



INDEPENDENT JEWISH DAY SCHOOL  
an ACADEMY

# WELCOME TO THE IJDS

## ברוכים הבאים



IJDS is committed to providing an outstanding secular and Jewish education to our students, with a love for Israel and a good dose of fun along the way.

With an equal emphasis on Kodesh and Chol, seamlessly complementing each other, we ensure every pupil has the confidence to live as a proud, practising Jew whilst making their own individual contributions to secular society. They get a deep love and respect for Eretz Yisrael, Ivrit, Torah and mitzvot, and secular learning.

We believe in nurturing the potential of each child while focusing on their talents and strengths. Our goal is to empower our children and encourage them to develop a genuine love of learning to last their whole life. Our educational ethos is based around the principle that every child should have every opportunity to reach their potential. Targets are set for each child, along with customised objectives and teaching plans. We are ambitious for each child, with the aspiration that they should maximize their success.

We pride ourselves most on the warmth and love the children get from everyone involved in the school, from the teaching staff to lunchtime helpers to our dedicated caretaker. Students in different age groups often work together doing buddy reading, helping each other with holiday projects and in peer mentoring groups, where older children help younger pupils with any areas they may find difficult.

At the IJDS we all learn from each other. Our supportive and enthusiastic parent body acts as partners in their children's learning and development. Pupils come to school excited to learn and parents are keen to assist in their progress.

Our secular provision was graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in the last inspection and the school is consistently rated in the top 100 primary schools nationally and in the top 10 primary schools locally.





## JEWISH STUDIES

## למודי קודש

Jewish Studies, which make up around 40 percent of the curriculum, are taught in Hebrew, giving students access to a second language and enabling them to better understand Jewish texts, including Tanach, Torah Sheba'al Peh and relevant mefarshim. The curriculum focuses on developing children's skills in Hebrew reading, speaking, writing and comprehension. Parents reinforce at home what their children learn in school, helping to cement their knowledge and understanding. We are the only Jewish day school in the UK teaching Ivrit B'Ivrit following the outstanding I Talam programme and we bring Shlichim from Israel to our school to ensure students experience the language and culture in an authentic way.

Jewish practice is embedded within the school. Tefilla happens daily in all classes and children learn the meaning of the prayers. Chagim are celebrated throughout the year in school and through family activities at school. Kashrut in the school follows the London Bet Din and all families are modern Orthodox Shomrei Shabbat and Shomrei Mitzvot.

We are also proud to welcome National Service volunteers (bnot sherut) from Israel who help deliver the Hebrew language and culture programme to strengthen our connection with the land and people of Israel.

Each year at the IJDS is filled with activities and learning experiences. Although this year may look slightly different because of Covid restrictions, take a look at some of the highlights of our calendar.

In addition to what you see here, each class aims to go on an educational visit at least once a term to bring their learning to life. There is daily tefilla across the school as well as Rosh Chodesh assemblies, with a full Hallel complete with singing and dancing.

Weekly assemblies, led by staff members with a range of perspectives, explore a host of themes, including classical music, artists and other personalities in detail.

### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

- Horim Veyeladim parent/child Torah learning – Chagim
- Shofar blowing activities
- Sukkot assembly
- Sukkah building competition
- Black History Month
- Special assembly speakers
- Visits to old age homes and others in the community



### NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

- Horim Veyeladim parent/child Torah learning – Chanukah
- Chanukah assembly – Kitta Daled
- Chanukah Fun Day for families
- Chanukiah competition
- Anti Bullying Week
- Remembrance Day assembly
- Coding and IT with eSafety
- Camp Simcha and Gift support for Chanukah

### JANUARY / FEBRUARY

- Tu B'Shvat programme whole school, including a Tu B'Shvat Seder
- Chagigat Siddur - Kitta Aleph
- Chagigat Chumash - Kitta Bet
- Science Week
- Literacy Week

### MARCH

- Purim assembly - Kitta Gimmel
- Horim Veyeladim parent/child Torah learning for Purim
- Megillah reading for whole school
- Fancy Dress Parade
- PTA Mishloach Manot





## APRIL

- Horim Veyeladim parent/child Torah learning for Pesach
- Yom Hashoa assembly and workshops
- Yom Hazikaron Assembly - Kitta Heh
- Yom Hazikaron Tekes followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut PTA BBQ
- Yom Haatzmaut dancing for whole school
- Lag B'Omer outing, sponsored by the PTA
- Visits to old age homes
- Yom Yerushalyim Peulot

## MAY

- Shavuot Tikkun Leil programme for parents and kids
- Maths Week

## JUNE

- Hachana assembly - Chagigat Otiot
- Sports Day
- Swimming Gala
- Literacy and IT Publishing Week
- Flower and food parcels to old age homes for Shavuot

## JULY

- Gan Graduation
- Kitta Vav Leavers assembly
- Kitta Vav yearbook
- Kitta Vav theatre production



## PLUS

- Coffee mornings for parents covering different parenting topics
- Maccabi inter-school sports competitions
- Extra class cricket and basketball coaching
- Termly art days
- Visiting Holocaust survivors
- Volunteering with GIFT
- Verse speaking competition
- Reading and spelling challenges
- Music lessons
- Musical and theatre showcases by students
- Collecting gifts for Camp Simcha
- Pupil librarians
- Monthly Hallel led by Kitta Vav pupils
- Rikudei Am lessons weekly



Don't just take our word for it. Here's what our students have to say about the IJDS משוב מילדי בית הספר

**"I love the IJDS because we learn kodesh in Hebrew and it's great that I can understand so much Hebrew now."**

Ariel, Kitta Heh

**"I love going to school because we read loads of really exciting books and we have a new library. Learning is fun."**

Alon, Kitta Gimmel

**"I love coming to IJDS because we sing and dance to celebrate all the chagim and hallel."**

Shoshana, Kitta Gimmel

**"I love IJDS because of all the extra activities we can do after school."**

Gabi, Kitta Vav

**"I love the IJDS because we have the best teachers."**

Joey, Kitta Gimmel

**"I love doing PE in the big playground!"**

Amelie, Kitta Aleph

**"I love playing with my friends and doing show and tell!"**

Rafaella, Gan

**“The IJDS is a wonderful, warm school and the Jewish studies department promotes a true love of Torah and mitzvot. We are amazed at the constant excitement for learning our children have. Our son has had wonderful support to move forward and progress over the last few years and we are very grateful to all the staff for all their continuous dedication and hard work.”**

**“There are so many activities outside formal learning that support the classroom learning goals. It is wonderful and our whole family benefits.”**

**“If only we had this opportunity as kids!”**

**“I was recently concerned with my child's progress in writing and spoke to the SENCO about it. The next day she met with my son to assess him and called me just after to explain her recommendations. I was so impressed with the care and attention she showed for my child when there are so many demands on her time.”**

## MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to provide our pupils with an outstanding education in an environment which nurtures the potential of each child, encourages a love of Torah and Mitzvot, promotes British values, develops a sense of responsibility towards others and creates a strong connection with the people and land of Israel.





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A LOVE FOR TORAH  A LOVE FOR LEARNING  A LOVE FOR ISRAEL