

School's farewell to popular teacher

► Dina Rosell

AT A special breakfast in his honour, Hasmonean Boys' School has bid farewell to one of its most popular and long standing teachers. Mr. Nochum Ordman was recently the recipient of Physics Teacher of the Year for which he was nominated by one of his pupils. He has had a continuous link with Hasmonean for nearly fifty years, apart from two years when he taught at Pardes House.

Dr Lionel Finkelstein, head of physics at Hasmonean, who for many years shared classes with Mr Ordman, told the *Jewish Tribune* that former head teacher at Hasmonean, Rabbi Meir Roberg persuaded Mr Ordman to teach the 6th form which he undertook very successfully until his retirement. "He was a model teacher," Dr Finkelstein said. "The boys were always amazed at the beautifully neat diagrams he created on the blackboard. Torah and science are a good mix and he was the perfect exponent of how that worked."

He added that Mr Ordman invariably

concluded the last five minutes of his physics class with a Dvar Torah, something that was greatly appreciated by his pupils.

Meanwhile, Hasmonean has achieved recognition from SSAT (the 5000 member Schools Network organisation). This means it is considered one of the best schools in the country for both excellent GCSE results and for student progress at GCSE.

The school qualified as one of the top 10% of non-selective schools in England where students gained 5 or more A*-A grades at GCSE.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, said that Hasmonean has proved itself to be one of the best schools in the country at securing superb GCSE outcomes for their students.

"Hasmonean is also one of the best schools in the country at outperforming expectations for their pupils and improving their future prospects. There is plenty that other schools could learn from Hasmonean High School's success," she added.



Boys of Class One at Lubavitch Boys School celebrating their Chumash Seudah together with their Rebbe, Rabbi Dovid Karnowsky.

Three Weeks inspiration at Orah

► Batya Bentley

LADIES from North West London have enthusiastically attended a special programme of Shiurim for the Three Weeks organized by Orah.

Over 150 girls and women filled Bridge Lane

Beis Hamedrash for two talks on Shiva Ossor b'Tammuz. Rabbi Shimon Winegarten dedicated his shiur "Of Good Faith" - about the importance of holding onto emunah in turbulent times - to the memory of Mrs. Hadassah Elkoby, o'h whose last words before her tragic passing were "Moshe emes v'etrahso emes". Even in one's last moment,

she held onto her strong emunah to vanquish the yetzer hora that continuously seeks to plant ideas of heresy.

As a fast day is a time for repentance, the suffering of Bnei Yisroel in an imperfect world is a call for us to perfect ourselves, to shun the allures of modern society, in order to truly merit the Geulah. Rabbi Malcolm Herman discussed how the essence of *aveilus*, mourning, relates to the word "aval" meaning "but" that negates everything that preceded it. This interrupts the continuum of life by creating a new reality to make life stand still. The opposite of this is *nechama* and "giving comfort" which lifts one to see the full picture. This is the stepping stone to progress in life.

In the first of a 3-part Orah series on *Bein Adam l'Chaveiro*, at Hasmonean Girls School, Rabbi Ilan Halberstadt discussed the law *lo sisna es achicha bilvavecha*, "do not hate your brother in your heart" noting that the Second Beis HaMikdash was destroyed because of *sinas chinam*, baseless hatred. Despite the arguments that are an integral part of Torah learning, the problem is only where disputes become personal. The sin lies in suppressing hatred in one's heart rather than openly airing one's differences in order to arrive at an amicable solution. One should not hate the person who sins, but rather hate the sinful act itself. Despite differences, we cannot forget how all Jews throughout the globe are truly brothers.

Rabbi Arye Forta gave a fascinating presentation of the differences between Rome and Jerusalem. He provided the historical background of the decadent, immoral culture of the Romans and noted their parallels within contemporary society. This contrasts starkly compared to the values of the Jewish Nation that the Romans opposed.

Rabbi Raphy Garson argued passionately for the need to learn to yearn for Moshiach. Earlier generations were content with their minimal possessions and anticipated the impending arrival of the Geulah. The mourning process leading up to Tisha B'Av is in order to build up our feeling of loss which we can do through relating to the recent tragedies of Jewish history in exile. All the violence and hostility against Jews worldwide all emanates from us not having the Beis Hamikdash. Without it, everything is meaningless. The analogy he used was being in a luxurious wedding hall with all fineries where there is only one thing missing - the bride. Who would not cry at this omission?

Further scheduled talks include a discussion about *onaas devorim*, verbal abuse and suppressing *kinah*, enmity, and a talk by Rabbi Shimshon Silkin on Tisha B'Av.

Orah is an exciting new programme for post-seminary girls and women of all ages. It is a communal project of Hasmonean. There is an exciting programme for Elul starting in the first week of September.

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Pardes salutes its graduates

► Brian Gordon

A GRAND Seudas Preidoh was held at Pardes House Grammar School in the presence of parents, governors and Rebbeim for more than 50 talmidim who were leaving to go to yeshiva, having completed their GCSEs and A levels after four or five years at the school. This was an opportunity for talmidim to pay tribute to their Rebbeim and the board of governors and for the Rebbeim to respond with parting words of chizuk and berocho.

The evening began with a Siyum conducted by Elya Hersh on Massechto Succah which he followed with a thought

- provoking pilpul. After a number of boys delivered fine divrei Torah, the Guest Speaker, Rabbi Chaim Ruben from Yeshiva Shaarei Shomayim in Yerushalayim, expressed his delight at the whole atmosphere. He said it was a tremendous Kiddush Shem Shomayim and thanked the speakers. He commented on the exceptionally high calibre of the talmidim and their divrei Torah.

The Menahel, Rabbi Dovid Dunner, closed the proceedings and thanked the speakers. He impressed upon the boys the importance of time, urging them to utilise every moment in Yeshiva to the full.