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22nd July 2026

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

As we approach our tenth year at Gesher, this past year has been filled with significant milestones. We completed our first full set of exams, hosted our inaugural secondary phase residential program, and proudly sent off our first graduating class of 2026 on their next adventure. I look forward to what our tenth year will bring, hoping for even more firsts and the creation of lasting memories that make Gesher the special place it is.

This year has presented challenges that have encouraged us to lean on one another and strengthen our school community. Every student and staff member has contributed to making Gesher the warm, caring, and truly magical environment it is. Moreover, this year has infused us with hope, particularly during last week's Year 11 graduation, where our graduates showcased the incredible achievements of a Gesher student.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer and for those returning we will see you in September and for those moving on, we will see you soon.

- Miss Tammy



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Year 11 Graduation



We're proud to celebrate a truly special milestone, Gesher's very first graduating cohort of Year 11 students! It's not just the end of a journey for these young people, it's a defining moment in our school's story too. Back in 2017, when Gesher first opened its doors, we welcomed just seven children. Fast forward less than a decade, and seeing our first cohort graduate really shows just how far we've come together. It's down to the courage of the families who believed in our vision from day one, the dedication of our incredible staff, and most of all, the resilience and determination of our students themselves. A big congratulations to Liam Nunez Hall who was the winner of our inaugural Rafael Daniel award, which is awarded to the student who has been unapologetically and wholeheartedly themselves each day. Our graduates are leaving with real, life-long skills, confidence, independence, and the tools they need to navigate whatever comes next. They're heading off on some brilliant pathways too, and further education, each one shaped around their own strengths and interests. And while they may be leaving Gesher, they're never really leaving our community. We'll be cheering them on every step of the way, and we can't wait to see what they achieve next. Well done to our Year 11's. As Dr. Seuss said in "Oh The Places You'll Go"...

"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!"



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Year 6 Graduation



What a wonderful time we had at graduation! It was an absolute delight to see all of the students so happy, proud, and excited to take this next big step into secondary school. It has been a true joy teaching Tamar class for the past two years, watching them grow both as learners and as individuals. I am going to miss them immensely, but I can't wait to see all the amazing things they get up to as they move on to their new classrooms next year! - Miss Emily

Year 11 Prom



Our very first KS4 Prom was a huge success and a truly memorable evening for everyone involved! With the exciting theme of "A Night in Las Vegas", students enjoyed an evening filled with fun, laughter and plenty of unforgettable moments. From delicious Vegas-themed mocktails and a lively game of fizzy pong to socialising with friends and capturing memories in photographs, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was wonderful to see the excitement on students' faces as they arrived, dressed to impress, and made their way through our special VIP entrance. To finish the night, students enjoyed an unexpected game of hide and seek around the school – the perfect way to end an incredible evening! We are so proud of our students and delighted to have made our first KS4 Prom such a huge success.

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Secondary Sports Day



Another year, another fantastic Sports Day and the athleticism on show just keeps getting more impressive with each passing year! For our first Secondary only sports day, we had to make it special (whilst keeping some of the classics in there). The egg and spoon race is always a hit and it didn't disappoint this year either. The highlight however, as always, were our afternoon activities. Tug of war, sprints and the epic battles between students, staff and parents. It's another day to remember (or to forget if you lost in Tug of War) and we are so glad we could end the school year on such a high! Well done to all of our Geshher athletes and we'll see you again next year for even more thrilling competition!

