

# BEIS YAAKOV JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY



נובמבר 2015 - תשע"ו

## MESSAGE FROM THE MENAHELES

Dear Parents and Colleagues לאיית

It is with great joy and anticipation, that I write this first column in our school publication. I use the word "our" intentionally; we the faculty and you the parents are being charged with the עבודת הקודש of raising our future generation of parents, בנשי חיל, upstanding שמים and bring נחת to the עולם.

The חינוך we will ultimately achieve in imbuing depends on the quality of our student body, and the quality of this entity is, in turn, a reflection of the חסוד homes and outstanding individuals who are parents to these children.

In נביא we learn how the wife of מנוח, later to become the mother of שמשון was childless. One day a מלאך appeared to advise her that she would bear a unique child, and that she should abstain from all alcoholic beverages and from anything impure in preparation for this event:

ועתה השמרי נא ואל תשתי יין ושכר ואל תאכלי כל טמא

Overjoyed, the woman ran to tell her husband. מנוח davened for the מלאך to return with instructions on how to raise this son, as the instructions thus far applied only to the mother's behaviour, and offered no guidelines as far as the child was concerned:

ויעתר מנוח אל ה' ויאמר בי אדוני איש האלקים אשר שלחת יבוא נא עוד אלינו ויורנו מה נעשה לנער היולד

The מלאך did indeed return, and surprisingly repeated what he had previously stated. These words, it appeared were the instructions for rearing this special child: namely, his mother should avoid alcoholic drinks and anything impure. Herein lies a profound truism: The foundation of a child's success lie in a pure home, a home devoid of contamination of excess and of outside influence. This home is the environment where a son, who will ultimately be the saviour of כלל ישראל, can be nurtured.

Our children emulate our behaviour, breathe the השקפה we exude and aspire to our example. We must be there for them in all these areas, modelling the behaviour and attitudes we expect of them, while supporting and guiding them to maturity and independence in the רוח התורה.

Parenting and educating our youth can feel like challenging work at times. Let us support and encourage one another at all times. Please be in touch; my door is always open! I look forward to talking to you.

May we all merit שייצא דשמיא in this endeavour, עלינו, ויהי נועם ה' עלינו, and may we enjoy shared נחת from our precious charges.

Rebbetzen C Berger

מנהלת

Our school is taking part in the worldwide שבע שבתות programme which was set up in memory of the seven Sassoon children and as a זכות (merit) for the רפואה שלמה (complete recovery) for their mother.

Briefly, this comprises of a seven week programme where we focus on a different aspect of שבת each week. We have already focussed on הכנה לשבת, שמירת שבת, קבלת שבת, עונג שבת, תפלות שבת, and taking leave of שבת.

As this is a cross curricular project, the pupils have had a שבת slant added in to all subjects, for example, year 8 are producing leaflets on שבת as part of their informative writing in English, all years are focussing on related מלאכות in textiles, and year 7 are doing a still life of a שבת scene in art, to name but a few.

In addition, there have been - and will be - whole school activities. To date, we have had an as-

sembly to launch the project, where the school captains addressed the girls followed by a short video presentation from בית יעקב of Toronto. Rabbi Angel שליט"א came in to address the girls with an inspiring שבת message. Many classes took on a commitment not to speak דברים בטלים (unnecessary matters) over שבת פרשת וירא. You may have noticed that each page of your daughter's homework diary has a מאמר חז"ל connected to שבת. We look forward to welcoming your daughter (s) at a school שבת קבלת פרשת וירא - details to follow.

Mrs Bracha Klein



## LITTER PICKING IN CLOWES PARK

A few weeks ago on Thursday 15th October, a group of girls joined local residents and LA staff in a "litter pick-up" in Clowes Park.

At 10:00 am a group of girls, together with Mrs Stefansky, arrived at the park where Salford City Council provided gloves, grabber sticks and bin bags. The girls went round tidying up the park, together with residents and council staff. The council staff were so grateful to the girls for helping to make the park look really clean and tidy.

There are exciting plans for the park, some of the waste land on the edges of the park is going to be developed and brought in to public use.

They also want to set up an area called "A Life for a Life". In this area people can pay for a tree to be planted in memory of a departed relative or friend.

Mrs C Stamler

## Gateshead Old Sem students come to Beis Yaakov High for a two day training session

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November a group of 18 students from Gateshead Old Seminary came to our school as part of their annual teachers training program.

They spent two days observing lessons, learning techniques and skills from a variety of our talented staff. They were able to discuss their observations with some of the teachers they observed, who very kindly gave of their time to impart of their expertise and knowledge to help the girls gain as much as possible from their two days in the School.

This program was facilitated by Mrs E Levy שתחי' who met with the girls at the end of each day, incorporating a session on 'How to make קדש studies stimulating'. They were also able to discuss their observations and talk of how they can incorporate what they had seen into their actual teaching on a practical level.

Three of our alumni were part of the group and they stated how impressed they were with the programmes that have been implemented since they left School over two years ago.

