

In Broughton Jewish Primary School's Holocaust Project, Kids Meet Survivor

The Year 6 pupils at Broughton Jewish Primary School (BJPS) together with their parents took part last Thursday afternoon in a meeting with Holocaust survivor Mrs. Eva Neumann. The children have been participating in an innovative project designed to introduce children to the background of the history of our people before and during World War II.

The project has been spearheaded by Dr. Noemie Lopian and Dr. Yehuda Marshall. Dr. Lopian is a Holocaust Educator and is the daughter of two survivor parents. She is involved in a range of national and international Holocaust initiatives, both within and outside the community. Earlier this year, she set herself the challenge of keeping the witness reports of survivors and *kedoshim* alive in the minds of the younger generation who are growing up nearly a century later. Dr. Yehuda Marshall is a clinical child psychologist and has no immediate family connection to the Holocaust. But he was also very concerned to introduce this sensitive topic to the children in an age-appropriate way. Dr. Lopian and Dr. Marshall discussed the idea about the time of Pesach, when we emphasize the *mitzvah* of *v'higadeta l'vincha*, passing the historical destiny of our people on to the next generation.

The interactive and reflective four-part project was delivered after numerous discussions with educators and with the strong support of Principal Rabbi Pearlman and his staff at BJPS. The project was enthusiastically embraced by staff and children alike. Particular mention should be made of Year 6 *chol* teachers Mr. Hart and Mr. Pritchard, and *kodesh* teachers Mrs. Reznick and Rabbi Jacobs, who all worked in harmony together on this project.

In order to put the Holocaust within the frame of reference of the children, the pupils were encouraged to explore their

own family and discover their individual identities and background.

Following a workshop on the development of anti-Jewish laws in Germany during the 1930s and afterward, the children participated in a *chessed* initiative. They actively sought ways to help other people who were not in their immediate peer group and bring goodness into the world to outweigh the influence of evil.

Over the course of the project, the children had the opportunity to meet and talk to Holocaust survivor Mrs. Eva Neumann. This meeting did much to bring the subject they had been learning to life. Mrs. Neumann was very happy to talk to the children and they listened to her story with much interest. Recently, the dangers of hate and the importance of kindness were discussed within the context of the Three Weeks.

The climax of the project took place on Thursday afternoon, when Mrs. Neumann returned to visit the school to enjoy afternoon tea with the Year 6 children and their parents. The children were happy to show her the results of their work. Each pupil had carefully written out and illustrated the results of their own research. In a very touching gesture, each of them wrote a personal thank-you note to Mrs. Neumann.

The children benefitted greatly from the experience of the new project. They have gained an important insight into our past that will remain with them in the future. Although the project was made for the children in BJPS, the organisers hope that it will be extended to other primary schools in the future. The success of the whole scheme could be duplicated so that the next generations will become aware of this important era in our past. Through this, they will learn to actively seek to develop their sensitivity to positively make the world a kinder place for all.



Tishah B'Av on Sunday morning at Beis Yaakov Hall, Salford, with Rabbi Gershon Miller, *Mashgiach* Gateshead Yeshiva, and Rabbi Yehuda Marmorstein, *menahel*, Beis Soroh Schneirer Seminary. The programme comprised *Shacharis* followed by explanatory *Kinos* and attracted a large crowd.



Releasing the balloons at the annual Bnos Yisroel, Manchester, Carnival and Balloon Race.

Lawrence Purcell

LSJS Celebrates Teacher Training And Degree Graduation

Guest of Honour Luciana Berger, MP for Liverpool Wavertree, took time out of her busy parliamentary schedule last week to send a video message of congratulations to this year's London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) degree and teacher training graduates, who celebrated their academic achievements at a graduation ceremony on Tuesday night at Hampstead Garden Suburb United Synagogue.

Ms. Berger recognised that the graduates have joined the many other graduates from LSJS over the last 150 years. She told them that this is not the end of a journey but rather "the beginning of a life of giving, nurturing, teaching and opening doors to knowledge – nothing in my view is more important."

Twenty-one trainee teachers attained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) from the LSJS Jewish Teacher Training Partnership, the only Jewish accredited teacher training provider in the country.

Eleven students graduated from the two-year, part-time MA Jewish Education programme run by the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) and validated by Middlesex University.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, president of LSJS, congratulated all the graduates and commended their "extraordinary achievements." He told those assembled, "Teachers guarantee our survival as a Jewish people, as educating our children is the only way that we secure a future." The Chief Rabbi thanked the LSJS staff, led by the dean, Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum, for being the "educators of educators."

Throughout the evening, representatives of each cohort of students reflected on their experiences and studies over the past year or two. The MA programme, which has been running since 2014, is aimed at senior educators, Rabbis and school governors to give them relevant academic professional development. It offers pedagogical insights and introduces innovative teaching ideas.

Director of Academic Studies Dr. Tamra Wright expressed her delight at the number of MA graduates who had flown in from Israel and Europe for the event. She said, "The diverse location of this group meant that we needed to formulate an innovative and flexible approach to teaching this cohort to suit their needs. Therefore, we taught in one-week blocks to enable them to travel to the LSJS campus in Hendon; without this flexibility, some of these students would not have been able to participate in the programme." Dr. Wright also thanked Dr. Linda Whitworth, the link tutor from Middlesex University, for all she has done to support the programme from its inception.

The School Direct programmes are run in conjunction with lead schools Yavneh College (secondary), Wolfson Hillel Primary School (primary) and PaJeS.

The School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme (SCITT) enables students to gain their Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) qualifications to enable them to work in primary schools.