

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	4 February 2021
Education Board	18 March 2021
Subject: Community and Partnerships	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1(d); 2(a)(b)(c)(d); 3(a)(b)(c)(d); 4(a)(b); 5(d); 9(a)(b).
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Roland Martin, Headmaster	For Information/Discussion/ Decision
Report author: Catherine Bennett, Community and Partnerships Officer	

Summary

This paper outlines:

- a) Partnership work with City of London schools
- b) Activities involving other schools
- c) Charitable work undertaken by the school community
- d) Other community and partnership successes
- e) Future collaborations and events currently being planned

This report aims to provide a comprehensive account of the extent to which the school engages with schools, charities, and other organisations, along with events planned for 2021.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report
- 2. Give approval to send a copy of this report to The Education Board.

Background

In 2008-9, the Board of Governors requested that the Headmaster provide an annual account of its charitable and community activities that could be considered as advancing 'public benefit'. Although the City of London Freeman's School is not a charity itself and is therefore not bound by the 'public benefit' test that applies to fee-paying schools which are, the Governors have rightly expressed a clear desire to monitor the School's public benefit, partnership and community activities, given the charitable origins and founding

ethos of the School. Given the pressure that the independent schools' sector is under politically (nationally and internally at Guildhall), community and partnership work is especially important.

Community and partnership work is one of the most valuable ways in which Freeman's students can demonstrate the school mission, 'To Learn, To Lead and To Make a Difference'. Against a backdrop of constant change and a huge amount of uncertainty, the Freeman's community in 2020 truly demonstrated their enthusiasm and willingness to Make a Difference in order to benefit communities both locally and further afield.

Main Report

Partnership work with City of London schools

1. Some of the annual events held jointly with other City of London schools in previous years were unable to go ahead in 2020. The unprecedented environment prevailing for much of the year did, however, present a range of alternative opportunities to work more closely with the other City schools. Termly Partnership Forum meetings with all City of London schools and other City organisations commenced in September, providing a forum to enable greater sharing of knowledge and resources in the future.

Name of school / City event	Details of activity
City of London School for Girls	A group of students from CLSG attended the Cambridge University presentation held at Freeman's in February.
	Annual joint Chamber Music Concert held at St James' Church in Piccadilly in February. Freeman's students from L3 to U6 joined together with CLSG to form a brass ensemble, a cello octet, and a string orchestra of more than forty players.
	Virtual meeting with music department staff to share knowledge and resources.
	Introduction to A Levels and Preparation for University bridging courses, created by Freeman's Heads of Department and covering a wide range of subjects, were shared with hundreds of Year 11 and Year 13 students across the City family of schools during the summer term. The primary aim of the courses was to provide further opportunities for our students, and those in our partner schools, to increase their skill sets in preparation for the next stage of their academic life.
City of London School	Virtual meeting with music department staff to share knowledge and resources.
	Shared Year 11 and Year 13 bridging courses. See above for further details.
City of London Academy Islington	Shared Year 11 and Year 13 bridging courses. See above for further details.
City of London Academy Highgate Hill	

City of London Academy Highbury Grove	
City Academy Hackney	
City of London Academy Southwark	
Newham Collegiate 6th Form	

Name of school / City event	Details of activity
Galleywall Primary, City of London Academy	Member of the Freeman's Music Partnership. Weekly pre-recorded music lessons in the autumn term, culminating in the combined music performance with over 200 students singing 'Bring Back The Snow', an original song composed by Old-Free Timothy Peters. Partnership to continue throughout 2021, with joint performances in March and July.

Activities involving other schools

2. The school is working with an increased number of local state primary and secondary schools than in previous years, most notably forming closer relationships with Epsom Primary, West Ashted Primary and The Beacon School in Banstead. Once schools fully re-open and are allowed to engage face-to-face, teachers across all schools will have more opportunities to share experiences for the benefit of all students.
3. Weekly Enrichment sessions continued during the early part of the year, younger students taking part in activities on site, whilst the older students helped in local schools, care homes and other establishments in a wide variety of ways.

