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JCoSS Roadshow launched

JCoSS, the Jewish Community Secondary School, has launched a Roadshow to present the project to, parents, supporters and potential donors. The neatly designed display and information materials made their first appearance at Limmud where the stand attracted enormous interest from across the community.

It was also exhibited in the Marketplace at the Liberal Jewish biennial conference in Gloucestershire over the weekend of the 4-6th April, and is on show at the West London Reform Synagogue over Pesach, before going on tour round other synagogues in North London and the environs. It will also be visiting the three cross-communal primary schools - Akiva, Clore Shalom and Clore Tikva – over the summer term.

If you would like to arrange for the JCoSS Roadshow to come to your shul, for a speaker from JCoSS to answer questions from your community members and/or to write an article about the project for your bulletin, please contact our Communications Adviser, Ben Rich, on 07713 509134 or benrich@jcooss.org and he will be happy to make appropriate arrangements.

Shrager appointed JCoSS's first Chair of Governors

Robert Shrager (59) - a former Director of Morgan Grenfell and Finance Director of the Dixons Group plc - has been appointed as the first Chair of JCoSS's temporary Governing Body. Mike Grabiner, Director of private equity group, Apax, is to serve as vice-chair.

The Governing Body will be responsible for appointing the cross community school's first head teacher and staff, overseeing the development of the school's innovative curriculum and all the detailed work required to make the school functional. The Governors will work alongside the JCoSS Trust, chaired by Michael Phillips, which is responsible for appointing the remaining governors, fundraising and getting the school built on time and within its budget.

Commenting on his appointment, Shrager, the outgoing Chair of West London Reform Synagogue, said:

"We are a small community in this country and numbers have been dwindling. We can and need to be more united. JCoSS has a potentially crucial role to play in bringing the whole community together. It is an incredibly exciting project and I am proud to have been offered this challenging role."

Between 7 and 18 further Governors will be appointed over the next few months, with the Body formally being put before Barnet Council for approval in the Autumn. It will include a number of Parent Governors, who will be appointed from those with children of school age who have registered an interest in the school at the JCoSS website.

JCoSS fundraising campaign continues to make strides

JCoSS has now raised over £4 million in just four months towards the £10 million target for community fundraising. Trustees are delighted with the support which is flooding in from Jews across the community.

The community fundraising campaign is to complement the £36.4million which has been pledged to the project by the Government, making JCoSS the largest capital project ever undertaken by the Jewish community.

There is still a long way to go, however, warns JCoSS President Gerald Ronson: "While we have made enormous progress in a very short time, there is still a long, long way to go and every member of the community who wants to see JCoSS become a reality will need to play their part, however big or small."

All about JCoSS

JCoSS is set to become the first Jewish secondary school in the UK to welcome, on an equal basis, Jews of all backgrounds, beliefs and abilities.

Plans for a brand new state-of-the-art building were granted planning permission by Barnet Council in August 2007. The new school is to be sited off Westbrook Crescent, East Barnet, on a site adjacent to the current East Barnet Upper School, which is to be consolidated with the rest of the East Barnet school in a new building on Chestnut Grove.

Work has already started on the detailed design. Actual building work on JCoSS begins in January 2009 with the old East Barnet Upper School buildings being demolished as and when their own new building is complete.

JCoSS is due to open in September 2010 with a first intake of 180 Year 7 (11 –12 year old) pupils. In addition, working jointly with Norwood, the UK's leading Jewish charity for children and families, JCoSS will provide a 50-place special resource provision for children aged 11-19 who have autistic spectrum learning disabilities.

The school will grow year on year to provide places for 1,310 students by 2015. So far, parents of 164 children eligible for 2010 entry have already registered an interest, for the first 180 places.

Donate to JCoSS

You can donate to JCoSS tax efficiently. Visit the JCoSS website www.jcoss.org and follow the links to donate via justgiving.com and allow us to reclaim income tax paid by you via gift aid.