



SMSC “Flying High” Autumn 2023

Student Voice - Summer Summit - 17th July 2023



July brings around a time for reflection and, for Student Voice, an opportunity to celebrate and look back on what has been an incredibly successful year ensuring students' voices are heard around the school.

All six Student Voice Action Teams gathered together for an afternoon of celebration, reminiscing and forward planning. We revisited our action plans from last year and were incredibly happy to see that so many of the two- and five-month plans were put into action this year. We reflected on our progress as a community and looked to next year in how to ensure that our plans are put into action and our voices continue to be heard.

Students looked back on the bigger projects they were able to devise and facilitate over the year, as well as small independent wins, developing their confidence, public speaking, working with a cross-year group range of students and developing their professionalism in delivering interview panels.

Over the year students, have been involved in raising money for the Poppy Appeal, Young Carers' Association, Children in Need, The Jodie Chesney Memorial Fund, The Red Cross and many more charities. Students facilitated our food parcel Christmas Hamper Competition, Culture Day, Wellbeing Week, The Jodie Chesney memorial bench unveiling, our Poetry in Performance competition, tree planting for the Jubilee and delivering a reusable water bottle campaign, culminating in handing out 1,500 reusable JRCS water bottles to our school community. Students have overseen interview panels and made important decisions around school life. They have supported at events such as progress evenings and new intake evenings. They have had

opportunities to meet West Ham football players through our West Ham programme and spoken and delivered assemblies in front of hundreds!

Some special mentions and awards went to the following students:

Perfect Attendance - Lexie 7

Best Interviewer - Victoria - 7

Most Creative - Joseph 9

Above & Beyond - Zhi & Shanai 9

Outstanding Leader - Ayen 10

Student of the Year - Frankie 7

I couldn't be prouder of our Student Voice Action Teams this year and I hope they have found this year enriching and beneficial. We will begin our new democratic campaign and voting process this September and hope to see many reapply.

Miss Hallas

Student Aspirations Coordinator

French Day July 2023



The Year 7 experienced a wonderful and amazing French day where they learnt about France in occasion of the Bastille Day which is the 14th of July.

On the 12th and 13th of July Year 7 participated in many activities organised by the MFL department, such as traditional French sport "Pétanque" and two more familiar games: tug of war and dodgeball with the help of Mr Richards and Mr. Thomas. These games awakened the enthusiasm and the competitive side of the students which allowed them to learn more about the French sport but also have fun with their peers.



Another beautiful activity run by Mademoiselle Umeh, included not only learning about the prestigious French brand Coco Chanel, but also how iconic pieces seen on runways originated from a single sketch. They were challenged to create their own piece using simple everyday materials – black trash bags and toilet rolls. This showcased their creativity and their impressive designs or mummified models.



The Year 7s gained an insight about the history and meaning of the French national anthem through Mademoiselle Belloni and were given the opportunity to sing along passionately almost as if they were French citizens themselves. Moreover, the students were energetic and seemed excited for the opportunity to learn about traditional French music and with the help of Mademoiselle Fernandez they also learnt to dance to Bal-Musette music. Mademoiselle Buffon had the incredible idea to teach the students about one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world but also putting



them in the shoes of the architect of the Eiffel tower by using materials to create their own Eiffel Tower, in which the highest one would win.



The Year 7s finished their day with French bakery such as croissant and

pain au chocolat alongside a photo booth with the French flag.

Written by Luisa and Hepzibah (Press and Publicity) Year 11 Language Ambassadors

Year 6 Open Evening



We have had a fantastic start to term. It was great to welcome so many parents/carers to our Year 6 Open Evening in September. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the school. I have enclosed feedback from one of the many emails received about the excellent work of our tour guides:

"I attended the Open Evening with my daughter last night. We were both very impressed with your school and what chances and opportunities are available. It was lovely to see your pupils passionate about subjects and what they enjoy about being taught at JRCS along with her feelings toward the school that she obviously feels a lot for."



May I thank all the students that supported on Wednesday evening to ensure the night was such a success.



