

JCoSS

The Ronson Jewish Community Secondary School



Prospectus



Achieve

Enrich

Inspire

Welcome to JCoSS

JCoSS is dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence, and to the full richness of Jewish learning.

We provide a high-achieving, aspirational environment: our high quality teaching staff deploy the best in educational practice to ensure our students reach the highest levels of academic attainment.

We are relentlessly ambitious for their success, tirelessly seeking to inspire them to outstanding results.



At JCoSS our students are at the heart of everything that we do, and we are committed to providing an environment that is inspiring, stimulating and challenging. We attach a high value to academic success and also understand that education extends far beyond the classroom door, supporting each student to become the very best, rounded individuals that they can be.

As a pluralist Jewish school JCoSS represents something extremely special in Jewish and British education. We promote understanding and enquiry, we open minds and encourage our young people to 'think otherwise'. We embrace the entire Jewish community regardless of affiliation or observance, teaching the full range of Jewish beliefs, practices and values. Your child will learn in a way that affirms and enhances his or her faith, background and tradition.

It is a huge privilege to be the Headteacher of this exceptional school. Having gained a background in scientific research and a PhD in Neurobiology from Imperial College, I am unapologetically passionate about education, and am dedicated to ensuring that your child is safe, happy and that their unique personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full.

We believe that all students can thrive and succeed in the right environment and our staff are dedicated to ensuring our students develop a love of lifelong learning which remains with them well beyond secondary school. Our goal is that every JCoSS student will leave us enriched and inspired and go on to enrich and inspire others with all they have achieved with us during their school journey.

Dr Melanie Lee
Headteacher

Achieve

Students going beyond what they believed possible...

Achievement is the cornerstone of the JCoSS ethos. Our commitment to academic excellence derives from the personal conviction of the Headteacher and her strong leadership team.

Public exam results are such a key marker of success for young people; our aim is to ensure that your child reaches and exceeds his or her potential and is equipped for fulfilment and achievement in school life and beyond.

We have the highest expectations of our students and work in close partnership with parents to identify and insist upon the best from and for each student.





Teaching

Our exceptional teachers and subject leaders have a wealth of experience and the whole team works together to create an environment that celebrates academic achievement and promotes success. Our teachers ensure that your child will receive an excellent education. They take time to understand how each student learns best, tailoring their teaching to individual needs to provide stimulating, demanding and enjoyable learning.

Tracking, Monitoring and Setting

Learning is at the centre of JCoSS. Our rigorous process of target setting, monitoring and analysis ensures that our students achieve – and exceed – their potential.

The process is fine-tuned as they progress through the school, recognising each child's aptitudes

and individual profile. Additional support is offered to students with identified needs. The progress of all students is carefully monitored against individual targets, to ensure they are affirmed and challenged at all times, and in the correct set for each subject.

Our classes are kept as small as possible, and our high staff-to-student ratio allows more time for personalised attention, targeted where it is most effective.

Our Science Specialism

The scientific values of curiosity, critical analysis and intelligent engagement permeate every subject. We harness the energy and creativity of scientific endeavour to inspire every student and enrich learning in all disciplines.



“The school sets ambitious targets for all students and their progress is rigorously monitored at school, group and individual level” Ofsted report



Home Learning

Home learning not only extends and accelerates learning, but also develops essential independent study skills. Your child should expect to spend an hour per night on Home Learning in Year 7, rising towards three hours by the 6th form.

The Scholars Programme

The “Scholars’ Programme” is a programme which promotes and co-ordinates activities to stretch and challenge the most academically able students at JCoSS, alongside those who are hard-working, determined, academically optimistic and ambitious, independently engaged and display attitudes that are vital for their success in the wider world. At JCoSS we regard being Able & Ambitious as possessing expertise in a developmental stage. This means those students who display, or have

a potential to, exhibit exceptional performance in one or more areas of endeavour, be they academic, expressive or social.

The Scholars’ Programme promotes and co-ordinates activities to stretch and challenge Able & Ambitious students within and beyond the classroom, from Years 7 through to 13 and it is also responsible for encouraging students to apply to Oxbridge and other competitive courses as well as managing these applications.



Enrich

Students growing into fully rounded high achievers...

JCoSS is passionate about providing an enriching educational environment for all our students. Our philosophy is that well rounded children are both happier and better able to reach their potential in all that they do.

Our innovative, outward-looking approach to Jewish Education empowers our students and enhances their understanding of the world in which they will soon take their place.





*“JCoSS makes an outstanding contribution to students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through both the planned curriculum and a wide and varied enrichment programme”
Ofsted report*

Jewish Education

We are wholeheartedly committed to educating students as literate Jewish and British citizens, well-grounded in the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to contribute to community life. Our unique pluralist approach builds and informs students’ sense of Jewish identity and aims to feed their fascination and nourish their commitment to a life-long Jewish journey.

Our diverse Jewish environment fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect and our students learn about, and from, the whole spectrum of Jewish beliefs and practices. We enthuse our students to acquire the skills necessary for serious engagement with the rich variety of Jewish texts. We encourage an appreciation of shared tradition, strong and robust ethical convictions and a commitment to Social Action. Our students explore and reflect upon their own relationship to God, to Jewish history, to Israel and to the Jewish community, with the aim of feeding their fascination and deepening



their commitment to כלל ישראל (Clal Yisrael/the Jewish People).

