



קשר KESHER

Friday 8 May 2026
כ"א באייר תשפ"ו

פרשת בהר-בחקתי

Study Smarter, Not Harder: High-Impact Strategies to ace your SATs & Exams

Shoshi Vorchheimer, Director of Teaching and Learning

As SATs and exam season approaches, starting on the 12th of June, it's worth pausing, not to study harder, but to study smarter. Many students who feel they "have a bad memory" are often using study methods that unintentionally work against them. The good news is that small changes in how you revise can make a significant difference to how much you actually remember.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that familiar methods equal effective learning. Rereading notes and highlighting, for example, feel productive, but they rank just 2 out of 10 for effectiveness. These strategies create an illusion of understanding because the material looks familiar, but they don't force the brain to retrieve information independently. Similarly, watching videos or recorded lessons (3/10) is largely passive. It's easy to follow along without truly processing or retaining the content.

So what does work?

At the top of the list are strategies that actively challenge your brain to recall information. Spaced repetition (10/10) is one of the most powerful: revisiting material over increasing intervals (day 1, 3, 7, 14, etc.) strengthens memory and combats forgetting. Alongside this, mock exams (10/10) are invaluable. They not only test knowledge but also build familiarity with exam conditions, reducing anxiety and improving performance under pressure.

Closely behind is active recall (9/10), a simple but highly effective approach. This means closing your notes and testing yourself regularly. If you can't retrieve the information, you don't yet know it well enough. Similarly, the Feynman Technique (9/10), explaining a concept in simple terms, (think teaching your parents that challenging Maths formula, or teaching your dog about Respiration for your Science test), quickly exposes gaps in understanding. If you stumble, that's exactly where your revision needs to focus.

There are also several strong supporting strategies. Pre-studying (8/10), briefly reviewing material before it's taught, helps your brain absorb new information more effectively during lessons.

פרשת בהר-בחקתי

Shabbat Times 

Light candles 5:07pm

Shabbat ends 6:05pm

Study Smarter, Not Harder: High-Impact Strategies to ace your SATs & Exams, contd...

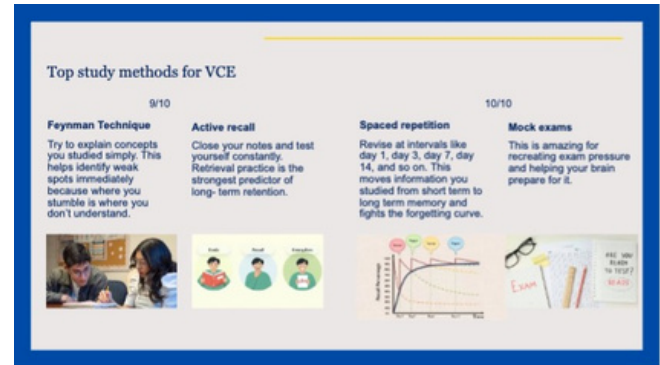
The Pomodoro Technique (8/10), which involves focused study bursts followed by short breaks, can improve concentration and prevent burnout.

Other methods sit in the middle. Mnemonics (7/10) and brain dumping (7/10) are useful for memorising and retrieving information, particularly for lists or key ideas. Flashcards (6/10) can help if used actively (testing yourself rather than just reading them), while summarising (5/10) is only effective if done from memory, not copied from notes.

Finally, some habits may feel helpful but offer limited benefit. Studying with music (4/10) can be fine for light review, but it's not ideal when learning new or complex material.

The key takeaway is simple: if you want to improve your memory, you need to use it. The most effective strategies are those that make your brain work, retrieving, explaining, and applying knowledge, not just recognising it.

As exams approach on the 12th of June, encourage students to shift their focus from passive review to active practice. It's not about how long you study, but how effectively you engage your brain in the process.



Shoshi Vorchheimer,
Director of Teaching and Learning



Welcoming Dr Tal Becker

Tanya Shaltiel, *Yavneh Foundation Executive Director*

It was a true privilege to welcome back Dr Tal Becker (Class of 1989), one of Yavneh's most distinguished alumni and a leading voice in international law, diplomacy and contemporary Jewish thought.

