



Press Release: PaJeS Heads Residential Seminar 28/29 November 2016

Last week, PaJeS held its second residential seminar for Head Teachers at Hunton Park in Hertfordshire. Thirty one head teachers came together from both primary and secondary Jewish Schools and came from as far afield as Calderwood Lodge Primary School in Glasgow. The seminar was a great opportunity to get head teachers together in an informal atmosphere and there was a lively buzz of conversation throughout the event.

The session started on Monday evening with an opportunity for working parties, set up at the last seminar, to update and report back on initiatives that they had been working on. These included important topics such as Mental Health and Well-being and succession planning in schools. There was also the chance for PaJeS to update the heads with current plans including details of the new MAT scheme. Over dinner, short talks were given by three Heads on the subjects of 'Changing Times', 'British Values in a Charedi Context' and 'Vocational Routes'. These were all very well received with the general consensus from all participants, that it was "very interesting to hear what other heads were implementing in their schools and was a great way to share good practice".

The next day, saw interesting talks on a variety of subjects which included, 'Benchmarking your school's budget against publicly available data' by Michael Glass, 'The Seven Propositions of Leadership' by John West Burnham and 'Vision for leading a Jewish School' by Rabbi Dr Rafi Zarum. One head teacher, found the last session very useful and said, "As a non-Jewish Head, this affirmed my vision and understanding". Another head teacher, found the same talk to be "inspirational".

The seminar ended with an update on future events and a feedback session. It was evident how much head teachers enjoyed meeting their counterparts from other schools and sharing their experiences and understandings. One participant described the event as "extremely useful, especially the opportunity to meet other head teachers", whilst another found it "a rare opportunity to network and share current challenges and successes". Many suggestions were put forward for future topics.

The next PaJeS event for head teachers will take place on 8th March 2017 and will be a session with Martin Post, Regional Schools Commissioner for North-West London and South-Central England and former headmaster of Watford Grammar School for Boys. For further information, please contact office@pajes.org.uk

PaJeS is a cross-communal educational organisation providing support, services and strategy to Jewish schools across the UK.

PaJeS is a division of the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC).