King Solomon High School Newsletter

12 September 2025, 19 Elul 5785

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first official newsletter of the new academic year. The year has started with a sense of pride and accomplishment following our excellent A-level and GCSE results.

It has been a joy to welcome our students back to school. The first two weeks have been filled with energy, ambition, and a sense of pride in all that we do as a school. Walking through the corridors and classrooms, I have been impressed by the way in which students are embracing their learning with enthusiasm and determination.

Our new Year 7 cohort has settled in exceptionally well. It is always a significant step moving from primary to secondary school, but our students have shown great maturity, confidence, and kindness towards one another. They are already beginning to form strong friendships, adapt to new routines, and demonstrate the ambition to excel both academically and personally. We are very proud of the way they have started their journey with us, and we will continue to nurture their growth so that they flourish in the years ahead.

As we look towards the forthcoming Jewish High Holy Days, this is also a time for reflection, renewal, and hope. These special days provide us with an opportunity to pause, to consider our actions, and to set our intentions for the year ahead. As a school community, we will be supporting our students to understand the spiritual significance of these Jewish festivals and to live out our school's values of learning, charity and community in their daily lives.

The year has already begun with a spirit of positivity and promise. I am confident that, with the continued partnership between home and school, our students will achieve excellence in all that they do, while being nurtured to grow as individuals.

As part of our home - school partnership work, I would like to remind parents of the importance of **students attending school every day.** Each day of missed education has a detrimental impact on your child's educational outcomes. While we understand that an absence from school is sometimes unavoidable, too often students are missing school for minor matters. Please do not permit your child to miss school because of a minor cold. Please also do not book any holidays during school time. These will not be authorised. We have several short days and short weeks this term due to Jewish festivals and our annual open evening. A short day or a shorter school week is definitely not a reason for students to miss school. Please also ensure that your children arrive to school by 8.30am every day. We must all be responsible for teaching our young people the importance of punctuality and good attendance. These are life lessons that build resilience to manage the pressures and realities of the real world.

Please note that we are hosting our annual open evening for our next cohort of Year 7 students on Monday 29th September. School will end at 12.30pm for students on that day, so the school can make the necessary preparations. The following day, Tuesday 30th September, school will begin for students at 10.00am. The gates will open at 9.40am and students must be on site by 10.00am. Please see our open evening flyer in this newsletter and spread the word to your friends and family.

I wish all our families celebrating the Jewish new year on the 22nd - 24th September a shana tova (happy new year) and chag sameach (joyful festival).

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support. Wishing you a happy weekend and shabbat shalom.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Year 6 Open Evening - Monday 29th September

We are really excited to inform you of our Year 6 Open Evening this year at King Solomon High School. Open Evening will take place on **Monday 29th September** from **5:00pm - 7:30pm** with the **Headteacher's Speech at 5:30pm**.

We will be asking some of our KS students to support us at this event, so do look out for permission requests being sent out next week.

If you have children in the final years of primary school, we would love for you to join us. Please also share the below flyer with your friends and family.

To book, please use the link at the bottom of the flyer or click here - BOOK HERE

We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school!

SLT and Middle Leader Structure for 2025-26

Senior Leadership Team (from September 2025)		
Name	**Role**	**Responsibilities**
Ms Phillips	Headteacher	Leadership & management of the school
Mrs Emmanuel	Senior Deputy Headteacher (on a one-year secondment from Seven Kings School)	Quality of Education
Mr Tomene	Senior Assistant Headteacher	Behaviour, attitudes & student engagement
Mrs Hamit	Senior Assistant Headteacher	Teaching, learning & SEND
Mr Mycroft	Senior Assistant Headteacher	Teaching, learning, trainee teachers, personal development
Mrs Ford	Assistant Headteacher	Director of English and Literacy
Ms Davies	Associate Assistant Headteacher (support staff)	DSL, safeguarding, medical, student wellbeing
Mr Palmer	Associate Assistant Headteacher	Head of Year for KS4, raising achievement, public exams
Mrs Anglin	Pastoral Consultant (fixed term role)	Student attendance, punctuality, safeguarding