Mrs Jaffe שתחי', head of Teachers Training in Gateshead Old Seminary and Rabbi Kohn שליט"א, the מנהל of Gateshead Old Seminary both commented on how much the students gained and how enamoured they were with the School and all it has to offer. They were extremely grateful to the School for enabling their students to have this experience and feel that it is a programme that greatly enhances their students training.

## "The meat which I love ...." שליט"א from Rabbi Y Katz דבר תורה

In the סדרה of תולדות we find a seemingly strange statement from יצחק אבינו, prior to his death and wishing to bless עשו his older son.

יצחק says to עשו [כה:ד]: *"Prepare for me tasty food [מטעמים] which I love, and bring it to me that I may eat it and then bless you before I die"*.

Our חכמים are troubled by this request, as it seems not in keeping with יצחק's lofty spiritual standing to request a tasty snack in order to be able to give his son a ברכה?

I once heard a most fascinating insight into this question from Rabbi Mordechai Miller זצ"ל the previous Principal of the old Gateshead Seminary. He said that יצחק refers to the food as 'מטעמים'. This is related to the word טעם which means *taste*, but also means *reason*.

These two words are linked says Rabbi Miller, because יצחק was in effect saying to עשו, that he wanted to give him a ברכה, but in order to do so, he wanted עשו to first perform an act of כבוד אב, which would then engender a feeling of gratitude and enable יצחק to give עשו a whole-hearted ברכה.

So יצחק asks עשו to prepare מטעמים meaning food which tastes [ טעם meaning *taste*] - of your כבוד אב [ טעם meaning *reason*].

So now we can understand that יצחק who was a person of the highest spiritual standing, could actually 'taste' the 'reason' why עשו was preparing the food, and that's why he loved it – not only for its טעם-taste in the physical sense, but also for its טעם – the reason it was made, namely: כבוד אב.

From here we see, say Rabbi Miller, that when we eat with טעם – reason, it enhances the טעם – the taste!

Concludes Rabbi Miller, that when we make a ברכה over our food before we eat it – be it our שבת סעודה, or a weekday breakfast, by realizing that every morsel we eat has come from ה', we are investing טעם [reason] into our eating, which in turn will enhance its טעם [taste]!

### Year 9 CV morning

- Third form had cross curricular morning with 3 sessions consisting of:
- reading job advertisements for information (English department)
  - What constitutes a CV with Mrs Judith Myers (Careers)
  - Formatting a CV (IT dept.)

## Rabbi Nechemiah Gottlieb שליט"א

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Rabbi Nechemiah Gottlieb שליט"א gave an inspiring address and facilitated a workshop for years 9, 10 and 11 about the dangers of modern technology, especially the internet. Here are some comments from girls in year 10, about the impact of his speech.

'I thought that the speaker was very informative. He was not patronising and we were glad that he gave us an opportunity to ask questions.'

'I really enjoyed his speech because he let us ask questions. He

made everyone feel that he was speaking to each individual girl!'

After hearing his speech, I will not buy a Wi-Fi camera.'

'Very inspiring. It helped me to understand the dangers of the internet.'

'I understood the point he was trying to get across. He explained the dangers clearly and this helped me to understand what he was talking about.'

*Look out for a detailed report on Rabbi Gottlieb's visit to our school in December's issue.*

ARMISTICE DAY

**November 11<sup>th</sup> is Armistice Day, when the treaty to end World War 1 was signed. To commemorate the sacrifice of the soldiers who fell in the war, many people wear poppies.**

**As a school, we also wanted to show our gratitude to those who fell while defending us and our country. We sold poppies and other small trinkets in school in order to raise awareness among our students about this day. We also put poppies in the staffroom for a few days, to give members of staff the opportunity to contribute.**



**Both staff and students contributed enthusiastically and all the money raised will be donated to the Royal British Legion.**

Esther Borr, Perel Daniel, Sarah Epstein, Brocha Katz, Simi Lipschutz, Shani Prijs and Chaya Mushka Ziman, Year 11 (The צדקה team)

## Kristallnacht programme

To mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht on ט"ו חשוון, Forms 4 & 5 took part in a programme. Mrs Sasson שתחי' introduced the topic with some historical background and perspective. This was followed by an address by Rabbi Y Emanuel שליט"א, who explained the Bobover Rebbe's קינה on the Holocaust, inspiring the girls with the message of ה' being with us at all times.

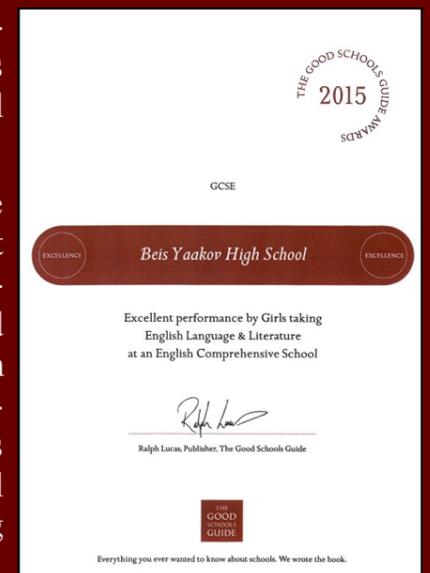
We were very privileged to hear Mrs Kraus's שתחי' share recollections of her escape from Czechoslovakia and many girls are anticipating going to Beenstock Home to hear more of her story. This was followed by Mrs S Gild שתחי' who brought in an original yellow star and related the story as to how this came to be in her family. The girls will be watching a Jroots video that focusses on the אמונה of survivors during their war experiences.