Infant, Junior and Primary schools	
Name of school	Details of activity
St Martin's Primary	Over 100 swimmers from eight schools competed in an IAPS qualifying gala hosted by Freeman's in January.
The Royal School	
Reigate St Mary's Prep	
Parkside	
High March	
Wimbledon High Junior	
The Mall	
Epsom Primary	£500 book voucher donated to Epsom Primary, as a result of commission from our World Book Day book fair.
	Member of Freeman's Music Partnership. See City of London schools section for more information.
	Music scholars from Freeman's performed for children at Epsom Primary, as part of their 'Just Because' day - when local independent schools were invited to contribute something to the school 'just because...'
West Ashtead Primary	A group of Freeman's string musicians performed for children at West Ashtead as part of West Ashtead's efforts to increase the number of students playing a string instrument.
	Participated in a joint music performance with Woodlands and Freeman's students, featuring a song written, composed and produced by Timothy Peters, entitled 'Even Apart We're Together'
Ewell Castle	Hosted an indoor netball mini-tournament, bad weather prevented matches taking place outside.
Ibstock Place	
Newland House	Eleven schools (junior and senior) came together with students from Freeman's to take part in the 10th anniversary 'MFL Love Languages' event, held at Freeman's School. The day-long event involves student performances (singing, dancing, and acting) in a variety of languages. Prizes are awarded by external judges.
Manor House	
Ashford Prep	
Notre Dame	
Avenue Primary	
Lanesborough Prep	Freeman's Musician-in-Residence (and Old-Free) Timothy Peters adjudicated a House music competition at Lanesborough.
Woodlands	Participated in a joint music performance with West Ashtead and Freeman's students, featuring a song written, composed and produced by Timothy Peters, entitled 'Even Apart We're Together'.
	Member of the Freeman's Music Partnership. See City of London schools section for more information.
Walton-on-the-Hill	As part of the Counterpoint programme, the Deputy Head spent a morning at Freeman's in February sharing ideas and resources with a group of teachers, as well as planning a number of joint activities. The activities sadly had to be postponed due to the first lockdown, however we will continue as planned as soon as it is safe to do so.
	Member of the Freeman's Music Partnership. See City of London schools section for more information.

Secondary schools	
Name of school	Details of activity
St David's	MFL Love Languages event attended by 11 schools. See Infant, Junior and Primary section above for more details.
Nonsuch High School for Girls	
The Raleigh	
Box Hill	
Therfield	
Kingswood House	
Streatham & Clapham High	As part of the Counterpoint programme, Catherine Bennett visited another Counterpoint hub to share knowledge and ideas with the Counterpoint lead at Streatham & Clapham.
Chesham Prep, Langley Grammar, Kingswood House, Surbiton High, Abbey Gate College, The Marist, Emmanuel, Elthorne Park High, Coloma Convent Girls, Reading Blue Coat, Villiers High, The Quest Academy, St Christopher's, Claremont Fan Court, Bethany, Box Hill, Luckley House, Chilworth House Upper, Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior, St George's International (Luxembourg)	Maths teachers and Heads of Department from twenty schools attended a maths workshop in the Recital Hall at Freeman's organised by The Society of Heads in association with Oxford University Press. The workshop, led by guest speaker Andrew Jeffery, focussed on KS3 problem solving.
Prior's Field	Thinking About Cambridge talk given by Dr Bullimore from Cambridge University, to students from Freeman's and four other schools.
Notre Dame	
Glyn	
St Andrew's	
Rosebery	As part of the Counterpoint programme, Freeman's launched 'Teacher Link'- connecting 15 teachers from a variety of subject areas with their counterpart at Rosebery, to share knowledge, ideas, and resources. Initial contact between teachers in both schools was made during the summer term, however due to pressures of home learning the scheme has been postponed until a more normal learning environment has resumed.
	Bridging courses for Year 11 and Year 13 students shared with Rosebery School. More information about the bridging courses can be found under the City of London Schools section.
	A group of 15 students attended a drama workshop organised by Freeman's and led by an external provider.
The Beacon	A large quantity of old library books and French textbooks no longer needed by Freeman's was donated to The Beacon school.

Charitable work undertaken by the school community

4. Last year clearly demonstrated the extent to which the School's Mission is embedded in the Freeman's community; when everyone – students, staff, parents, and alumni, came together to Make A Difference.
5. Ongoing voluntary commitments by staff included: Chair and Vice Chair for the Society of Heads; serving for the Independent School's Inspectorate; serving on the ASCL Council; governorships at other schools; coaching for Harlequins Rugby Club Developing Player Programme.
6. Some of the principal community activities undertaken by the school:

