**THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL**

**The Headteacher’s Report for the Spring Term 2021**

***Staffing:***

The following staff are leaving this term and we wish them all the best for the future:

Teaching:

Mrs E Mulgrew - Health & Social Care/Vocational Business part time maternity cover

New appointments February 2021:

Teaching:

Ms C Donegan - French part time maternity cover

***Coronavirus:***

During Lockdown – all lessons ran according to the students’ timetables. Lessons were all live on Microsoft Teams, and the attendance and participation from the students was incredible.

Every morning an assembly was sent out for the students to watch, and they had a 5 minute registration period with their form tutor.

We have had approximately 40 students in school every day, and they have joined their remote lessons via the school computers. Many thanks to the TA’s and Mr Fennell who ran these rooms throughout lockdown.

The Safeguarding/Pastoral support team have made weekly phone calls to any students who we felt needed extra contact, and the SEN department also phoned all students who fall under their umbrella weekly.

We made some adjustments to the length of lessons for the lower school classes, and we reduced homework, to avoid pupils spending too many hours a day on their screens.

All parents’ evenings have gone ahead on Zoom during the lockdown period, and the feedback from parents has been excellent.

The Jewish Studies Team arranged a fantastic Purim experience for all students in Years 7 – 11, including delivering Mishloach Manot to every house.

We are extremely grateful to all of the parents who have emailed, thanking us for the quality of the remote lessons, and we thank all of the staff for their outstanding efforts in keeping the students educated to the highest of standards.

***Online Education:***

Students have continued to work really hard online, setting a great example with their organisation, effort and optimism through a gruelling term. Thanks must go to the parents for supporting the students so well at home and for the really positive feedback they’ve given the school on the online provision, a testament to the dedication and imagination of the teaching staff at King David.

**Art**

Year 12 Fine Art and English students Rivky Kaufman, Eden Morwood, Rosy Akalawu-Ellman, Beila Parissi and Ava Lewis have been working on an external art project with Manchester Jewish Museum and The Imperial War Museum, London, to create a sound installation inspired by Manchester Refugees and Migrants from WWII. The students have been collaborating with professional writer and author Nicola Baldwin to highlight regional stories and voices, which will be featured in a touring interactive installation for IWM. It will mark the opening of their new Holocaust and Second World War Galleries ([https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/new-second-world-war-and-holocaust-gallery-plans-unveiled](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.iwm.org.uk%2fhistory%2fnew-second-world-war-and-holocaust-gallery-plans-unveiled&c=E,1,j235yx6jfqQVLHxegHoO3CEZDZXVtqLYBMWGNIQQXdA2vwNo9iVoVk5Hf9TmDb5PTM7YDgV-WmGXC_l4Uy7NmK88ePrKFFArPD7WMrZmgJc7JU8vtH0,&typo=1)), and will then tour the country, visiting each of the eight partner institutions, which include museums in Cornwall and Northern Ireland!

Year 8 pupils are working towards creating an art installation in commemoration of Yom Hazikaron. The Art teachers and pupils will be working together, designing and constructing a large Magen David made from over 400 triangular boxes. Each pupil will decorate two triangles with individual designs combining skills using hand embroidery and typography techniques. Each design commemorates the life of a fallen soldier fighting for Israel.

**Careers**

Mr Gordon conducted an audit of our Careers' provision against The 8 Gatsby Benchmarks, to ensure school works towards having a "world beating" Careers' provision. Also Mr Gordon has been working closely with The Career & Enterprise Company, who have been very helpful to the school.

Every Year 11 and 12 student will be seen at least twice a year.

School is really progressing towards having a good quality Careers' Education Programme.

**Drama**

The Year 13 Drama class have been devising and rehearsing a performance based on the themes of Holocaust denial using contemporary movement styles. The content includes personal testimonies, anti-Semitic commentaries from Labour MP'S, several historians' misinterpretations and a highlight on a TicTok trend in which teenagers make inappropriate films parodying concentration victims in camps. The aim is to generate an awareness of Holocaust denial. Year 12 have been exploring the powerful potential of using political theatre to sway audience opinion. Year 11 have been studying the production of *Frankenstein* by The National Theatre, starring the popular actor, Benedict Cumberbatch. They have been analysing the acting styles, lighting, set, costumes, and general staging of this landmark production. Year 10 have been exploring a range of theatre and performance genres in preparation for their future work.

