

<b>Committee(s)</b> Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	<b>Dated:</b> 29 November 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Headmaster's Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Headmaster, City of London Freeman's School	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

This report is intended to give the Board pertinent information regarding Freeman's since the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.

- a) School Roll
- b) Wider impact of BREXIT
- c) Recent and forthcoming events
- d) 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) School roll

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Current School Roll data is provided for members in *Appendix 1*.

#### b) Wider impact of BREXIT

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

2. The Town Clerk has asked for this item to be put as a Standing Item at all Grand Committees.
3. In terms of the City's independent schools, there are threats pertinent to all of us and threats pertinent only to Freeman's owing to our contingent of boarding pupils.

4. For schools with boarders like Freeman's, the threat is in not being able to recruit pupils from Europe. A combination of Brexit and poor political relations has already, for example, seen a decline in applications from Russia which were recently booming. The Independent Schools' Council has said in a statement: "With a move away from the European Union we will expect, in time, to see changes to legislation which are specifically relevant to schools. It is especially likely this will concern international pupils in our schools."
5. Boarding aside, weakening of the pound is likely to influence student recruitment for independent schools as is the likelihood that some families who educate their children in independent schools could be forced to move out of London and the home counties should The City not remain the attractive prospect for the economy that it currently enjoys. [A study by KPMG](#) (*Appendix 2*) has shown that around a million EEA citizens working in Britain are either planning to leave or have already decided to leave the country as a result of Brexit. While the study showed that Britain remained in the top five most desirable EU countries to work in, nearly half of those questioned said that it now felt less desirable following the referendum.
6. There is a flip side of course; a weakening pound could make education in the UK more attractive for international students though I believe that many are currently worried about what their status would be in the country and reassurance through legislation would be needed. Again, this point would only benefit (potentially) Freeman's owing to boarding capacity.
7. In terms of recruitment, there is an employment threat in the sector: the prospect that our post EU-UK could also lead to talented teachers looking to leave our country. Currently EU staff make up 15 per cent of the academic staff in UK institutions and these vibrant and multicultural staff teams help create the inclusive and nurturing environments that schools such as ours should always be striving to maintain. Recruiting into Modern Foreign Languages could become increasingly difficult for all schools.
8. Sodexo relies heavily on staff from Europe and many of our catering and cleaning professionals are EU nationals which could create a problem in the future.

**c) Recent and forthcoming events**

**FOR INFORMATION**

9. A list of recent and forthcoming events is included for members as *Appendix 2*. Governors are reminded that the public Carol Service takes place at 1930 on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December in St Giles' Church.

#### **d) Pupil achievements and successes**

##### **FOR INFORMATION**

10. The Senior Girls Swimming Relay team came first in the 4 x 50m Medley Relay and Second in the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay in the SSSA Secondary Schools Relay Gala & SE Division National Relay Time Trials. The team have qualified for the National Secondary Team Championships at The London Aquatic Centre on Saturday 17th November.
11. After securing a place at ESAA combined events national finals in September, a Year 12 boy came 12th out of a field of 40 athletes. He achieved his goal of a top 15 finish and set PBs in 400m (in which he was the overall winner), hurdles, discus, javelin and shot, and in his overall points total. The placings were all very close and he very narrowly missed out on a top 10 finish.
12. In spite of having to move to a wet-weather plan rather than the planned whole School Act of Remembrance, the CCF and band gave an impressive account of themselves this year.
13. A Choral Concert themed around 'Peace' was held at the School on 14<sup>th</sup> November and brought a full house, including a Governor; around a hundred and thirty pupils from across the whole School performed at this event.
14. A report detailing the extra-curricular music programme and the ABRSM and Trinity awards is attached as *Appendix 4*.

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: School Roll
- Appendix 2: KPMG Study
- Appendix 3: Recent and Forthcoming Events
- Appendix 4: Extra-curricular music programme report

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