



INDEPENDENT JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
an ACADEMY

Tuesday 12th February 2019

Dear Parents

As you know, the school welcomed Pikuach for a two-day inspection two weeks ago. (Pikuach is an inspection body similar to OFSTED and they visit Jewish schools every five years to evaluate Kodesh teaching and learning.)

It was a busy few days and we were thrilled to show off the buzz of learning in our classrooms. The report was just released and we are pleased to announce that Pikuach gave the IJDS a grade of Good with some elements of Outstanding. The full Pikuach report is attached and will also be posted on our website.

The students are the stars of our school we want to thank them for the warm welcome they gave to the two inspectors. The teachers – Chol and Kodesh – deserve a big ‘yasher koach’ for their hard work preparing for the inspection and for the enthusiasm and effort they put in every day.

As with any inspection, this report forms a judgement of the school in action at that particular point in time. We were happy to see that the inspectors recognised the quality education that our children receive. The inspectors spent time observing lessons, reading with children, watching them during tefilah and in conversation with pupils about their learning. They were impressed by the level of Ivrit Reading and Comprehension, the progress children made throughout their time in the school and the leadership’s strong vision.

The report noted that:

“The Jewish Studies curriculum is outstanding” and “has breadth, depth and balance, providing pupils with Jewish knowledge and experience.”

“Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding because of a deep and sincere respect shared by all. Pupils show great sensitivity and respect for themselves and for others, and display great enthusiasm for their learning.”

We recognise that in our last inspection the IJDS was given a grade of Outstanding. We are constantly striving for excellence – both in Pikuach’s eyes and more importantly in the eyes of our parents and children.

The report identified areas for improvement, which we welcome. Many of the areas that Pikuach chose to highlight we are in the midst of addressing. Specifically, the inspectors noted that the school needs to appoint a head of Kodesh to oversee the Jewish studies curriculum. We have spent the last few months recruiting for this vital position and this past week welcomed several qualified candidates to our school. The report also highlighted the need for a consistent marking policy. This is already in place and will be further reviewed next term.

We feel confident that in our next inspection, we will once again be graded as Outstanding and have invited the inspectors to return in 18 months to review our progress.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out Pikuach’s parent survey. These are some of your comments that they shared with us:

“There is a strong ethos at the school which is delivered in a warm and caring way. My child only joined the school in Year 1, but the education he has received is exceptional. As parents,

we love the IJDS and appreciate the events they put on for parents to develop a community feel. It's a fantastic school!"

"We love it here. My children love it here. We are so happy. The whole school is so devoted and work very hard."

As always, we welcome your involvement in our children's education. We will be releasing a parent survey today where you will be able to share further thoughts, including an opportunity for us to hear from the children themselves.

Yours Sincerely

J. Schajer

Mrs Jodi Schajer
Headteacher

Michael Paluch

Mr Michi Paluch
Co-Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Kodesh Committee