As I say in my speech at the beginning of each year, we are a strict school with high expectations around uniform and behaviour. We feel this is really important in ensuring students have high standards in everything they do. Our policies help us to maintain an ethos of high expectation. This leads to a positive and calm learning environment for all our students.

Ms Keane
Headteacher

European Day of Languages



In September we celebrated European Day of Languages in our whole school assemblies.

Students confidently led the assemblies to celebrate this event with the aim to encourage language learning in Europe. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and the range of languages spoken at JRCS to promote intercultural understanding. Students were encouraged to participate in lifelong language learning both in and

outside of school and were made aware of the benefits of being multilingual.

Ms Keane
Headteacher

Student Voice



September marked the beginning of our Student Voice election process, with students from across all year groups starting their campaigns.



During Wednesday and Thursday break times, candidates took to Boothroyd Hall to promote themselves and answer questions from their peers. All students were invited to join and start to work out who they will vote for next week during our voting days.



There was an exciting buzz around and some incredibly creative and thought through promotional material and pitches.

Good luck to all our fantastic candidates!

Miss Hallas
Student Aspirations Coordinator

Jeans for Genes Day



A fund-raising event took place on Thursday 28th September in Sixth Form. The event raises awareness about genetic disorders, Jeans for Genes Day, and is a brilliant opportunity to raise awareness about different genetic disorders and how they affect people.



Learning about genetic disorders will help our students develop empathy for others. Around 30,000 babies and children are diagnosed with a genetic disorder in the UK.

Students and staff wear jeans for the day and staff baked some amazing cakes that were sold during breaktime. Through the amazing effort and support £325 was raised, which will help change lives for the better. The money raised will have a positive impact on young lives in the UK; donations help fund nurses, specialist equipment, support, and counselling.



Mrs Steadman
Sixth Form Progress Facilitator



Student Voice Voting Days!



On Wednesday 4th October and Thursday 5th October this week, students from across all year groups came to our makeshift polling station in Boothroyd Hall to cast their votes for Student Voice candidates.

With help from the Business BTEC students, students entered the hall and filled in a ballot paper, casting their vote for the students they deemed suitable for the roles.

Votes are yet to be counted and our newly appointed Student Voice teams will be announced in the coming weeks. Keep your eyes peeled!



Miss Hallas
Student Aspirations Coordinator

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alexander in 8G who received an award and prize from ExpertEd for all the extra Maths homework he has been doing! I have also issued a number of awards for students who have been doing extra homework on Seneca. Seneca is an online homework platform that the school has purchased to support students in their homework and independent study. Students who engage in learning at home as well as in school perform significantly better in exams at the end of Year 11 and Year 13. I am pleased to say that JRCS is the top performing school in the borough in terms of student engagement with Seneca. Keep it up JRCS!

Ms Keane
Headteacher

Year 11 National Tutoring Programme



The Year 11 Online Tutoring cohort commenced 1:1 online tutoring in October with our tutoring provider Pearson. We have kindly received ICT equipment from Capita and funding as part of the Government's National Tutoring programme to enable some students the opportunity to access private Maths and English tuition. Engagement from the Year 11s who attended was excellent and many commented on the benefits of 1:1 tuition and were grateful for the expertise that was offered. We have some limited availability for these sessions so please contact Miss Boulton (Assistant Head Year 11) for further information.

Ms Keane
Headteacher

World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day at JRCS. We did this in a few ways:

1. Assemblies – We had Key Stage assemblies devoted to the topic of mental health awareness including a personal story shared with KS4 and KS5 by myself and Mrs House sharing her psychology knowledge with KS3.

2. Tutor time programme – Every year group has completed an activity relating to caring for their own wellbeing during tutor time.

3. Hello Yellow – Finally, we asked staff to wear as much yellow as they could and students to add a splash of yellow to their uniform (socks/bows/bobbles/scarves). Here you can see some amazing staff commitment to the cause!

