

THE GESHER GAZETTE

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11th September 2026

WE ARE BACK!

We are back again! It was so wonderful to see all of our students last week as we came back from the summer break. It has been great hearing of all the fun trips our students had over the holidays and we do hope everyone had a busy and enjoyable time.

A warm welcome to all our new students and parents as we have had **SEVEN** new students, and **SEVEN** new staff start with us this school year. The students are already getting settled into their new classes and are adapting well to the new classrooms, and new faces.

Over the break we received some fantastic news from the students that sat GCSE's, Functional and Entry Level Qualifications and we could not be more proud of our students! Both students that sat the GCSE exams received passing grades for English and Maths. From the Functional Skills, six of our students received passing grades. For Entry Level Maths, English and Science all students who entered either passed or received entry level 2. Whilst we miss our graduating class dearly, we are so encouraged by this news and look forward to these offerings for our next graduates. It has also been wonderful to hear how our graduating class from last year is settling into their new schools and colleges and we look forward to hearing more as the school year goes on.

We are looking forward to a terrific year!



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Rosh Hashanah



To celebrate Rosh Hashanah (Jewish new year) the Primary and KS3 students couldn't 'bee-lieve' it knowing they were going to see real live Bees (in an enclosed hive). Throughout the Rosh 'Ho-sha-ney' workshop, the students were 'buzzing' to learn all about bees and how they make honey. They had to try to find the Queen bee, take a 'poll-on' which type of beeswax they liked the smell of and thought it was 'sweet' to try on the bee-keeping hat with netting. The students 'beehived' beautifully, shared a lot of their previous knowledge, asked some great questions and were given jars of fresh honey to taste and compare to Tesco honey.



This period of time is such a wonderful and important time in our school calendar, and there are so many different ways for our students to get involved to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. Alongside the Bee Workshop, we have had a range of different activities throughout this school week. Every morning, Mr Bradley blew the Shofar to wake us up spiritually and mentally and get us ready for the upcoming Chagim (Jewish festivals), with some students also giving it a try and succeeding. Miss Abigail came into some primary classes to make Rosh Hashanah cards and we had lots of fun doing Kahoot quizzes about the upcoming chagim. It has been wonderful hearing how much our students know about the different upcoming festivals and even teaching some of our non-Jewish staff about the importance and rituals of the festivals, including Leora, who taught us that "Rosh Hashanah is the start of the new year! We eat apples and honey!"

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova U'Metukah (A happy and sweet year).

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Kodesh Corner

A new academic year, a new Jewish year, but is it the same old us? Looking at the students, that is not the case. It is wonderful to see how much they have grown and matured, physically and mentally after 6 weeks away. They have a new sense of self with a positive mindset, an enhanced focus in their learning and a greater desire to challenge and stretch themselves. Of course it is only early days for them but the seeds seem to be sown and the signs look positive. Wouldn't it be great if we all had the opportunity of starting afresh like our children do every academic year, with new aspirations, new goals and new ideas. Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish new year) is that opportunity! The Emeritus Chief Rabbi Sacks (z'l - in blessed memory) once said "We cannot change the past, but we can change the future by what we do in the present." So, let us take this special weekend, the following days until Yom Kippur (day of Judgement) and even beyond (!) as an opportunity to reflect on our past actions, inspire us into positive daily actions and influence Hashem (God) - Our Creator, Our Father, Our King - to bless us all with a year filled with tremendous Bracha (blessing), Simcha (Happiness), Refuah (Health), Hatzlacha (Luck) and Nachus (Pride from children).

Wishing you all a Shabbat Shalom (Peaceful Shabbat), Shana Tova U'Metukah (A Happy and sweet new year) and G'Mar Chatimah Tova (May we all be inscribed in the book of life).

Mazal Tov

Wishing Mazal Tov to Jacob, Dina and Ben Gilbert on their recent Bar-mitzvah and hope they had had a wonderful simcha (celebration). We wish Jacob tremendous Bracha (blessing), Simcha (happiness), and Hatzlacha (luck) in his Jewish adult life and may he continue to go from strength to strength.

From the Media Team

At the end of the month, we will be rolling out our brand new website! There should not be any downtime throughout this process, but some information may be out-of-date through this time. Please bear with us over the next few weeks as we phase out our current website as we turn our attention to the new website.

Conversation Corner

Mystery Sound

Make a sound without showing the object that made the sound. Can everyone guess?

Great for listening and describing!

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ADVAIT'S ANGLE!

Hello, it's Advait again!!

Welcome to another year of Gesher. I had a great summer going to India with my family. My favourite part of the trip was going to my grandparents' house. I hope you all had a good summer too.

This year I am looking forward to getting to know the new students. I am also excited to continue creating my 'Explosion Rockstars' comic. The new football pitch is nearly ready to use, which will also be great to practice on. It is going to take some time to get used to the new layout of classrooms, so hopefully I won't walk into Keren too much! Ha Ha. I will keep you updated on how the year is going.

Enjoy my new comic.

Advait

EXPLOSION ROCKSTARS - PETEY THE SNEAKY



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Staff News

We have LOTS of news to share as we come back to school, with many new staff joining us. For more information on all our staff, [please read our Meet the Team doc here!](#)

Hellos

A massive welcome back to **Miss Danielle** (Conroy) who is now a co-tutor for our Keren form class. Miss Danielle did some volunteering with us last year so it is wonderful to have her back in class and building on the positive relationships she has already built.

We are thrilled to welcome **Miss Hannah** to our Speech and Language Therapy team. She will be with us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Hannah is really looking forward to getting to know the students and parents over the coming months.

A warm welcome to **Miss Safa** who is co-teaching in Malchut class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until Miss Emily goes on her maternity leave in December, when she will take over the class full time. Miss Safa has experience teaching in primary and SEN settings and has a particular passion for supporting children with SEND.

A huge welcome to **Miss Daria**, who is in our Tamar class. Miss Daria brings over six years of experience working with young people, including five as a fully qualified teacher. Say hello if you spot her in the corridors!

A big welcome to **Miss Livvy** who is one of our TA's in Keren class. Miss Livvy has previously completed a Psychology Degree and she is already having a positive impact on the students as they navigate their first year of secondary school.

A warm welcome to **Miss Jaya** joining us as a Teaching Assistant in Tiferet class. Miss Jaya holds a Bachelor of Education degree from India, and is excited to bring her skills to support our pupils. We're so pleased to have her with us!

Miss Dayna started with us at the end of the last school year in our Office Manager role. Keep an eye out for emails from her as she will be the friendly face keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. Please make sure to say hello and give her a warm Geshet welcome when you're passing through the school!

Goodbyes (for now)

The biggest and best wishes for **Miss Bella** as she heads off on Maternity leave as of next week! We can't wait to meet her little one and look forward to welcoming her back to school next year.