## NATIONAL AWARD FOR BEIS YAAKOV'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Our English department has recently received national recognition. It has been listed in the latest edition of 'The Good Schools Guide', which reviews over one thousand state aided and independent schools. First published in 1986, entry in the Guide is based on the views of parents and others who know the school well.

Our school has been commended for 'the excellent performance by girls taking GCSE English language and English literature at an English comprehensive school', making us the highest performing English department in Salford. While other Salford schools have previously received similar commendations from the Good Schools Guide, this is the first time that an English department has received such a commendation. In addition, this award also reflects the high standards which our staff set for all our pupils and the dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff and the support staff within our English department.

2015 has been one of the most challenging years in our school's history. While it is always very pleasing to have our pupils' successes publically acknowledged, the timing of this award makes it even more special.



Mrs B Kessler

## From the Governors' corner...

It's certainly been a challenging twelve months following our Ofsted inspection in September 2014, which saw the school placed into special measures. We know that parents want us to communicate more effectively, particularly as the school goes through a period of change.

We recognise the importance of working in partnership with you and serving the needs of our school by ensuring that we communicate effectively with all stakeholders, especially parents. To that end, the school has produced a newsletter-type communication that will be sent to you a couple of times a term to keep you up to speed on how the school is doing and what's news. Alongside that, I thought it would be useful for you to hear what the governing body has been up to the last few months.

So, where to start .....

Well, I as Chair of the Governing Body and Michael Brandeis as Chair of the Academy Trust have enjoyed a number of productive conversations with the Department for Education. The Department for Education steps in to monitor schools when Ofsted place a school into special measures and have spent some time in our school over the last year or so. Thankfully, they seem to be pleased with our progress now.

I wrote to you shortly before term started to say that regrettably Rabbi Gold-

blatt שליט"א had left the school. I and my Governing Body colleagues were delighted that Rebbetzen Berger שתחי' agreed to step up to the plate on an interim basis as מנהלת and together with Mrs Feddy שתחי' and Rabbi Katz שליט"א, she is building a senior leadership team who are working together to drive improvement. We have a National Leader of Education supporting us on our journey out of Special Measures. She has been full of praise for the swift progress being delivered in all areas falling under the remit of the senior leadership team and my thanks go to them for their hard work over the last few months in particular. The Governing Body in conjunction with רבנים and advisors are looking at the long term future structure of the senior leadership team.

Governors have been busy too! All Governors have attended training either via Salford, whose training services we have bought into or via a National Leader of Governance covering, for example, Discipline & Exclusions, Creating a school budget, Effective committee structures, Health & Safety obligations etc. Our National Leader of Governance is supporting the Governing Body on the journey to improvement. We have a new committee structure in place. If you would like information of the Governing Body specific roles with details of the committees, memberships and link roles please contact Mrs Miriam Kaufman at school. Mrs Kaufman has recently taken up position as

secretary to the Governing Body and we are also receiving support from Salford Clerking team, whose services we now buy into.

We've had some great feedback from our National Leader of Governance recently. She is amazed by how we've dragged ourselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century so quickly and told us that many governing bodies across the country would now do well to learn from us! Who'd have believed it?!

We were pleased recently to welcome two new governors. Mrs Penina Wieder as Foundation Governor is well known to all of you I'm sure and we are delighted to have her educational expertise available to our governing body. Following our recent advertisement, Mr Daniel Kasmir has been appointed as parent governor. Mr Kasmir is a world renowned expert in Human Resources; he is well respected by parents and those within our school community who know him. His appointment will broaden the skills set of the Governing Body.

Don't worry though if you missed the boat ... we have another vacancy for parent governor and a letter will be sent out shortly to set out the process for nominations and the timeline for the process.

We anticipate that HMI will return some time towards the end of term to assess progress and work continues apace to en-

sure everything is tip top. Governors have attended a two day 'mock-inspection' at school during October and taken part in learning walks and meetings with key staff to ensure that Governors are best informed about progress in different areas. We were delighted with the very positive but balanced report that our National Leader of Education prepared on the back of the 2 day visit; progress has certainly been swift and focussed.

We are fortunate to have an extremely talented and committed staff. My thanks to them all for being so accommodating and indeed, so impressive!

Finally, my thanks to parents for playing your part in helping us on our journey out of special measures by giving your support to the new leadership team and ensuring that your daughters' attendance has picked up over the last few months.

May the רבש"ע guide us in our important work and enable us to give our young girls the educational experience they deserve within a safe, frum environment. May we all continue to enjoy נחת from all our children.  
בברכת כל טוב

**David Ziskind**