Dear parents & guardians,

**Spring Term 2023**

As we approach the end of another busy term in the life of King David and Yavneh I am writing to you with some of the highlights of the term.

The term began with the publication of the OFSTED monitoring visit report – safeguarding arrangements are now “effective”, and our action plan has been judged to be “fit for purpose”. Our pastoral team work tirelessly to support each young person in our care. As I write this we await OFSTED’s next monitoring visit. Regardless of OFSTED, we all want this school to be the best it can be for the young people we care for.

Thank you to those parents who attended this term’s parents' forum. We hope that you will join us for future ones. We are always keen to hear parents' views about how we can do better.

Please continue to support us in the work we are doing to improve the experience your child has at school. You can help us by making sure your child comes to school as often as they are able to, punctually, wearing the correct school uniform, and attending booster classes and sanctions when they are expected to. Where parents are supportive this has a positive impact on the school community. We thank those parents who support us in our efforts to maintain the highest possible standards of behaviour in school. What impresses me every day is how polite and cooperative the vast majority of our young people are, any visitors to the school say the same thing too.

Thanks to funds provided by our Parents’ Guild this term we have trained 30 well being ambassadors and 34 anti bullying ambassadors from across the age range and sections of the school. We look forward to rolling this programme out further in the coming months.

We’ve had competitors in national academic competitions, such at the UKMT maths challenge, the UK Linguistics Olympiad and the prestigious Anthea Bell prize for young translators run by The Queen’s College. Sporting success in Cheerleading, Swimming, Basketball, Table Tennis, Netball and Badminton to name but a few. Pupils and students have learned about the Knesset in Modern Hebrew, have met the President of the UK Supreme Court through their politics lessons, been on Shabbatons to Betwys Y Coed, visited art galleries, with the art department, visited Manchester Airport, and been on field trips in blizzard conditions in their geography lessons. We have a new and highly popular animal club run by Mrs Watson and Mrs Niven who joined the science department this term to further strengthen staffing in this key area. And these are just a selection of the opportunities your children are given here. Teachers at King David High School do so much more than simply teaching the syllabus, because they enjoy teaching here and working with your delightful children. I’m grateful to the dedicated and hard-working staff team, teaching and non-teaching, who go above and beyond on a daily basis to provide these experiences for your children.

It is always an affirming experience to talk to our young people as I have the privilege to do regularly around school, and through the pupils focus groups I hold each term. Our pupils are articulate, polite and have a clear idea or what they want from their time at school.

A highlight of the term for me was meeting the school’s new “Eco Warriors”, a team of pupils, led by Miss Uden, who are working hard to ensure we recycle waste within the school and consider what we can all do to reduce, reuse and recycle. This care, compassion and community spirit typifies what King David pupils are all about.

In February, 61 of our sixth form pupils visited Poland to experience a ‘Jewish Journey’ an experience which always has a profound impact on the participants and something they will cherish and remember for the rest of their lives. I would like to thank the staff team who make this experience possible for our young people.

Our, now annual, Careers Fair 2nd February was very well attended and we thank all our contributors. Parents can’t fail to have noticed the improvements in our careers provision this academic year. We have been supported in this by the fantastic team of careers advisors from Our Futures.

Purim brought the usual array of fancy dress costumes and fun and games! The Jewish Studies department had planned an extensive array of activities for all pupils, including special neuro-divergent opportunities for all students to be able to tap into the spirit of the festival. The pupils sat through Rabbi Rickman's reading of the Megillah beautifully, and joined in at the right points in the right way. Staff and pupils were exemplary in their response to those external forces and were able to return to finish the day on a spiritual and physical high with a pizza lunch and voting for the Purim Cup. It was definitely a day to remember, and a day to be proud of our collective response to things beyond our control.

We heard a wonderful concert put together by the music department on 23rd March, from Hendrix to Bach, and novices to virtuosos. My thanks to Mr Clive Rushworth our new head of music for bringing this all together, ably assisted by Mr Daniel James who has been helping out in the music department this term. I’m sure our music department will continue to go from strength to strength under Mr Rushworth’s leadership.

Mr Lamming leaves us to move to a new post after 12 years dedicated service to the school going over and above to offer extra curricular sporting opportunities to our young people. He will be replaced next term by Mr Daniel Stevens an experienced head of PE, whilst we seek to appoint a permanent head of PE. We also say goodbye to Rabbi Krasner, who, after 11 years of dedication in the Jewish Studies department he is moving on to new ventures.

Despite the unavoidable disruption caused by the Strike action this term our pupils behaved impeccably. Those of us in school on the four strike days were really impressed with their ability to study by themselves where this was required. Sadly it does appear that there will be more disruption in the summer term.

We wish our year 11s & 13s well as they make their final preparations for their summer exams. They’ve been encouraged in assemblies to make the most of the time available to them between now and their exams and I hope they will respond positively to the support and guidance they are getting from all their teachers. We look forward to celebrating their success with them on their respective results days.

Support Agencies - Please see link below to support agencies should they be required during the holidays: <https://www.kdhs.org.uk/wellbeing.html>

**Chag Pesach Samech**

**D J Dalziel**

**Headteacher**