Now Vice President of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Dr Becker has served as Legal Adviser to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented Israel at the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, and played a key role in negotiating and drafting the Abraham Accords.

We were honoured to invite Foundation Members to join us at the student assembly opened by Avi Gilboa, former College Chair and close friend of Dr Becker, whose introduction added such a personal and meaningful touch.

In an open and warm conversation with Joel Burnie (Executive Manager, AIJAC), Dr Becker reflected on his journey from Yavneh student to global leader, sharing both personal insights and profound reflections on Jewish identity in today's world.

He spoke candidly about the challenges facing the Jewish people in the wake of October 7. Drawing on Jewish history, he encouraged students to see themselves not just as inheritors of the past, but as active participants in shaping the future. "We are not just storytellers," he shared, "we are story bearers."

He urged students to recognise that they are part of a 3,500-year-old Jewish story, one rich, complex and enduring and that with this comes both responsibility and privilege. Through education, community and shared purpose, they have the tools to write the next chapter.

Leibler Yavneh College is grateful to AIJAC for this opportunity.



What's new in the Shorashim room!

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre

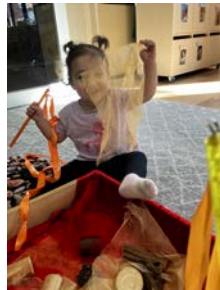
Over the past few weeks in the Shorashim room, we have been enjoying a colourful and engaging learning experience! Since returning from the Pesach break, our focus has been on exploring colours, with the children being introduced to one new colour each week.

We began this journey in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut by learning about the colour blue. The room was transformed into a blue-themed space, filled with blue toys, arts and crafts, playdough, and sensory activities. This immersive approach allowed the children to experience the colour in a fun and meaningful way.

Following this, we moved on to the colour green, and then continued our learning with yellow and red in celebration of Lag Ba'Omer. Each week, the room has been thoughtfully themed to reflect the focus colour, encouraging hands-on exploration through a variety of sensory-rich activities.

As part of this learning, the children have been introduced to the names of the colours in both English and Hebrew, as well as the AUSLAN signs for each colour. It has been so special to see the children's language skills beginning to flourish, with many confidently starting to say and recognise the different colour names.

We will continue this exciting exploration for another week, incorporating new sensory experiences and colour-themed activities. It has been a joy to watch the children learn, engage, and express themselves in such a vibrant and meaningful way!



An exciting week in the Garinim room!

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre

What an exciting week we've had in the Garinim room as we prepared for Lag Ba'Omer! The children were fully immersed in hands-on, creative learning experiences that brought the Chag to life in meaningful and developmentally enriching ways.

A particularly exciting moment was our visit from real firefighters and their fire engine! This provided the perfect opportunity to deepen our understanding of fire safety. The children were excited to try on fire jackets and even sit inside the fire truck. It was an incredible and memorable experience for everyone!

On Wednesday, we united in joy with the entire ELC around the medurah (bonfire). It was so special to be joined by the Hesder boys and Rav Cowen from the big school, and Rabbi Epstein from Mizrahi, along with the exciting visit of the senior kinder children.

We began with tefillah, sang songs we had practiced over the weeks, the Hesder boys taught us all a song called "Ivdu et Hashem B'Simcha" and then we danced joyfully around the medurah.

Year 2 - History of Technology

Morah Sonia and Mrs Crothers, Primary General Studies

The Year 2 students have been having a great time exploring their Unit of Inquiry, History of Technology. They've loved bringing in items from home and discovering how technology has changed over time. There was lots of excitement as students searched for interesting pieces to share and they really enjoyed showing and talking about their finds with their classmates. It's been a fun, hands-on way to spark curiosity and learn about how things have evolved over the years.



Celebrating Lag BaOmer



Year 5 Ukulele Update

Sarah Finch, Music And Primary Jewish Studies

The Year 5 students have been making steady progress in their weekly ukulele lessons. Over the past few weeks, the focus has been on building a solid foundation of chords and learning how to apply them to familiar music.

The students are currently practicing a variety of chords that allow them to play along with several popular songs. It has been encouraging to see their technical ability improve as they become more comfortable with the instrument. They are working on moving between finger positions with more fluidity, and there is a noticeable increase in the speed and confidence with which they can follow a piece of music.