Jewish experiences and learning are woven into the curriculum as a whole, with a rich variety of opportunities to explore Judaism, such as our innovative monthly ראש חודש (Rosh Chodesh/New Moon) programme; our weekly קבלת שבת (Kabbalat Shabbat/welcoming in the Sabbath) ceremony; regular spaces for spiritual reflection, and school-wide celebrations of the חגים (chagim/festivals).

Building accomplished Mensch

The JCoSS ethos is explicit in its aim to develop the character of our students. We encourage them to value being a Mensch, a good and kind person who is committed to תיקון עולם (Tikkun Olam/World Repair) and גמילות חסדים (Gemilut Hasadim/Acts of Loving Kindness). This is embedded in school life through our extensive Informal Jewish Education and Social Action programme.

Students can contribute to this through a rich variety of activities, including, the ‘Manna from Heaven’ project which provides food for local homeless shelters, or taking part in a large range of volunteering activities both within and beyond school.

ראש חודש (Rosh Chodesh/New Moon) is a special time at JCoSS. Students can choose from a wide range of dynamic prayer and reflection activities including traditional prayer services from across the denominations, philosophy, ethics, creative writing, art and Jewish singing workshops.

This unique atmosphere instils in our students the importance of acting with integrity, consideration and dignity. We encourage them to recognise, respect and value individual differences, and aim to cultivate informed and articulate individuals who want to have a positive impact on the world around them.



Enrichment beyond the classroom

Students can participate in a whole host of extra curricular activities including Wellbeing Sessions, Art Club, Israel Club, The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Film Club, Chess Club and Bar/Batmitzvah Club. We have a huge range of Sports Clubs, from table tennis to football and athletics to netball, in which students participate with distinction.

Opportunities in the Creative Arts are outstanding, providing an impressive showcase for students’ talents in theatrical and musical performances. Students at all levels can participate in orchestras, ensembles and choirs, and in small or large scale drama activities and productions. Individual or small group tuition in singing and in all kinds of instruments are available from visiting teachers.

We have exciting enrichment days where students choose from a range of activities including debating, car mechanics, song writing, Japanese, fashion and newspaper editing. Groups comprise a mix of year groups to create a unique learning experience.

Trips and Journeys

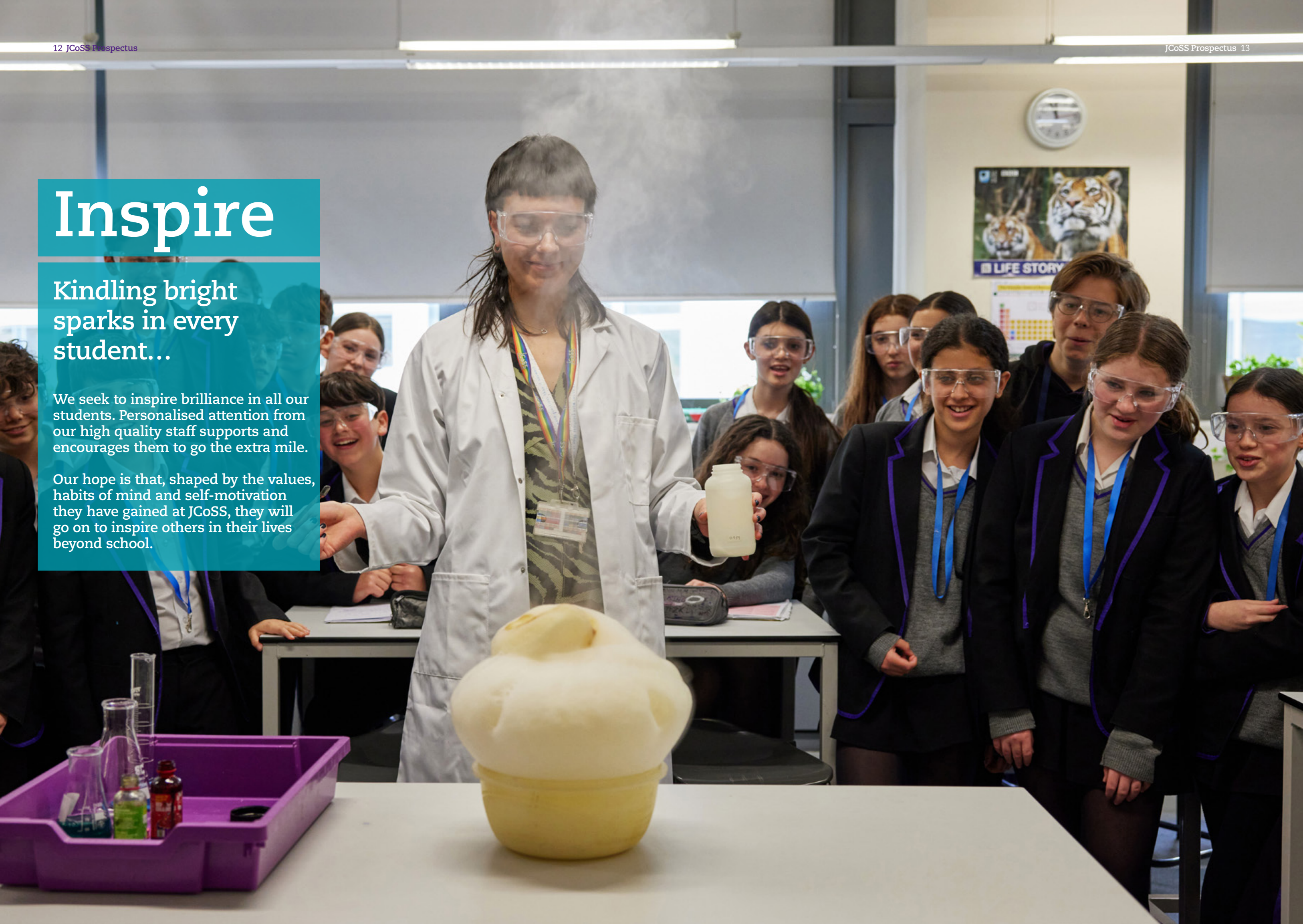
Our energetic staff organise a rich menu of activities to augment students’ learning and bring their lessons to life. Trips include evening visits to plays and cultural events as well as daytime and residential outings to places of historical, geographical, scientific or business interest. The menu of trips in recent years has included a Year 7 team building activity, visits to France in Years 8 and 10 and to Spain in Year 10. The Year 9 Israel Journey is for many a rite of passage: students have the opportunity to participate in volunteering projects; take in the highlights of Israel; and meet with young Israelis, Arabs, Bedouins and Druze. This journey makes a special contribution to their Jewish cultural learning, and identity development. Similarly the 6th Form Jewish Heritage trip to Poland takes in some of the major sites of the Nazi Holocaust in the context of Jewish life before the war. For many these Jewish Journeys are life changing experiences.

