



שליט"א Rabbi Wilson's message

ארבע מאות שקל כסף

Fun fact about silver: It is the most reflective of all metals and the best reflector of visible light known to man.

The תורה takes the trouble to tell us not just what אברהם bought and how much he paid for it, but even the exact currency and coins that he used. By using coins made of silver, to buy the resting place for שרה and the other אבות and אמהות, אברהם was hinting at the deeper significance of כסף.

Another meaning of the root כסף is 'longing' or 'yearning'. As לבן said to יעקב : נכסף : ידיד נפש (you have longed for your father's house), and as we sing in כי זה כמה נכסף נכספתי (how long have I yearned to see ה' glory).

The ספרים tell us that אברהם's purchase of מערת המכפלה shows what a person needs to do to acquire the reward of עולם הבא. At the heart of our growth in תורה and יראת שמים is מצות תורה and מצות - longing and yearning to come close to ה' through מצות תורה.

This is why עולם הבא is sometimes referred to by חז"ל as 400 worlds of כסופין – worlds of reward that depend on how much we longed and strived in עולם הזה. אברהם paid 400 Shekel of כסף for מערת המכפלה, which was the gateway to עולם הבא.

This is not to say that longing is more important than doing, but simply that longing is the root of everything. We long for something, because 1) we see that the thing has great value, 2) we know that we are missing it, and 3) we believe that with time and effort we can attain it.

And that is why כסף is the shiniest and most reflective of all metals – it is the mirror that we hold ourselves up to and it shines back with a clear picture of who we are, our current weaknesses and our potential to overcome them.

An essential part of חינוך is teaching the art of self-reflection, ensuring that self-awareness creates self-confidence and a springboard for growth.

Our girls have had countless opportunities this half-term, both in the classroom and through the many programmes that we have run, to reflect on different topics and ideas and they have always shown that they are up to the task and are able to use their learning as a springboard for growth.

This newsletter presents just a small taste of the experiences your daughter has had this half-term and we look forward to seeing the exciting programmes that have already been planned for the half-term ahead.

ברכה והצלחה

Rabbi Wilson

Extra Curricular Activities

The year has got off to an amazing start under the new EC co-ordinators, Mrs Levene and Mrs Librae, assisted by Miss Reznick and Miss Levenson. The theme of the year is הודאה, and throughout the year we will be exploring many facets of this, and how it connects to our daily lives and the מעגל השנה. Each girl has been given a scrapbook in which they creatively record each activity, programme and guest speaker. There was a competition to decorate the front covers, and the girls produced stunningly creative design, for which several girls received prizes.

The launch programme began with some year 11 girls singing a song based on words from נשמת לך ה' - אין אנחנו מספיקין להודות לך ה'. The girls were put into small groups to try and connect various pictures to the theme of הודאה, and it was explained to them how when we zoom in to the smaller details, we can focus on the positive aspects. Yael Mechlowitz from year 9 spoke about the power of saying נשמת, and explaining that when we thank ה', He wants to give us more. The girls received a נשמת card as a souvenir.

Before ראש השנה, the girls were enthralled by Rabbi Sofer, who explained the importance of speaking to the Judge before the court case, illustrated by a fascinating story.

On צום גדליה Rabbi Friedman spoke to the girls about ה' s love for us, and how He wants to forgive us.

A pre-כיפור programme kept the girls busy the entire morning. They watched a PowerPoint about the connection between הודאה and וידוי—as well as sharing a שרש, they both are things that we do for ourselves, not because ה' needs them. The girls documented this in their scrapbooks. They also heard from a panel of teachers, who answered some commonly asked questions about fasting, davening and כיפור, and had the opportunity to create a beautiful סוכות craft with the amazing Mrs Schwinger.

Our beautiful school choir, led by Penina Issler, Shevi Issler and Sari Fletcher, under the guidance of Miss Elkouby has performed several times, once singing about the power of תשובה before ראש השנה, and once singing a stunning rendition of זכרינו לחיים before כיפור.

At the שמחת בית השואבה girls enjoyed lively dancing, refreshments and a kumzitz, as well as learning this years programme song and dance.

We look forward to a year full of growth and development through further extra-curricular activities.

Newsletter

Our conscientious newsletter team has produced some high quality publications, including a סוכות magazine and an outstanding commemoration to HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The publications are filled with facts, jokes, puzzles, דברי תורה, quizzes, cartoons, and include articles and quotes from staff and pupils. We look forward to reading their next publication.

Hot Chocolate Fridays and Cookie Tuesdays

Each week a few girls are chosen to have a hot chocolate and chat with Mrs Reznick, and they have enjoyed the opportunity to speak to her about various topics to do with school. Additionally, each Head of Year chooses girls each Tuesday to have a cookie and a chat with. We look forward to many more of these!

Mesilo

Last year, 18 girls from year 10 opted to take the Mesilo פרקי אבות exam, by learning in lunchbreaks and in their own time, with the assistance of Mrs Royde. We were so proud of the results—including 3 girls achieving over 90%. This year, all of year 10 will be taking the פרקי אבות foundation exam, with some opting to do the higher paper and some girls choosing to take the תפלה exam.

