



The Hampshire School  
C H E L S E A

Head's Annual Report

July 2019

I am honoured to share my first end of year Head's Report with The Hampshire School Chelsea community in my inaugural year at the school. Successes have been abundant this year. Our Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception pupils have excelled in the encouraging learning environment at Wetherby Place where play, teacher-led activities and educational visits lead to children reaching and exceeding expected levels of achievement in all areas of development. Our Early Years profile outcomes confirmed that 90% of the pupils at The Hampshire School Chelsea achieved the Early Learning Goals which is significantly above the 68% of pupils for Local Authority maintained schools and 72% nationally. The Reception Foundation Stage Profile moderation by the Local Authority confirmed that the pupils, 'have very high levels of engagement in their learning'. GL Progress Tests in the Pre-Prep and Prep School also confirm rapid improvement in outcomes and attainment this academic year and I am very pleased to report that our leavers also achieved excellent senior school entrance results. To some extent, their future success is determined by what they have learned at The Hampshire School Chelsea in the classroom and being immersed in the School's ethos and Core Values. In addition to the measurable outcomes our pupils demonstrate, there are the many intangible qualities that make the pupils at The Hampshire School Chelsea special. These qualities are witnessed through the pupils' strong sense of purpose and ambition and the shared joy at the end of an event when everyone knows that they have done their best. When the time arrives for them to leave our school they are confident, well-rounded, self-assured young people that are well prepared for their next steps in life.

Rigour in the academic curriculum has been a focus this year and the success of events such as the World Maths Day built on the pupils' ability to grapple with mathematics problems and their powers of accuracy, judgement, imagination and critical interpretation of findings. Congratulations to Year 6 who entered the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Maths (UKMT) Junior Challenge designed for talented mathematicians working at least three years ahead of age-related expectations. The year group gained seven bronze, three silver and two gold awards. One pupil succeeded to the Kangaroo Challenge for pupils who score in the top 25% of candidates, and one for the Junior Maths Olympiad for outstanding mathematicians who score in the top 5%. The latter gaining a merit certificate in this category. Of similar significance, was our success in the Townsend Warner Preparatory School's History Prize, with one pupil being highly commended and coming 59<sup>th</sup> out of 1062 entries; this is a competition set at a very high standard requiring extensive knowledge of European and World History. The in-house Poetry Writing and Recitation event honed the pupils' poetry writing skills and their ability to perform with projection and confidence. Kate Hawthorne, Editor of Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today, was most impressed with the range of poems chosen and standard of work, noting future poets and 'ones to watch' in her notes.

We entered our first National Science Quiz Club competition and General Knowledge Quiz Club this year. The teams went to the events determined to do their very best. The scientists gained fourth place and the General Knowledge team made it through to the semi-final against some strong opposition. We are building on this success with multiple teams entering the Science, General Knowledge and Mathematics Quiz competitions next academic year. The Able, Gifted and Talented multidisciplinary day, designed to offer challenging, immersive learning experiences for able pupils in Year 5 involved an interactive, enquiry based workshop using the National Gallery's Take One Picture Painting: Men of the Docks (1912) by George Bellows as the stimulus. The introduction of 'Inspire Maths' in Pre-Prep, the Singaporean method of teaching is being implemented to ensure that pupils maximise their level of achievement in mathematics. This initiative, together with the implementation of Atom Learning, tracking of high attainment in English, maths and science and tailored interview practice, will result in a high success rate for the transition to future schools. The pupils strive for personal and academic excellence and the introduction of Awards for Excellence and



the Two Star Award rebranded as The Core Value Awards. We recognise the exceptional progress that the pupils are making.

Our sporting calendar involves an ever-widening spectrum of sporting opportunities. Fixtures this year in rugby, hockey, cricket and netball matches have been played against many local independent schools, our cricket teams were entered for the IAPS cricket tournaments and we had one pupil successfully achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the U9 ISA Fencing Competition. The Swimming Gala and Sports Days were very enjoyable community events with many medals awarded and pupils determined to win points for their Houses.