**Duke of Edinburgh**

This term has seen the launch and return of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award for students in Year 9 and above. The Spring Term started with a full day of virtual training for all students and followed previous years to be extremely successful, with help from the King David School Duke of Edinburgh Award coordinator, Mr Waring.

All Year 9 pupils in the Main School, Yavneh Boys and Yavneh Girls took part in an out of lesson Duke of Edinburgh Award Training Day, thus helping to encourage more participants to sign up who would not otherwise have done so.

Key to DofE training is transferable life skills where students learn navigation, first aid, menu planning and caring for equipment and much more. Many pupils have registered for their expeditions which will be taking place over the Summer Term. If you have not signed up you can apply now at [www.jlgb.org/dofe](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.jlgb.org%2fdofe&c=E,1,NVY3AumNY7y1WpjmbIglqLJjv7mk8eBiWGHEK6baUuwolD0fAG1gJ0djiMx05ZY96eTNbCZBllUAArdvvchMSayNL5VihiSFlRyH-M2sjLb5Tbe8i2p9&typo=1)

We wish everyone luck over the expedition season.

Thanks as ever go to the JLGB team and Mr Waring for helping to make all of this possible.

**English**

The pupils have been brilliant in English lessons this term and we have been impressed by their enthusiasm and determination. Inspiration might be hard to find at the moment, and so in English lessons we’ve endeavoured to keep things fresh and interesting. We have had, for example, pupils responding to poetry by making their own short films, and creative writing responses based on the great outdoors. Pupils have also been encouraged to contribute poetry and images to Yad Vashem’s competition linked to Holocaust Memorial Day. We were also fortunate enough to secure tickets for Year 11 to watch a live-streamed reading of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, starring comedian Joe Lycett. Meanwhile, A level Language students were given an opportunity to hear Professor David Crystal delivering a live lecture on the linguistic and social aspects of conversation. Year 13 pupils were also able to put their recent learning on the language of interviews to excellent use, when Nihal Arthanayake, an award-winning radio and TV presenter, who currently hosts his own show on BBC Radio 5 Live, visited the lesson via Teams. It was a brilliant opportunity to learn about Nihal’s questioning technique and how he prepares for interviews. Special thanks

to Ms Flynn and Miss Earner for organising these recent events, and to all the staff in the English Department for such hard work and dedication this difficult term.

**Health and Social Care**

Mrs Flood would like to thank Mrs Mulgrew, Miss Airley, Mr Taylor-Forbes and Miss Ainsworth for their dedication and professionalism this term. They have gone above and beyond. Their fantastic teaching and assessment practices has meant that the students have received high quality home learning and have been able to complete their reports according to BTEC guidelines.

**History**

The History Department partnered with Yad Vashem UK for their 2021 Yom Hashoah photography and writing project. Students submitted entries on the theme of 'What the Holocaust means to me." Entries will compete to be made into postcards used by YV UK for the forthcoming Yom Hashoah.

During Online learning in February, Year 9 Jewish History classes were supported by the 'We Were There too' World War Oner project, focusing on the experiences of Jewish soldiers. Students learned about the contributions made by Manchester Jews at the Battle of the Somme, in the Nursing Corps and volunteer organisations in the North of England.

Year 12 students have entered History essay competitions this term: Rosy Akalawu-Ellman (Newnham College, Oxford), Sophie Seitler (Robson History Prize, Trinity College, Cambridge), Jack Moss and Melissa Bikerdike (Sheffield University Prize).

**Jewish Studies**

The Jewish Studies Department, in conjunction with Cteens, ran an incredible initiative enabling all the students in both the Main School and Yavneh units to receive a hand delivered Mishloah Manot by one of the Jewish Studies teachers. The entire initiative was very special and the students and parents expressed their deep appreciation. Please find below examples of the feedback that was received.