Heads of Department	
Department	**Head of Department**
AHT - Director of English	**Mrs Ford**
Deputy Head of English	**Ms Jervier**
Head of Maths	**Mrs Pointon**
Deputy Heads of Maths	**Mr Mahmood, Mrs Montford**
Head of Science	**Ms Baker**
SENCO	**Ms Hyer**
Head of Art	**Mr Jepson**
Head of Spanish	**Ms Sanchez Lopez**
Head of Jewish/Religious Studies	**Mr Walmer**
Head of Performing Arts	**Mr Coates**
Head of DT	**Ms Testler**
Head of PE	**Mr Larkin**
Head of History	**Mr Woodcraft**
Head of Geography	**Ms Jasper**

Heads of Year		
Year Group	**Head of Year**	**Assistant Head of Year**
Year 7	**Mrs Worthing**	NA
Year 8	**Mr Zah**	NA
Year 9	**Ms Van-Graan**	**Mr Coates**
Year 10	**Mr Palmer**	**Mr Kooyman**
Year 11		

Messages

Student Medical Needs

If your child needs to take regular medication in school, please fill in a **Medicines Consent Form** and hand in to Student Services to give the school consent to administer medication to your child. All medications that are kept in school must be stored in the medical room.

Should your child have an accident inside or outside of school that requires them to attend A&E, please inform the school as soon as possible as a Risk Assessment Meeting may need to be arranged. Any new medical conditions also need to be reported to Mrs Levy (Welfare/Safeguarding Officer).

Important Reminder - Nut Free School Policy

This is an important reminder that for the safety and well-being of everyone, **please do not bring any items containing nuts** (such as peanuts, tree nuts, or products with nut-based ingredients) into school.

We have students with severe nut allergies, and even trace amounts can cause serious reactions.

Bromcom

A step by step guide on how to access Bromcom from home can be found by clicking the below icon -

Please go through this with your child/children to ensure they can access the Bromcom Student Portal from home.

Term Dates

Please click on the icon for **2025 - 2026** Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2025 Monday 1st September 2025 - Friday 19th December 2025	
Monday 1st September 2025 **School closed for students**	**INSET Day** - School closed for students
Tuesday 2nd September 2025 **School closed for students**	**INSET Day -** School closed for students
Wednesday 3rd September 2025 **School closed to all other year groups**	Year 7 first day of school School closed to all other year groups
Thursday 4th September 2025	First day of term for Years 8-11 Second day of term for Year 7
Monday 22nd September 2025 **Early close**	Erev Rosh Hashanah (the eve of the Jewish new year) Early close at the end of period 4
Tuesday 23rd September **Wednesday 24th September** **School closed**	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish new year) School closed
Monday 29th September 2025 **Early close**	Early close at the end of period 3 for Open Evening
Tuesday 30th September 2025 **Late start**	Late start at the start of period 2 following open evening
Wednesday 1st October 2025 **Early close**	Erev Yom Kippur (the eve of the Day of Atonement) Early close at the end of period 4
Thursday 2nd October 2025 **School closed**	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) School closed
Monday 6thOctober 2025 **Early close**	Erev Sukkot (Eve of the festival of Tabernacles) Early close at the end of period 4
Tuesday 7th October 2025 **Wednesday 8thOctober 2025** **School closed**	Sukkot (festival of Tabernacles) School closed
Monday 13thOctober 2025 **Early close**	Eve of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah (eve of the celebration of the Torah) Early close at the end of period 4
Tuesday 14th October 2025 **Wednesday 15th October 2025** **School closed**	Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah (celebration of the Torah)
Monday 27th October - **Friday 31st October 2025** **School closed**	**HALF TERM** **School closed**
Friday 19th December 2025 **Early close**	Last day of the autumn term Early close at the end of period 4
Monday 22nd December - **Friday 2nd January 2025** **School closed**	**WINTER HOLIDAY** **School closed**

