

# *MATANEL FOUNDATION*

## *ACTIVITY REPORT*

**Program:** *Hachmey Lev Yeshiva High School*

**Year:** 2014-15

**Name of the Program:** Hachmey Lev Yeshiva High School

**Year of activity:** 2014-15

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**Function of the report's writer:** Resource Development

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### **Program Overview**

Launched in August 2013, Hachmey Lev is an innovative Yeshiva High School for mainstream, Haredi boys aged between 13-18 years, and leads to a high quality Israeli matriculation certificate. The program has made a promising start with 15 students completing ninth grade in July 2014, and in its third year, now has a total of 64 students enrolled for 2015-16 (in ninth, tenth and eleventh grades).

The Israeli Ministry of Education has officially recognized Hachmey Lev as a registered junior high school and a registered boarding school. These developments have effectively secured long-term Ministry of Education funding for the school.

The need for a permanent campus for Hachmey Lev continues to be a central priority. During 2013-14, Hachmey Lev utilized classrooms and residential facilities in a partitioned section of Boyar High School in Jerusalem. In 2014-15 however, given the sharp increase in student numbers, Hachmey Lev students spent their school day at Boyar but utilized the residential facilities at Amalia (in an adjacent neighborhood).

After two years of public campaigning, Hachmey Lev and SAE have succeeded in convincing all major stake holders that the yeshiva has put down deep roots in the City for Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Municipality has zoned a section of the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood, located in northern part of the city, to be the site upon which the new education campus for Hachmey Lev is to be erected by 2020.

At the beginning of the 2015-16 school year we erected a marquee that is air-conditioned and waterproof which functions as a Beit Midrash and a dining room, as a temporary solution until alternatives can be found.

### **Achievements**

- Stated target goal was for 18 students to complete 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and for a new intake of 25 students to begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Hachmey Lev was successful: 16 students completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 31 students completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 49 students enrolled with Hachmey Lev during the year, and a total of 47 successfully completed the school year.
- 30 students used the Hachmey Lev residential facility, located in Givat Mordechai.

- Formal instruction at Hachmey Lev began on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 and ended on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.
- The formal curriculum consisted of 53 weekly hours of formal instruction: 32 weekly hours of Talmud and 21 weekly hours of general curriculum. For students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade this included mathematics, language, history, science, English, sport, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students studied these same subjects as well as citizenship.
- Closed Shabbat weekends were held on the following dates: November 8<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> in 2014, and January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup>, and March 13<sup>th</sup> in 2015.
- Additional tutoring hours were provided at for students in specific subjects such as mathematics, science, language and history.
- Extra-curricular activities were offered on a weekly basis in art, martial arts, chess, thinking and strategy games.
- A Hachmey Lev school trip was held in the Galil and the Golan over June 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and 50 students participated.
- In general studies, the following subjects were offered: science, mathematics, history, English, and sport. Technology was not offered at a high level because the school lacks the equipment and laboratories needed. Wherever possible, Hachmey Lev students used the labs at Boyar High School.
- The following cultural enrichment activities were offered: visits to the Old City of Jerusalem including a ceremony on Yom Hazikaron (memorial day for fallen Israel soldiers and victims of terror); visits to the Youth Center for Advanced Studies (YCAS) in the Hebrew University ; a day in which students learnt navigation skills in the Bet Shemesh area and studied the famous battle between David and Goliath; a sports day; visits to the Science Museum in Jerusalem; guest lecturers on topics in history; a panel on Religion and State; and visits from prominent Israeli poets.
- A part-time social worker (50%) Mr. Yogev Glob began working with Hachmey Lev in January 2015. This functionary was essential because of the growing number of Hachmey Lev students with learning difficulties (such as ADD, ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome), behavioral and concentration problems, and other socio-emotional problems that result from that fact that some students have grown up in conditions of poverty. Eight students who have grown up in homes where only one parents is functioning or present – five students have divorced parents, two students have separated parents, and one student's father is deceased. Yogev provides counseling and support services to specific students in private sessions and maintains regular contact with parents.
- A learning coordinator, Amit Omar, began with Hachmey Lev in the afternoons, and worked directly with teachers on monitoring progress through the secular curriculum, monitoring grades, and overseeing discipline. This functionary was necessary because only essential teaching staff are present during the late afternoon hours, and without supervision, the structure and general level of discipline at the yeshiva was compromised.
- In tenth grade there is a core group of six students who are very strong in mathematics. All received 100% on their matriculation examinations. During the coming year SAE would like to open a technology oriented track geared to preparing these students to take a matriculation examination in computers. The total cost for running this track, which included five weekly hours of instruction starting in October 2015 is \$13,000. SAE has already secured computers for this purpose.

