Cheder and Youth at Muswell Hill Synagogue May 2018

The Cheder relaunched in September as Rishon and continues to run on a Sunday morning. Eli Gaventa and his team have been teaching the children in an informal educational setting about festivals, Jewish life and running a new programme of reading.

Pupils have taken part in a variety of activities including the Purim fun day and a Rishon Seder as well as year-group led activities such as Years 4 & 5 trip to the British museum exploring the story of Pesach, Year 6 listening to Eve Kugler, a holocaust survivor, Years 1 & 2 making matzah and Years 2 & 3 being involved in a Noach and Storytelling-in-the-Torah session at the Jewish Museum. Each class had a Q&A session with Rabbi David to ask any questions about Judaism.

The Year 7 Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme continues to be a success and has linked with ORT, meaning that one lesson in every four is run by ORT, whilst Eli runs the programme on the remaining weeks. Year 8 meet with Eli on the week that ORT run the Year 7 session and they continue to learn about Judaism through discussions and debates.

The Year 9 GCSE class is running on a Sunday morning and is taught by Lucy Nuttgens the GCSE teacher. The pupils will take their GCSE at the end of the next academic year.

The Cheder has seen a rise in numbers as seen below and the prediction is that the number of pupils will increase next academic year.

**16/17 (previous year):**

Cheder Reception to 6: 44 students (4 in Year 1)

BM 7: 9

GCSE: 4

**Total: 58**

Teachers/Assistants -  6/4

**17/18 (current):**

Cheder Reception to 6: 44 students (8 in Year 1)

BM 7: 11

BM 8: 9

GCSE: 6

**Total: 70**

Teachers/Assistants -  6/6

**18/19 (predicted):**

Cheder Reception to 6: 50 students (8-10 in Year 1)

BM 7: 20 (out of 33)

BM 8: 11

BM 9: 9

GCSE: 9

**Total: 99**

Teachers/Assistants -  6/6

Rishon employs teachers for each year group as well as assistants that are all community members in Years 9/10/11 and next year some are moving up to become Youth Madrichim.

Youth

With the departure of Alex and Dina in August a new Youth Director was appointed. Josh Gaventa has been working in the role since November 2017. Josh has been running the I-club on a Thursday evening (now rebranded as R-club) along with a team of Year 12s and 13s from the community.

**Activities have included boxing, krav maga, a BBQ, sushi making, movie night**, Leket Israel and mocktail night. They have been well received and the numbers attending are growing.

Josh has brought vibrancy and leadership to the role, training the year 12s and 13s, as well as organising a new payment method meaning that food and supplies for the activities match the numbers attending. Activities are planned on a monthly basis and emails advertising what is happening go out on a weekly basis.

Josh is currently working 7 hours a week running R-Club and in September is going to extend to 12 hours a week. This will enable him to look at all the provision for the youth in the shul and not only R-club.

At present R-club on average has 40-45% of all year 7s & 8s attending on a weekly basis. Next year Josh wants to build on the success of R-club and encourage year 9s to also be attending.

Our ongoing vision of bringing Rishon and the broader community youth program closer together are well under way with exciting plans for September.