

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School	23 September 2021
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 was extremely interesting for the staff and pupils before the summer break, with a post-lockdown Summer term, in which trips took place, sporting matches were played, and life began to return to a sort of normality.
We are back now without bubbles or other restrictions, and the Junior school is thriving already.
2. This report will give Members a taste of the many activities in which the Junior School staff and pupils participated from the end of last academic year and the start of this one.

Staff News

3. Two teachers left at the end of the term and were replaced by two new permanent staff in the Junior School. One has joined Lower 3 and the other is the new Head of Junior Games (and a L4 form tutor).
4. Three JS graduate assistants have started, and will support form teachers in the Junior School, one being aligned in great part to Form 1, another working in music and Lower 2, and the third working in PE and Games as a Lower 4 tutor. All three will also assist in after school Homework club. They have made a great start.

Works

5. The Junior School has seen some improvements over the summer; some painting has occurred, there have been new ceiling and carpet tiles and the canteen has been returned to us for the children to use at break and lunchtimes. The major change has been in the IT room, which is now called the STEM room. A complete refurbishment has taken place removing all desks and desktop computers, and replacing them with iPads, flexible furniture solutions, new large teacher screens and wall whiteboards and coloured panels for the children to work on collaboratively. Over the half term break the room will be completed as the glass doors opening onto the foyer will be fitted.

Last Academic year

6. In early June, the Upper 2s enjoyed a day of activities inspired by ancient Egypt, creating their own ancient Egyptian board games, drawing and painting, and a brilliant theatre workshop.
7. In late June, we ran our annual MUN conference, this year in the virtual world, with Rosebery and the Beacon schools. The children from L3 to L6 enjoyed the cut and thrust of proper structured debate.
8. Despite being unable to hold concerts, our musical children demonstrated their talents in the various filmed performances, not least the Summer concerts, which I hope governors had a chance to see.
9. Music exams were taken, and Junior school children achieved the following results:

8 x Grade 1	9 x Grade 2	15 x Grade 3
3 x Grade 4	2 x Grade 5	1x Grade 6
And 1 x Grade 7		
10. Lamda exams were taken, and Junior school children achieved the following results:

15 x Stage 3 (pre-entry level)	3 x Entry level	
20 x Grade 1	10 x Grade 2	18 x Grade 3
6 x Grade 4		
11. Colleagues took the whole of Lower 2 for a three-day residential to High Ashurst, which centre is just over 3 miles away. The whole group walked to the site through woods and across streams and spent a day and a half enjoying campfires and adventurous pursuits. For many children it was their first time away. Parents were very grateful for the care demonstrated by the staff.
12. We had a Form 1 trip to Butser Farm to look at archaeological reconstructions of ancient buildings from the Stone Age, Iron Age, Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxon period. The children, staff and the Head of the Junior School found it very interesting.
13. 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.

14. On Speech Day at the Junior School Prizegiving, the Deputy Chairman and I spoke to the children about learning every day, enjoying learning and appreciating that you can make a difference to and for yourself. This linked to the major theme of the year: appreciating differences in others.

Sport

15. A full summer programme of cricket, tennis, athletics and swimming fixtures took place through the summer term as COVID restrictions eased. Great thanks go to the PE and Games staff, the Director of Sport and one of our former Junior School teachers in particular, for arranging fixtures early in the year and then at great speed when the final restrictions were lifted. Participation and fun were the main aims.
16. Many children referred to Sports Day as their sporting highlight of the term. Despite there being no parents on site (or perhaps because of it), the pupils loved the cut and thrust of competing on behalf of their houses.
17. A L4 boy was selected to play in the Surrey U13 Squash team.
18. Three Freeman's boys are in the Surrey Cricket squads for their age group.
19. Girl twins in Lower 4 represented the school in the Surrey School's Golf Championship and came 4th and 8th.
20. In June, a girl in U3 competed in a national long jump competition, coming 7th. In August the same girl attended the equivalent high jump competition and came 4th, nationally. She is a superstar.

Charity

21. A boy in Lower 3, touched by the humanitarian disaster in India, raised £4085 for Oxygen for India. His appeal went far beyond the Freeman's community. He received, at Prize Day, the new Hutter "Make a Difference" Award.
22. The Junior School's charitable giving was obviously curtailed by COVID, but we were still able to support our charity for the year, Momentum Children's Charity, to the tune of £2880. We were proud to play a great part in helping the whole school provide over £30,000 in the last two years. Many thanks go to our Charities Co-ordinator, who retired in July.

This Academic Year

23. 82 children joined the Junior School this September, 57 into Form 1. The Junior school starts the term at 392, as entry into Upper 3, usually 25+, was only 11. Families continue to contact Admissions to join mid-year.
24. 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 Lower 2 at 3.45. This has again proved to be very successful, not least assisting the new approach to pick up which sees parents stop briefly on the left-hand side of the drive for their child/ren to get in.

25. A very successful Information and Social evening has helped the Form 1 parents to settle in. Held at 7.00pm on Monday 6th September in the Junior School Hall, the evening was led by one of our Junior School Form Tutors and 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.
26. The parents of children from every year group in the Junior School have been invited to Information afternoons or 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.
27. All current Upper 3 pupils went to the outdoor activities and High-Ropes Centre at High Ashurst (2km away) on Wednesday 7th September. Very early in the year, this annual trip is designed to involve all pupils in team-building activities so that each form can actively engage in forging new friendships from the start of their Key Stage 3 phase of education. Activities included low-rope challenges, high-rope teamwork, Jacob's Ladder and team puzzle challenges, all of which were led by qualified centre staff.
28. In the second full week of term, our Assistant Head of Junior School and I held welcome lunches or breaktime "Hot Chocolate and Chat" sessions to give those new children an opportunity to feedback to us their initial experiences.
29. At the time of writing, we are going through the process of selecting and voting on our charity for 2021/2. If the vote has taken place, then I will update Governors at the next meeting.

Twitter

We are up to 780 followers.

Contact: Matt Robinson

Telephone: 01372 822474

Email: matt.robinson@freemens.org

Twitter: @JuniorFreemens