



Hirsch Lyons Boy's School

The mitzvah to pour water on the Mizbeach on Sukkos provides insight into the concept of Mesorah. The Gemara in Taanis tells us that Rabbi Yehudah ben Beseirah derives the mitzvah from the otherwise unnecessary letters *mem*, *yud* and *mem* (spelling mayim, water) in the words describing the Nisuch Hamayim, the wine libations, on the second, sixth and seventh days of Sukkos. A different opinion, that of Rabbi Nechunya, says that this mitzvah is completely halacha leMoshe miSinai.

According to both opinions, the law is the same, and it was taught via a mesorah from Sinai. They only argue over which subcategory this mitzvah should be included. Without Moshe having taught this halacha to Yehoshua and passing it orally through the chain of Mesorah, we would not know the halacha at all – no matter how much we study the written Torah.

Our job at Hirsch Lyons Boys High is to instill in these young men the tools to receive the Mesorah and the sense of purpose to continue passing it down to the next generation. And to do it with love and joy!

2019 has indeed been a year of love and joy. The Torah that we have learned has been with enthusiasm, the derech eretz has been with warmth and the academics have been with a smile. In fact, the very first day began with davening and was followed by dancing to a brass band!

It was a year full of simchas. We had many boys putting on Tefillin for the first time, many boys celebrating their Bar Mitzvas, many Parshas learned and many Dapei Gemora completed.

Some of the Grade 7's gave over, off-by-heart their first ever Daf of Gemora to the class. They went to the Yeshiva and heard a special shiur from Rabbi David Goldfein. We were lucky to have many guest speakers who taught amazing Torah. Many of the boys have been learning extra Mishnayos with Mr Tucker and have made a few siyumim. More of the boys have been learning extra Gemora with Rabbi Isaacson and were rewarded with a trip to Israel! Some of the grade 10's and 12's have been going to the Yeshiva daily to learn and to hear a high-level shiur from Rabbi Braun. Special mention must be made of Shmuel Fihrer who has been going even during Matric Finals! We held an alumnus reunion in Jerusalem. It was amazing to see our graduates learning in top Yeshivas and keeping their spirit of togetherness going.

The Yarchei Kalla was an immense success! The first day was Yeshiva day where we learned in the Yeshiva, had a shiur from the Rosh Yeshiva and did a Treasure Hunt through thousands of years of Seforim. This was followed by Bounce Soccer. The second day's theme was Sukkos. We had a shiur on Sukkos, took part in an Arba Minim Workshop and learned about those who live in a sukka all year round. This was followed by a great swim! The third day had a deep shiur on Life and Death, A demonstration on Shechita and then a CPR course.

We celebrated Tu B'Shvat with a fruit party with loads of different types of fruit. We learned about brochos, shivas haminim and learned Torah related to fruit. Purim was celebrated with music, simcha and fun and a Rosh Chodesh Adar Carnival. Rosh Chodesh is celebrated monthly with a spirited davening and great dancing. We had a learning programme on Shavuos night that went way overtime – everyone just wanted to learn more and more. We had a learning programme on Tisha B'Av which was hugely inspirational and meaningful.

The sports this year has been non-stop. We've played (and won) many cricket matches, played (and won again) many soccer matches and played (and, yes, won again) Table tennis matches. The improvement in skill and teammanship has been a wonder to see. The Monday Runback has been a popular way to run five kilometers weekly – all the way home. We introduced fitness training and the boys strength and fitness have improved dramatically. A year ago, only a handful of the boys could play volleyball. Now they are excellent players and even had a night beach volleyball tournament. Cross Country was well attendend and the boys did tremendously well.

Chesed was everywhere this year. We spent a lot of time at Yad Aharon packing school snack boxes for Ohr Netanel, we helped raise R3 million for the school and we danced at and brought Simcha to all the Bar Mitzvas. Mrs Kramer was so uplifted by the visits that she received from some of the talmidim. I was proud of the way the boys selflessly collected Sunscreen for people with Albinism. The way the boys showed up en masse to help upgrade a school in Soweto was a sight to see!

I haven't even mentioned our successes in Robotics, Art, public speaking. It has been a phenomenal year and I can't wait to see the boys continue to grow as menschen and in their Torah next year!

Rabbi Zaiden
Principal – Boys' High School