

Mazal Tov!

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT
YOU WILL BE CELEBRATING
YOUR DAUGHTER'S
BAT MITZVAH WITH US
AT HGSS



THE BAT MITZVAH JOURNEY AT HGSS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

We are thrilled to accompany you and your family on this journey as you plan the celebrations for your daughter's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for letting us be a part of your simcha.

Year 5
18 months
- 2 years

Step 1
Approximately 18 months to 2 years before your daughter's Bat Mitzvah, **Abi will contact you with a provisional Bat Mitzvah date.**

At HGSS, we aim to celebrate a Bat Mitzvah on the first Shabbat following a girl's 12th Hebrew birthday.

Year 5

Step 2
In Year 5 during the summer term, **Abi will be in touch again to arrange for one of the Rebbetzins to visit you and your daughter at your home** to get to know you and tell you about the Year 6 Bat Mitzvah Programme.

Year 6

Step 3
In Year 6, mothers and daughters participate together in the acclaimed HGSS Bat Mitzvah programme, led by Rebbetzins Lisa Levene and Jodie Herszaft.

This 10 week course begins in January and runs from 6.45 - 8.00pm on Monday evenings.

The Bat Mitzvah programme provides a chance for your daughter to learn more about relevant Jewish topics, engage in fun and educational experiential activities, and socialise with other girls in her year from the community.

Year 6
6-2
months

Step 4

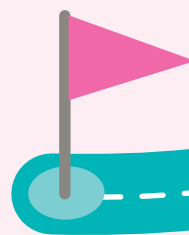
Approximately 6-9 months before the date of your daughter's Bat Mitzvah **we will be happy to assist you in finding a teacher to help your daughter prepare for her Bat Mitzvah.** We will take into account your daughter's background, interests and needs to suggest someone who we consider a good match. Please contact Abi (abi@hgss.org.uk / 020 8457 7040) for further details.

Step 5

Year 7

New Year 7 Programme – girls are invited to join the second year of our Bat Mitzvah programme with Jodie and our Youth Director. Some sessions will be here at HGSS and others will take place at any of the other six US Shuls as part of 'The Zone'.

A Bat Mitzvah journal has been created for those participating in the HGSS programme who wish to pursue further learning independently. For those interested, there will be an optional, in-depth discussion learning session with Jodie from 8:00 to 8:30pm, following the main session on Mondays.



HGSS BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATIONS

The service options listed below give some examples of how you can celebrate and mark your daughter's Bat Mitzvah at HGSS. Please bear in mind that we are fortunate to be part of a vibrant community, blessed with many families celebrating Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and other family events. Please start your conversations with the Rabbinic Team as early as possible to ensure that you can secure your allocated date with your chosen member of the team to officiate at your simcha.

Girls celebrate their Bat Mitzvah once they have turned 12 years of age in the Jewish calendar. The following Service options can also be used as guidelines for you to tailor a ceremony that is meaningful for you and your daughter. We highly recommend that you discuss your plans with a member of the Rabbinic Team who have the expertise to ensure you have the best experience.

FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING: Before Shabbat begins, your daughter has the opportunity to participate in a beautiful candle lighting ceremony where she will deliver her Dvar Torah to family and friends. During the ceremony, the Bat Mitzvah Prayer and parents' traditional blessings can be recited. Additionally, your daughter can be addressed by a member of the Rabbinic Team and presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur. Please note that the candle lighting needs to be completed before Shabbat begins and the candles should be lit in the same location where the family is eating their evening meal or spending the night. Therefore, if you are not hosting Friday Night Dinner for your guests at the Shul, then some form of light Kiddush or food must be served after the service. Please be aware that this option may not be possible during the summer months because of the time Shabbat begins.

SHABBAT PRESENTATION: During the Shabbat morning service in the main Shul, a member of the Rabbinic Team will address your daughter in the presence of the whole community just before Adon Olam. In addition, she will be presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur along with the traditional blessings. This option is available all year round. Please note this is ideal if you are planning to celebrate your daughter's Bat Mitzvah solely at another venue but would still like involvement and a presentation from the Rabbinic Team.

PRIVATE BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY AFTER THE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Your family and friends will be invited to return to the Shul following the Main Service and Kiddush for a private ceremony (approximately 12.30pm). The ceremony includes celebratory prayers and songs. Your daughter will deliver her Dvar Torah to your guests and the Bat Mitzvah Prayer and parents' traditional blessings can be recited. Your daughter will be addressed by a member of our Rabbinic Team and presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur.

