

### Pupil Voice

Our children are encouraged to share their ideas, knowing they will be heard. This is their school and they have a say. Having a voice and being heard are key areas of British Values which we at Darlinghurst Academy actively promote through our Junior Governor Team. The Junior Governors are a group of children from Key Stage 1 and 2 who work together to make the school a better place. Much like Parliament, they are democratically elected by their peers and play a vital role in representing the views of all children at the school. By meeting, sharing ideas and completing activities throughout the year, the Junior Governor Team fulfil their role as active citizens, listening to suggestions from other pupils about ways in which to improve the school. They then provide this vital feedback to the teaching staff and the Principal. Our children, make a difference!

### Termly Reflections

#### Autumn 2021

The Junior Governors meet fortnightly to discuss the progress of projects, arising events and other matters. This 2021-22 academic year, the Junior Governors asked for an art club which has proven very popular. Also, they expressed a keen interest in making lunch times even better and have subsequently been active in the launch of KS2 'play leaders' with the PE Team. In October, the Junior Governors were invited to give their views on the library relaunch run by the KS2 Reading lead. The Junior Governors consulted their classes on what they wanted from a library and reported back brilliantly.



The Junior Governors have been monitoring their progress on projects through their display board. The board is updated weekly and allows the whole school community to see what is going on. Students are encouraged to talk to their class Junior Governor if they have any ideas or views they would like to share.



Our children are active citizens and are aware their community action can make a difference. The pandemic taught us how incredibly important care and compassion can be and this became part of the Junior Governor's vision and actions. This academic year, the Junior Governors have continued to strengthen Darlinghurst's relationship with their local care home, Admiral Court. The recently established Art Club created beautiful poppy wreaths and Remembrance Day artwork which were delivered to Admiral Court by our Junior Governors on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The wreaths and artwork were received with heartfelt thanks and the residents and children were able to share a moment of remembrance together.



Also, in December, the Junior Governors were hard at work with their classmates creating wonderful Christmas cards for all the residents of Admiral Court. This involved making 60 cards and asking whole classes to sign them. Our Junior Governors were so excited to deliver the cards and they were received with such joy.



## Spring 2022

During the Spring term, the Junior Governors have thrived, taking on roles and responsibilities around the academy. 'Play leaders' have been established within the KS1 playground. The Year 1 and 2 Junior Governors discussed having activities integrated into their lunchtimes. They addressed this with their classes and fed back ideas at the following meeting. The Junior Governors maturely discussed what would be achievable in the timeframe they had set themselves. The final ideas were then relayed to SLT and now activities have been integrated into lunchtime play. The Year 1s and 2s have taken ownership in setting up and tidying away the resources with 'play leaders' established to oversee this.



Within our first Spring KS2 meeting, the Junior Governors discussed extracurricular activities. Choir became a focus as the KS2 Junior Governors mentioned their peers expressing an interest in attending but, were unavailable for the current day. With the teacher leading choir's permission, the Junior Governors were tasked with carrying out a democratic vote to find the most convenient days for attending choir. This was a great opportunity for the Junior Governors to practise public speaking and collect data on pupil voice. They also promoted the South East Essex Schools' Music Association annual festival for Key Stage 2 held in June at the Cliff's Pavilion. The result was choir moving to after school on a Friday.



Throughout this term, the Junior Governors have eagerly anticipated an opportunity to visit and put a smile on the faces of the residents of Admiral Court. They thoughtfully decided on and arranged for a communal Easter crafted wreath and an Easter chick postcard for each resident. These were hand delivered by 12 of our Junior Governors. The residents who greeted us were overjoyed with the generous gifts and thanked the children for their efforts.



## Summer 2022

During the Summer term, the teacher facilitating the Junior Governors encouraged them to lead their own meetings. They independently elected someone to scribe, sensibly allowing everyone to contribute their ideas and discussing opinions on matters and resolutions or suggestions to put forward to the adults or put into action themselves where possible.

Also, the Junior Governors were tasked by our Principle, Mrs Nicholls, to feedback on the uniform. Mrs Nicholls listened to all the Junior Governors ideas and will be implementing new, gender-neutral uniform guidance as a result.



Throughout this term, we have also been working hard on a final craft project for Admiral Court. During one of our meetings, the Junior Governors thought up the idea of creating summer postcards for the residents at the care home. We worked hard producing summer seaside themed postcards. The residents were delighted when they received their summer crafts and thanked the children for all their hard work.

The Junior Governors have also contributed towards organising the Portico Trust Travelling Art Show. It was an exciting opportunity to understand how to curate an art show on a large scale with lots of collaborating schools. The Junior Governors supported the setup of the art show brilliantly and facilitated a visit from residents of Admiral Court. They showed the residents around the space and, whilst admiring the artwork, sparked up wonderful conversations about all manner of things, in turn, further strengthening our links with the local care home.