

THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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Rosh Hashanah

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How many seeds in a pomegranate?

What's the connection between Rosh Hashanah and pomegranates?

On Rosh Hashanah, Jews eat pomegranates because the fruit is a powerful symbol of blessing, abundance, and good deeds. Tradition teaches that a pomegranate contains 613 seeds, corresponding to the 613 mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah, and so it represents the hope that the year ahead will be filled with as many good deeds as seeds in the fruit. Since pomegranates are also a seasonal autumn fruit, they are often used to say the Shehecheyanu blessing, thanking God for reaching a new season. In addition, as one of the Seven Species of the Land of Israel mentioned in the Bible, the pomegranate carries a deep spiritual and agricultural significance, making it a fitting symbol for prayers of prosperity, fertility, and growth in the year to come.



Message from the Headteacher

It has been an exceptionally busy start to the new academic year, and it seems that we have reached Rosh Hashana extremely quickly.

Pupils have settled in really well and have made an excellent start to the new year. Learning walks have shown that learning is of a high quality, and teachers are already reporting how engaged the pupils are.

The A level and GCSE results in the summer were something for us all to celebrate, and we look forward to seeing further improvements this year.

The YONDR pouches are working well, as is the new canteen system.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, and wish you and your families a Shana Tova U'metuka, and a peaceful and meaningful fast.



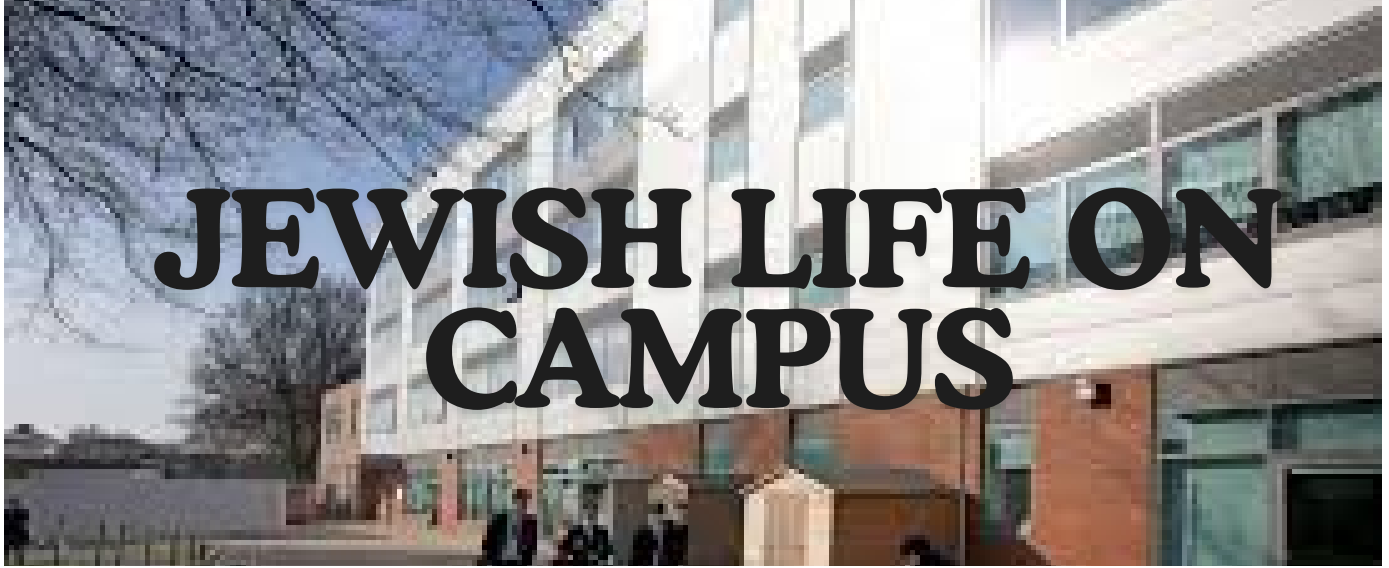
Rabbi's Writings for the month of Tishrei

Tishrei and the Season of Renewal

The Jewish year begins with the month of Tishrei, a time filled with some of our most important festivals—Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. Together they form a season of reflection, forgiveness, joy, and celebration. At the heart of this month is the idea of renewal: the chance to pause, take stock, and begin again with hope and purpose. This message is especially meaningful for families at this time of year, as Tishrei coincides with the start of the new school term. Just as the High Holy Days remind us that the year ahead is a blank page waiting to be written, the new academic year is full of possibility. New classes, new teachers, and new friendships create fresh opportunities for growth and achievement.

