

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	4 th March, 2022.
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(c); 4 (a); 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 November 2021. It lists staff news, pupil activity and achievement.

Main Report

School Roll

1. The current Junior School roll is 388. Three children left the Junior school in the Michaelmas term: two siblings' family moved location and the family of the third child were finding the fees too much. None have been replaced, although we continue to receive regular enquiries as to whether there are places to join within the academic year.
2. As per last year's successful change, we held the KS2 Entrance assessment day before Christmas; this year on Saturday 11th December (a couple of days before term ended). A small number were unable to join us (for different reasons) and were seen on 20th January and we have a few final children to see on 10th February but the main day was a great success. It meant we could let parents and children know before Christmas. It has been very well received again and will remain as the strategy from now.
3. The PA to the Head of the Junior School, who has worked in the Junior Office for over 22 years, and for the past three heads, retired and was given a lovely send off by staff, pupils and parents, the latter collecting a sizeable sum which they delivered in person in the Christmas term's final afternoon's assembly.

4. We expect a few staff changes over the next months as we expect the resignation of at least one of the Key stage 2 subject co-ordinators.
5. Governors may be interested to know that at least once a week since the start of term I have brought my dog, Hugo, into School which has thrilled the children (and many staff). Already a number of children (including one girl on the ASD spectrum) have reported to their teachers (at my request) that they were nervous or scared of dogs and have approached and stroked him. A couple of unhappy children have sat with him and cuddled him, while I have chatted with them.

Academic

6. The iPads initiative continues to be successful, in that the children and teachers' use of the device has developed further. Our intention is to maintain the roll out into U2 and L3, 'giving' each child an iPad, which will stay at School in the evenings.
7. Since the start of term assemblies have ranged from the centenary of Tutankhamen, the long-awaited dog coming into the Junior school, green matters, Epiphany, and Jesus' "I am" statements, all led by adults. The children's assemblies started on 24 January, and included a Chinese New Year assembly on 31 January, led by some of the Senior boarders. This was complemented by a huge dragon and orange lanterns decorating the foyer, a Chinese New Year lunch and, on 3 February, a special Mandarin taster evening for Junior children led by the Languages Department, which was attended by 40 children.
8. Reading continues to be a focus throughout the Junior School and in particular in Key stage 2, setting the children up with the requisite skills and love of reading. The chart below demonstrates the value (in age terms) that the Freeman's children receive:

Value added in reading for present cohorts:

Fmn's Yr gp	Nat yr gp	Av reading age (last year)	Av reading age (this year)	Increase
F1	3 (7yrs - 8)	N/A (they were elsewhere)	9.02	N/A
L2	4 (8-9)	9.03	11.04	2.01
U2	5 (9-10)	11.05	14.03	2.10
L3	6 (10-11)	13.02	14.09	1.07

9. Nonetheless, some children need extra support, and our intervention systems continue apace for the Junior children. The chart below details the numbers of children receiving support:

Freemen's Year grp	National Year grp	Literacy	Numeracy	SEN	Social skills	Children in >2 groups
F1	3	13 – literacy support run by F1 staff & FIM	6 – F1 staff	0	6 – lead by MEW	0 – we run all Learning support groups – Thursday P4B
L2	4	6 presently for handwriting but this group is adjusted regularly to focus on different needs	0	0	0	0
Freemen's Year grp	National Year grp	Literacy	Numeracy	SEN	Social skills	Children in >2 groups
U2	5	9 currently for handwriting. Focus was comprehension last term	7 – maths support run by FCF	5		2
L3	6	Approx. 5 - 7	Approx. 5 – 7	6	0	It depends. Our groups are very flexible. We select pupils and pupils can choose to come, giving them the opportunity to take responsibility for their learning. They are able to do this as we collect a hot lunch and do not pre-order.
U3	7	0	8	4	0	2
L4	8	0	8	10	2	2
	TOTALS	33-35	34-35	25	8	6 (or so)

Charity

10. The FSA and the Junior School continue to work closely together. An assembly was held in December, in which prizes were raffled to those children that had sold tickets to the FSA raffle. On Monday 10th January I joined a virtual FSA meeting, in which the Committee was discussing the year ahead and staff were able to thank the FSA for previous support and request more; I was hugely impressed by the number of dedicated parents, and their ambitions. So too was I grateful for their keen response to my bid, which I may be able to discuss in greater detail in the Governors' meeting.

Arts

11. The foyer had a makeover for Christmas, with lights, banners, a tree and long paper chains. I hope that Governors will have seen some of the photos on the Junior Twitter feed.

12. The Lower 4s rehearsed the first month of this term for the Shakespeare Schools' project, this year producing an abridged version of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Performed live in Kingston's Rose Theatre on 31st January, to around 300 people, the compere described it as "Sophisticated, Witty and Stylish. The guest director, that popped in when he could, was very proud!

13. Various Junior children contributed to Christmas concerts, showcasing some of the fantastic musicianship in the youngest section of the school. The first informal concert of the term (a strings one) took place on 3rd February, and comprised of Juniors and Seniors in equal measure.

Sport

14. A L3 girl represented Surrey in the National Squash finals on 16th January. She won one and lost one.
15. A Lower 4 girl secured qualification for the 70cm National Winter Championship of the Just for Schools competition run by the British Show jumping Association. It is due to take place in March.
16. The U13 girls made it through to the last 16 of the 'Independent Schools Hockey Cup' alongside the U15s. We also nominated a number of both our Junior and Senior girls for the Surrey Hockey Academy Squads.
17. A L4 girl has been selected for the U13 Surrey Netball Team and we compete at a number of IAPS and Surrey Netball tournaments this term.
18. Six of our Junior Freeman's cross-country runners have been selected to run for the Central Surrey Cross Country Team in January, following huge successes at the District competition, the U12 girls coming 4th overall. We also had a record number of competitors running at the London Mini Marathon in October with some outstanding performances.
19. As always, we competed strongly in the Surrey School's Swimming team relays but were unlucky not to place in the top teams and make it through to the regional competitions this year.
20. Two L4s have been playing and training with the county and England Golf South region U16 squad. In the Surrey School's Golf Competition. They were fourth and eight respectively in the U18 girls' competition.
21. An U3 girl is now ranked fourth nationally for her age group in high jump and has had a successful summer competing in various athletics meets.
22. In January two Lower 4s, a girl and a boy, were selected to run for Surrey in the south-east inter counties fixture on 26th March.
23. One of our colleagues ran his 400th Parkrun on 22nd January.
24. We had 100% participation at KS2 sports and matches and nearly 100% in Upper 3 + Lower 4.

Conclusion

25. This time last year I wrote that “only 50 (or so) Keyworker children (were) on site”. I am glad to say that presently we are in full flow, and the School is as vibrant and cheerful as ever.

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