Parasha Reflections - Mr Levene

Rosh Hashanah

How does fruit prepare us for the new year? Rosh Hashana and this week's Torah portion (Ki Tavo) both have the theme of fruit. Rosh Hashana gives us apples, and Ki Tavo contains the command for the Israelites to give the first fruit offering when they initially enter the land of Israel. Apples and honey are sweet - but the concept of fruit as a sacrifice is more telling as to the meaning of this custom. Unlike the other types of offering that the Israelites were commanded to give to the Temple, like grain, wine, or animals - this first offering was not cultivated by the Israelites. They didn't bring fruit with them when they entered the land of Israel; they didn't plant any seeds. Their offering was based on luck: whatever quantity or quality of fruit they pick is entirely coincidental and based off of G-d - it's His land, His trees, His harvest, and His fruit.

When we take an apple on Rosh Hashana, it might be softer, or sweeter, or rotten (or even contain worms!). Fruit has a type of uncertainty built into it. This year, when we dip, let's consider the fact that although we would like a sweet new year, it's more a prayer than anything certain. Ultimately, like the apple, we don't control how sweet we'll find it. Trying to trust that G-d will provide the fruit, at some point, somewhere, at whatever quantity or quality of harvest we find, gives me some peace. Therefore, leaning into uncertainty, and into our dependence on something or Someone else, might just be our best shot at a sweet, and happy new year.

Get to Know

Mr Saul Levene - Our new Informal Jewish Education Coordinator

I'm Saul Levene, I'm an alumnus of King Solomon and JFS and I've lived in Ilford most of my life.

When I left high school, I raised money to go and study in Yeshiva in Jerusalem for roughly a year to study Jewish texts.

I just joined King Solomon as my first job out of university. I'm really excited to get to know students out of class and get some fun clubs up and running!

As for hobbies, I do a lot of creative writing and I speak Spanish fairly well. This year I'm aiming to listen to every one of the Rolling Stones' 500 greatest albums of all time!

Shacharit Prayers

Come and join Rabbi Sufrin and your friends for boy's Shacharit!

Learn to put on Tefillin (phylacteries) and say the Shema on Monday mornings in the school synagogue.

We have a great group of over 40 boys who attend every week.

Please note that Year 7 boys will not be able to attend due to their assembly.

Year 13 Exam Success

This year, our Year 13 students achieved the best A-Level results the school has seen in the last 3 years. Some of the headlines below underline the significant improvements made:

- **49% of all grades were A*- B grades**
- **The average grade across A-Level and vocational courses is a B- (an increase of one grade from last year).**
- **A 13% increase in A*-A grades from last year**
- **A 18% increase in A*-B grades from last year**
- **A 18% increase in A*-C grades from last year**

Destinations

Out of our 67 strong Year 13 cohort, 49 students went on to study at universities - **73.1%**.

Of those 49 students, 21 went to study at Russell Group universities - **43%**.

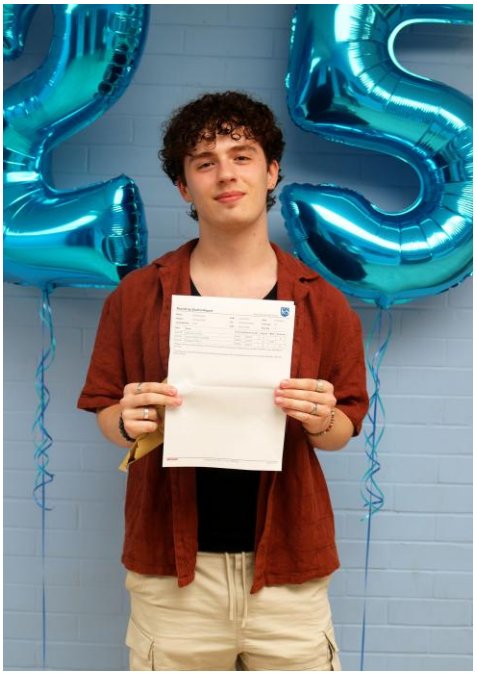
1 student went on to begin an apprenticeship and 4 students went straight into employment.

