our engagement with them this year. On the same day we were invited to the finals of the Manchester Evening News 'School of the Year' Awards, where we were runners up.

I'm delighted too that the school is participating in the University of Manchester's #BeeWell project and I'd like to thank Miss Ainsworth and Mr Chappelle for getting this off the ground. All pupils in Year 9 & 10 in the Autumn term will be participating in this survey. **Parents who wish their child to opt out need to return the attached form to the address on the document by the 15th August 2022.**

One of our students, Livia Bolel, a proud ambassador of Yavneh Girls, was given the opportunity to introduce herself to the Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett as a finalist in the Chidon Hatanach (International Bible Quiz).

Aviva Shalom, a talented Year 8 linguist, was awarded an area commendation for her entry into the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. The competition, led by Queen's College, Oxford University, is inspired by the life and work of the great translator Anthea Bell.

Aviva's skilful translation of the poem 'L'Arbre bleu' by Yves Bonnefoy caught the eye of the judging team of undergraduates and professional translators. There were over 3,200 entries from more than 260 schools and the competition involved more than 14,000 students. It is a great achievement.

Staffing changes

After many years of service to the school in the roles of Head of Geography and Head of Lower School Mr Faraday has stepped down from his responsibilities to be replaced by **Mr Chapelle** as Head of Geography. **Mr Cheetham's** role has been expanded to Assistant Head – Pastoral, with responsibility for the safeguarding and pastoral care of all students in years 7 – 11.

Mr Curson takes over from Mr Taylor-Forbes as head of year 10 and **Mr Sleeman** will take on the responsibilities of head of year 12 from Miss Hirst.

In addition to Miss Downes and Mrs Brown as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, next year **Miss Burberry**, in Yavneh girls, and **Mr Leventhall**, in Yavneh boys, will join the safeguarding team as Deputy DSLs.

Rabbi Schwartz and **Rabbi Rickman** have been invited to join the school's senior leadership team to act as advisors and to further strengthen the Jewish ethos of the school.

We say farewell and thank you this term to:

Ms D Flynn, Mr S Marvin, Mrs M Harris, Mrs E Veeder, Mrs S Haley, Rabbi G Bank, Mrs V Chapman, Ms B Dale, Mrs L Henshaw, Mrs C Hodgson, Miss S Llewellyn, Dr S McDonald, Mr A Ryan, Rabbi A Silbermann, Mrs L Silbermann, Mrs C Wylie, Miss S Costello and Mrs L Parkes. We wish them all well for their various endeavours in the future.

This summer saw the first proper examination series since 2019. I was hugely impressed with the way our students approached their exams. This is a stressful time, but our students were well prepared and the majority left the exam hall knowing that they'd done their best. We look forward to celebrating their success on their results days - A Level **Thursday 18th August** and GCSE on **Thursday 25th August**.

We met our new year 7 intake in June and we're really looking forward to them all joining us on **Wednesday 31st August**. Year 12 should come into school on the morning of **Tuesday 30th August** to sign up for their courses for the next two years. Lessons for years 12 & 13 begin on **Wednesday 31st August**. For everyone else we wish you a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you when we return on **Thursday 1st September**.

Finally I need to appeal for your help in making sure your child is **in school** as much as they possibly can be next academic year. We realise that sometimes our young people are unwell, and they need to rest and recuperate at home, but it is vitally important that our pupils attend school as often as they are able to. Attendance lower than 90% is classed as persistently absent from school - this equates to 1 day in 10 missed, i.e. 4 weeks in a school year. To make the best progress and to make the most of the opportunities school offers them your children need to be in school every day.

I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer holiday.