



Jewish Studies Teacher

Required for September 2023

MPS/UPS Fringe

Thank you for your interest in applying to Yavneh College. Below is some information about the post and the school which we hope is helpful. We also enclose a prospectus and application form. Please note that applications cannot be considered unless the application form is completed in full. The completed application form should be returned to the Executive Headteacher, together with a letter of application. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss the post with Mr B Gordon, Head of Jewish Studies, please contact pa@yavnehcollege.org.

The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. The selection process includes scrutiny of the information provided in the completed application form, taking up references, observation of a taught lesson and an interview. If you are shortlisted for interview, please bring evidence of your relevant qualifications. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

Applicants who do not have QTS must be graduates who are prepared to pursue a course of teacher training. The salary for an unqualified teacher depends on prior relevant experience and qualifications.

General information about the school

Yavneh College is located adjacent to the Elstree Film and Television Studios in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. The town of Borehamwood lies within Green Belt countryside on the outskirts of north London. Borehamwood and Elstree Station, 10 minutes' walk from the school, provides a fast and frequent train service south to Central London and north to St Albans and Luton. The main bus station for Borehamwood is a three-minute walk from the school and provides services to the local Hertfordshire towns and north London suburbs.

The appointment of a very experienced and successful Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff has meant that the school has enjoyed a reputation for excellence from its inception. Children of staff receive priority for admission to the school (full details are available in the admission section of the school website).



Our most recent Ofsted inspection graded Yavneh College as 'Outstanding'. The full report is available on our website www.yavnehcollege.org.

As a comprehensive school, we are committed to all of our pupils realising their full academic potential. We believe that this is best achieved by teaching pupils in sets rather than in streams, bands or mixed ability groups. Lower ability pupils are taught in smaller sets and are supported by learning support assistants.

As a Jewish faith school, our aim is to produce young people who are confident about their identity as members of the Jewish community and of wider British society, and well equipped with the academic qualifications and wider key skills necessary. The school day finishes at 1.30pm on Fridays. For a number of weeks during the winter months, school finishes at 1.10pm on Fridays. The school day starts at 8.30am and ends at 4pm on Mondays to Thursdays. We have the same number of days' holiday as other state schools, but our holiday dates can be different if Jewish festivals coincide with the school term.

Extracurricular activities are very important at Yavneh College and pupils are encouraged to partake in a range of wider experiences. As well as sports, fixtures, whole-school productions, theatre trips etc, we timetable more than 60 extracurricular activities into the school day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays as a 55-minute slot (the 'Enrichment Programme') for all KS3 pupils, immediately after lunch. KS4 pupils participate in an enrichment on a Wednesday every week. Enrichment activities are delivered by the teaching staff and are included when calculating teachers' contact time.

Every teaching room in the school is equipped with a ceiling-mounted data projector connected to a computer, DVD player, speakers and visualiser. Some classrooms are also equipped with an interactive whiteboard. Trolleys of laptops are available for pupils' use.

We actively encourage all of our pupils to develop their independent learning skills regardless of age or ability and support the use of interactive teaching approaches which aim to maximize learning potential. The department adopts a rigorous approach to the monitoring and assessment of pupil progress and target setting is specifically focused at ensuring all pupils are given the opportunity to improve their achievement.

We hope that this provides you with all that you need to know in order to decide whether you wish to apply. If, however, there is anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Headteacher via his PA. He will be pleased to answer your queries.



The Jewish Studies Department

The department occupies a suite of five large classrooms, each well equipped with storage for books and other resources.

Our beautiful synagogue, Ohel Avrohom, seats 180 and is used by the school on a daily basis for *Shacharit* and *Mincha*. It is also used by Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue on *Shabbatot* and *Chagim* for satellite services. We are very fortunate that within our synagogue we have incorporated a £10,000 *Beit Midrash* which is made up of carefully selected *sefarim* to enhance the resources of the school.

Every teaching room in the school is equipped with a ceiling-mounted data projector connected to a computer, DVD player, speakers, wireless network and visualiser. For those heads of department that request them, interactive whiteboards are also installed. Trolleys of laptops are available for pupils' use. Every department is fully stocked with all necessary equipment, text books and software. The school's large Learning Resource Centre contains a fine reference library serving the JS Department.

Applicants must be motivated to working within the parameters of Yavneh College's modern orthodox Jewish ethos. Applicants will be expected to act as a *dugma ishit* from a modern orthodox perspective.

The JS Department is responsible for:

- Organising the school's voluntary *Shacharit*, twice-weekly compulsory *Shacharit* and daily compulsory *Mincha* services.
- Delivering the Jewish Studies curriculum, differentiated according to pupils' age and ability.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to learn about other faiths, including inviting in suitable guest speakers.
- Preparing pupils for relevant GCSE and A level qualifications.
- Delivering a programme of Informal Jewish Education events and collaborating with the school's Modern Hebrew teachers on Israel-based events.



- Delivering the BMT (*Bet Midrash Track*) Programme to Sixth Form students in order to prepare them for Yeshiva and Seminaries.
- Delivering Enrichment Programme activities of a Jewish nature.

