

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	21 November 2019
Subject: Report of the Head of the Junior School of Freeman's	Public
Report of: Matt Robinson (Head of Junior School at Freeman's)	For Information

Summary

This report details what has happened in the Junior School at Freeman's since the start of the academic year 2019-20. 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 DT Co-ordinator has instigated two new co-curricular clubs, Minecraft and Warhammer clubs, which are extremely well attended by boys and girls in U3 and L4. Three of the four Graduate Assistants have thrown themselves into school life, in class and outside the classroom, and may well prove to be our best cohort. The fourth, though dedicated and professional, has decided that teaching is not for her and has taken a job in TV as of the end of November. We are in the process of appointing her replacement.

School Roll

2. The current JS roll is 397. A new development is that we are receiving regular enquiries as to whether there are places to join within the academic year. We will have some new joiners in January.

Academic

3. Extras to the curriculum this year have included various trips (detailed below) a Biology talk for Upper 3 and Lower 4 entitled *Animazing*. The author Mark Lowery spoke to Freeman's children and guests from local maintained primary schools, and a photo competition in which children had to realize book titles was run. On 20th November Mexicolore will visit Lower 2, enthusing with a love of the Aztecs, and the scholars learned about the galaxy in a VR workshop in our own Studio in (in our own foyer) at the start of October.
4. The U3s sit their Midyis data gathering testing on the 18th November and I will inform governors of the data in the next papers.

Trips

5. This term, Form 1 journeyed to Butser Ancient Farm and spent an afternoon at the Red House with the octogenarian residents playing board games, Upper 2 visited Bough Beech Reservoir. Colleagues were delighted by the children's behaviour and engagement.

Charity

6. By the time Governors read this report, the presentations from the children, canvassing for votes for their charity to be chosen by the Junior School community to be supported through the year will have taken place. I will update you at the meeting.
7. We wore civvies on Jeans for Genes day on 20th September, supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning and will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on 15th November.
8. The FSA and the Junior School continue to work closely, not least in preparation for the Christmas Fair. Two members of the FSA spoke at a recent assembly to discuss raffles, prizes, mufti and the fair itself. I was told that the fireworks evening was populated mostly by Junior School families.

Arts

9. On the 5th November the Recital room held the year's first two concerts, at which children from Form 1 to Upper 6 impressed us with a variety of instruments, individually and in ensembles and orchestras. In attendance was the Director of Music designate.
10. On Monday 26th November the Lower 4 cast will perform an abridged version of *Macbeth* in the Leatherhead Theatre. Our new Drama teacher is extremely complimentary about the standard of acting he has witnessed in rehearsals and is excited and confident that the actors and technical team will do the school and themselves proud.
11. 3D printer club continues to generate great interest from Upper 3 and Lower 4 children. Our Head of Technology has been hugely impressed by the children's ambition. We intend to request from the FSA a 3D printer for the Junior school.
12. The foyer is awash with glorious 2 and 3-dimensional work created by the children over half term for the House Art competition, the theme of which is Vision. I hope that governors will have seen some of the photos on the Junior Twitter feed.
13. Summer Music grades were published at the end of September: Junior School children achieved many passes, merits and distinctions, including two Grade 5s, two Grade 6s, and a grade 7 for a pianist in Upper 3.

Sport

14. Over half term, two ex JS pupils (now in our 6th form) and I were hosted by the Chair for a fabulous morning of golf at Royal St George's.

15. Before half term the Games department hosted a morning of Elite hockey for boys and girls from L3 up. Our Head of Junior Sport is ensuring that our sports are much less gender specific.
16. The U13s played their first inter-school match of non-contact/touch rugby. Thoroughly enjoyed by boys from both schools that don't relish the physical confrontation, the match gave them the chance to represent their schools at rugby. The match was drawn.
17. Two pupils in L3 that were, last year, selected to join the Surrey Girls' Golf Development Squad, have both won silverware on the Rookie tour.
18. Three pupils in L4 have recently been selected for the U13 Surrey Hockey performance squad.
19. A pupil in L4 has recently been selected for the U14 Surrey Hockey performance squad, despite being only 12.
20. A pupil in U3W has recently been selected for the U13 Surrey squash squad.
21. A pupil in L4Z has recently been selected for the U13 Surrey Netball performance squad.
22. Six colleagues took children from Lower 4 to Jersey on a co-ed sports tour over half term. The girls played hockey and netball and the boys played rugby and football matches against clubs and other schools. All, including the teachers, had a splendid time.

Development

23. The Headmaster and the Head of the Junior School hosted a development dinner for parents of Junior school children on the first day back after half term. 21 parents attended and were grateful to hear about the school's plans. They have all been in touch offering to support the next stages in different ways.

Conclusion

24. Much has occurred already this term, demonstrating what a vibrant and exciting place the Junior School is, for children, parents, staff ... and governors.

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