

Junior School Town Hall Summer Term 2023

Welcome and Introduction to the Junior School leadership team

- Jade Lefevre, JS Assistant Head Teaching and Learning
- Meghan Guy, JS Assistant Head Pastoral and Wellbeing
- Kelly Hewitt, Head of JS Learning Support + 1-3 Lead
- Sarah Gibson, Head of Early Years (unable to attend)

Recognising Change in the School (Nick)

- Laura taking on the Interim Acting Head role
 - Nick emphasised his support for Laura and her dynamic, action-based approach
- Nick stepping up to Acting Deputy Head of Frensham Heights School
 - Nick reassured that his focus remains on the Junior School
 - Nick has a strong working relationship with Laura and this role will bring the whole school together. More cohesive and integrated.

Teaching and Learning (Jade)

- Focus on a skills-based curriculum for the Junior School
 - Jade working with the senior school to make sure curriculum is aligned
 - A 1 page template is being developed for parents for each term to inform what the learning focus will be
- Maths Audit is ongoing and Jade is reviewing all resources and online systems to make sure maths is fun and engaging for the children
- Homework is being reviewed
 - A survey is being developed to go out to parents by end of the week to collect feedback
 - Jade is working on making homework more structured and creating consistency and clarity throughout the Junior School
 - New procedures to be put in place by new academic year in September
 - Atom learning didn't work as they targeted marketing directly at parents and took a competitive approach which was felt inappropriate and not to be the Frensham way
 - Seesaw is being used as an online homework diary as a physical one has proven to be hit and miss
 - Jade is considering homework clubs for children to attend
 - Jade will look into creating a 1 page log-in sheet containing log-in details to all the various online learning resources to make it easier for parents to keep track
 - A parent raised that homework is predominantly all online but Jade emphasised that long term topic projects are offscreen and online tools are rarely used in the classroom so there is a balance
- Jade is working on identifying unique learning experiences and events that the Junior School can take part in
 - collaborating with other schools and taking part in masterclass sessions, workshops, challenges.

- Most opportunities identified are maths-based but Jade is keen to find other ones including Science, English etc... If you are aware of any do let Jade know

Junior School Pastoral Check-in and Check-out Programme(Meghan)

- Children were more open and honest second time round
- 30 minute workshops that took part throughout the day worked well with senior school specialists
- 1:1 and paired teams worked best for the check-in sessions with the teachers
- Check-ins will take place termly

Zones of Regulation (Kelly)

- New initiative launching across the whole of the Junior School this week
 - Concept developed by occupational therapist
 - Encompasses the emotional well-being of children and aims to guide and teach children to identify and self-regulate their own feelings and emotions
 - This practice focuses on recognising that all feelings are normal and that it is okay to feel a certain way. All feelings are good and none last forever
 - It also enables children to identify how others might be feeling and building their emotional literacy
 - 100% child led and adults are there just for guidance and helping equip children with the tools they need
- Initiative will run from Nursery all the way through the Junior School years
- Launching now with the teachers who will lead this initiative with their class
- From September onwards strategies will be put into practice

Questions from parents:

Q: How inclusive is this programme?

A: Very Inclusive. Important for Frensham Heights that this doesn't make anyone feel different or alienated. The idea is for children to feel comfortable about their feelings and that no feelings are wrong. Children need to be able to express themselves.

Q: Great concept but how are you going to work with children who are mainly displaying red (overjoyed/elated, panicked, angry, terrified) or blue (sad, bored, tired, sick) emotions?

A: We will be having conversations with parents and recommending referrals to occupational therapists who are best placed to offer advice. The idea is for the teachers to get to know their students really well.

Q: What strategies will you employ if a child is demonstrating mainly blue (sad, bored, tired, sick)?

A: The teachers will look to understand what is behind those feelings. Why is the child feeling that way? What would make them feel better? Not about putting words in their mouths but rather listening to them and following their voice. If there is a common theme it will be raised with parents.

Q: Will children be the ones identifying the emotions?

A: Yes. We will be playing games etc.. to help recognise emotions and help children to identify and describe them.

Q: How can parents support?

A: Kelly will be putting together information on the Zones of Regulation for parents and creating a guide. Also happy to run a coffee morning workshop for parents.

Q: How will you track these emotions?

A: The idea is for it to be something that is always running in the background. It is teaching our children the life skills they need and is a learning process that drips in in the background and isn't forced. However, it will tie-in quite nicely with the termly pastoral check-ins.

ECAs

- Jon is volunteering his time to improve Junior School ECAs programme
- Noticeable improvements so far have been:
 - Less clashes
 - More variety
 - Increase in number of ECAs on offer especially to the younger years
 - Positive feedback received following ECAs presentation to the children
- A parent raised that some children are skipping ECAs and there is a lack of communication between ECAs teachers and parents. Nick will look into
- All ECAs are being given the opportunity to showcase but it was raised that it was felt drama wasn't very well represented. Nick will look into

Staff Changes

- New full-time teacher starting in September to replace Sally but not necessarily teaching year 5
- Louise Wheeler has started working in the late stay provision
- Debbie Cross, a new teaching assistant, to start on Monday
- Currently looking for part-time teacher to replace Olivia
- There will be a staff shuffle for the new academic term to freshen up the teaching dynamic
- Looking to run various Junior School events to get to know Laura better

Successes

- Many successes over the last term including:
 - Stronger ECAs programme
 - Better working relationship and communication with student reps
 - Termly Key dates published
 - New student voice programme
 - More showcasing events and opportunities
 - Enriching learning experience/outreach programme
 - Positive Pastoral check-ins
 - 22 new children set to join Frensham in September in the Junior School
 - Positive town hall events

Work in progress

- Format of parents teachers evenings
- Food in the Junior school and ensuring there is food available throughout the day
- Communications and My School Portal integration taking place (perhaps online resources can have a place on the dashboard of MSP?)
- Skills-based curriculum and reporting
- Developing the Junior School outdoor space and resources, especially in N-3 block

Summer 2023 Focus

- Designing next year
 - Classes – can we improve dynamics?
 - Staffing to be decided early to give plenty of notice
 - Calendar to be developed for next academic term
 - Planning
- It was suggested by a parent that it would be useful to know the class list when the class teachers are announced. Nick will ask Bursar if that is possible as might be a Data Protection Act issue