The class has shown a high level of interest, and it is great to see them enjoying the process of learning a new instrument. As their proficiency grows, we will continue to introduce new songs and more complex strumming patterns. It is rewarding to observe the students' dedication to their weekly practice and the tangible improvement in their playing as a result.



Jewish Studies update

Haya Epstein, Primary Jewish Studies

On Lag Ba'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer, the plague that claimed the lives of thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students came to an end. Our tradition teaches that this tragedy occurred because they did not treat one another with proper respect. The cessation of the plague is therefore marked by joy and celebration, highlighting the importance of kindness, unity, and respect for others.

On this special day, weddings, haircuts, and celebrations are permitted. Communities gather in the evening to sing, dance, and light bonfires. These bonfires hold deep meaning: they symbolize the spiritual light and wisdom of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (Rashbi), whose teachings revealed the hidden depths of Torah. Rashbi taught that every individual carries a divine spark, and that through *אהבת* *אֶהְבֶּת* *אֶת* *אֶחָד* (love for one another), this inner light can shine brightly.

The flames of the bonfire remind us that even a small spark can grow into a powerful source of warmth and illumination. In the same way, acts of kindness and respect strengthen our community and bring people together.

Our Year 5 students have been exploring the life and teachings of Rashbi. They created thoughtful PowerPoint presentations to showcase their learning and expressed the theme of unity by designing beautiful bonfires using their hands as flames - demonstrating how each individual contributes to a greater whole. Year 2 also created their own bonfires with tea lights, cups and tissue paper to recreate the bonfires that are lit in Meron on Lag Ba'Omer.

אֶהְבֶּת *לְרֵעֶךָ* *כְּמוֹךָ* - "Love your fellow as yourself" - is a central teaching connected to this time. Through Rashbi's message and the symbolism of the bonfire, we are reminded that respect, kindness, and chessed are the true sources of light in our world.



Pesach Sheini and Lag BaOmer with Primary JLife

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

Last Friday, Pesach Sheini, students entered the Nagle Gate and could come and participate in a throw your Matzah Balls into the chicken soup challenge. Students had 2 chances at a time – in theme with Pesach Sheini’s message – there is always a second chance! Students who were successful with the challenge entered a raffle ticket draw, which was won by Sidney. L 3A

Later in class, Years 3 and 4 took a Matzah Blooket and tested their knowledge about Matzah. Winners were: 3A Ezra. L and Jay. L 3B Hershy. W and Ezra. E. Winners for 4A Solly. K and 4B Yoshi. H.

At lunch eating, Matzah was distributed to all students and at lunch recess, students in Years 2-4 were able to come and decorate Matzah with Kosher edible texts.

On Tuesday -Lag BaOmer, students were greeted with music, while many went around looking for fallen leaves and sticks to create an Autumn nature bonfire which decorated the main corridor for the rest of the special day.

During class time, Years Prep and 1 came “meet” Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai outside his cave and together they reviewed his life. As a special treat, students then got to decorate a bonfire biscuit with icing, chocolate spread and pretzels, before everyone making Mezonot and eating their biscuit. This activity was also open to Years 2-5 at lunch recess and a delicious time was had by all.

Be sure to get your Yom Yerushalayim competition entries in – can’t wait to see all the wonderful Jerusalem Landmarks.