Name of organisation	Details of activity
Air Ambulance - Kent, Surrey & Sussex	Boxes of crisp packets donated, to be converted into cash.
Books2Africa	Four boxes of science textbooks sent to Books2Africa, no longer needed by Freeman's due to a change in exam board.
Children In Need, Jeans for Genes, Sport Relief, British Legion poppy appeal	Over £2,700 was raised for these nationwide annual charity events.
Epsom and Ewell Foodbank	Boarding House donated boxes of food when the school closed in March.
	The annual Harvest collection of food and toiletries weighed a total of 698kg.
Epsom Hospital	Group of 6th form students visited a paediatric ward at Epsom Hospital to read to children during their lunch hour, as part of World Book Day.
Griffin Court sheltered housing	As part of Enrichment, students participated in a variety of activities at these care homes, prior to the first lockdown in March.
Harrison's Fund (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)	£1,168 raised for this local charity from the proceeds of the Christmas Fair 2019.
	A student in L6 organised a virtual summer concert involving students and family members, which raised £1,696 for Harrison's Fund.
Leatherhead Start - Meeting Room	Meals prepared by students and given to local homeless people, as part of student's weekly Food Tech Enrichment sessions.
Leatherhead Youth Project	Youth worker led an assembly for Freeman's students. A number of students subsequently volunteered to participate in a crowdfunding project, sadly cancelled due to lockdown.
Medecins Sans Frontieres	Over 50 students continued to participate in the Missing Maps project throughout the year, including during both lockdowns, as part of Enrichment. The project maps

	the most vulnerable parts of the world for the benefit of MSF, the Red Cross, and local people.
Movember	51 people donated a total of £1,332 towards men's health projects around the world.
Princess Alice Hospice	Medical Centre donated gowns, masks, and aprons when school partially closed in March.
Royal National Institute of Blind People	800g of stamps were donated to the RNIB, to be sold by weight as a means of fundraising.
Samaritan's Purse	Items donated by students filled 106 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse - to be sent to children in disadvantaged communities around the world.
Sightsavers, Sight for Surrey and Challengers	A total of £11,552 was raised for the three 20/20 Vision charities. Fundraising activities included a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tea, Junior School Sponsored Read, a whole school Virtual Walk from Land's End to John O'Groats.
The Hygiene Bank	24 bags of toiletries were donated to the local Hygiene Bank, following a collection in school.
The Red House Care Home	As part of Enrichment, students participated in a variety of activities at these care homes, prior to the first lockdown in March.
The Sunnybank Trust	Delivered craft boxes on behalf of this local charity, to 20 care homes in the Epsom area.
Vision Aid Overseas	90 pairs of glasses were donated by the Freeman's community.
Walton Heath Care Home	As part of Enrichment, students participated in a variety of activities at these care homes, prior to the first lockdown in March.
	Junior School students wrote letters to the Care Home residents and sent pictures of rainbows for inclusion on their NHS Rainbow Wall, during the summer term.

7. Acknowledging the isolation felt by many people around the world, older members of Freeman's Alumni were invited to become Pen Pals with Freeman's Scholars. Letters were received from countries including Hawaii, USA, Israel, and Canada.
8. This year, the pandemic provided an additional focus for staff wishing to volunteer: staff became NHS Volunteers, a teacher provided tutoring (via Zoom) for a neighbour's child, a staff member handled calls for the local Community Coronavirus Care helpline. Unsurprisingly, the local hospital became a focal point for many people's efforts: teachers made scrubs, the Medical Centre team made wash bags and ear savers for face masks for hospital staff, and a number of students used 3D printers at home to make face shields for the staff on ICU wards.
9. Two projects stand out, due to the volume of work undertaken and the number of beneficiaries. One project was led by a student, the other by members of staff.

10. Freeman's Face Shields campaign involved the DT department using equipment (provided by the FSA) to produce over 1400 face shields and 17 protective sneeze screens for the benefit of many local organisations, including those run by Freeman's parents. A fundraising campaign to purchase materials raised a total of £2,655 generously donated by 81 members of the Freeman's community, including many alumni.

11. 'Out Of The Comfort Zone' challenges undertaken by the Headmaster and the Head of Boarding and Co-Curricular helped to support the fundraising effort.

12. PPE created by Freeman's staff was donated to the following organisations:

1400 face shield donations:	500 ear savers for face masks:
Care homes	Epsom Hospital
Walton Heath Manor	Queen Mary's Hospital
Homelea	Eastwick Park Medical Centre
Home Instead Care Homes	Burgh Heath Care Home
Hospitals	Swallowfields Care Home
Epsom	Ashlea Medical Centre
St Helier	Wash bags and scrubs
St George's, Tooting	Epsom Hospital
Queen Mary's	Croydon University Hospital
Other medical establishments / organisations	Protective sneeze screens
Heathcote Medical Centre	Local Physiotherapist
Eastwick Park Medical Centre	Orchard Cottage Dental Surgery
South East Coast Ambulance Service	Rosehill Clinic, St Helier Hospital
Ashlea Medical Centre	NHS Child Development Clinic, Brighton
Adult Social Care team, Epsom & Ewell	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Brighton
Adult Social Care team, Tandridge	The Sunnybank Trust
District & Community Nursing, Surrey	
The Meeting Room, Leatherhead	
The Sunnybank Trust	
River Mole Dental Practice	

13. The student-led project of particular note, 'Cakes 4 Key Workers', was set up by a student in U5, initially to provide cakes for staff at St George's Hospital where his Aunt worked. Within a couple of months, the student had organised the production and distribution of 1200 cakes baked by 20 Freeman's families. The cakes were given to staff at Epsom, Charing Cross, St George's, and East Surrey Hospitals, along with GP surgeries in Ashted and Leatherhead and two local Care Homes.