Kodesh Corner

Last Shabbat we started the fifth and final book of the Torah - Devarim (Deuteronomy). The whole book is Moshe's final speech to the Jewish people before he passes away and before they enter the land of Israel after 40 years in the desert. Moshe reminded them about the different ways that they had fallen since leaving Egypt when presented with an opportunity to excel. In this week's parsha, Moshe tells them about their responsibilities and opportunity to elevate their own greatness and holiness by fulfilling the commandments. Moshe is considered to be the greatest teacher in Jewish history so why is he rebuking and exalting them instead of inspiring and motivating them before entering the land of Canaan (Israel)? One idea is that Moshe actually is inspiring them to be great by saying to them 'We all made mistakes over the past 40 years, that is normal, we are human. But look how far you have come since being slaves in Egypt!! To be great and excel in life, you don't need to emulate me, you just need to be yourself, connect with Hashem and follow the commandments'. Another school year has finished and sometimes too much time is focused on the past year, how we could have done better and why we couldn't be like another sibling or someone else. What Moshe is showing us is that as humans we are not perfect, but dwelling on the past is not the answer. We should use the past to influence how we can excel over the next year to elevate our learning, our actions and our behaviour to a greater level whilst not trying to emulate others but to just be the best us that we can be! May this summer enable us to focus on learning how to get the best out of ourselves next year. Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday and Tzom Kal (an easy fast) for those fasting on Tisha B'Av on Thursday. May we have peace throughout the world and may the Beit Hamikdash (Temple) be rebuilt speedily in our days. Amen.

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Class Wrap-Ups

Chesed

It has been a year filled with the highest of highs, and the lowest of lows. In my eyes, the highlight has been the way Chesed class were able to rise above adversity. Whether it be in grief, or standing steady during stressful exam periods, the class showed their strength and maturity in the way they continued moving forward, with a smile on their face and their arms around one another.

Bea

"This school brought me people that have changed my life and made me, me. One of my favourite memories was when I spilled tuna all over Miss Tiana in year 9 when it rolled off my jacket potato."

Liam

"I enjoyed the Amsterdam trip. It was the first time I was away from my parents and I felt very independent. On one side, I am excited to leave because it means I am growing up but I am sad to leave."

Michal

"I have loved making new friends and meeting new people, and making fond memories."

Tami

"The best thing about this school is that everyone is so different and everyone is so accepting."

Poppy

"I would tell my younger self that "You think it's good, but it's only going to get better from here!"

Moshe

"I like going to the community trips and I really like the school lunches the best thing was meeting all the other people and the teachers were really nice and I am going to miss them so much."

Benji

"I really enjoyed the Hanukkah enrichment week, the food was so good!"

Woody

"My favourite part was the end of year school trips and being with friends and doing all the activities."



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Malchut

Malchut have had an incredible year growing in confidence, independence and maturity, both in the classroom and out in the community. A real highlight has been watching them develop such strong friendships as a cohort and take on new experiences together with enthusiasm, humour and resilience. Jake's favourite thing this year was the Trampoline park. Next year he is looking forward to life skills and cooking next year at Swiss Cottage. Gadi said, "my favourite was going to Amsterdam. I really enjoyed the anne frank museum and walking through the house."



Hodaya



It has been such an exciting year for Hodaya! They have come together and supported each other during tough times, had the trip of a lifetime to Amsterdam and engaged in work experience. It has been wonderful to see the growth and maturity and I am so proud of everyone! Have the best summer and see you in Year 11. Jack says "I have really enjoyed this year and hope next year will be just as good!" Frankie says, "I have worked so hard this year and found that I enjoy revising."

Tiferet

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, we are so proud of everything Tiferet has achieved. It has been wonderful to watch them grow in independence and resilience, while coming together as a truly supportive team. One of the highlights of the year was our residential trip where many students experienced being away from home for the first time and embraced the challenge with confidence and enthusiasm. Throughout the year, they have continued to look out for one another, showing kindness, encouragement and teamwork every step of the way.

Their energy and willingness to support each other have made this year so special, and we are excited to see all they will achieve in Year 10. Have a wonderful summer! DG says, "It has been a long, hard year, but the teachers have been good and my friends have been nice. I have really enjoyed hanging out with the Year 11s, and I will miss them. It has also been nice getting to know the Year 7s who joined secondary school this year. I particularly enjoyed the residential because it was really fun, and it was my first time away from home without my parents. It was also great to have new students join our class too!"