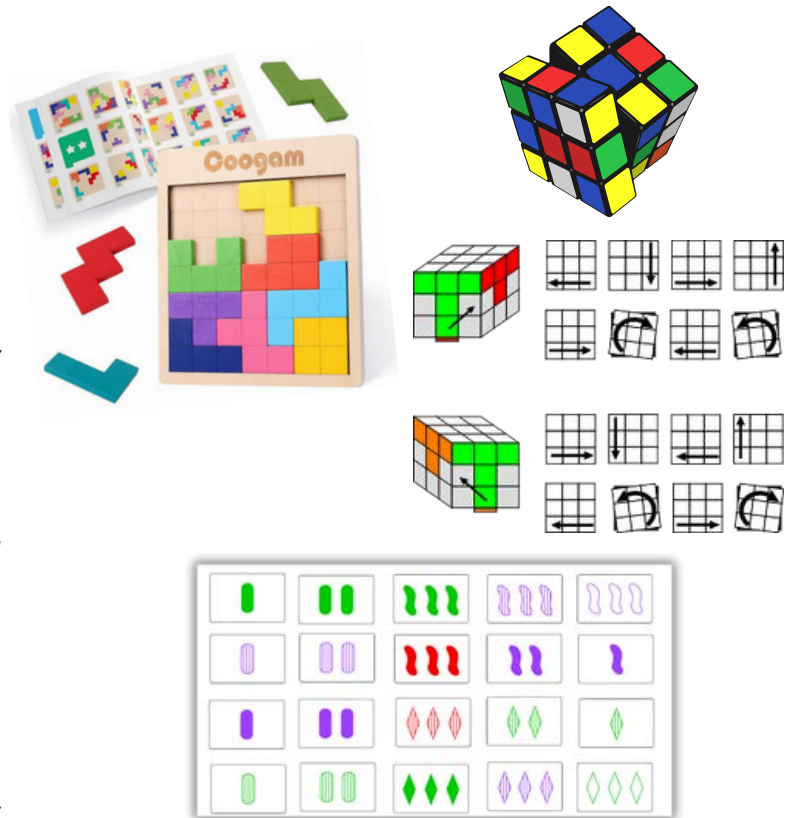
Maths Games and Puzzles

Morgan Levick, Head of Mathematics

In recent weeks, the maths department has stocked the secondary school library (the Resource Centre) with a range of mathematical games and puzzles, all with a common purpose: to encourage students to exercise their "maths brain" in ways that are engaging, social, and enjoyable. These resources include Sudoku and KenKen puzzle books, logic puzzle books, geometric puzzles, Rubik's Cubes (with solution guides), and the card game SET. While each of these provide a different experience to students, they all develop key mathematical skills such as pattern recognition, logical reasoning, perseverance, and attention to detail.

My personal favourite of these resources is SET, a deceptively simple card game based entirely on pattern spotting. Players search for combinations of three cards that satisfy specific criteria across colour, shape, number and shading. It can be played individually as a quiet challenge or competitively in a group setting, where speed and observation are rewarded. SET encourages students to organise information systematically and to think both critically and creatively about patterns. Some students have also told me that SET is a great game to play on Shabbat, as a screen-free and portable activity with a low-entry point. I have been playing SET with, and against, students at Maths Club on Thursdays at lunch, and it has quickly become a favourite. No student has been able to beat me, yet, so the challenge is open!

From my observations, the Rubik's Cubes are probably the favourite resource amongst students. Often seen as highly complex, it is really a puzzle grounded in pattern recognition and memorisation. With the help of a solution guide (also provided in the Resource Centre), most students can learn a method for solving the cube; however, success still depends on patience, practice and careful attention to detail. I have been working with a number of students during Maths Club to help them master it, and it has been great to see their persistence pay off. We purchased 5 Rubik's Cubes for the Resource Centre, so several students can work on their own cube at the same time, or even compete against each other to solve it the fastest! Unlike SET, several students have been able to beat me in a speed-cubing race!



The collection of geometric puzzles offers a different kind of challenge. These involve fitting irregular shapes together to completely fill a space without gaps or overlaps. With no obvious starting strategy, students are encouraged to experiment and learn through trial and error. This makes them particularly well-suited for calm, quiet moments of mindfulness, allowing students to become absorbed in a stress-free and satisfying task.

Taken together, these resources highlight an important message: mathematics is not just about arriving at the correct, but about thinking, exploring, and persisting. I encourage students to make use of these puzzles in the Resource Centre, whether for a fun challenge, a quiet moment of concentration, or a friendly competition with peers.

Niche Player of the Week

by NoahG

Karl Worner is a small defender for Fremantle.

Worner got 21 disposals vs the Bulldogs with 100% disposal efficiency as well.

Worner earned 98 points in Supercoach and 92 in Fantasy Football.

Worner was pick 8 in the 2022 Rookie Draft, he has cemented his spot in this Freo side as they look for their first flag.





