



BYHS Newsletter



שבועת תשפ"א ~ May 2021

“כה תאמר לבית יעקב ותגיד לבני ישראל”

The true goal of תורה הינוך is to bring our students to be מקבל תורה. Some people respond to harsh מוסר and יראת הטא, while others respond to being shown the beauty of תורה and the light it brings into our lives. It is our role, says the באר מים חיים, to find the right approach for everyone by always being focused on the goal of קבלת התורה.

The בית יעקב approach is, to paraphrase רש"י, "לשון רכה" – to show the inner depth of תורה and the שמחת החיים that comes from שמירת המצוות and a life of מידות טובות.

We have always been proud in בית יעקב of being able to offer our girls so many opportunities to shine and to fill their formative years with positive, wholesome EC activities and programmes.

This last month we have seen the return, after more than year, of a number of familiar activities and we have been moving up the gears this term and returning to full throttle. You can read in this newsletter about whole school davening, the ל"ג בעומר trips, on סיומים פרקי אבות, after school clubs and the Extended Project Qualification and there is also a list of forthcoming trips and activities.

Our girls have excelled themselves on a number of occasions this term, such as their mature response to the מירון tragedy, the incredible קידוש ה' they made on the ל"ג בעומר trips (see letter below) and, perhaps above all, the efforts they have made to engage in their lessons and grow in their learning.

With best wishes for continued נחת and a true קבלת התורה.

ברכה והצלחה

Rabbi Wilson

תפלה

Due to relaxation of covid restrictions, we are happy that we have been able to restart daily תפלה for all the girls in the Hall. Seeing the girls davening together with כוונה is moving for all of us in school, and many have commented how it makes their whole day different to start the morning in this way. Girls say they feel inspired to be davening with such a large group, in a calm atmosphere and they feel that the נח of their תפלה is much greater.

לי"ג בעומר

We were thrilled that we were able to organise לי"ג בעומר outings for the girls.

Year 7, 8 & 9 went to Crocky Trail, where they had great fun climbing, sliding and getting muddy on the various rides and activity trail.

Year 10 went to West Kirby beach, braving the frigid temperatures to have a paddle in the sea before heading to a nearby park to warm up.

The girls' exemplary behaviour caused a huge 'קידוש' wherever they went. Staff at Crocky Trail said the girls were polite and well behaved, while passers-by at West Kirby commented how lovely it was to see the girls engaging in healthy, wholesome fun in the fresh air. See the attached letter from the coach company, proving that our girls are truly unique.

Staff who accompanied the girls were so happy to be able to see them relax yet still keep up their מידות טובות and good behaviour. Thanks to Mrs Levy for organising these trips.

Dear Mrs Kaufman,

As you know I am the Sales Manager for the company and do not generally drive much these days, however on 29th April, we had numerous coaches booked for you for trips to Crocky Trail and West Kirby Beach. I personally took the year 10 group to West Kirby Beach for the day. I was absolutely blown away by the perfect manners, courtesy and respectful attitude of the pupils and staff.

The day did not feel like work to me, I felt I was in the company of friends, from the get-go, the girls were all in good voice and sang their hearts out for the duration, everybody was respectful to the Covid regulations on board. On departure, each of the girls and staff took the time to take all of their litter away with them and left the coaches in excellent condition.

One of my other drivers who drove year 8 also passed on comment to me on how fabulous the girls and staff were on the day, he asked me to extend his thanks to you all.

Every single girl and member of staff are an absolute credit to your school, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all back on board our Belle Vue Coaches.

Look forward to working with you all again very soon.

"Have a great day"

Kindest Regards



Damian Ditchfield | Belle Vue Manchester Ltd

ספירת העומר

No girl needed to worry about remembering to count ספירת העומר this year. Each day a poster was hung on every classroom door, with the correct wording for that day. It also had a short message on one of the '48 ways to wisdom' – the מ"ח קניני תורה mentioned in פרקי אבות, which the מהר"ל connects to the days of the עומר. Girls commented how they have been inspired by the messages and pleased that they have not forgotten to count the עומר.

Reward Raffles

Girls spent a few weeks after פסח working hard to earn raffle tickets as rewards from teachers. These were given out for good behaviour, excellent participation, setting a good example to others, being helpful to friends and staff, extra effort in class and on homework, etc. On ל"ג בעומר a grand raffle was held, with Mrs Levy drawing 2 girls from each year group winning an amazing £10 voucher.

A gift from Gift

Following the food drive before פסח, Year 9 received ice lollies as a thank you from Gift for being the year to collect the most food. All together we collected 10 bin bags of food which is distributed to local needy families.

Simply Cycling

Girls from Year 8, 9 & 10 were excited to go on their long-awaited reward trip to Wythenshawe Park. They earned this last year, but due to covid it was pushed off until we were able to re-schedule it for this week.

Iced coffees ראש חודש

Every ראש חודש the girls wait excitedly to see whose names will be called by Mrs Levy as having won that month's iced coffee. One girl from each third is chosen by the Year Team for having excelled in all round good behaviour and being an example to the class.

After school clubs

Girls have really been enjoying a variety of activities in our after-school clubs. Year 7 & 8 can choose between arts and crafts and Zumba, and Year 9 & 10 can do Zumba or השקפה sessions, which have proved to be very popular. We hope to be able to continue and expand the range of activities we offer in the coming months.

Puzzles and Pizza

The girls were excited for the return of the daily questions about יום טוב. Each day Mrs Lopian hung up one thought-provoking question around the school – any girl who submitted an answer the following morning entered a raffle and one (or more) girl from each year group won pizza and chips. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm with which the girls researched and discussed the various answers.

