

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	05 February 2020
Subject: Update on the Junior School of Freeman's	Public
Report of: Headmaster, City of London Freeman's School	For Information
Report author: Matt Robinson (Head of Junior School at Freeman's)	

Summary

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

Main Report

Academic

1. In the past few weeks we have welcomed close to 200 children for exams and interviews to join the Junior school in September 2020. The Junior school staff maintained their high standards of care for the visiting youngsters and attention to detail within the manual marking. Interviews for 8+, 9+, 11+ and 12+ took place on the 11th, and over 77 7+ interviews were spread over two days (16th and 17th).
2. In November the Lower 3s competed in the annual Primary Maths Challenge. Three children achieved bronze certificates, placing them in the top 20% of the country, one girl received a silver certificate, meaning she is in the top 10% and one boy secured a gold certificate, placing him in the top 5%. The latter pair are through to the final round of this national (and very challenging) competition.
3. In December we held our own JS "General" election. Each of the four Lower 4 classes chose a party to represent and campaigned for a week or so ahead of a whole school hustings. The results surprised everyone: The Brexit Party 3%; The Labour Party 14%; The Conservative Party 32%; The Liberal Democrats 50%.

Trips

4. In December Head of Form 1 took her colleagues and the whole of the year group to Walton Heath Old People's Home to help the residents celebrate Christmas with an old-fashioned sing-a-long. The children were impeccably behaved, sang like cherubim and we have already been invited back for next year.

5. On January 22nd, the Head of Upper 2 and her colleagues (including the HoJS) took the whole of the year group to the Gunnersbury Victorian Museum as part of their History curriculum. We were complimented on the children's behaviour.

Charity

6. The three JS carol services and the Form 1 "At Home" concert raised over £700 to be shared between our charity for the year: Sightsavers.
7. We have been very generously treated by the FSA once again. They have agreed to pay for our contribution to the Shakespeare Schools' Festival and will subsidise a new 3D printer for the Junior DT lab. In total they are providing about £3500 for the JS.

Arts

8. Our annual Shakespeare for Schools' Festival performance, this year *Macbeth*, was another great success. The actors and those backstage did us proud. Our performance was described as "razor-sharp, highly inventive and darkly tragic" by the SSF actor that hosted. He was right.
9. The Autumn term music grades are in. This term the JS children achieved 6 x Grade 1s, 7 x Grade 2s, 7 x Grade 3s, 4 x Grade 4s, 2 x Grade 5s, 1 x Grade 6 and ... 1 x Grade 7 to a Year 7 boy!
10. The Grade 7 boy has been offered a place in the National Children's Under 12 orchestra playing 'cello following his audition in October. He will spend a week with the orchestra in Dorset at Easter and another week in Lancashire in the summer.
11. A Lower 4 boy had a remarkable term; his was the Grade 6 above. He successfully auditioned with the London Youth Choir. He will now be singing with the Choir at the City of London Boys' School. After that, he successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and will be joining them in Easter 2020. Furthermore as part of his choral life with Hampton Court Chapel Royal, he appeared on the BBC 4 Lucy Worsley documentary "Christmas Carol Odyssey". Finally (!) he took part in the recording of the Hampton Court Chapel Royal Choir's CD of the works by the English composer Thomas Tomkins.
12. A girl in L3 (who has featured in these pages on many occasions) has been offered a national membership by National Children Orchestra 2020 to play violin. She also attended a two-day string orchestra workshop organized by Benedetti Foundation at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank where she had the chance to play Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana with Nicola Benedetti and a small group of violinists.

13. A new boy to Upper 3 gained a place in the National Youth Jazz Collective for 2020 and put his skills to good use playing on Christmas Day at the large charity lunch for local vulnerable people in Fetcham.
14. A boy in Lower 3 was accepted for the National Youth Choir and has also been given a place on a two day Nicola Benedetti Foundation session in London playing violin as part of the youth orchestra.
15. A girl in Upper 2 was awarded the Laine Theatre Arts 2019 Junior Performance Award and went on to performing in this Christmas' Leatherhead Theatre pantomime, Sleeping Beauty.
16. A girl in Form 1 performed in the Nutcracker at the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand.

Sport

17. An Upper 2 girl took part in a Tournament in a Korean martial art called Kuk Sool Won in Liverpool and won 2 silver medals and 1 Bronze medal in her tournaments.
18. Three Upper 3 boys performed admirably at the District Cross-Country Championships in late November, including one who finished first and became the u12 District Cross-Country champion. Two have been selected to run for Surrey.
19. On 10th January we had a fabulous afternoon in our new pool, hosting the IAPS regional qualification event. At the time of writing all results remain unconfirmed by IAPS but we are confident that some of our swimmers will be heading to the national finals.
20. 6 girls from Lower 4 (representing Epsom Hockey club) won the U12 2019 7-a-side #Indoor Hockey Championships at the Copperbox over the Christmas holidays.
21. Every single child in the Junior school represented the school last term in a fixture of some sort, from F1 netball and rugby, to L4 touch rugby for those that take no enjoyment from the contact element of the sport. This is a feat never before achieved!

Conclusion

22. Although it has not been long since the last Governors' report, you can see that the children have continued to be busy.

Matt Robinson

Head of the Junior School at Freeman's

T: 01372 822474 E: matt.robinson@freemens.org Twitter: [@JuniorFreemens](https://twitter.com/JuniorFreemens)