HAVDALAH SERVICE: (Winter months only.) Your guests are invited to participate in a private Havdalah ceremony, led by a member of our Rabbinic Team. Your daughter will deliver her Dvar Torah to your guests, followed by the Bat Mitzvah Prayer and parents' traditional blessings. She will be addressed by a member of our Rabbinic Team and be presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur. The earliest time this service can start is at least an hour after Shabbat ends.

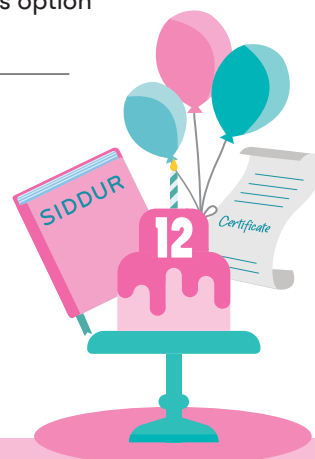
SUNDAY CEREMONY: This is a private service in the main Shul where your daughter is able to deliver her Dvar Torah to your guests. Various songs may be included, along with the Bat Mitzvah Prayer and parents' traditional blessings. Your daughter will be addressed by a member of our Rabbinic Team and presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur.

PRIVATE FUNCTION: You may prefer your daughter to deliver her Dvar Torah to friends and family during her function. The Bat Mitzvah Prayer and parents' traditional blessings can be recited, and your daughter will be addressed by a member of our Rabbinic Team and presented with a certificate, Chumash and Siddur. This option is available all year round, but will only be possible if the function is kosher certified.

A member of our Rabbinic Team will be delighted to meet with each family to discuss how to make your daughter's Bat Mitzvah truly special and memorable.

There are many other creative ways for girls to celebrate their Bat Mitzvah that can be discussed with any member of the Rabbinic Team, who will be delighted to help. To arrange a meeting please contact Abi (abi@hgss.org.uk / 020 8457 7040).

If you would like to enquire about booking the hall for your function, please contact Sharon (sharon@hgss.org.uk / 020 8457 7041).



HGSS BAT MITZVAH PROGRAMME SESSION CONTENT

Led by Rebbetzens Lisa Levene and Jodie Herszaft

Please note that sessions are subject to change and may be swapped or modified at any time.
For the most up-to-date details, please check the weekly WhatsApp updates.



LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Explaining the importance of foundations through an introduction to the journal.



ISRAEL

Exploring the significance of Israel and its personal meaning to us. This session offers an opportunity to express ourselves creatively.



APPRECIATING THE GIFTS WE HAVE

Using music as a springboard to understand the beauty of the morning Brachot, allowing us to appreciate the gifts we have.



BEIN ADAM L'CHAVERO

Gaining insight into our interpersonal connections by exploring the significance of the mitzvah of making challah.



FAITH OR COINCIDENCE?

Exploring the concept of 'emunah' or faithfulness through the use of interactive tools.



BODY VS. SOUL

Exploring the Jewish perspective on the interplay between body and soul and how it can manifest in the context of physical movement.



DEBUNKING THE MYTHS OF SHUL

Exploring the essence of prayer, we guide the group on a tour of the Shul, providing an opportunity to experience and witness the holiness of the Torah first-hand.



QUEEN ESTHER & THE JEWISH APPROACH TO BEAUTY

A class led by Rochelle aimed at uncovering the Jewish perspective on the meaning of beauty. As we approach Purim, this will be explored through the eyes of Queen Esther.



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER WITH THE RABBINIC TEAM

The programme concludes with a special Friday Night Dinner together with the whole Rabbinic Team, a time to reflect and look forward to the second year of the Bat Mitzvah programme.

The HGSS Bat Mitzvah programme is dedicated to the memory of Lucy, Maia and Rina Dee z'l. Growing up in Hampstead Garden Suburb, Lucy (then know as Lucianne Shaw) attending Kerem School and our HGSS Bat Mitzvah Programme. After graduating from Oxford, Lucy travelled the world with new husband Leo, before dedicating their lives to Judaism and Israel. As Rabbi Leo and Rebbezen Lucy Dee, they served United Synagogue communities in Hendon and Radlett, before making Aliyah with their young family. Our programme will celebrate Lucy's Jewish values in the place where they were born.

RABBINIC TEAM

Rabbi Marc Levene, Senior Rabbi - rabbilevene@hgss.org.uk

Lisa Levene, Senior Rebbetzen - lisa@hgss.org.uk

Rabbi Luis Herszaft, Community Rabbi - rabbih@hgss.org.uk

Jodie Herszaft, Community Rebbetzen - jodie@hgss.org.uk

Chazan Avromi Freilich, Chazan, Welfare & Pastoral - chazanavromi@hgss.org.uk

Rochelle Freilich, Education, Welfare & Pastoral - rochelle@hgss.org.uk