Upcoming Dates 2026

May:

Friday 15: Yom Yerushalayim
 Thursday 21: Erev Shavuot College Closed
 Friday 22: Shavuot Day 1 College Closed
 Saturday 23: Shavuot Day 2

June:

Monday 8: Kings Birthday
 College Closed / ELC Early Dismissal

Condolence

We wish a long life to the family of **Mr Robert Field** on his passing. Mr Field Was a teacher at Yavneh for many years.

Condolences to **Shai Hacham** on the passing of his Grandfather

School Photo Information

Are you ready for 2026 school photos?

Leibler Yavneh College Tuesday 26th (Secondary) & Thursday 28th (Primary) May 2026

There's no need to do anything before photo day

Further details will be provided when portrait and group images are ready

Student access codes and order details will be provided to you when images are ready to view and purchase online

Sibling/Family Photos will also be taken at your school

If you would like your children to be photographed together, go online BEFORE photo day to request a sibling/family photograph

1. Grab your phone and go to - <https://arphotos.typeform.com/07J7K9KX>
2. Enter the name and class of the eldest sibling
3. Enter the names and classes of all other siblings to be included in the photo

Please NOTE - Sibling Photograph requests close at midnight the night BEFORE photo day

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.
 A 8244 402 522 494 (940)
 Telephone: (03) 5243 4390
 1 Ingleton, Camberley, Surrey GU10 2EJ, UK

ARP
 Arthur Reed Photos

יום ירושלים MODEL MAKING COMPETITION

All Primary Students

Make a model of a prominent landmark in Yerushalayim

- The Kotel
- Migdal David
- Jaffa Gate - Sha'ar Yaffo
- Montefiore Windmill
- Knesset Menorah
- Machaneh Yehudah
- I ♥ JLM sculpture

Place your model on the white bench downstairs from:

MONDAY MAY 11 TO **FRIDAY MAY 15**
 כ"ד אייר TO כ"ח אייר (Yom Yerushalayim)

Remember your name and year level :)

TERM 2 LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Monday Craft Club Years 1 - 4 In Room 31
 Israeli Dancing with Orli and Chedva Years 1 - 3 girls In the Primary Library

Tuesday Primary Choir with Morah Sarah Finch Years 3 - 6 In the Music House

Wednesday Jewish Lego Masters Years 2 - 4 In Room 31

Thursday Jewish stories Preps In the Prep Playground
 Parasha Quiz w/ the Tzevet Years 4 - 5 In the Beit Midrash

Friday Sports Mishmar with Eitan Year 6
 Lunch eating/learning in Room 23
 Lunchtime sport on Blue Courts

The Yavneh Academy ADULT LEARNING for Our Community

ENGAGE. EXPLORE. GROW TOGETHER.

TWO FORMATS, ALTERNATING WEEKLY

FRIDAYS LAFRAF SESSIONS
 LaLaF Parsha Circle (Coffee & Cake Edition)

MONDAYS GUEST SPEAKERS
 All sessions at 7:30pm (First session is Wednesday)

SESSION	DATE	TOPIC
WEDNESDAY SESSION 1	6 MAY	Orly M, Deena E and Jacob S Facilitated by Mr Harel Solomon (Head of School) and Rabbi Dr Chaim Cowen (Head of Jewish Studies)
MONDAY SESSION 2	18 MAY	Rabbi Sammy Brygel Head of NASS
MONDAY SESSION 3	1 JUNE	Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein (Head of Mikvaot)
MONDAY SESSION 4	15 JUNE	Rabbi Zach Gomo Head of Education Support
FRIDAY LAFRAF	1-15, 29 MAY 12 JUNE	LaLaF Parsha Circle (Coffee & Cake Edition)

Starstruck: Science, Space, and Judaism

Tragedy, Turmoil and Rebirth: Rabbi Akiva and Sefirat HaOmer

From One Pasuk to Two Sponges: The Evolution of Mishnah

The Voluntary Jews of Communist East Germany: The Greatest Story Never Told

Come for learning, conversation and great company!

JOIN THE YAVNEH ACADEMY WHATSAPP GROUP TO RSVP AND RECEIVE UPDATES & INFORMATION

MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Monday Sessions: Minimum of 10 confirmed responses
- Friday LaLaF: Minimum of 5 confirmed responses

Learning together. Strengthening our community.