## Evaluation

### External Evaluation

- Hachmey Lev is being documented externally by Dr. Israel Katz from the Zofnat Institute for Organizational Development and Research. This process seeks to record the Hachmey Lev model so that it can be studied and replicated. Dr. Katz began working midway through the 2014-15 school year, so results are not yet available. SAE will share the document with UJA once it has been completed and translated.
- Progress through the curriculum is monitored externally by the Ministry of Education superintendent.

### Internal Evaluation

- Below are the yearend grades (class averages) for Hachmey Lev students in **9<sup>th</sup> grade**:  
English: 81%      Math Group A: 87%      Math Group B: 37.5%      Sport:84%      Science: 72%  
Hebrew: 86%      English: 89%      Bible: 40%
- Below are the yearend matriculation results (class averages) for Hachmey Lev students in **10<sup>th</sup> grade**:  
Math: 100%      Bible: 87%      Science: 89%      Hebrew: 92%      History: 72%

### Hachmey Lev in 2015-16

- Seventeen students are enrolled in eleventh grade, 25 students are enrolled in tenth grade and 22 are enrolled in ninth grade. Total 64 students.
- The Yeshiva high school operates out of Boyar High School and the residence is at Amalia Educational Residence in Jerusalem, and SAE operates a shuttle service between each location twice a day.
- The curriculum will run from 07:30 – 21:30 every day from Sunday through Thursday, and on Fridays from 07:30 until noon, following the same structure as classical yeshivot in the Haredi education system.
- The curriculum includes 53 weekly hours of formal instruction. 32 weekly hours are from the ultra-orthodox curriculum, and include slower paced Talmud study. 21 weekly hours are from the general curriculum: (Four hours per-day between Sunday and Thursday during afternoon hours.) Note: this is more than what is offered by any other Haredi institution in Israel. In parallel, 6 weekly hours have been allocated for extra-curricular activities, sports and additional tuition as necessary. Each student will receive 2-3 weekly hours of additional tuition, provided by a professional teacher in small groups of no more than four students each.
- Proficiency groups: A key programmatic change has been the introduction of “proficiency groups” – this is a technique by which teachers divide the students into two or more sub-groups based on their proficiency level in a specific subject. This enables the students to progress with the subject matter at a pace that is suitable to their learning needs. Despite their positive impact on student performance, “proficiency groups” are not funded by the Ministry of Education at Hachmey Lev because they require the presence of additional qualified personnel in each subject, and this incurs additional costs. Hachmey Lev has introduced “proficiency groups” in mathematics and English, and to a lesser extent in science.
- In 2015-16, Rabbi Bezalel Cohen handed over the day-to-day running of Hachmey Lev to Nechemia Steinberger. Nechemia is Haredi and is currently the Dean of the Haredi campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He holds a BA in Education from the Jerusalem College, and an MA in Religious Studies and Philosophy from the Hebrew University. By taking the role of Hachmey Lev Principal, Nechemia enables Bezalel to be more active in advancing the yeshiva at the public level. This will include researching, developing, and expanding and replicating the

model to new locations, pushing for systemic change in the Haredi education system in general, and resource development.

### Hachmey Lev Summary Table

Criterion	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of students in ninth grade	18	30	22
Number of students in tenth grade	0	17	25
Number of students in eleventh grade	0	0	17
<b>Total students</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>64</b>
Residential students	10	30	38
Weekly hours of Talmud	32	32	32
Weekly hours of General Studies	21	21	21
Extra-curricular and enrichment	6	6	6
<b>Total instruction hours</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>
Shabbat B'yachad	1	5	10 (planned)
School Trip	1	1	2 (planned)

### Matanel Foundation 2014-15 Allocation to Hachmey Lev:

Establishment Costs - Expenses	Cost in NIS
Beit Midrash - Demolishing an existing drywall	2,700
Beit Midrash – Erecting a new, acoustic drywall	8,300
Kitchen – cupboards	1,200
Kitchen – hatch window	3,000
Kitchen – plastering of walls and ceiling	2,600
Kitchen – floor tiles	3,000
Kitchen – electrical sockets and three-phase switch	2,200
Kitchen – inlet and drainage for dishwasher	900
Kitchen – cupboard to cover water pipes	800
Kitchen – lighting	1,100
Kitchen – door	3,000
Kitchen – utensils and equipment	4,100
Wheelchair access ramp	5,400
Building oversight and monitoring	1,700
<b>Total Establishment Costs Expenses</b>	<b>40,000</b>
Scholarships (49 students)	24,500
Scholarships for outstanding students	1,000
<b>Total scholarships</b>	<b>25,500</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,500</b>