*We just wanted to thank you for the wonderful Mishloach Manot that was sent to our children. It was so kind that it was hand delivered and there was such a lovely message on the box. We really appreciate all the time and effort that went into doing this for our children and all the pupils.*

*Just to say thank you very much for the Mishloach Manot. It was really lovely of school to give these out.*

*A huge thank you to you for arranging Mishloach Manot parcels to be delivered to all the pupils at home. We understand what a huge task this must have been and want you to know how much this is appreciated.*

*I just wanted to say thank you so much for the gorgeous Purim box that our child received. I can't imagine the time and effort it must have taken to prepare and deliver them all - please pass on my thanks to all involved. Wishing you a happy Purim.*

The Jewish Studies also ran an interactive virtual Purim programme for students in Years 7 – 11 which was very well attended. Students were able to compete for the first hour in their Form Group by taking part in several challenge activities. Form Tutors described how the students were very excited and involved throughout the three challenges. Over three hundred students and teachers then took part in a mega online quiz that was very successful. The morning programme culminated with the Megillah being read kindly by Rabbi Rickman whilst the students took part in a Purim Bingo whilst following the Purim story. Congratulations to all the wonderful winners from all the various activities.

Please find below examples of the feedback that was received from students:

*I just wanted to say a massive thank you for today!! I had so much fun and it was great to take part. Have a nice weekend!*

*I also want to say thank you for today it was really fun! Chag Sameach.*

**Maths**

This term, teachers in the Maths Department have concentrated on delivering an effective live online learning experience for all students.  We are very pleased with how well students in all years have engaged in their learning this term in spite of the challenges of on-screen learning.  In particular, it is a huge achievement that our Year 11 and Year 13 students have either completed or nearly completed the content of their GCSE and A level Maths courses.

**Media**

**Year 13** Media students have been working hard to create a documentary about their experience during lockdown since last year called 'Keeping up with Covid'. They had also analysed an online exhibition to help them plan and carry out a successful online event called 'Filming4You' guiding people on how to make a successful documentary, receiving lots of positive feedback. They have worked so well throughout this whole experience, being creative with the resources they had available to them. I wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

**Year 12** Media students have been analysing the murder mystery film 'Knives Out' investigating their marketing campaign, the audience and learning new media theories to support their analysis. On their return, they will be pitching their magazine ideas for their coursework and begin planning their photographs to go into their designs.

**Year 10** Creative iMedia students have begun the course well, planning and designing an advertisement using Adobe software to create it. On their return they will be going on a photography trip in order to take photographs for their designs.

**Year 11** Creative iMedia students have worked hard to complete coursework and prepared for their exam. They have currently been creating a digital photography portfolio on architecture, which they will be presenting on our return to school.

**Film Club** will be returning for year 7-9 pupils when we are back to school and I'm looking forward to watching more films, discussing and writing reviews with the students!

**Modern Foreign Languages**

This term students of all years have enjoyed continuing with some of the activities from the ‘Language Learning Log’ they started during lockdown, to further their linguistic abilities and cultural awareness beyond the classroom. They have particularly enjoyed watching programmes and films in both Spanish and French using the app Netflix, which has helped them continue to improve their listening skills.

Year 12 took part in a competition organised by Lancaster University. They had to each write an essay in French or Spanish about "Internationalism in the twenty first century". Well done to Sophie Seitler and Layla Maslin for their participation in the French competition and Lucy Singer for her participation in the Spanish competition.

Some of our Year 12 students have participated in the “Oxford Flash Fiction” Spanish competition. Where pupils used their own imagination and creativity, along with their linguistic abilities to produce a short story in the target language. They have also taken part in the “Cambridge Language Collective Writing Competition” for Spanish. Students of different year groups have submitted a few entries already.

During Lockdown Year 9 pupils were encouraged to follow the British sailors taking part in the Vendée Globe (a solo, unassisted sailing race around the world). They were excited when Pip Hare crossed the finish line and arrived back to the port of Sables d'Olonne in France after 3 months at sea. The aim of this exercise was to show examples of resilience and self-belief. Only 9 women have ever completed this race. Pip Hare said what motivated her was that "more men have walked on the moon than women have completed the Vendée Globle".

Finally, we have started a telecollaboration project with a mixed school in Galicia, Spain. King David students in Year 11 enjoyed a zoom session with the students from Spain. During the session, they got the opportunity to use the target language and to learn a bit about the culture of the country. Special mention to Simon Dean, Lilli Aron and Jodie Cohen in Year 11, who represented the school brilliantly in this project. The year 12 Spanish class also did a fantastic job during their session and really enjoyed speaking with native speakers.

**Modern Hebrew**

The past term for everyone has been very challenging in many ways, but the students rose to the new challenge of education using Teams and have surpassed our expectation in terms of their enthusiasm and focus regarding their Ivrit lessons.

