

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021.
Subject: Report from Headmaster	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1(d); 2(a); 3(b) (c), (d); 4(a), (b); 9 (a); 10(a), (b), (c), (d), (e); 11(a), (c); 12(a), .
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
<b>Report of:</b> Roland Martin, Headmaster	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

### Summary

This report is intended to give the Board pertinent information regarding Freeman'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) Recent and forthcoming events
- e) Pupil achievements and successes

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- note the contents of this report.

### Main Report

#### a) COVID-19

FOR INFORMATION:

1. The School is delighted to be resuming educational activity under some sense of normality. Although the School is not at full tilt, colleagues are working exceptionally hard to fulfil the educational obligations of the business and to enrich young people as much as possible beyond the academic curriculum.
2. There is further detail in the Non Public papers in this information pack.

**b) School roll**

FOR INFORMATION:

3. Current School Roll data is provided for members in **Appendix 1**.
4. This has been another challenging year in terms of withdrawals from the School and the impact of the pandemic has certainly played a part in the decisions that some parents are making, a mixture of affordability and relocation in many instances. This said, at least we are dealing with a trickle rather than a flood and boarding numbers remain strong.
5. A reserve entrance examination day was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June to allow the opportunity for later additions to the school. Interest in Freeman's remains strong; conversion rather could be better.
6. I am retaining the high academic standard expected at point of entry.

**c) Wider impact of BREXIT**

FOR INFORMATION:

7. The Town Clerk has asked for this item to be put as a Standing Item at all Grand Committees.
8. There have been no significant developments in this area since my last report to Governors.

**d) Recent and forthcoming events**

FOR INFORMATION

9. Although the events calendar is lighter than we might be used to, it is at least encouraging to have some activity in this area.
10. I have proposed to the Chairman after discussions at SLT level that Prize Day is a scaled down affair with limited guests though Governors are more than welcome.
11. On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1926, City of London Freeman's was officially opened in **Ashted** by the then Lord Mayor, Sir William Pryke. Although we will not be ready for an official opening of the Main House on this date, it is proposed that an informal but symbolic handing over the keys (possibly metaphorical keys!) takes place seventy five years to the day after that historic event and Governors are more than welcome to attend.
12. The Chairman and I are in conversations about a more formal opening of Main House which I imagine would be in September.

**e) Pupil achievements and successes**

**FOR INFORMATION**

13. Four students have offers from Cambridge to read Medicine, Economics, HSPS (Human Social and Political Science) and Natural Sciences. We are especially delighted that our full bursary (Royal SpringBoard) student who joined at the start of L6 has been offered a place to read Medicine at Robinson College.
14. Two students have offers from Oxford, both for PPE.
15. It is pleasing that, given the tremendous pressure on University places this year, a number of our students were successful in securing places on some of the most competitive courses. All students in Upper 6 have secured offers following this year's UCAS cycle.
16. A pupil in Lower 5 has qualified for, and is participating in, the prestigious Dodson and Horrell National Showjumping Championship at Aintree.
17. In May, a Lower 6 pupil was selected to be in the starting fifteen for the under 18's London Irish team against Harlequins.
18. An Upper 4 girl was selected for the Surrey Cricket Performance training squad.
19. One of our Lower 5 boys will be competing in the Scottish Boys Golf Tournament and the European Open in November.
20. One of our Lower 5 girls has won the bronze medal in the senior UK open fencing competition; the world competition was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID.
21. An Upper 5 boy went as a UK Shooter to the Junior International Shooting competition and made the final.

**f) External Relations**

*Admissions and Marketing:*

22. In the light of the pandemic, and as set out in the External Relations Strategy, we are taking the opportunity to review our entire admissions process from the way that we do Open Events and Entrance Exams, to how we convert those families who have been made offers. Strategies regarding Open Events and Retention and Conversion will be presented to the Admissions and Marketing Strategy Group in June. A new admissions system that aims to refocus the Admission's Department is on track to be implemented by September.

23. There are some initial signs of growth. There was a small drop in the number of leavers this year compared to last (32 in 2021, compared to 37 in 2002) as well as a significant 16% increase this year in the number of candidates who went from enquiring about a place at a key entry point to registering to sit the exam for that place. (65% compared to 49% in 2019/20). Unfortunately, these figures are not reflected in the acceptance rates. Initial research suggests not being able to tour the school in the latest lockdown, availability of Grammar school places or staying at current schools due to COVID are the key reasons why offers have been declined. The strategies mentioned above will help tackle these issues as we go into the next academic year.

#### *Development*

24. Following the departure of the Development Officer in May, we are looking at the best way to staff the department to meet our strategic fundraising goals for the next year.

#### *Community and Partnerships*

25. Strength in Numbers - online maths support programme  
Originally devised last summer by St Paul's School and EasyA (a maths tutoring app), Freeman's launched the programme at the end of February.
26. Volunteer A level maths students (mentors) provide online support via a Whatsapp-type app to younger students (mentees) needing help with their maths homework, during designated homework hours. Over 80 volunteer A level maths students from Freeman's, City of London School, City of London Girl's School and The Beacon School in Leatherhead are now providing support each week to a group of younger students. Younger students from COLA Shoreditch are the latest mentees to join the programme. The programme is being offered to all City of London secondary schools.

#### *Freeman's Music Partnership*

27. Year 4 children from three local maintained primary schools (Walton-on-the-Hill, Epsom and West Ashted), along with pupils from Freeman's, have participated in this term's pre-recorded lessons, with a focus on the plight of refugees around the world.
28. The summer term's collaborative piece of music is a song about refugees and will be shared with the school communities of all four schools during Refugee Week, 14th - 20th June 2021.

#### *Momentum Children's Charity*

29. Money left over from last year's fundraising appeal to purchase more materials to make PPE equipment, will be donated to Momentum Children's Charity, specifically to help families connected to Epsom Hospital. The donation of £1820 will be used to pay for a variety of play, art, and music therapy services to help children with life-challenging conditions.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: School Roll
- Appendix 2: Upcoming Events

### **Roland Martin**

Headmaster

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