Inspire

Kindling bright sparks in every student...

We seek to inspire brilliance in all our students. Personalised attention from our high quality staff supports and encourages them to go the extra mile.

Our hope is that, shaped by the values, habits of mind and self-motivation they have gained at JCoSS, they will go on to inspire others in their lives beyond school.





A motivating environment

To walk into JCoSS is to be inspired. We have created a truly unique and stimulating space that delivers an outstanding learning environment for all our students.

Our science laboratories and technology provision are unsurpassed. The Information & Communication technology within the school is sophisticated and kept up to date, with generous provision of desktops, laptops, wireless access and whiteboards. Apple Mac and PC devices are intelligently deployed to best meet the requirements of different subject areas.

The creative arts are also well served. Our extensive facilities include a multitude of music practice rooms, a sprung-floor dance studio, media recording facilities and a drama studio with professional sound and lighting. The impressive sports facilities include a huge all-weather pitch, large sports hall and a gym for older students.

Inspiring through Judaism and Social Action

In true rabbinic tradition, we encourage questions as well as providing answers. Our students are knowledgeable, analytical, articulate and passionate about Judaism. They celebrate their Jewish identity and are inspired to make lasting contributions to the Jewish Community, and the wider world. Our dedicated Informal Jewish Education and Social Action department organises a varied programme that encourages our students to better understand and question the world around them.

Parental partnership

The support of parents is vital to the success of our students. Regular consultations and termly progress reports are the starting point for this key partnership. Parents are encouraged to maintain a dialogue with us, and we seek their views through surveys and focus groups. When parents and the school work together we can achieve the excellence we all strive for.



“The success of the school has been achieved through an unrelenting drive for high quality teaching and exceptional progress. Senior leaders have established a culture of high aspiration and enthusiasm for learning” Ofsted report



Kosher cafeteria

Our fully kosher cafeteria (under the auspices of the United Synagogue Beit Din) ensures our students are well fuelled to learn. The ‘meat’ kitchen offers delicious, healthy choices and daily deals that represent excellent value for money. We offer a vegetarian menu and a range of desserts each day at lunch time, and a tempting and popular range of snacks at break as well. Older students have additional choices, and all have the option of bringing a packed lunch from home, eaten in supervised ‘milk’ areas of the school.

Inspired by older students

JCoSS is a community of learning. All its members benefit from the positive role modelling and mentoring they receive from each other, and especially from staff and older students.

Student Voice

We listen to our “Student Voice” and have many ways to ensure their important views are heard. Each academic year, representatives are elected from each form and their role is to gather the opinions from their peers on aspects of the school that is important to them. They work collaboratively with the Head student team who take their comments and views to our Senior Leadership Team for appropriate actions to take place.

6th Form

Our 6th form, rated Outstanding by Ofsted, has a wide range of A Level and Vocational courses for students either moving up internally or arriving from other schools. We have unrivalled facilities available for the 6th form, including a dedicated state-of-the-art study room and 6th Form coffee shop. The majority of our Year 13 students leave JCoSS to attend their first choice Universities including Oxbridge and prestigious Russell Group Universities.