Below are the destinations of some of our top achieving Year 13 students -

Daniella Vajushi

A* A* A

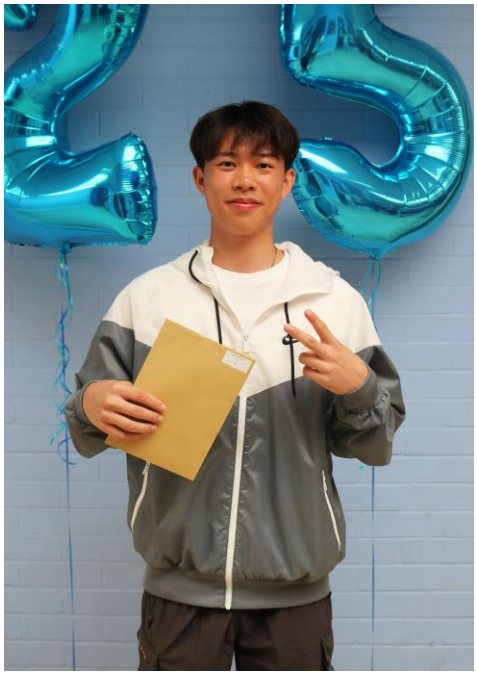
Going to Oxford University to study English and Spanish



Drin Kacaniku

A* A* A

Going to the University of Cardiff to study Medicine



Wen Jun Zhuang

A* A A A

Going to Kings College London to study Mathematics with a year in industry

Maria Chicu

A* A* A A

Going to Kings College London to study Medicine

Paige sings with Kerry Ellis at Cadogan Hall

King Solomon High School is proud to boast a number of incredibly talented students in the performing arts and one of our star performers is Year 11 student **Paige Harris**.

It is no secret that Paige harbours ambitions of one day performing on the West End stage, and on the 1st September 2025, that dream became a reality as she made her official debut.

Paige auditioned to sing at Cadogan Hall alongside one of the West Ends most successful leading ladies, Kerry Ellis at her concert. After a rigorous audition process and facing some incredibly stiff competition, Paige got through to the final three contestants and was later declared the winner.

Paige accompanied Kerry in a rendition of 'A Million Dreams' from the Greatest Showman along with the 40 piece Fulltone Symphony Orchestra in front of nearly 1000 people. She was even given her own dressing room with her name on the door!

> It was the most amazing experience and I hope that it's just a snippet of what's to come if I continue to work hard.
>
> This is an achievement I will never forget!

Watch Paige's mesmerising performance by clicking on the image above.

Congratulations on your achievement Paige, we are incredibly proud of you and cannot wait to see where your musical theatre journey takes you next!

JCC Maccabi Campus Games 2025

Harry Marks and Zack Steinberg bring home gold from the games

From the 3rd - 10th August, Maccabi GB sent a 70-strong delegation comprising 56 athletes and 14 management staff to the JCC Maccabi Campus Games in Pittsburgh. The team competed across a

wide range of sports: U15 boys football (with two squads), U15 boys basketball, U17 boys basketball, tennis, dance, swimming, track and field and the Star Reporter competition.

It was a record-breaking year for Team GB, who brought home an impressive 44 medals - 27 golds, 11 silvers and 6 bronzes.

Two of those medal winners were our very own Year 11 students **Harry Marks** and **Zack Steinberg** who were part of the U15 Boys Blue football Team who were winners of their tournament.

The U15 Boys Blue football Team were also recipients of one of the very special Gold Yellow Ribbon medals, awarded in honour of the hostages still being held in Gaza. The Yellow Ribbon recognises not only sporting excellence, but also exceptional sportsmanship and character. Coach Ali Chin praised his players:

> I was so inspired by the players' dedication and commitment to winning, and to representing Maccabi GB with pride

With an incredible medal haul, acts of true sportsmanship and friendships forged, Pittsburgh 2025 will be remembered as one of Team GB's most successful and meaningful JCC Maccabi Games to date.