Here at JRCS we are passionate about ensuring every young person and staff member in our school community feels valued and with a voice. We hope that they know they can reach for to support at any time by using the Imabi App to report concerns, speaking to a trusted adult in school or by following any of the links on our school website [‘Wellbeing Hub’](#).

Next week, a further 10 staff members across the school will be training in being a Mental Health Champion with further training for Mental Health First Aid in November. Furthermore, we are hoping to have training for parents/carers in being a Mental Health Champion and welcome expressions of interest via the Head of Year for your child.

Our theme this week has been kindness. We are a great school community and we achieve this by simply being kind. So, remember when asking if someone is okay, ask twice to be sure!

Ms Draisey
Senior Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead



OSHL & Trips

In September week we held our Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) fair and have had trips to Stubbers and Lee Valley White Water Centre. One of the things that our students say makes JRCS stand out from the other schools is the variety of opportunities for clubs and trips that we offer.



Ms Keane
Headteacher

OSHL Fair



On Wednesday 20th September we held our annual Out of Hours School Learning (OSHL) Fair under Keane's Canopy. The event showcased all extra-curricular clubs and opportunities on offer to our students ranging from jazz band to Maths Puzzle club with plenty more besides!

There was a lovely atmosphere created by staff and students with an impromptu performance from early auditionees for the upcoming musical Shrek (to be performed in February).

The timetable for all OSHL activities is attached separately.

We look forward to welcoming your child to as many of these as possible. We know that they have a significant impact on developing a range of skills in young people and we are always looking at developing our programme each term with students encouraged to give feedback, watch this space...



Mr Cully
Assistant Headteacher

SMSC Year 7

Unity Day



In September on Unity Day the students participated in sessions which covered wellbeing, equalities, respect, student voice, teambuilding and orienteering. The aim of the day was for each tutor group to build relationships with their peers and staff as well as highlighting the positive character traits that we celebrate at JRCS.

At the end of the day, the students were presented with a metaphor of a puzzle and asked to consider how this links with the idea of unity within their class and Year 7 as a whole. One student spoke in assembly and said, 'if the puzzle pieces were all the same, they wouldn't be able to fit together', which perfectly encompasses how we celebrate our differences.

We celebrated Year 7's first day in true JRCS tradition where staff lined the exit to clap them out.

We couldn't be prouder of the positive start Year 7 have made and look forward to seeing the many successes that this year group will achieve throughout this year!

Miss Simpson, Mr Watts and Miss Howard
The Year 7 team

The Island day



The Year 7s started their second day at JRCS with “The Island”, a day where students work in their forms doing lots of interesting work based on being in an unfamiliar context.

They experienced building a communications tower, working as a team, learning how to filter clean water, building a signaling device to be rescued and many more interesting activities. The level of engagement was amazing, and it was really good to see all of the fantastic work they were doing in their subject areas.



Each form tutor was asked to nominate two students to gain their very first LOC from the school which will be sent out shortly. Overall, a fantastic start to life at JRCS that encompasses the ideals of community, resilience, and achievement for all.



Well done Year 7!

Mr Gaudoin

Director of Learning for Mathematics and Numeracy



SMSC Year 11

Silver DofE success for Year 11



At the end of the summer term seven students from Year 11 took on the challenge of learning to canoe in order to complete their silver expedition.

The group travelled to Trewern from 10th-14th July and took part in a week of training to learn paddling skills, rescue skills, controlling their craft on moving water and expediting. The group really took on board all of the instruction that they were given by John Clark at Trewern and were able to demonstrate by the Friday that they could complete a two day expedition on the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal.



They all developed considerable resilience as the weather was a challenge, especially on the Friday when it poured with rain for most of the day. Congratulations to the soggy seven - Majid, Ishaq, Enoha, Daniel, Imtiaz, Kristina and Adrijana for all the progress that they made throughout the week. Thank you also to Dave Kilminster who helped to supervise the trip.



