

Kodesh at Hasmonean Girls' School

By Tamar Neville - Head Girl 2017

The Kodesh department at Hasmonean is incredible, providing opportunities for girls both within and outside the classroom. We love what we learn, and we are taught to translate it into our everyday lives, and to always seek to make a Kiddush Hashem.

A highlight of the Hasmonean Midrasha programme is the Chabura lessons. These small classes of girls all learning according to their personal ability and style. It is a unique opportunity, allowing girls to learn at all levels and get the most out of their Kodesh learning. Chabura is complemented by many other Kodesh lessons, such as Halacha and Hashkafa, as well as classes on more specialised topics which students can choose between. This results in a broad and inclusive Midrasha programme, which allows everyone to thrive.

Within the Jewish community, we are constantly encouraged to give our time to others, with volunteering opportunities being presented to students in all years. GIFT organise lunchtime activities for girls in the lower school. The Yoni Jesner Volunteers programme for Year 8 students' awards girls for time spent volunteering. So, if anyone here has a particular talent or interest that they want to put to use in a charitable way there are plenty of opportunities!

I have always enjoyed chatting to old people and hearing about their life experiences. As a result of the volunteers' fair organised by the school, I visited residents at Jewish Care who had dementia. I helped them write 'memory' books and so got the opportunity to hear all about their lives, backgrounds and families. This was such a fascinating as well as enriching experience.

We are constantly bringing our Kodesh learning into our everyday lives, exemplified by the Bat Mitzvah Dinner in Year 7. A year of Bat Mitzvah lessons culminate in this fantastic dinner, where girls celebrate this momentous occasion together with family and friends.

In order to understand the realities of being a religious Jew within a medical profession, the sixth form organised for a prominent doctor in the community to come to the school. He shared his experiences with us, and demonstrated the role of Torah in our everyday lives.

In both a formal and informal setting, the Kodesh learning at Hasmonean enriches students, and teaches us how to conduct ourselves on a day-to-day basis. The school embraces the motto of Torah Im Derech Eretz, and I know that the knowledge and enthusiasm I have learnt from my Hasmonean Jewish education will stay with me long after I leave the school.