



Faith Week: Judaism Exploration of Faith at LJFS



LJFS NEWSLETTER

DEC 2025

Announcements

Return to school

TUESDAY 6TH JAN 2026

We look forward to seeing you all!

National Qualification in
Senior Leadership

MR. JAGGER & MR. SINGH

Huge congratulations to these two
members of staff who have
successfully completed their NPOSL

“כִּי נֵר מְצֹוֹה וְתוֹרָה אֹר”

For the commandment is a lamp, and the Torah is light.”

(Proverbs 6:23)

This verse reminds us that just as Chanukah lights brighten the darkness, so too do our children’s learning and good deeds bring light to the world

Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights, celebrating the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days in the Temple. Each night, we light the menorah to bring light into our homes and remember the importance of faith and hope. It’s a time for families to come together, share traditions, and spread kindness and joy

One Day, One City, One Cause – Let’s Do This!”

On Friday 13th February, schools and organisations across Leeds will unite for a day of fun and fundraising in support of the Lord Mayor’s Charity. This year’s chosen charity is Leeds Mencap, an incredible organisation that works tirelessly to support children and young people with learning disabilities, autism, and additional needs—helping them feel valued, supported, and equipped to thrive.

The theme for this year is “Come Together”, and we’re already brainstorming creative ways to make the day memorable for everyone. From sponsored walks and non-uniform days to bake sales, there are endless possibilities to get involved. Our goal is to celebrate community spirit with the whole LJFS Family, while raising awareness and funds for such an important cause.

We’ll be sharing more details soon, so keep an eye out for updates! In the meantime, if you’d like to support the campaign, you can donate directly to the Lord Mayor’s Charity Appeal via JustGiving or join us in planning activities. Let’s make this a day to remember and show how much we care about making a difference in our city.



13TH FEB

2026

Just One Day!





The Hub Innovators: Learning, Leading, Succeeding

The students in the Hub have been working extremely hard, with this terms focus being around Positive Thinking and The Power of Yet. They have been working together to run their tuckshop on a Friday, expertly managed by Marcel with Mr Martin on crowd control. The Hub students have become so much more confident and are all showing such progress in their independence skills, accessing a new enriched, spiral curriculum enhancing their learning experience both in the classroom and the wider community.

Electrifying Experiments Bring Physics to Life!

Recently, our Year 10 Higher Physics group explored the fascinating world of static electricity with Mr Martin. During the lesson, the Van de Graaff generator provided plenty of excitement—and a few surprises! The students thought Mrs Smith would enjoy joining in the fun, and she bravely took part, experiencing a little shock herself. It was a memorable moment that brought science to life and plenty of smiles to the classroom!



Student Voice: Leading Ideas, Shaping Our School!

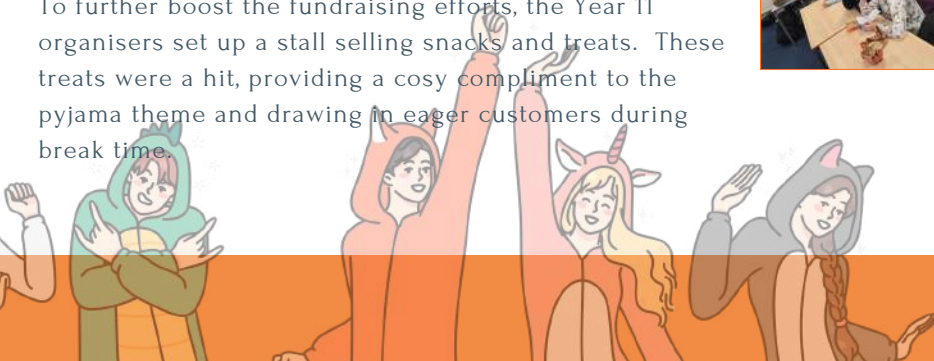


Our Student Voice team, made up of elected representatives from the full student body and organised into sub-groups, has been working hard on exciting fundraising ideas for the school. They've also been engaging in meaningful discussions about important issues such as school behaviour and uniform. The Student Voice is expertly led by Dr. Shaw, whose outstanding efforts in organising meetings and ensuring actions are followed through make a real difference. We are grateful to have such an active and committed Student Voice shaping our school community.