The Ivrit Department was very busy with lots of different activities for KS3 run by the UJIA shalicha and the shinshinit. The students explored some Israeli perspectives on cultural festivals especially about the festivals of Tu Bishvat and Purim. The students also made Hamantaschen for Purim which they really seemed to enjoy. The feedback was excellent, and the photos sent in showed impressive results – lots of tasty Purim treats!

The Ivrit teachers also took part in a few courses during the term which were led by “PaJeS”. These were very useful and productive and help with continuing departmental development.

Teaching courses for KS3 centred around remote learning, differentiation and how to get the students engaged with the topics.

Similarly, KS4 course centred around the speaking examinations for Spring 2021 and KS5 courses mainly focused on sharing materials for the new A level specification across the Jewish schools in the UK.

The teachers have already begun to apply what they have learned, and the students have responded well to it.

The Department wishes everyone a well-deserved break and we wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach and a good break over the school holidays.

**Music**

The Music Department has been busy with students continuing with instrumental lessons online this term. Whilst learning from home, students have been developing their understanding of electronic music and technology with students in Year 7 creating video game music and Year 8 composing dance tracks. The string ensemble and acapella group have been working hard to refine their performances and will be recording their pieces as part of our virtual concert over the next few weeks. Our virtual concert will also involve performances from junior choir, orchestra and soloists.

**P.E.**

This **should** have been another busy term for the PE Department, though sadly curtailed by outside influences.

The Inter-house Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball & Badminton tournaments were cancelled due to lockdown.

Fixtures and clubs this term would have included badminton, HRF, football, netball, table tennis and swimming.

Sadly due to Coronavirus, we were unable to participate at the Boys' and Girls' City Wide Swimming Galas, Year 7-11 Netball Cups, Key Stage 3 Girls' Football and we were unable to host both the Year 7 Boys' and Girls' Badminton Championships.

Since our return to school, all our clubs have immediately resumed. Fixtures in the summer term, fingers crossed please!

Students were fantastic in their attendance in lockdown lessons; no easy feat for such a practical subject.

**Politics**
The new year brought wholesale change in American Politics with the Trump era ending in the bang of the Capitol riots. The storming of the legislature was completely unprecedented, much like the Trump presidency, and left the class wondering if this would end the chances of his re-election in 2024. Surviving the subsequent impeachment, and with many of his allies still in place in Congress, it looks like we won't be seeing the end of Trump any time soon.

In Year 12 students have been grappling with the more abstract origins of conservatism and liberalism. The class are still yet to make up their minds over which ideology they most identify with and I'm sure that the debate will be only become more complicated when socialism is thrown into the mix.

**Psychology**

The Year 12 and 13 students responded well to remote learning.  They rose to the challenges of this new way of studying and for some this resulted in an improvement in attendance.

**Science**

Year 12 Sciences students took part in our Science Writing Project this term. The projects are independently researched by students and are on topics "*beyond*" the scope of A Level specifications. We had some very impressive work from many students. The winning projects will be on the school website to read. Congratulations to the winners:
Young Physics Writer of the Year (Particle Physics) - Abigail Hurst
Young Physics Writer of the Year (Astronomy) - Gili Altman
Young Chemistry Writer of the Year (Biochemistry) - Ethan Harris
Young Biology Writer of the Year (Human Evolutionary Biology) - Rivky Kaufman
Young Biology Writer of the Year (Virology) - Hannah Joels
Highly Commended - James Wander, Jack Suppree

**British Physics Olympiad Year 12 Challenge**

This year, ten students from Year 12 at King David, took part in the British Physics Olympiad Year 12 Challenge. There were over 5000 individual entries this year and the BPhO is the creme de la creme of physics competitions internationally.  I pleased to say that the following students achieved silver and bronze awards:

Silver: Joseph Seitler, Abigail Hurst, Hannah Joels, Betzalel Harris

Bronze: Ollie Goodman, Gili Altman, Shmuel Neufeld, James Wander, Joel Handler, Benjamin Joels

**Sixth Form:**

Sixth Form students have worked really hard throughout the lockdown period, displaying incredible maturity and resilience, ably supported by their tutors and teachers.

Harry Burns and Katie Cook carried out incredibly professional presentations for their EPQs (Extended Project Qualifications). Thanks to Mrs Silver for her organisation and support and to the staff, students and parents who attended.