The pupils can be justly proud of what they have produced musically too and we pay tribute to the very talented and committed team of peripatetic teachers. The school has reared some very enthusiastic drummers and the 'Gemmys' was an incredible display of creativity and skill and, at every instrumental music concert, we have witnessed exceptional progress in music-making. We entered the Newton Prep Music Competition for highly talented musicians and our entry shone above all entries with a perfect rendition of Fantasia in D Minor on the piano. This is a reflection of the pupils' proactive approach to practising and the skill of their teachers. During Arts Festival Week, it was wonderful to see such young performers act, sing and dance, and the end of year music concert showcased a breadth of talent. Singing is developing at a pace and occasions such as the Harvest Festival, Early Years Summer Showcase, Christmas Carols at Peter Jones and the Carol Service at St Luke's Church will continue to provide a fun and valuable experience for all pupils. We have also had many successful entries to high profile art exhibitions including the John Lewis Christmas Competition, Young Art Exhibition, SATIPS, ISA competitions, St Stephen's exhibition and The Hampshire School Chelsea Summer Art competition. The pupils enjoy seeing their artwork displayed around school and it acts as a stimulus to other children for ideas and ways of using different materials. The Arts Festival performances, and Art Exhibition with the theme of STEAM, in our iconic library, was a great celebration of our focus on the science technology, maths and arts at the school. With the heritage as a school founded by the Hampshire dynasty of actors it was a fitting celebration of the pupils' artistic talents.

Throughout the school there have been an array of annual in-house workshops and trips which are woven into the fabric and curriculum of the School. As a snapshot of events, Pre-Nursery enjoyed a glimpse of our emergency services with a police visit, a GP and trip to the Fire Station. The Early Years pupils were enthralled by the City Cruise Boat trip and their trip to Mudchute Farm, and the Zoolab, Dinosaur Day, Science Museum and Kew Gardens. Year 1 visited the Light Exploration exhibition at the Science Museum, the V & A Museum of Childhood, Kew Gardens, the LSO Discovery Music Concert and Legoland. The Pizza Making at Pizza Express, the Water Aid Talk, visit to the London Transport Museum, French Institute, Kidzania Indoor City, Buckingham Palace and the LSO Discovery Concert brought the taught curriculum alive for Year 2. The Year 2 mini Entrepreneurs Project resulted in some innovative ecological products that care for the environment and give nature a home as well as incorporating cross-curricular links with maths, economics and science. They also had a fantastic day at the London Transport Museum on exploring transportation. Year 3 visits to the British Museum and Science Museum were very rewarding with the pupils exploring and investigating forces in the WonderLab at the Science Museum. The Egyptian and chocolate workshops were highlights for this year group. Year 4 had the pleasure of the Zoolab experience followed by a visit to London Zoo, as well as trips to Neasden Temple, the Ragged School Museum and a Go Ape adventure. Year 5 visited the London Central Mosque and Islamic Culture Centre, the Science Museum and Kew Gardens. The Year 5 trip to the London Central Mosque and Islamic Culture Centre expanded the pupils' knowledge of the Five Pillars central to their faith and their guide, an expert in Islamic Law and interfaith relationships, was very impressed with the depth of questioning of our pupils. The Year 6 pupils were treated to a theatre trip to see the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time and the Saatchi Gallery where they experienced the Black Mirror exhibition. The workshop was based on the work by John Stezaker who uses collages of images to create 'readymades' and Year 6 enjoyed creating their own and having them proudly displayed in school. Our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils embraced battle mode at Battle Abbey and engaged in the medieval History trip, and their journey through the Saatchi Gallery kaleidoscope exhibition, and Charterhouse study of 14<sup>th</sup> Century skeleton affected by the Black Death were notable multi-sensory experiences.



The residential trips to Cudham Activity Centre, Wormsey Estate, Moat Wood, and River Medway offered the benefits of outdoor adventures and brought out the very best in the pupils. These trips support the development of confidence, courage and the ability to navigate a route to personal fulfilment. Encouragement, determination, tenacity, teambuilding is always to the fore as the pupils rise to the many challenges. The way pupils support each other is a credit to each and every one of them. Forest School remains a highlight for the Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception pupils who fully embrace this outdoor learning, develop life skills and learn how to care for the environment.

Special assemblies including Harvest Festival, the Remembrance Day Service and Easter Bonnet Parade brought the community together. The Easter Egg Hunt at the Physic Garden was a super way to celebrate the end of the Spring term. The Pre-Prep French assembly was 'fantastique' and a great celebration of the progress that the children have made in French. At the celebratory assembly in the Spring term, the Glee Club performed the opening scene from Oliver Twist, Year 4 spoke about their inventions, the Year 2 recorder group performed together for the first time in front of an audience and the poetry recitals, among many other performances, were a joy to witness. We had a special assembly to open our library as a hub for a wide range of reading and enrichment activities to provide pupil access to the very best literacy resources with the book sorted into new sections re-named as 'Lands'.

Pastoral care is at the heart of an education at The Hampshire School Chelsea with the five Core Values underpinning our approach. Group presentations, debating and group activities are just some of the ways the school encourages mutual respect, listening skills, problem solving and communication – qualities which support us all in life. The school's Growth Mindset approach is encouraging the pupils to view mistakes as learning opportunities rather than stumbling blocks and our values stress that hard work and effort lead to success.