On 25th July, the group departed school once again heading for Trewern this time to complete their qualifying expedition. Unfortunately, this time they were without Kristina who was unwell. Hopefully she will be able to complete her expedition on another occasion. The group departed from Whitney-on-Wye on Wednesday morning, following a brief revision session of their paddling skills observed by Dave Barber who was assessing the group. The rain over the previous two weeks had brought the river up, and the group easily made it to Byecross Farm Campsite by 4pm.



Unfortunately, once again they experienced less than friendly weather on Wednesday evening with plenty of rain; this did seem rather cruel after the weather on their training!

Thursday dawned dry, and once again the river had risen. Dave saw the group down the first rapid - Monnington Falls and then they continued through the city of Hereford and on to Holme Lacey and Lucksall Campsite. This was a long distance of over 30km but due to the speed of the water was easily manageable.

The group certainly enjoyed the dry weather on their final night. On the final day the river had increased in volume yet again and it only took the group two hours to get to their final destination at Tresseck Farm, where the normal large beach had been completely covered by the swollen river. The group nonetheless landed safely and were met by Dave who debriefed them and gave them the good news that they had all been successful in completing their expedition. They have only to complete their presentation now in the form of a video once they return to school in September.

Thank you very much to Miss Lea and Bill Lockton who helped with supervising the group on this trip.

Retiring remarks

On a personal note, it was a real privilege to accompany this brilliant group of students on my final expedition as DofE manager. They responded magnificently to all of their training and the advice they were given and developed their initiative and resilience throughout their expedition journey. I was also especially moved by the riverside tribute that they gave me under an arch of paddles with some very touching words contributed by Majid.

As you read this, I will be travelling in Australia having retired at the end of term. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the DofE award for nearly half of my career at JRCS, I would like to thank all of the students with whom I have worked and the staff, parents and carers who have supported them. I hand over to the brilliant Miss Lea who has been my right-hand woman on most expeditions throughout the past year and who I know is going to be a fantastic DofE manager.

To all members of the Jo Richardson Community, all the best for the future and don't forget to enjoy life's adventures!

Ms Montague
D of E Manager (retired)

SMSC Sixth Form

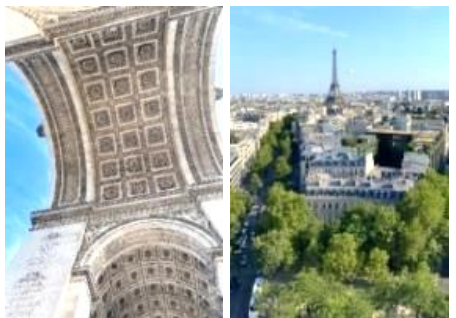
Au Revoir Year 13 HSF Scholarship Winners



Toni and Megan were two Year 13 students (left July 23) who achieved a Network Scholarship from Herbert Smith Freehills during their time in Year 12.

The Network seeks to support students who wish to pursue a career in the City and provides them with a mentor, an internship at the end of Year 13 and both mentor support and financial support during their future studies.

This summer not only saw the two students achieve excellent A level results but attend their internship at Herbert Smith Freehills. They were there for three weeks, during which time they shadowed HSF employees, pitched to Goldman Sachs and... spent time at an HSF office in PARIS! However, the best person to tell you about their time is one of the students themselves – this is the email I received from Toni at the end of his internship:



“I have finished my internship at HSF, it was absolutely fantastic!

During my three weeks, I did lots of work shadowing days, workshops, networking, work sessions, and project work on the Goldman Sachs pitch. I have met some very fantastic people and made good relationships with many such as my mentor, fellow scholars, and other employees at HSF. My pitch to Goldman Sachs also went very well.

To add on Paris was amazing, the views, architecture, and food were really good. Plus the HSF office has beautiful views of the Eiffel Tower, we learnt a lot in France and really enjoyed it!

I am also more confident, personable, and well-rounded and it showed in the pitch. As a group, we did very well and impressed a lot of people. I have seen a lot of growth in myself in a range of areas.”

The current Year 12s will have the chance to apply for the scholarship during this year. I asked Toni whether he felt it was a good thing to do.

