July 2023

Dear parent/guardian,

Publication of the latest OFSTED inspection report means the school is no longer in ‘special measures’, this is an outstanding achievement which is testament to the hard work of the whole school community. We recognise that there is still work to be done and we do need the support of our parent body with this, particularly ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually. We also require your support with improving behaviour – as the inspectors recognised, it is not the big things, but the smaller things like responding appropriately to **all** their teachers and being punctual to their lessons. These messages have been reinforced in assemblies throughout the year.

We are extremely fortunate at King David High School to have a dedicated team of Jewish studies staff who support all of us in encouraging our wonderful young people to understand what their faith means to them. After a year of hard work and effort, the Year 7 girls celebrated the completion of their Bat Chayil programme with an event for them and their families in June. Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Rickman initiated a Tefillin Club at the behest of some pupils, and it has been an unmitigated success! With participation reaching the mid 40’s and boys helping each other, the atmosphere has been nothing short of phenomenal.

The Year 9 Israel trip was once again an amazing experience, with much thanks to all who helped plan and facilitate this journey, specifically trip leader Rabbi C Cohen.

We celebrated Israel's 75th birthday with lots of fun activities throughout the day. The pupils, all dressed in the colours of the Flag of Israel, were able to participate in bouncy castles, inflatables, face painting, graffiti art and much, much more. All students were treated to a BBQ lunch which was delicious! (thank you Rabbi Schwartz and the team). After school, we opened our gates to the wider community for even more fun and activities with our partners, Mizrachi UK and Jhub. The communal aspect of the evening finished with a keynote address via Zoom from Israel, from the inspirational Rabbi Leo Dee.

This term we have offered lunch-time Mental Health Support Workshops targeting, stress, anxiety and worry to students across all Key Stages. The school welcomed Chief Rabbi Mirvis as he led an interactive session with JAMH regarding mental and emotional wellbeing. The school’s Wellbeing Ambassadors collaborated with the JAMH Ambassadors to deliver a Mental Health and Wellbeing Escape Room event to the local community.

Staff have received training on how to identify and support students with mental health and wellbeing difficulties. We are also looking forward next term to a partnership with ‘Thrive in Education’ a new service providing practical mental health support in school.

The careers focus for the term has been on engagement in the wider world of work. There has been a successful programme of work experience in Key stages 4 and 5, as well as the numerous opportunities offered to Key Stage 3 through careers interviews, workshops and practical sessions with our excellent range of external partners; 'Our Futures', 'The Princes Trust', 'GM Higher' and the 'Careers and Enterprise Company'.

There has been a whole range of dramatic, musical and sporting events this term, too long to list individually. I would encourage all pupils to get involved in some of the wide range of extra curricular activities that we are able to offer. Our sixth formers should also do their best to make the most of any personal development opportunities both inside and outside school. Not only will this make their UCAS or job application stand out from the crowd, it will also help develop the positive attributes that we want to see in all our young people.

The usual field trips with the geography and biology departments have taken place this term, as have numerous trips and visits to destinations such as Old Trafford, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, the Palace of Westminster, and even Heaton Park, along with more cultural visits to local universities, museums and art galleries. Your child really does benefit from a rich and varied curriculum here, and I would like to thank all the staff here who go above and beyond to provide these opportunities for our young people.

This term children have had assemblies about the importance of responding to feedback from teachers. Please do encourage your child to reflect on feedback from their teachers, and where and how they can improve their work. Evidence shows that this is one of the most impactful means of improving academic progress.

Over 179,000 positive points have been given to pupils throughout the year recognising academic effort, progress, a positive attitude, or just being generally helpful, embodying our core values of Emet and Emunah.

We say thank you and offer best wishes to staff who are leaving at the end of this term:

**Teaching:**

**Mrs Sharon Spindler -** Maths– retiring

**Mrs Becky Silver** - English – retiring

**Mrs Heidi Greenstein** – SENDCO – but returning to teach some Ivrit and lower school maths

**Dr Lenka Ivings –** Science – moving to a sixth form college

**Mrs Helen Byrne** – Science – moving to other ventures

**Mr Paul Milnes** – Maths – moving to another school closer to home

**Mrs Shahnaz Bickley** – Maths – moving to another school

**Miss Goldie Grant** – Maths – moving on to another school

**Mrs Elena Onac –** Art (graphics) - moving to a sixth form college

**Mr Arden Sills**– Drama – relocating

**Mrs Liz Niven** – Science - moving to another school

**Rabbi Pinny Cohen** – Kodesh - moving on to other ventures

**Rabbi Boruch Krasner** - Kodesh - moving on to other ventures

**Non Teaching:**

**Mrs Sam Black** – Teaching Assistant

**Miss Grace Tipler-Noble** – Art & Food Technician

**Mrs Tina Salisbury** – Special Needs administration

**Mr Jack Suppree** – Teaching Assistant

From September we will be moving to house-based forms, which will allow for a greater sense of teamwork and school identity, whilst building upon our already successful inter-house competitions. With the exception of Miss Zaragoza, who will continue as head of year 7, heads of year will now move up with their year group, Miss Barker will move to head of year 9 with Miss Dansey as head of year 8, and, in key stage 4, Mr Curson will move up with year 10 into year 11 and Miss Thomas will move to head of year 10. We hope this will give greater continuity and build on the relationships with pupils and parents established over this year.

We are again grateful to the parents' guild for providing sports equipment and some reading books for the English department. If you want to find out more about how you can get involved with the work of our parents’ guild, they are always looking for willing volunteers, please contact K.DSPG@kdprimary.co.uk

Please do continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure during their holiday time. Reading doesn’t just help with academic achievement at school, it also has emotional and social benefits, and it is something that children can enjoy.

Finally, we acknowledge the holidays can present challenges to some pupils and parents. Our school website contains various links and contacts who may be able to offer help and support if required.

<https://www.kdhs.org.uk/wellbeing.html>

I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer break.

Mr J Dalziel

Headteacher