

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	27th September, 2018.
Subject: Head of Junior School's Report	Public
Report of: Matt Robinson	For Information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of events in the Junior School since the last Board meeting in the summer term.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members note the contents and receive this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of events in the Junior School since the last Board meeting. Life in the Junior School has been both busy and productive for the pupils and this report will give Members a taste of the many activities in which the Junior School pupils participate and highlights many of the successes of the children from the end of last academic year and the start of this one.

Staff News

2. We have two new permanent staff in the Junior School, one in Upper 2 and a new Graduate assistant working specifically with Form 1. One staff member has taken over the running of Junior Hale from a colleague who moves "upstairs" as a part-time L4 form tutor and Latin teacher and another staff member replaced a colleague as Head of Junior Whittington as he assumes the mantle of Senior Whittington.

Focus

3. On Prize Day in July I spoke to the Junior School community of the importance of recognising all the difficulties that surround gender, with little boys and girls wanting to avoid stereotyping. We work hard to give all the students similar opportunities but must continue to keep equality in all its forms in the forefront of our minds. We have several Old Freeman coming in this year to talk to the children and three of the four are women.

Works

4. The Junior School has seen a few improvements over the summer, including a slight refurbishment to the Junior school library, repainted classrooms, corridors and Junior Hall, more table tennis tables and benches.

School roll

5. The Junior School is close to maximum at 398 children, including a full Form 1 of 60 for the first time. We are very pleased with the efforts of all those associated with admissions, recruitment and teaching; the Junior School is a happy place with an excellent reputation.

Form 1 intake

6. 60 Form 1 children joined the Junior School. The end of the school day has been altered for their first two weeks as in previous years. Form 1 pupils finished at 3.30pm and this has proved to be very successful. Children, staff and parents have welcomed the earlier end to the day. It has enabled parents and staff to touch base daily.

7. A very successful Information and Social evening has helped the Form 1 parents to settle in. Held at 7.00pm on Thursday 6th September in the Junior School Hall, the evening gave new parents the opportunity to learn about topics covered in the Form 1 curriculum and to meet Form Staff within the Year Group and other parents in a social setting.

Parents' information afternoons/evenings

8. The parents of children from every year group in the Junior School have been invited to Information evenings, at which the Heads of Year introduced their form tutor teams and gave relevant information about the year ahead. All were well attended, and those parents that were unable to be present received the information by email.

Year 7 (Upper 3) –Team Building Day

9. All current Upper 3 pupils went to the outdoor activities and High-Ropes Centre at High Ashurst on Friday 7th September. Very early in the year, this trip is designed to involve all pupils in team-building activities so that each Form can actively engage in forging new friendships for the start of their Key Stage 3 phase of education. Activities included low-rope challenges, high-rope team work, Jacob's Ladder and team puzzle challenges, all of which were led by qualified centre staff.

10. Senior colleagues and I held a series of lunches in the second week to give those new children an opportunity to feedback to us their initial experiences.

Wellbeing

11. The JS children will continue to have many opportunities to improve their wellbeing, not least in Enrichment. Every child will experience a 5-week module of weekly well-being sessions, inserted into the carousel of activities. We are hopeful that this will give them the tools and strategies that we all need.

Last Academic year

Public speaking

12. Two L3 children represented the school at the inaugural Rowan Prep event, impressing judges and parents alike.

Summer term Residentials

Isle of Wight

13. Two staff led a successful PGA residential excursion, during which the whole of the Lower 4 year group combined geography learning and research with adventure

activities and fun. Those children have now all left the Junior school but did so with very happy shared memories.

Osmington Bay

14. Colleagues took the whole of Lower 3 to Dorset on a PGL adventure week; physical activity and shared experience were the order of the weekend. All returned exhausted but happy.

Brenscombe

15. The Upper 2 team took the year group away to Brenscombe in Dorset for a three-day residential, enjoying the outdoors. They had a Bear Grylls of a time and many of the children were intending to persuade their parents to take them back.

Sport

Fencing

16. Three female pupils won the U13 British Epee championships.

17. A pupil the won gold medal in this year's U12 Elite Epee fencing Event 4, held at Newcastle Fencing centre on Saturday 30th June.

18. A national level fencer joined Junior School this year. We have high hopes!

Cricket

19. The U11 girls came second in the St George's cricket festival, hitting a four off the last ball of the day to win their final match!

Athletics

20. 13 JS athletes qualified for the IAPS National Championships in Birmingham on 3rd July, achieving excellent positions and medals. The U13 4x100m came third. Top ten finishes were achieved in the girls' U14 800m, the girls' U12 1500m, the girls' U12 Discus and our second U14 4x100m girls team.

Arts

21. In May various children won awards at the Reigate and Redhill Festival of Music and Drama (May 2018), including 9 winners. All is detailed in our weekly newsletter, *Getting the Balance Right*.

Charity

22. The Junior School raised just over £7500 for the year's Junior School charities (Group B Strep Support and The Humanimal Trust), as well as £500 for Save the Children. Many thanks go to the chaplain for co-ordinating. At the time of writing we are about to start the process for selecting (democratically) the charities for this academic year.

Twitter

23. We're up to 610 followers.

Contact: Matt Robinson

Twitter: @JuniorFreemens