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Gevurah

As we come to the end of another school year, we want to say how incredibly proud we are of every student in Gevurah. This has been an amazing year, and we've watched these boys strengthen their friendships and grow into more mature young men. Our greatest achievement has been accountability: learning to reflect on their actions, take responsibility, and make things right. We also faced some very tough and emotional

moments together, but we supported one another every step of the way. We are so proud of every single one of them and of the memories we've made together. Have a fantastic summer! Aaron says, "I think the year was great, especially because of the learning. I wish to go out on more PBL trips!"

Keren

They've done it! Keren class have completed their first year as Secondary School students and we could not be more proud of them! They've matured, adapted and grown (literally) so much this past year and it has been a pleasure to watch them flourish into the young citizens they are becoming. The Keren team will miss you but continue to cheer you all on as you head into Gevurah! Max said, "My favourite part of school this year was probably the kids and the teachers. I enjoyed the PBL project on Ancient Greece where we got to make a labyrinth!"



Tamar

What a wonderful year we have had in Tamar class! From exploring space, learning about human rights to exploring secondary, it's been very action packed! It's been amazing to see how much they have grown this year and I can't wait to see them flourish further in secondary! Jonathan says, "My favourite part of the year was art week because I got to be creative. I enjoy the PBL because I do drama and it helps me with my play scripts."

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Chitah

Chitah have had such a brilliant year! They have explored human rights and physical needs, world war 2 and space all whilst showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and growing confidence in their learning. Each student has made meaningful progress over the year and should be proud of their achievements. Ariana said, "My favourite part of the year was making Jammy Dodgers to celebrate Jammy Dodger Day and celebrating 100 days of school with a pyjama party! I would say that my favourite PBL project was when we discussed WWII."



Rimon



Rimon have had a fantastic year together. One of the highlights was our Zoo PBL project, where we transformed our classroom into a zoo and learnt all about animals. It has been wonderful to welcome new friends to our class and see the children build such warm and welcoming friendships. We are so proud of how much everyone has grown socially, showing confidence, kindness and teamwork throughout the year. I can't wait to be Rimon's class teacher again next year in Chitah! Eli C mentions, "My favourite PBL session was learning about animals, I really liked learning the fun facts like this one: 'An elephant lives in Africa in the Savannah and they are VERY very big!'"

Gefen

Gefen have had a fantastic year together. Some of the highlights included exploring the fascinating world of animals through our Zoo PBL project, creating our special time capsule videos, and using our imaginations to write and create our own fairy tales. Throughout the year, we have seen the children grow in confidence, become more independent, and embrace new challenges with enthusiasm. Nina says, "My favourite part about coming to school is getting on the transport because then I can chill. And once I get into the classroom I like sitting down and then chill. I really like art, stuff like sketching and next year I am excited to learn new things, I'll be in Year 4!"



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Zayit/Seorah

Zayit and Seorah have had an amazing year together. We have learnt so much, and especially enjoyed our projects focusing on polar and wetland habitats and creating our own medieval stories. It has been great seeing the children develop their social skills especially and getting to know our new friends this term! Seth says, "I loved learning and the OT room and playing with Sonic", whilst Leora says, "I loved learning about beavers and visiting a wetland."

Gesher's Got Talent



Gesher's Got Talent is ALWAYS a highlight of the school calendar, and this year was no exception, with 19 primary and secondary students taking to the stage!

Singing, dancing, hula-hooping, magic tricks, jokes, navigation skills, acting, and everything in between, our students proved that talent comes in every shape and size. In front of friends, families and teachers, each student was a STAR.

Every act was a testament to hours of practice and passion, and every student deserves huge credit for having the courage to get up on stage (which is no small feat)!



Our performers showed real confidence and resilience, and they should be proud of every second of effort that went into their performances.

But on-stage-stars were only half the story. Behind the scenes, our secondary tech crew worked tirelessly to keep the whole show running like clockwork. A massive thank-you to them for their hard work and dedication.

A big thank you to all the parents, staff and students for being so supportive of the performers. It was a wonderful atmosphere and a huge display of Gesher spirit!

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Conversation Corner

Primary

Would you rather read one giant book, or ten short books?
What would be your dream classroom pet?

Secondary

Would you rather invent a new school sport, or a new school subject?
Would you rather never have homework again, or never have exams again?