Despite the lockdown students in Year 12 have been proactive in taking advantage of online careers and extra-curricular opportunities like the MBDA application masterclass, Futuresup festival and various university essay prizes.

Well done to all Year 13 students who have received offers from universities and apprenticeships. Thanks go to Mr Sleeman, Mr Christo and their team for their support. Mr Sleeman and Mr Christo have now begun the preparation cycle for Year 12 students.

**Yavneh Boys**

Guest speakers in Yavneh Boys have included Rabbi Eisenberg and former students Aaron Seitler, Sholly Cohen.

The Year 12 and Year 13 students, together with Rabbi Schwalbe and Rabbi P Cohen, organised a series of online Purim events including an online quiz and learning sessions on Machsechet Megillah.

Year 12 students Joseph Seilter and Zalman Coleman, have coordinated a mishnayot learning programme for the whole school to complete the entire Mishneh by June 2021.

The erev Shabbat Torat Yavneh lunchtime programme continues to flourish, on and off-line, organised by Danny Pine, Joshua Kay and Zalman Coleman.

Betzalel Harris (Year 12) has introduced a paper recycling programme in Yavneh boys. Each classroom has its own dedicated paper bin and appointed classroom monitors to collect paper at the end of each week. Betzalel and Avi Abeles (Y8) are encouraged to think and act more 'green' and responsibly.

Special Sunday Virtual Yavneh Boys Learning Programme:

Guest Speakers: Rabbi Binstock – Hale, Rabbi Dovid Lewis – Bowden, Rabbi Zeidman – GIFT, London

Rabbi Amir Ellituv – Hale, Shaare Hayim

**Yavneh Girls**

We are nearing the end of another unusual term but, despite the challenges, here at Yavneh Girls, we have managed to keep up the atmosphere of achdut despite being apart physically.

For Tu B’Shvat we were very lucky to have a Zoom session with the amazing Miriam Sternlicht, who taught the girls and their mums the indispensable skill of watermelon carving – some girls found that they have a hidden talent and we all had a great evening.

In our absence, the new YG building has really progressed – it is beginning to take shape and we can all imagine how fabulous it is going to be.

Mrs Hoffner has continued to organise our regular guest speakers who joined us on our Teams assemblies. (We had live assemblies on Teams every day throughout lockdown). Thanks very much to Rabbi Eisenberg, Rabbi Zeidman, Miriam Gefen, Ilana Epstein and Shalvie Friedman for their inspirational words- they gave us that extra boost that we need in these strange times.

Our Year 12 have been absolutely amazing at making sure that Purim was no less exciting than it usually would have been.

Mrs Hoffner arranged for boxes to be sent to the girls’ houses for Rosh Chodesh Adar, filled with treats and a fabulous magazine, with quizzes and fun facts, that Year 12 compiled where they launched their “under the sea” theme. We are making a patchwork quilt mural for the new school and we sent each girl a swatch of fabric to be decorated, that we have now collected in, the effect should be brilliant when they are sewn together. Year 12 ran a 12 day challenge game and the prizes were very well deserved. Year 12 arranged a secret Mishloach Manot chain so that each girl would receive an anonymous but personalised gift from someone in school so that we could promote that feeling of togetherness despite being apart.

Mrs Hoffner and Mrs Seitler (dressed as bumble bees) delivered Mishloach Manot to each girls’ home on Ta’anit Esther. Included in the boxes was a special T Shirt that we had made, to be worn at the zoom Purim party on Purim night. Thanks to Rabbi Goodman for his huge help with the boxes! Due to the incredible efforts by Year 12, we managed to have as much fun on Zoom as we would have had at the bayit. We had a Kahoots quiz, Bingo and a creative activity in breakout rooms- along with the talented Sasha the Magician – we managed to capture a proper Purim atmosphere from our own homes.

Well done to Year 9 for your enthusiastic efforts to collect for Camp Simcha- with all your bake sales, raffles, hot chocolate- we are very excited to see your Pesach cook book.

Looking ahead to Pesach, our preparations are well underway. Rabbi Cohen is coordinating our magazine, where he is giving parents the opportunity to contribute- it promises to be very informative and we hope will be a great addition to your Sedarim.

***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.

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.

Wishing you all a healthy, meaningful and kosher Pesach.

B N Levy

Headteacher

March 2021