Other community and partnership successes

Counterpoint

14. The two key strands of the Counterpoint programme continued throughout 2020. The increased focus on parent and carer engagement for a particular cohort of students continued, albeit in a remote capacity for part of the year. The two partner schools Walton-on-the-Hill Primary and Rosebery benefitted from knowledge-sharing opportunities during the early part of the year, with some work able to continue remotely from April onwards. As the two-year pilot draws to a close, an evaluation report produced by Achievement for All will be shared with all schools in February 2021, including feedback from staff at Freeman's, Walton-on-the-Hill, and Rosebery schools.

Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation

15. Full boarding bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds in inner-city London continue to be provided, via the SpringBoard Foundation. Five SpringBoard students benefitted from a Freeman's education during 2019-20. Four students left during 2020 and were replaced by three students who joined the Lower Sixth in September. One of our most recent SpringBoard students successfully received a place at Cambridge to read medicine.

Bursaries

16. The number of students in receipt of bursaries has continued to increase each year, in line with our aim to provide 5% of pupils with a significant bursary. 2.56% of students in 2019/20 rose to 3% of students in receipt of a bursary for the current academic year. In recognition of the significant contribution made by Livery Companies, efforts have been made to increase communication, including the production of a quarterly publication 'Freeman's Connect' as a means of sharing relevant information and news about the school with members of the Livery Companies. Students in receipt of a Livery Company bursary sent Christmas cards to the Livery Companies early in December.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

17. Despite the challenges of virus-related restrictions, a total of 135 students achieved awards during 2019-20, either directly through the school or via the Combined Cadet Force. 68 students gained a Bronze award, 46 Silver and 21 Gold.
18. The completed awards represent approximately:
- 3400 hours of voluntary service
 - 2800 hours of physical activity
 - 2800 hours of learning new skills
 - 720 days on expedition
 - 100 days of residential activities
 - A further 156 students are currently working towards an award.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

19. Freeman's employs a full-time Contingent Commander, who leads a CCF unit involving students from Freeman's and Glyn schools, predominantly based at Freeman's.
20. The contingent comprises 75 cadets and 10 members of staff from Freeman's and 21 cadets and 4 staff members from Glyn.
21. One of the CCF leavers from Freeman's in 2020 passed out of Officer training at The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in November and will shortly be taking up her first posting as a regular army officer.

Future collaborations and events currently being planned

Freeman's Music Partnership

22. Pre-recorded music lessons will continue to be shared during the spring and summer terms with local and City partner schools, leading to joint performances in March and July. The original aim was to hold a concert at Freeman's in July involving all participating schools. The concert will now be carried forward to 2022 as it is extremely unlikely to take place this year.

Pass It On – laptop and tablet donation scheme

23. Members of the Freeman's community have been invited to donate unwanted laptops and tablets, which will undergo a data clean by our IT department before being passed on to a partner school. One of our partner schools has got a waiting list of families, who have typically got two, three or even four children sharing one device.

Strength in Numbers – online maths support

24. Sixth form students studying maths A level will be invited to support a targeted group of younger students during designated 'homework hours' after school. Support is provided via an app downloaded onto a smartphone or laptop/tablet. The programme was successfully rolled out last year with St Paul's and St Paul's Girls schools providing support to their partner schools. Local partner schools and City of London schools will be given the opportunity to invite their sixth-form students and younger students needing support, to join the programme.

Strength in Physics, Strength in Chemistry, Strength in Biology

25. Using the same approach as above, support will also be offered for science subjects later in the year.

Virtual Model United Nations Conference

26. A virtual MUN Conference will take place this year involving two local partner schools, with around 100 students participating virtually from their own school.

Visually impaired cricket

27. The visually impaired cricket event planned for last summer to coincide with the Paralympic Games, has been re-scheduled for 3rd July 2021. Government guidelines permitting, students from local schools will be invited to take part with Freeman's students in fun visually impaired cricket games, followed by a cricket match between Freeman's staff and a team of visually impaired cricketers.

Appendices

Nil.

Contact: Catherine Bennett, Community & Partnerships Officer

T: 01372 822458

E: catherine.bennett@freemens.org

Twitter: @FreemensCAP