Rosh Hashanah begins with the sound of the shofar, a call to awaken and pay attention. In much the same way, the first day of school invites children to lift their heads, step into something new, and imagine what they can accomplish. Yom Kippur soon follows, reminding us that mistakes are not final. Children, like adults, will face setbacks—but renewal means every day offers another chance to improve and grow. Sukkot brings us into the sukkah, a fragile but joyful space that highlights the importance of community. It reminds us that strength lies not only in structures but in the relationships we build within them. Similarly, the school year is about more than lessons—it is about friendships, teamwork, and the support that comes from home and school working together. Finally, Simchat Torah closes the month with joy as we begin the Torah anew, teaching that every ending is also a beginning. In school, too, learning is a cycle of discovery, review, and renewal.

For parents, Tishrei is a reminder to see both journeys—the spiritual and the academic—as connected. Each invites our children to start fresh, to learn, and to grow. With support, patience, and joy, the year ahead can be filled with sweetness, meaning, and renewal.



Year 10 had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker, Mr Simon Munk, on Friday, September 12, 2025. Mr Monk spoke about his experience making aliyah 30 years ago, and what it takes to best integrate into Israeli society. As a global banker, he regaled our pupils with stories from his profession, and spoke at length about different opportunities for employment in various Israeli cities. The pupils asked interesting questions, and were engaged throughout. We thank Mr Monk for his time and wish him only the best moving forward. We would also like to thank WZO UK for reaching out and allowing us the opportunity to hear Mr Monk's story.



IDF Colonel Golan Vach

Colonel Golan Vach of the Israel Defense Forces spoke to year 11 Religious Studies class on Monday, September 15th. As a member of the IDF Search and Rescue division, Colonel Vach told stories of international search and rescue, including most recently in Turkey. Further, Colonel Vach explained how his unique skills are used in Gaza in identifying underground tunnels, which Hamas terrorists use to infiltrate Israel and cause terrorist activities. Colonel Vach spoke eloquently, and emphasised the IDF's emphasis on morality and values in trying to limit civilian casualties, even at the cost of IDF troops.



This week, Marsha Gladstone of the Yoni Jesner Foundation and Sophie Wolfstein of GIFT launched the Yoni Jesner Award, in memory of Yoni Jesner, who was tragically killed in a bus bombing in Israel 23 years ago.

You can hear Marsha share [Yoni's story here](#).

The award aims to use Yoni's legacy to inspire young people to take their first steps in becoming active members of their community. With the support of GIFT, students are able to volunteer and log their hours towards completing the award.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering to achieve the Yoni20 Award. By continuing their volunteering, they can go on to achieve the Yoni50 and Yoni100 awards. In the summer term, all students who have reached the required volunteering hours will be invited to a community-wide awards ceremony to celebrate their achievements.

To register your child for the Yoni Jesner Award, please visit:

<https://jgift.org/volunteering/yonijesner-awards/>

PLEASE NOTE: THE YONI JESNER AWARD IS GEARED TOWARDS YEAR 8 PUPILS



Oscar Marks, Year 7



Mazel tov and congratulations to our very own Oscar Marks for his superior Shofar blowing skills! Oscar blew the shofar in assembly last week in front of the whole school, giving everyone present the wake up call they need in order to prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgement. Oscar's skills and confidence were on full display and we have rewarded him with an A5 achievement! We look forward to sharing more talents from our dear KDHS pupils throughout the year. Shana Tova!

School update



Religious Studies at King David

The Religious Studies department has had a great start to the year, with exciting developments already taking shape. One highlight has been the reintroduction of Tefilla assemblies into school life, beginning with Year 7, giving students the opportunity to daven together and strengthen their sense of community and connection.

This year, the department is looking ahead with a clear vision: to develop an inspiring and engaging curriculum that not only deepens knowledge, but also nurtures a lifelong love of Torah and Jewish life. The aim is for every student to see the relevance of their learning and to feel proud of their heritage.

To help lead this vision, Rabbi Cohen has joined the Senior Leadership Team as Head of Religious Studies. He has been teaching at King David for the past 14 years and, over the last nine years, has served first as Rabbi of Yavneh Girls and then as Rabbi of Yavneh Boys. In his new role, he will be working to build on the strong foundations already in place and ensure that Religious Studies continues to play a central and dynamic role in the life of the school.