The participation in the 60 plus extra-curricular clubs also expands the pupils' experiences and with the addition of Spanish, debating, Mindfulness and LAMDA clubs this year, interest and participation has been high. On average, 80% of pupils participate in clubs at the school. It was a joy to witness the confidence and breadth of skills of our budding actors in the annual drama production of Mulan and the Glee Club production of Oliver Twist. Every member of the cast of Mulan had the opportunity to shine and demonstrate their acting, musical and movement skills including the ability to project, recall complex dialogue and act out scenes that required a range of emotions.

We are proud of the success achieved through the re-imagining Student Council where six, pupil-led Development Groups represent key areas of school life. The groups are: 'Mind/Body/Soul', 'Eco', 'Community', 'Innovative Technology', 'Houses' and 'Food' providing over 50 members the opportunity to engage with school improvement projects. Projects such as; fundraising for 'Shelter' a local homelessness charity, inviting external speakers to a Green Day, the Red Nose Day run in Battersea Park, Tech and Community Days are just a few of the initiatives the School Council have led this year. The Mind, Body, and Soul Development Group hosted a day during their Well-being Week with the pupils experiencing yoga, fitness, art well-being, healthy eating workshops, friendship bracelet making and many other mindfulness activities. The 'Innovative Technology Day' focused on robotics and coding. Charitable fundraising is a high priority and the pupils generously 'made a splash' for Water Aid which supports people living in some of the toughest places in the world.

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents to functions and presentations at the school this year including the Philosophy for Children (P4C), Inspire Maths, Understanding the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting, Growth Mindset and Core Values, Read Write Inc. (RWI), Tracking Progress through Tapestry, and the Transition Meeting for Reception Parents. Copies of the presentations are available to download from the parent area of the school website. I thank Dr Villait and Dr Moore for their meetings with parents on Well-being and Nutrition and Health Eating.

During my first year at the school I have had the benefit of a parent community who have generously shared their thoughts with me and I am indebted to The Hampshire School Chelsea community for their support. To our Parent Representatives, I express my gratitude for their support in developing a forum for sharing viewpoints and I thank them for their generosity of time and dedication to this important role. The Parents Association Committee have organised a host of very successful events which preserve the welcoming ethos of The Hampshire School Chelsea. The United Nations Day,



Mothers' Day Tea, Christmas Fair, Father's Breakfast, Fun Day, Autumn Cocktail Party and Summer Drinks are just a few of the many great occasions, organised by the PAC for the school community, and we thank them for this gift of kindness and hospitality. There have been so many wonderful and successful events for parents to enjoy and for the children to have fun; one could not have wished for a better year.

As a school, we have undertaken a series of activities to evaluate our provision; the findings have been incorporated into a School Progress Plan which has been shared with parents. Over the next two years, we will be focusing on three key areas which are aligned with our mission and will support us in bringing our vision to life. The three key areas are:

- Embedding the 'Pupil Voice Programme' further to widen pupil participation in the development of key areas of school life.
- Building on the curriculum developments introduced this year and enhancing the learning experience further in order to maximise pupils' outcomes.
- A continued, robust approach to future school transition and entrance examination preparation, plus development of the House System.

We aim at all times to provide an exceptional education within a nurturing learning environment, which celebrates each individual pupil's talent, and lays the foundation for their potential and ambition to be fulfilled. The 2019 Good Schools Guide notes that our pupils are impressively well-behaved, fully engaged in learning and that it is a friendly school where 'fitting in' is unlikely to be a problem.

I recall the wise words of Lyndon Johnson, "There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves". I take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for the strong triangle of collaboration between the school, parents and pupils which nurtures the children's achievements. I thank the Governors for their support with the strategic leadership of the school, and the teaching and non-teaching staff for their immeasurable dedication to making a positive difference to the lives of the pupils. I also thank the administrative, catering and cleaning teams whose efficiency and effective management, and cheerful participation, makes everything possible.

For those pupils leaving the school, we wish them all every happiness and success as they embark on the next exciting phase of their educational journey. What they make of this new phase will be determined, to some extent, by what they have learned during their time at The Hampshire School Chelsea. I hope that they will be brave and independent in their thinking and will remember the School's Core Values of Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, Community and Excellence. For our Year 7 pupils who continue their education at The Hampshire School Chelsea for the academic year 2019-2020, the School has pleasure in awarding posts of responsibility with the announcement of the roles at the Year 5-Year 8 Graduation ceremony.

Finally, but not least, I wish the whole school community a very enjoyable summer break.

Dr Edmonds