ADVAIT'S ANGLE!

The overnighter wasn't so bad after all! Luckily it was just before my birthday! And we had a big party for me! We had a huge game of hide and seek, and we had a joke contest which I judged! We had a big water fight, and we had pizza for dinner! The following day we went to Maths World!

Yesterday was the Chesed Graduation. I feel bad for them because they're leaving the school! I wish them well on their next journey. The graduation was wonderful for both year 6 and year 11!

Today is the big day for Gesh-er's Got Talent. I will review this for you next time. The end!

Enjoy the next edition of THE EXPLOSION ROCKSTARS!!!



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Staff News

Hellos

We are thrilled to welcome **Miss Rowan** back from maternity leave. She will be returning to school in September, and we are very much looking forward to having her back as part of our team and we know that many of our children and families will be delighted to see her again.

We have a number of **new staff** starting with us in September so watch out for the Meet the Team in September for introductions!

Goodbyes

This term, we say a fond farewell to **Mr Ricky**, who has been part of Gesher since the very beginning. As one of the founding members of our team, he has played a vital role in helping to shape our school over the years. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and hard work, and on behalf of everyone at Gesher, we would like to thank Mr Ricky for all he has done and wish him every success, happiness, and good health for the future.

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to **Miss Ciara**. She has decided to take a career break to spend more time with her young children. We would like to thank Miss Ciara for her dedication and the positive impact she has made on our school community, particularly in developing the self-care, handwriting and fine motor skills of our students. Through her implementation of sensory strategies and targeted blocks of therapy, she has helped many children become more regulated, independent, focused, and ready to learn. Her care, expertise, and commitment have made a lasting difference to the students and families she has supported.

Legacy Volunteering



These pieces will continue to be here for many years to come and the students should be so proud of the pop of colour they are adding to the Gesher walls.



Our students have spent the summer term in Expressive Arts classes planning, preparing and painting our 'Brilliant Brains' mural, as well as taking part in elevating our gardens with painted pots and planting fresh flowers. Many of the wooden planters were starting to look tired. The students sanded them down and gave them a fresh coat of paint.



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Parent Teacher Community (PTC)

Leadership Roles in the PTC

We are thrilled to announce that from September, Sinead Mydat will be the new chair of the PTC. Sinead is a mum of twins - one at Sinai school and Lennon who started at Gesher in January in Rimon class. Sinead has youth work and event planning experience through her part time job at a synagogue. If you were lucky enough to sample her cakes at the fete you will know she is an accomplished baker with her own baking business.

Lucy and Stacey will still be a part of the PTC and support Sinead in her role. Ideally we would like a secondary school representative to either be co-chair or vice-chair alongside Sinead.

Your role will include the below responsibilities:

- Fundraising – Organise and oversee events & projects which bring the school community together whilst raising funds to benefit our children and Gesher
- Promoting the Parent Community – Managing the whole school WhatsApp group and Collaborate with parent class representatives to foster a sense of community among parents. Facilitate in-person gatherings for parents whenever possible to strengthen relationships
- Welcoming New Families – We would like all families to immediately feel they belong to our community and can seek advice and guidance from other parents. Organise welcome gifts and serve as a point of contact for families seeking advice and guidance from other parents
- Regular meetings with the Gesher PTC representative, Victoria Rutter (Head of Therapies) – Promoting positive communication and being a conduit to share questions, ideas, and feedback from the parent body during these meetings
- To support in school Chagim events – Provide assistance and leadership in organising and supporting in-school Chagim events to enhance community engagement.

If you have questions about the positions, would like to become a general PTC member or would just like more information, [please feel free to reach out Lucy and Stacey here.](#)

External Professional Support Services

Norwood

Norwood provides a range of early intervention groups and services and specialist help and advice to neurodiverse children and their families.

They provide a range of group and individual support to provide parents and grandparents with the skills and resilience to manage difficult circumstances and meet the needs of their children. They also have a range of groups and courses for families.

[Click here to find out more about Norwood's services.](#)