Congratulations to Harry and Zack for winning gold. We are so proud of you and your continued sporting achievements!

Free Football Sessions

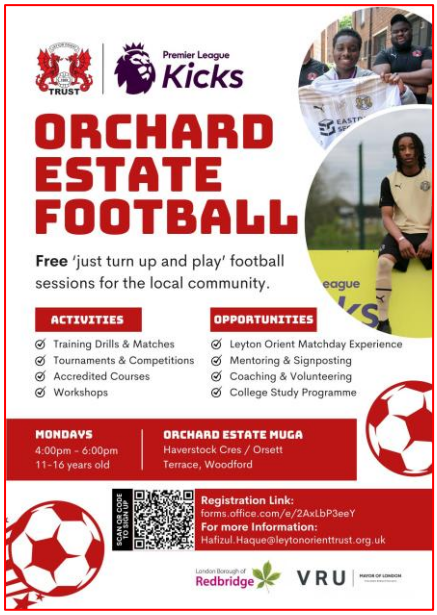
Do you know a youngster in Redbridge who loves football?

There are a number of opportunities to play football each week after school, keeping young people safe, active, learning new skills and making friends.

Teaming up with Leyton Orient Trust, Premier League Kicks supported by the local authority and police these sessions are free of charge - "Just Turn Up & Play"

Sessions take place at Loxford Leisure centre and on the Orchard Estate Muga with sessions to suit different ages and also a Girls Only session - see flyers for all the information that you will need or alternatively click the following link to register - **Participant Registration Form**

Come along and give it a try!



Digital Resilience Training - Hosted by PaJeS

PaJeS are delighted to share an important webinar which has been recorded for all parents and guardians of children in Jewish schools. PaJeS have collaborated with CCDH, (The Centre for Countering Digital Hate) to provide parents with current research, essential insights, and practical advice for navigating social media platforms and ensuring children's online safety.

For many parents keeping pace with the digital landscape is increasingly difficult. Social and communication platforms evolve rapidly, with new ones emerging all the time. As a result, even when a child is physically present, they may be absorbed in a separate digital world, one shaped by applications and platforms unfamiliar to adults.

This important webinar covers:

- How social media platforms and algorithms operate
- The various types of hateful and dangerous content that thrive on popular social media platforms that your children might be using
- An introduction to CCDH's studies on how harmful AI apps can be for young people
- Practical advice for parents and guardians to navigate online spaces more safely
- Additional resources for support and advice

The webinar can be found on the following page of the PaJeS website, by scrolling down to **Digital Resilience Training**: https://pajes.org.uk/wellbeing/for-parents/parent-resources/ or by clicking on the image below.

If you have any further questions or are looking for more support in this area, please contact wellbeing@pajes.org.uk or info@counterhate.com

Parenting in the Digital Age

The Jewish Chronicle and One Collective Power invite you to their upcoming event - **Parenting in the Digital Age.**