PJ Day for Prom

In a delightful blend of comfort and community spirit, Year 11 students recently organised a Pyjama Day to raise funds for their much-anticipated prom. This creative initiative not only brought a sense of fun and relaxation to the school environment, but also showcased the students' leadership and organisational skills. The event was a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of students and the generous support of the entire school community.

To further boost the fundraising efforts, the Year 11 organisers set up a stall selling snacks and treats. These treats were a hit, providing a cosy compliment to the pyjama theme and drawing in eager customers during break time.



Jewish Life

Jewish Studies – Autumn Term Highlights

(Rabbi Yoel Topp)

This Autumn Term has been an inspiring journey across all year groups, weaving together Jewish identity, values, and learning in ways that are engaging, meaningful, and accessible to every student at LJFS, whether they come in with confidence, curiosity, or complete beginners' eyes.

Across the school, our curriculum this term centred on three core themes found throughout the Jewish tradition: identity, responsibility, and light. Each year group has worked through a structured sequence of units designed to help students grow in their understanding of heritage, character, and spiritual literacy, always at their own level and always with joy.

NEW: Hebrew Reading & Shema Initiative (For former Brodetsky students)

This term I launched a new structured Hebrew reading programme to strengthen fluency and confidence.

We focused on the Shema Prayer, exploring its three paragraphs and their themes:

1. V'ahavta – The Yoke of Heaven:
2. Loving Hashem with heart, soul, and resources; teaching Torah to children; Tefillin; Mezuzah.
3. V'haya Im Shamo'a – The Yoke of Mitzvot:
4. Reward, consequence, responsibility, and the link between our actions and the world around us.
5. Vayomer – Remembrance and Redemption:
6. Tzitzit as a reminder of purpose, and remembering the Exodus.

Students also practised six lines of the second paragraph at home, together with their parents, who recorded their progress proudly. All students who completed their homework and demonstrated accurate reading in class earned between 50–200 Critter Coins, celebrating their hard work and perseverance.

Cultural Capital Across the school

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Throughout the term, students experienced authentic Jewish culture first-hand:

- Handling Tefillin, Mezuzot, and Tzitzit
- Learning how kosher symbols work
- Practising Hebrew reading
- Engaging in partner-learning (chavruta)
- Participating in meaningful Chanukah activities

These experiences helped students build both knowledge and confidence.

Hebrew Aleph-Bet Chavruta Learning (For students new to Jewish Studies)

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For Year 7 students joining LJFS with no previous Jewish Studies background, we introduced a gentle and highly supportive chavruta-style learning model. Chavruta means “learning with a partner” — a traditional Jewish method where two learners sit together, read together, question together, and help each other grow. It builds confidence, teamwork, and authentic engagement.

Together, students learned:

- the Aleph-Bet,
- the sounds of each letter,
- and the numerical value (gematria) of each letter.

Students took real pride in learning brand-new skills and working collaboratively with more experienced peers — once again earning well-deserved Critter Coins for their commitment





Our second Winter Warmer event was a truly memorable celebration of creativity and talent across the school. The afternoon was filled with captivating drama performances, beautiful music, and heartfelt poetry, all presented by our incredibly talented students. The event was compered by students themselves, showcasing confidence and leadership, and highlighted the diverse skills of pupils from every year group. It was a wonderful reminder of the vibrant arts culture at LJFS and the joy of coming together as a community.



We are already looking forward to preparing for our next event in March, which will see our girls take to the stage in a special showcase dedicated just to them!

Ladies NIGHT 2026