

Headmaster

Roland J Martin BA (Hons)



Date 6th November 2018

Alderman John Garbutt
Members' Room
PO Box 270
Guildhall
London
EC2P 2EJ

Dear Alderman Garbutt,

I hope that this letter finds you well?

You may or may not be aware (I'm not sure how much you follow the progress of the School since being a Governor here) that the City of London Freeman's School built a new boarding house which opened in 2014. Boarding has always been an important feature of the school – it opened in 1854 to provide a boarding education, a co-educational experience and looked after children from nine years of age – and the importance of boarding is more the case now as we are trying, through outreach activity, to attract more young people who have a need to board but not the means to do so. During my time as Head (I started in September 2015) we have moved from £18k p.a. in bursary funding to almost half a million p.a. and are fundraising at present to do more. We have four boarders in the School from challenging backgrounds who would not be here without such support so are certainly trying to go back to our roots.

Background aside, though, I will get on to the point of this communication...

Oddly, the house was never given a name and after almost a year – possibly longer – of this omission being discussed by Committee, the Governors finally decided that the House should be named after one of the Wards. We discussed this with pupils in the House and gave a short-list of suggestions and some background on their significance. Rounds of voting were held and the upshot is that the pupils would very much like to name the house, Walbrook.

I am writing therefore to ask whether you would mind if I approached my Board of Governors with the suggestion that we could name the boarding house accordingly?

I hope that this suggestion will be well-received and look forward to hearing from you; obviously, should you consent, it would be lovely to invite you back to the school to see the house and to meet with colleagues here.

Yours sincerely,

Roland Martin
Headmaster