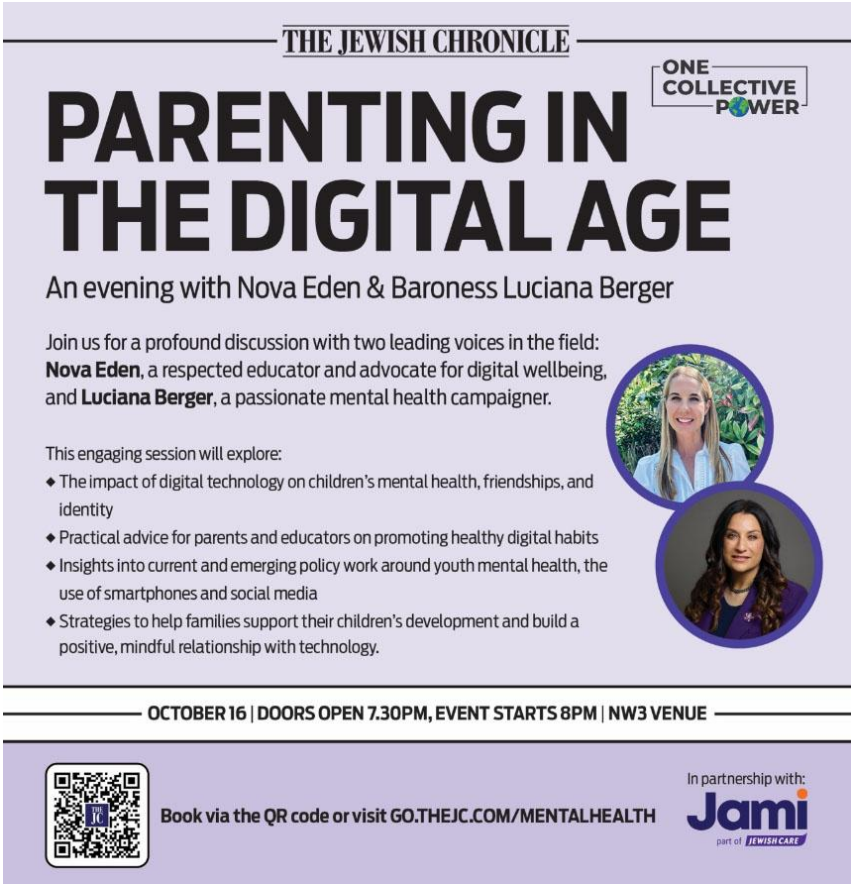
Join them for a profound discussion with two leading voices in the field: Nova Eden, a respected educator and advocate for digital well-being and Luciana Berger, a passionate mental health campaigner.

This engaging session will explore:

- The impact of digital technology on children's mental health, friendships, and identity.
- Practical advice for parents and educators on promoting healthy digital habits.
- Insights into current and emerging policy work around youth mental health, the use of smartphones and social media.
- Strategies to help families support their children's development and build a positive, mindful relationship with technology.

As a local school, the organisers are kindly offering parents a 20% discount on tickets. The code is **School20off**.

To book please click here - **BOOK HERE**



EPT Events

September Events and Webinars for SEND parents and carers

Click on the links in the flyers below to book your place.

Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Davies (Associate Assistant Headteacher).

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or the wellbeing of any other student at King Solomon High School, please contact the school on 020 8498 1331 or email the DSL at **safeguarding@kshsonline.uk**. This email address can also be used for students, parents and carers to share any safeguarding concerns or to request support.

If you are concerned that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed and school cannot be contacted, please contact Redbridge Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8708 3885, and all the police on 999 straight away.

Helpful Numbers and Websites

- **Childline**: 0800 1111
- **NSPCC Helpline**: 0808 800 5000
- **The Police**: (if you are in danger): 999.
- **LGBT Switchboard**: 0300 330 0630
- **Kooth**: **www.kooth.com** - support service for student's wellbeing
- **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (emergency team)**: 020 8496 3000
- **Barnardos**: 0800 008 7005

Let us Know . . .

- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- If you feel anxious or unable to cope
- If someone has hurt you physically, emotionally, or mentally.
- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- If you feel worried about someone at home
- If you are being threatened or forced to do things
- If someone has done something to you without your consent
- If you feel unsafe in school, at home or on the streets
- About anything else worrying you

Student Medical Needs

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are continuously working hard to improve our understanding as a community of mental health, to enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for the young people in our lives. If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to very poor mental health, please inform the school. You can also contact one of these numbers to seek support from a specialist. The Crisis line is there to offer guidance if your child may be having suicidal thoughts and is possibly in immediate danger. If you do ever find yourself in a position where you need to use these resources for your child, please make the school aware so we can provide appropriate support within school for your child.

Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines

Every mental health trust in London has put in place **a 24/7 crisis line** for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder (link below) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline

NHS

Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
South West London	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590