“I believe the scheme is the best in the whole of London if not the country since I haven't heard of anything that comes close. As this was a paid and international internship at age 17-18! Even when I had to introduce myself to people at both offices, they were all surprised at the opportunity to present to Goldman Sachs and go abroad at such an age, no matter their seniority.”

Year 12 – WATCH OUT FOR THE INFORMATION

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form
Head of Year 12

Congratulations to Year 13 and Year 11



Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. As a school despite all the disruption students faced due to the pandemic and the increase in grade boundaries, our results were in line with pre-pandemic levels!

Over 85% of students in Year 13 got into their first choice university! Many of our Year 13 students have achieved A* grades in the subjects they studied, including A*s for Sammi in all her A Level subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Maths), Liepa (English Literature and Religious Studies) and Edvardas (Maths). Two of our students, Venessa and Sophie, achieved the highest possible grade in their vocational CTEC Health and Social Care course, achieving D*D*D*.



There are many students who have been offered places at prestigious universities and we are overjoyed that Sammi and Filip have secured a place at Imperial College London to study different variations within chemistry. In addition to this, Edvardas is looking forward to studying Economics at The University of Bath and David is attending the University of Warwick to study Biochemistry. Our students have chosen to continue their educational journey by studying a range of subjects at universities across the United Kingdom. We have students studying Law, Physiotherapy, Civil Engineering, Business and Psychology, as well as many others.

We are very proud of our students who have successfully achieved apprenticeships. After a long process of applications, interviews and tests, Megan is starting a Degree Apprenticeship in Financial Journalism with Rhotic Media and Oliver is embarking on a Level 6 Apprenticeship in Financial Administration.



We were equally pleased with our Year 11 students' results. We are incredibly proud of all that they achieved with 65% achieving a grade 4-9 in English and Maths and almost half achieving 5-9 in English and Maths.

We particularly want to congratulate the following students who achieved outstanding results. Ali achieved a clean sweep of grade 9s, Zubin achieved eight grade 9s and one grade 8, Reuben achieved six 9s, two 8s and a 7 and finally, Luisa who achieved five grade 9s.

Their hard work and commitment to their studies has paid off and now they are set to take on the next challenges of their journey.

Well done Class of 2023!

Ms Keane
Headteacher



Rumble at The Jungle



If you have been keeping up with the Year 12 Mentoring updates you will be aware that seven Year 12 (now Year 13) students have been involved with a 10-week mentoring programme with Media company Jungle Creations, via Peer2Peer.

The programme has been one of the best we have ever taken part in, and this is down to Heena at Peer2Peer and Dionne at Jungle Creations for their facilitation and organisation.

However, the real stars have been the seven students and their amazing mentors. At the end of the summer term, they were getting to the end of the programme and working hard on their final pitches. Their project had to meet a set of criteria and showcase not only their skills and their learning, but their ability to sell to an audience. At stake was the opportunity to gain a paid two-week internship at Jungle Creations – so we were left waiting to see who would be crowned “King Queen of the Jungle”.

I was privileged to go to the presentations on 22nd August at the Jungle offices. I was asked to be on the judging panel with Heena, Dionne and Mel Chapman (CEO of Jungle Creations). When agreeing I did not realise what an emotional experience it would be.

Each pair presented their project and vision and then had an individual interview with the panel (both mentee and mentor separately). Each member of the panel found a different project affected them in an emotional way they were not expecting.

I could not get over how professional, well-prepared, and knowledgeable every single student was. We expect great things from them, but they blew the top right off. I saw students that 10 weeks earlier were more reserved and quieter, students that would have struggled to stand up in front of four people and talk to them – suddenly command the floor and take the judging panel with them on their projects’ journey from inception to creation and to where it could go in the future.

Every single student held the judges’ attention throughout their presentation. Each pitch was different, showcasing their own interests and passion and using their mentor’s expertise to provide a seriously professional business pitch. We had pitches around Disney & FIFA, via magazines & live chat shows, products and merchandise provided. Projects dealing with equality for all, educating about careers – the variety was awe inspiring as the ideas came from the students themselves.