Formal Jewish Studies Programme

In KS3, there are eight one-hour lessons of JS per two-week cycle. This is the largest proportion of the timetable devoted to any subject, reflecting the importance that we ascribe to our pupils' Jewish education.

In addition to these lessons, those pupils who join the school with no, or very limited, Hebrew reading/writing skills are provided with 'Catch-up Hebrew' sessions. These sessions last up to 3 hrs per two-week cycle and ensure that by the end of Year 7 all of our pupils have a grasp of textual skills. This is essential, as the JS programme at Yavneh College is largely text-based.

In KS3, the formal JS curriculum is divided into the following elements:

- *Tenach*: 3 hours per two-week cycle
- *Torah Sheba'al Peh*: 2 hours per two-week cycle (N.B. In Year 7, this slot is initially used to ensure that all pupils have a basic Jewish knowledge of *Shabbat*, *Chagim*, etc). In Year 9, this increases to 3 hours per two-week cycle.
- Jewish history: 2 hours per two-week cycle.
- Whole-year group Informal Jewish Education activities for Years 7 & 8: 1 hour per two-week cycle.

The programme of study has been designed to impart both knowledge and textual skills and to enable our pupils to develop an affinity and passion for Torah and Judaism through first-hand experience of sources. For lower sets, although sources are often studied in English to start with, Hebrew is gradually introduced.

In KS4, all pupils study Edexcel iGCSE Religious Studies. The JS Department has its own resources to accompany this excellent course.

In addition, some pupils take part in the KS4 BMT Programme, a non-examination course where pupils continue their study of a mixture of Jewish texts at an advanced level.



The Sixth Form programme consists of the following elements:

- OCR A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion, Religion & Ethics, Scriptures and Development in Jewish Thought. Many of our Sixth Form students choose to study this course.
- All sixth form students participate in our innovative 'Yahadut' course for 2 hours per week, in which they choose from a selection of courses that cover Israel, philosophy, history and leadership combined with textual talks from a variety of guest speakers. We also offer a 'BMT' course for those students intending to spend a period of time studying in a Yeshiva or Seminary after leaving school.
- Students are also required to spend 1 hour per week volunteering in school through a programme called GiveBack where they volunteer in the primary school or mentor younger students.
- A range of extracurricular projects are offered to sixth form students. An Israel ambassador course, informal events for all Chagim and volunteering is encouraged both in and out of school.
- Students are given the opportunity to visit Israel as part of Team Shalva and run in the Jerusalem marathon. They are also offered a chance to go on a Mizrahi Yom Yerushalayim Trip

The Beit Midrash Track

- The Beit Midrash Track (BMT) is an exciting innovation that reflects the school's commitment to developing the passion, knowledge and the textual skills of its pupils. BMT programmes are optional and have been designed to complement the mainstream Jewish Studies lessons which all of our pupils experience. Pupils can sign up to individual aspects of the BMT, for example, a BMT enrichment – and there is no requirement to commit to all aspects of the BMT, although that is of course welcome too.
- The Beit Midrash Track spans across the entire school and offers pupils and students the opportunity to study a wide range of Jewish texts in small groups not only during JS lessons and Enrichments, but also at lunchtimes and after school sessions. The BMT also runs its own pre-school Shacharit Minyan and now offers a weekly 'lunch and learn' session.

Class Lessons

- At KS3, pupils with a strong grounding in Jewish textual learning are given the opportunity to study the Tenach and Talmud courses in very small groups. They are taught by specially employed members of staff.
- These BMT teachers deliver lessons with a very focused emphasis on textual skills and analysis. In essence, they challenge our pupils to 'learn how to learn



a text.' The small class sizes allow the teacher time to learn with each pupil and tailor lessons to meet their specific needs.

- At KS4, pupils are given the opportunity to join a 'Beit Midrash class' which dedicates 2 of its GCSE lessons to intensive textual learning in both Tenach and Talmud.

Informal Jewish Education

Yavneh College is very much a Jewish school, rather than simply a school for Jewish children. This has been achieved largely through delivery of a comprehensive IJE programme:

- Pupils enjoy Sukkot by eating in our own school *sukkah* and designing and constructing one of their own.
- They participate in a *Hoshana Rabbah/Simchat Torah* stations activity.
- Many pupils participate in our charity and *chesed* wing 'Am Echad', which organises numerous charitable activities.
- *Chanukah* is celebrated with a Fair and Fun Day for pupils and a daily *Hadlakat nerot* service with guest speakers.
- All pupils participate in various *Purim* activities including; hearing *Megillat Esther*, participating in a *Seudat Purim* and other fun activities.
- Almost all pupils participate in residential *Shabbatonim* based in Yavneh College.
- All pupils participated in our *Yom Ha'atzmaut* celebrations.
- All Year 7 & 8 pupils celebrate becoming *Bnei Mitzvah* with a large end-of-year *Erev Shabbat Kiddush*.
- All pupils are addressed by a variety of local *Rabbanim* and other guest speakers.

Yavneh College sometimes works with other organisations such as Tribe and Bnei Akiva for these events.

There is a residential trip to Israel in Year 9 and to Poland in Year 12.

We hope that this provides you with all that you need to know in order to decide whether you wish to apply. If, however, there is anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us, we will be pleased to answer your queries.