

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
The Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School	3 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Headmaster, City of London Freemen's School	<b>For Discussion</b>

## **Summary**

This report is intended to give the Board pertinent information regarding Freemen's since the last meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.

- a) COVID-19
- b) School Roll
- c) Wider impact of BREXIT
- d) Community and Partnership work
- e) Recent and forthcoming events
- f) Pupil achievements and successes

## **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to:

- note the contents of this report;
- pay particular notice to items for discussion.

## **Main Report**

### **a) COVID-19**

1. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society and the school has been significant. Governors will find further information in the non-public papers in this information pack.

### **b) School roll**

2. Current School Roll data is provided for members in **Appendix 1**.
3. Although we have had more withdrawals from the School than usual – particularly from U5 parents making alternative provision for Sixth Form education – I should have to say that the impact of COVID-19 and resulting financial pressures on parents could have seen a worse scenario than the numbers currently on roll and the admissions office has successfully

continued to recruit during this period.

4. Plans are in place for a number of virtual 'open evenings' after half term.

**c) Wider impact of BREXIT**

5. The Town Clerk has asked for this item to be put as a Standing Item at all Grand Committees.
6. I would have to say that the wider impact of Brexit seems pretty insignificant compared with the wider impact of the Pandemic!
7. There have been no significant developments in this area since my last report to Governors.

**d) Community and Partnership work**

8. Our imperatives since the COVID-19 pandemic has struck the country have been: to provide a continuity in educational, pastoral and co-curricular provision for pupils during this difficult time; to continue to keep the business operations going; to do our best to support the local community at this difficult time.
9. We immediately identified Key Worker families so that we could support their children during school hours. Freemen's remained open over the Easter holidays for our pupils with Key Worker parents, allowing them to carry out vital work in these difficult times. This provision has been staffed by volunteers.
10. We made early donations of PPE held on site to local GPs and hospitals and made foodbank donations.
11. The DT Department produced over 1400 protective visors using our Design Technology resources, some of which were of course funded generously by the FSA (Freemen's School Association). Institutions supported include Epsom Hospital, Princess Alice Hospice, Walton Heath Care Home, Homelea Care Home, The Meeting Room charity, The Sunnybank Trust, Heathcote Medical Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital, the Surrey Ambulance Service, the Community and Hospice Home Nursing Service and the Adult Social Care Unit (Epsom & Ewell) at Surrey County Council and Croydon University Hospital. The Community and Partnerships Officer has also been in touch with Andrew Carter, The Director of Children's and Social Services about what we can do to support. As a result, 180 face visors will be delivered to Adult Social Care in the City next week.
12. A fundraising campaign was started to furnish the DT Department with the raw materials needed to make the PPE; this included the 'Out of your comfort zone challenge...'

13. Headley Court was identified as an emergency hospital and we were in dialogue with the NHS about using the Boarding House and Car Park to support key workers had that facility been utilised.
14. Several members of staff have been volunteering in various contexts: delivering prescriptions on behalf of local hospitals; making scrubs for local hospitals; taking calls for the Community Coronavirus Care Group in Ashtead; organising shopping deliveries for the elderly; in Ashtead, Epsom and Leatherhead; sewing washable scrubs bags for the NHS. Our Chaplain has conducted a number of funeral services to support local parishes.
15. Old Free 1 runs a care home and was able to gather tremendous support from the parent community, many of whom have helped by donating PPE to her care home as well as with offers of meals and support for their staff.
16. Old Free and current parent 2 has been actively sharing opportunities to help the community on Classlist, which is the communication portal which engages virtually all of our parents.
17. Freemen's 20/20 Vision plans continue apace, with 'Rag and Roll On' throughout May. This effort replaces this year's RAG (Raise and Give) Week, which was originally arranged for the end of the Spring Term and comprises a number of headline fundraising activities.
18. In order to raise money for our 20/20 Vision school charities, Sightsavers, Sight for Surrey and Challengers, the School community joined together for the 'Land's End to John o'Groats Challenge' and consider walking one mile and raising £10. The actual distance from Land's End to John o'Groats is 874 miles.
19. Local MP Chris Grayling has been supportive of our efforts and has publicised them on his website and in his newsletter.

**e) Recent and forthcoming events**

20. Although we have not included a list of events as per usual in this report, Governors will be pleased to hear that we have continued to provide pupils with stimuli: several Societies have met virtually including BEST (Economics and Business) and Bachelor (History) and ensemble groups have performed virtually, including an acapella choir and a 'Last Post' tribute performed by numerous pupil brass players on VE Day. The sports department set up a daily challenge from the beginning of lockdown. Our Chaplain has held regular prayer meetings and has accepted my challenge of conducting a virtual service for Pentecost which will include several contributions from the music department.
21. Sadly, two of the highlights of the year – Prize Day and Sports Day – have been cancelled.

**d) Pupil achievements and successes**

22. I am proud to say that pupils have been true to our expectation that they 'make a difference' at this difficult time.
23. My Heads of School – at their own initiative – recorded a message for the School Community that I know many Governors have seen.
24. Pupils from L2 to U6 have been baking cakes initially for St George's in Tooting, but which has grown in reach, an initiative set up by Freemen's student Gus (U5), with over 1000 cakes baked to date.
25. Students in the Junior School have written letters to local care homes to cheer up the residents who are lacking visitors at this time.
26. Pupil 1 from L2, has been using his 3D printing skills to produce parts for face shields to help protect NHS staff from COVID-19. The parts have been donated to ICU staff at Epsom and St Helier Hospital and are already being put to good use. Pupil 2 (L4) has also been busy making parts of PPE equipment for local hospitals, using her 3D printer at home.
27. The Head of English and the Alumni and Development Officer launched the Pen Pals project to Freemen's Scholars. The aim is to support elderly Old Frees who are isolated by writing letters. We have even had contact with Hawaii!
28. 'Twenty Challenges for Challengers' is being championed by our Sixth Form community. The Sixth Form Charities Committee have put together twenty possible challenges for pupils to take on for sponsorship, with any donations heading to the Sixth Form charity, 'Challengers'.

**Appendices**

- Appendix 1: School Roll

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