

# NORTH WEST LONDON DIARY

## Hasmonean submits new school plans to Council

► Dina Rosell

HASMONEAN High School has announced that its plans to move both the boys' and the girls' school to new buildings amid a large area of outdoor space within a secure location have been submitted to Barnet Council.

Originally intended for 350 students, the boys' campus on Holders Hill Road, Hendon is currently accommodating over 600 on a site of only two acres.

The boys' school buildings are in

poor condition, with no room for expansion, while the girls' school buildings also require significant modernisation. Both campuses have very little recreational space, restricting access to sporting provision and outdoor play. The plans submitted to Barnet Council will modernise all the teaching spaces and facilities and provide sufficient outdoor play space.

The new proposals will also provide additional sporting facilities for the local area, including four tennis courts, an all-weather sports pitch and a 'Multi-

Use Games Area' equivalent to an additional three tennis courts. These facilities would be made available for local community use together with changing accommodation, demonstrating the school's wish to be of public benefit. Andrew McClusky, Executive Head Teacher of Hasmonian High School, said that "the plans will dramatically improve the running of the school, and provide our students with classrooms, facilities and play spaces that are fit for modern use.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that

an increasing number of families who wish their children to be educated at Hasmonian will be disappointed in future years unless our proposals are approved.

"Our school plays a major part in our unique local community and teaches many children and young people from the local area. Our plans will help us to continue to be a part of Barnet's success, and deliver the excellent education that has helped generations of Barnet's children to succeed."

## Tribute to Tiferes Yaakov

► Mordechai Ullmann

THE community of North West London took part in a memorable reception this week in aid of one of the longest-established yeshivas in Europe. At the Golders Green home of Mr Shloime Steinberg, scores of alumni and admirers of Yeshivas Tiferes Yaakov, Gateshead came to pay tribute to its Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Ezriel Jaffe and its Hanholo, some of whom had especially travelled to grace the event.

The warmth and enthusiasm with which former talmidim were greeted was a beautiful display of the strong rapport created in the critical teenage years spent at the Yeshiva. The Rabbonim were particularly overjoyed to hear of the numerous graduates who are now Maggidai Shiur and Roshei Chaburos locally and nationally.

In the past few years close to ten Rabbonim have joined the faculty, providing a higher Rebbe-Talmid ratio and thereby allowing each to grow in learning and blossom into outstanding Bnei Torah.

Fulfilling a life-long dream of all connected to the Yeshiva, Tiferes Yaakov has recently begun the process of relocating to the former Swallow Hotel, which is being refurbished to be a suitable Achsanya Shel Torah.

The reception created awareness of the financial responsibilities facing the Yeshiva and allowed all to take part in having a share in the support of hundreds of bochorim growing in Torah and Yiras Shomayim.

Its thousands of alumni, who include local and international Rabbonim, Maggidai Shiur and ehrlicher Baalei Batim point to their years in Yeshivas Tiferes Yaakov as the jump-start to a lifelong commitment to Torah.



Rosh Yeshiva Rav Ezriel Jaffe, left, with Maggid Shiur Rav Avrohom Osher Cohen (centre) and a supporter at last Sunday's reception

## Rebbetzins share ideas

THE Federation arranged a mini-conference for its Rebbetzins bringing together some 25 ladies from a diverse range of shuls for a Sunday morning of *chizuk* and practical guidance.

Held at the beautiful Chai Cancer Care centre in Hendon, the conference focused on the theme of *Me, My Family, My Kehillah*, examining the challenges that the Rebbetzins handle on a daily basis in each of these three spheres, and the ripple effect that the experiences in one sphere will have on the others.

The morning opened with *divrei Pesicha* from Rebbetzin Rena Lichtenstein who touched upon the many diverse roles played by a Rebbetzin in serving both her husband, children and the wider community. Indeed, the first session, led by Mrs Chaya Spitz, Chief Executive of Interlink, addressed the subject of *Red Lines and Guiding Principles*. Mrs Spitz provided the Rebbetzins with a refreshing new perspective on juggling a busy lifestyle in a different sector altogether. For the second

session, Rebbetzins Lopian (formerly of Edgware Yeshurun), Knopfler (Sinai) and Fine (formerly of Southgate) came together as a panel to discuss the challenges of raising a family while serving a *kehillah*. They were ably chaired by Rebbetzin Yael Hamer of Finchley Central. For the final session of the day, Dr Veronique Berman and Mrs Carolyn Cohen of Chana gave the Rebbetzins a comprehensive overview of the charity's work and answered a range of questions.

The morning ended with a buffet lunch and a tour of the Chai centre led by the organisation's chair Mrs Louise Hager. Rabbi Dovid Roberts, the Federation's Director of Education, who spearheaded the conference, was on hand during lunch to speak to the Rebbetzins about their ideas for future programmes.

Rebbetzin Knopfler commented: "It was an uplifting and educational morning, and very important for the Rebbetzins to exchange ideas and learn from each other."

### CHARITY BRIEFS

#### NORWOOD

CELEBRITY judge Robert Rinder paid tribute to Norwood at their annual dinner in Central London. Praising the Stanmore-based charity, he said: "Norwood is an extraordinary charity in every sense. If you really want to understand what a charity does at its absolute best, it's personified in Norwood. The thing about Norwood is that once you realise what services they provide, and once you realise what they do, and how they get young people involved, you become a part of the Norwood Family for life. It represents the best of the Jewish community in every meaningful sense. It's a charity that we can be incredibly proud of. And that's why I love it."

Almost a thousand guests at the Grosvenor House Hotel helped to raise £2.75m for the

UK's largest Jewish children's, family and learning disability charity.

The charity also launched its annual campaign – which demonstrates how Norwood supports people to go above and beyond that which others believed possible, and to achieve their 'personal best'.

Speaking at the event, Norwood's Joint President Lady Nicola Mendelsohn CBE said: "Personal best – this year's theme – is about ripping to pieces the limitations that others place on you. It's about hearing 'you'll never be able to do that', then going right ahead and doing it ... and doing it well. It's the common thread that runs through every part of this charity, day in, day out."

Norwood Chief Executive Elaine Kerr, said that the money raised from the event "will do a tremendous amount of good".