Remembrance Day

The 11th day of the 11th month was suitably commemorated in school with a special assembly. Rabbi Wilson explained the history behind the day, and how much הכרת הטוב we need to have for those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Mrs Bloch spoke about her grandfather, Mr Lyons, who was deployed to Burma during WWII, and how he managed to remain connected to his אידישקייט while on the other side of the World. She encouraged the girls to ask their Grandparents and Great-grandparents for their stories of the past, and to learn from them. To conclude, the Year 11 choir sang והיא שעמדה, once by themselves and once with the rest of the school joining in, reminding us all that ה' is always protecting us. The school council heads sold a variety of poppies to raise money for the royal British Legion.

יארצייט's רחל אמינו

For the יארצייט of רחל אמינו, one of our head girls, Leah Moskowitz spoke about how רחל had the זכות to be the one whose ה' תפילות listened to after the חורבן. After this, the choir performed a stunning rendition of רחל מבכה, after which the whole school sang 'Mama Rochel' together. Each class then had a mechaneches lesson about the מידות we can learn from רחל אמינו, including being מוותר, צניעות, and כח התפלה.

צדקה and חסד teams

Our new צדקה and חסד teams, under the leadership of Mrs Sasson have eagerly got to work this year.

The צדקה team raised £250 for Tomchei Shabbos by baking and selling cookies and selling ראש השנה cards designed by girls in the school.

Additionally, they sold cans and arranged a film on a מוצאי שבת which raised an amazing £800 for Lev Tova, an organisation in memory of Mrs Tova Yodaiken ע"ה which distributes vouchers to local needy families.

The חסד team arranged girls to go to help mothers on יום כיפור, girls to set up trays of ראש השנה סימנים and decorate the סוכה in Beenstock Home and regularly go to tidy up from receptions after חופות. Girls from Year 9 go weekly to play scrabble with the residents in Beenstock Home too. The team are planning a launch activity to show the girls the value of חסד and explain the opportunities for volunteering in the community, as well as a special מוצאי שבת activity where girls can learn more and sign up to volunteer.

מלוה דמלכה Year 9

Year 9 were the first year group to enjoy a מלוה דמלכה with their friends and teachers. Organised by Head of Year Mrs Levene, and Mechanchos Miss Reznick, Mrs Sulzbacher and Miss Elkouby.

The theme was ותן חלקנו בתורתך, which a choir performed beautifully. The centrepieces and souvenirs were in the shape of a puzzle to represent the fact that each of us has a part in תורה, and without each of us doing our part, we will not be complete. Hadassah Neumann and Chaya Neumann said a דבר תורה, and everyone participated in a game and enjoyed pizza and chips. The evening concluded with a dance choreographed and performed by some of the girls, after which everyone joined in with the lively dancing, A wonderful time was had by all.

The other year groups are eagerly awaiting their מלוה דמלכה later in the term.

משמרת

The girls were thrilled to enjoy the long awaited **משמרת** launch, led by Miss Bloch, Mrs Levene and the year 11 **משמרת** team. The girls heard the theme song, after which they played the balloon game—each girls balloon, when popped, revealed a piece of a jigsaw, which they put together in teams to reveal a הלכה that would give them advice about how to act in different scenarios. The girls later received booklets of הלכות to study every day over the next few weeks. For each day's lesson that they learn, a bean will be placed in their year group's jar. The year that fills their jar fastest will be treated to an exciting **ששי ליל** activity.

We look forward to many more inspiring, engaging and informative programmes from the **משמרת** team.





חודש חשוון חזל of the month

סקרפיון

Known for its cold venom, the scorpion doesn't represent only negative coldness. It also represents positive level-headedness - when certain situations call for reacting without all the fire and enthusiasm that seems to be fading away with the month of rain but rather with thought. When you Pause and think before you respond in any situation and then respond in a calm, balanced, reasonable manner, even when the going gets tough!

24th October כ"ט חשוון	25th October ל' חשוון א' ראש חודש - חשוון	26th October א' חשוון ב' ראש חודש - חשוון	27th October ב' חשוון	28th October ג' חשוון	29th October ד' חשוון	30th October ה' חשוון נח
31st October ו' חשוון	1st November ז' חשוון	2nd November ח' חשוון	3rd November ט' חשוון	4th November י' חשוון	5th November יא' חשוון לך לך החל אגוס יאירצ'ה	6th November יב' חשוון
7th November יג' חשוון	8th November יד' חשוון	9th November טו' חשוון	10th November טז' חשוון	11th November יז' חשוון	12th November יח' חשוון ורא	13th November יט' חשוון
14th November כ' חשוון	15th November כ"א חשוון	16th November כ"ב חשוון	17th November כ"ג חשוון School Closes	18th November כ"ד חשוון Half Term	19th November כ"ה חשוון חיי שרה	20th November כ"ו חשוון
21st November כ"ז חשוון	22nd November כ"ח חשוון	23rd November כ"ט חשוון א' ראש חודש - חשוון				

If you woke up today with only the things you thanked ה' for yesterday What would you have today?

MONEY

CLOTHES

FRIENDS

BODY

JOBS

EYESIGHT

HOME

FRUIT

SCENERY