שבועות Programme

We are delighted that Mrs Richman has arranged a fun and informative pre-שבועות programme for each class. An interactive quiz reviewed some general knowledge about the יום טוב, and the video and refreshments provided nourishment for גוף and נשמה.

Tragedy in Meron

In response to the devastating news from Meron, each of our girls was invited to take on a small קבלה. Rabbi Wilson gave an assembly where he explained that our response to this tragedy should involve a קבלה that is personal to each individual, as each person has their own unique challenges and areas to work on. This קבלה can be in the area of בין אדם למקום or בין אדם לחבירו. Either way, our focus should be כלל ישראל as whole and our קבלות should be for those who were tragically נפטר and as a זכות for all of כלל ישראל.

The girls' קבלות have been hung up in order to inspire everyone and show that we can work together, כאיש אחד בלב אחד, to make the World a better place and forge a stronger connection to ה'.

In addition, on Wednesday ראש חודש סיון we took part in a special programme with several other high schools in Manchester, לעילוי נשמת ר' משה ע"ה בן יבלח"ט ר' מאיר אליעזר ברגמן, called 'Unite to Ignite'. The message was how we can all work together, whatever 'type' of Yid we are, and with אחדות we have the power to bring משיח. The girls created a small tambourine as a souvenir which symbolises the אמונה that the women in מצרים, led by מרים, had that ה' would bring the גאולה. Similarly, it's up to us, the future נשים צדקניות, to keep our אמונה strong and unite to bring the גאולה, במהרה בימינו.

שיעורים Year 10

Year 10 have had a change in their schedule of קודש lessons, with regular guest speakers coming into school to inspire the girls. Rabbi Y Cohen and Rabbi Eisenberg each give deeply meaningful שיעורים on מידות and self development; Rabbi Schwartz gives an enthralling weekly shiur on the פרשה; and Rabbi Y Grunfeld gives a fascinating interactive שיעור on knotty topics in השקפה.

Year 7 מצוה בת preparations

Year 7 have begun the preparations for their grand מצוה בת celebration. Throughout the year, Miss Berghash has been teaching them various הלכות and השקפות that a בת ישראל needs to know. Earlier in the year they enjoyed a fabulous challah baking session. More recently they have practised checking vegetables and making their own delicious salads. They are now using all their free time to practise for the various performances which will take place on the evening.

מסילה exams

Although this year, due to covid upheaval, we were unable to enter any classes for the Mesilo exams, 11 girls from Year 10 chose to study for the תפלה exam during their own time. Out of school and during lunch times, they have learnt the translation of all of תפילת שחרית, explanations on שמע and שמונה עשרה, and a wide variety of הלכות pertaining to תפלה. They sat the Mesilo exam on Tuesday and we are looking forward to hearing their excellent results. We are so proud of their work ethic and commitment to their learning.

GCSEs

As you know, the GCSE exams are very different this year. Girls in Year 11 and 10 have worked incredibly hard to sit several sets of assessments, which are being marked by their teachers and moderated to ensure standardised grades can be given. Staff have worked harder than ever setting and marking these exams, with hours and hours of dedication to ensure our girls can achieve their best. Thank you to the teachers and well done to the girls for the way they have adapted to the many changes made by the exam boards.

פרקי אבות סיומים

Year 10 celebrated the culmination of learning פרקי אבות ה' of פרק ה' with a grand סיום, which included a fleishig lunch, games and activities, arranged by their teacher Mrs Sasson. The girls have worked hard all year and really engaged with the learning, enabling them to develop a toolkit of lessons for life. Each girl wrote an essay about the ideal behaviour and מידות, as taught in פרקי אבות.

Year 8 are also celebrating a סיום on פרק ב' of פרקי אבות with Miss Klyne, including a choir, game and refreshments. They have been challenged to learn 10 משניות off by heart in order to receive a special prize.

Year 9 will have a סיום on פרק ד' before the end of the year and Year 7 are working hard to try to complete פרקי אבות א'.

EPQ

In the months between May and October 2020, devoid of their GCSE exams, a number of our then-Year 11 pupils used the time to complete an independent research project by undertaking the AQA Extended Project Qualification and gaining half an A-level meanwhile.

Besides attending guided learning hours as a group, 1:1 supervision sessions, and completing a personal journal to accompany their AQA entry, the girls have commented themselves that following this method of study, they had markedly improved a multitude of transferable skills – such as time management, presentation skills, tackling problems, being pro-active, reaching deadlines, thinking critically, being flexible and communicating more clearly in their new settings this academic year. They are also able to include the EPQ award on a CV, which indicates a strong focus on their learned skills and interests for future employment.

Building on the success of our pioneer group who have produced impressive results, including two A*, and three As, the SEN department is offering the EPQ to girls in both Year 9 and 10 who want to take up a challenge in addition to their regular timetable. This is an opportunity for Gifted and/or Talented pupils to engage with a project title that they have chosen and can sustain for a period of 6 months, with careful guidance to unlock significant, hidden potential.

The EPQ project is ably run by Mrs Green and Mrs Klein.

Upcoming events

We are so relieved that covid restrictions are lifting and look forward to providing the following exciting events for our girls בעזה"':

Year 7 מצוה בת evening

Year 8 סעודה שלישית

Year 9 overnight trip to Patterdale, Lake District and סעודה שלישית for incoming Year 7

Year 10 overnight trip to Patterdale, Lake District

Year 11 shiur week programme, overnight trip and graduation

Look out for more details nearer the time!

