



MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT – The Hachmey Lev Educational Campus

Name of School:	Hachmey Lev Yeshiva High School
Name of Director:	Rabbi Bezalel Cohen
Academic Year:	2016 - 2017
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Submission Date:	January 2018
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Summary

The new building has been a vast improvement over the previous premises. There are currently some 80 students from throughout the country studying in grades 9-12, all receiving 21-25 weekly hours of core curriculum studies, in addition to individual and small-group tutoring. About half of them live in the educational residence. This year, discipline was tightened up in the school, leading to a stricter acceptance policy and the transfer of some students who were unable to cooperate. Thus, registration is lower than anticipated, but this should only be temporary and overall, it is a positive development. This year's 9th grade class is outstanding in its discipline and academic level, the school now has a full-time principal – Rabbi Amit Omer. Rabbi Bezalel Cohen is full-time *Rosh Yeshiva*, and the school is operating more smoothly and efficiently than in the past.

Achievements

- 1) At the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, the school moved to new premises. The new building, in the Bayit VeGan neighborhood, is a vast improvement over the previous small building of temporary classrooms at the back of the Boyar residence.
- 2) In 2016-2017, the first 12th grade class graduated from Hachmey Lev, and there is a very real possibility that 100% of its students will complete matriculation exams (there are still two with exams to take this winter). Seven of the graduates are serving in Haredi IDF units, two are studying at Machon Lev – Jerusalem College of Technology, one is in a Haredi *Yeshivat Hesder* (a program combining yeshiva studies with army service) and two more are in a *Yeshiva Gedola* (Yeshiva for older students).
- 3) Following a number of administrative changes last year, the school now has a full-time principal, a full-time Rosh Yeshiva, an outstanding administrator and excellent teachers in all subjects. This situation creates more stability, the school is operating better than before, and discipline is tighter, with rules more strictly enforced (e.g. dress code, attendance at and quiet during prayers, and observing the



schedule). The staff is also better keeping to the routine of regular staff and other meetings, and an external consultant meets with the staff weekly in order to facilitate these processes.

Evaluation

Evaluation/follow-up is accomplished through meetings between SAE staff and teachers, between staff members, and by the Zofnat Institute for Organizational Consulting, Development and Research.

Empirically, the fact that it is likely that 100% of the graduating class will succeed in matriculation, and their current placements (mentioned above), are the clearest indication of the success of the program.

Advancement of the Program

There are several important future developments to be reported:

- 1) The Ministry of Education has asked Hachmey Lev to open grades 7 and 8 next year, and become a proper junior high school. This would be a separate program from the high school, and considered a *mechina*, or preparatory course. This request stems from the fact that Hachmey Lev is the only school open to all Haredi streams that enables students to study core subjects from the very beginning, and many students come to the school for that reason. The concept behind the *mechina* is that the children will close the educational gaps between themselves and other children their age during grades 7-8, so that, hopefully, by the time they become of high school age, they will be at the same academic level as their peers in other schools. The school is preparing to open one, or both, new grades in the 2018-2019 school year.
- 2) This year's grade 12 class is excellent and it is expected that the majority, if not all, of its students will succeed in full matriculation.
- 3) While the current premises are a vast improvement over the former temporary buildings, they are very costly to rent and do not enable any growth. For this reason, plans for a permanent, larger building are underway, to be built on land owned by the Society for the Advancement of Education, adjacent to the residence. Architectural plans have been drawn up, and a campaign is in process to raise funds for the building.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the Matanel Foundation for your support of the Hachmey Lev Yeshiva. Your generosity allows us to offer advanced Talmud study with high-level secular academic studies, thus providing mainstream Haredi boys in Israel with a foundation for their successful transition into academia and employment.



Financial Report

The Hachmey Lev Educational Campus – Rent Costs

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Rent - Hapisga st.		800,000
Total Project Expenses		800,000
Project Income		
Jerusalem Municipality		150,000
Ministry of Education		150,000
Matanel Foundation	Donation of \$20,000	72,000
SAE		428,000
Total Project Income		800,000