

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	
Subject: Report from Head of Junior School	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1(d); 2(b) (d); 3(a), (c); 9(a)
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/AN
Report of: Roland Martin, Headmaster	For information
Report author: Matt Robinson, Head of Junior School	

Summary

This report details what has happened in the Junior School at Freeman's since the last Governors' report of October 2020. It lists staff news, pupil activity and achievement.

Main Report

Staff News

1. Our new members of Junior School staff this academic year have settled in extremely well. The class teachers, who had taught previously in the School, have grasped the new processes and procedures quickly, not least the IT demands, and the four Graduate Assistants have thrown themselves into School life, both in and outside the classroom.

School Roll

2. The current Junior School roll is 405. We continue to receive regular enquiries as to whether there are places to join within the academic year. We have one new joiner after half term and more will start in January. Furthermore, the numbers for assessment exams in December and January remain extremely high.

Academic

3. Unfortunately, our usual external trips and extras to the curriculum have been curtailed. However, we have recently enjoyed a Biology talk for Upper 3 and Lower 4 entitled Animazing, and a visit from Mexicolore for the Lower 2 children to further their understanding of Mayan culture.

4. The U3s sit their Midyis data gathering testing in November and Governors will be informed of the data in future papers.
5. The children received a series of assemblies on the theme of tolerance, diversity, anti-bullying and Black Lives Matter. I am proud of the way the Junior community has embraced inclusion.

Charity

6. We wore mufti on Jeans for Genes day on 18th September and will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on 13th November.
7. The FSA and the Junior School continue to work closely together, not least in preparation for the Christmas Fair. Plans for the raffle prizes for children that sell tickets are in place. Sadly, there will be no Freeman's Fireworks this year.

Arts

8. The foyer is awash with glorious two and three dimensional work created by the children over half term for the House Art competition, the theme of which is Winter. I hope that Governors will have seen some of the photos on the Junior Twitter feed.
9. Soon after we return from half term in November the Lower 4 Shakespeare for Schools cast will professionally film an abridged version of *Julius Caesar*, replacing the traditional live performance in the Leatherhead Theatre. Our new Drama Teacher is extremely complimentary about the standard of acting she has witnessed in rehearsals and is excited and confident that the actors and technical team will do the School and themselves proud.
10. 3D Printer Club continues to generate great interest from U3 and L4 children. We now have a 3D printer for the Junior school; that, along with Minecraft Club and Warhammer Club, keep the Junior School DT Co-ordinator very busy!
11. A girl in U3 (who has figured repeatedly in these pages previously) achieved a distinction in her Grade 8 violin which is astonishing for her age.
12. Four other children (one from U3 and three from L4) have all been invited to join the Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra.

Sport

13. Surrey Hockey continued to run trials despite all the restrictions and in early October six Freeman's girls (two ex-Junior School from U4, and four from L4) attended trials. We await news at the time of writing.

Conclusion

14. During the School day, the Junior School is as lively and vibrant as ever, though with fewer clubs no away matches to prepare for and easier lunchtimes, there is a sense of greater calm ... a corona-bonus. Nonetheless, we all maintain our high ambitions for the children despite Covid's best efforts.

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