And then.... we had to choose one winner! Every one of them could have been that winner, genuinely it was one of the hardest things to do. For Mel, who does this all the time, it was a genuine challenge and long discussions were had between the four of us – a testament to our students. It became so difficult that Mel generously agreed to two students getting an internship (remember it is paid!).

Before I reveal our winners, it is important to realise that every student achieved greatness during their project. More importantly, through the programme as a whole, each one grew as a person, in confidence and stature. The trust that developed between mentee and mentor was incredible. I cannot thank Heena (Peer2Peer), Dionne & Mel (Jungle) and Connor, Mariem, Nads, Patri, Steph, Tom & Tricia (the exceptional Jungle Mentors) enough – they have made a huge difference and given seven students an exceptional experience.

And so to the winners:

Ronnie & Steph

Almas & Nads

Ronnie & Steph
Internship Winners



Almas & Nads
Internship Winners



Hopefully the Jungle Drums are telling me that we'll do it again this year!!

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form
Head of Year 12

Stubbers 2023



Year 13 had a great day at Stubbers Adventure Centre last Wednesday. Our trip to Stubbers is an important part of our Sixth Form provision giving students the opportunity to try some new activities, problem solve, work as a team and take themselves out of their comfort zones - all important life skills to take into their future world of work and further education.



Students got the chance to SUP (stand up paddle board), raft build, laser combat, archery, and axe throw. The students threw themselves into the activities and thoroughly enjoyed their time there - some finding some new talents.

Mrs Steadman got the chance to tick a bucket list item off and Mrs Wing was quick to get involved in the laser combat. The students' behaviour and good humour was highly commended by the staff at Stubbers.





Miss Duncan
Deputy Director of Sixth Form
Head of Year 13

Year 12



Our Year 12 students visited the University of Essex to raise aspirations and give students greater insight into life at university. They had the opportunity to participate in a lecture, tour the campus grounds and learn about the various undergraduate qualifications on offer. Students were extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit a university as they start to consider their post 18-options.



Ms Keane
Headteacher



SMSC PE

Under 13s Girls Football



On Thursday 28th September, the Under 13s girls took on Oaks Park in their first football game of the year. This was a great performance from all girls that took part.

There were debut performances from the following Year 7s Hollie, Jaydee, Veronica, Nevah, and Atene. All the girls worked incredibly hard and won 5-0. Manager player of the match went to Kadie Year 8 for a fantastic defensive performance. Player of the match went to Charlotte Year 8 for

scoring four out of the five goals. The girls will move through to the next round which will be played in November.

Well done girls.

Miss Pridie
Second in PE

Year 10 Football Fixture

The Year 10 football team had a tough opening game of the season in the Essex Cup vs Coopers' Coborn in September. A valid effort was committed throughout with some good passages of play and a consolation goal from Ehizojie on the stroke of full time.

These were positives we will take for the remainder of the campaign. Unfortunately, the scoreline of 7-1 represented a bridge too far up against an opponent who competes in sports on a national level. Man of the match was Logan.

Mr Cully
Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 football team started off their season with an opening fixture against Sanders Drapers School in the first round of the Essex Cup.

The boys put in a brilliant performance considering it was the first time the students had played together before in a competitive fixture and they managed to find an equaliser with only a couple of minutes of normal time remaining to force extra time. The game went all the way to a penalty shootout and unfortunately the boys lost what was a very tight encounter. Despite the defeat, there were plenty of positive signs for the season ahead as we look to start our borough league campaign.

Mr Howard
Head of PE

U16 Netball

The U16 netball team played their first fixture of the season against Robert Clack on Monday 9th October. Commitment to training has been excellent from the start of the year and the girls' skill level and discipline has improved in the last 6 weeks. We played Robert Clack A team in the first match and, despite losing, demonstrated some excellent passing and defending at times. The match against the B team was a more closely contested game and we were unlucky to lose in the closing moments by 2 goals. Well done to the Year 10 students who played up a year in this fixture and keep up the commitment in training as we will soon see the results!

Miss Boulton
Assistant Headteacher

