

City of London Freeman's School – Community and Partnerships Report

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 2020.

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' tests that apply 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.

Freemen's aims to produce young people who 'Learn, Lead and Make a Difference'; community and partnership work is one of the most valuable ways of helping pupils here to address the last of these three aspirations and to make them aware of their social responsibilities.

An Outreach and Partnerships Officer was appointed in June 2016 to formalise existing arrangements and initiate and sustain, where appropriate, new partnerships; the role has been re-appraised and 'Outreach' has become 'Community' to avoid the suggestion of patronage. Catherine Bennett joined the School as Community and Partnerships Officer at the start of this academic year.

Main Report

A. Partnership work with City of London schools

1. Freeman's has worked with other City of London schools on a number of events during 2018-19, the majority of which take place on an annual basis. The main events are shown below:

Name of school / City event	Details of activity
City of London Academy, Southwark	COLA Southwark asked for support in delivering some sections of the A level syllabus. A scheme of work was developed based around 'Encounters' exhibition at the National Gallery. Students from both schools met at the National Gallery to work on the project. A printmaking workshop and life drawing day at Freeman's included students from COLA Southwark.
City Schools' Concert	A colleague from the Guildhall created a piece of music involving all City schools, with Freeman's taking the lead parts.
City Schools' Art Exhibition	A group of Freeman's pupils worked with students from all City Academies, Secondary and Primary, to display art work and develop joint curriculum initiatives.
Tacitus Inter-Schools Speaking Competition	The Competition involves all City schools. Freeman's students worked with a Livery Company mentor over a number of months before presenting at the final schools debate.

B. Activities involving other schools

2. The School continues to work with a number of primary and secondary schools, predominantly in the local area and in the state sector. The intention over the coming year is to broaden these relationships to encompass a wider range of subject areas in order to maximise the opportunity for sharing resources and knowledge.
3. In line with the School's mission to 'Learn, Lead and Make a Difference', all pupils engage in activities (Enrichment afternoon) on a weekly basis designed to enhance the social, physical and personal development of each individual pupil. The younger pupils take part in activities on site, whilst the older children go out into local schools and other organisations to help in a wide variety of ways.
4. A large number of activities are undertaken each year involving other schools, however the tables below highlight the main activities (including Enrichment), split into primary and secondary phases.

Infant, Junior and Primary schools	
Name of school	Details of activity

Pennthorpe, Avenue Primary, Newland House, Ashford Prep, The Raleigh, Epsom Primary, Kingswood House, The Greville, St David's, Box Hill	Ten schools took part in the MFL 'Love Languages' competition held at Freeman's on an annual basis. The competition involves pupils singing, dancing and acting, with prizes awarded by three external judges who are experienced linguists.
Infant, Junior and Primary schools - continued	
Name of school	Details of activity
Leatherhead Trinity Primary School & Children's Centre	£500 book voucher donated to Trinity school, as a result of commission from Book Fair.
St Christopher's School	Children attended the final rehearsal of the year 6 play.
St Giles' Infant School	As part of Enrichment afternoon, pupils help with various activities in the classroom.
	Use Freeman's swimming pool free of charge for two hours every week, throughout the school year.
	Annual event - each term the Year 2 children from St Giles' visit Freeman's to take part in a Design Technology or Science or ICT activity. Each activity is led by a member of Freeman's staff, with assistance from pupils.
St Martin's Infant School	Use Freeman's swimming pool free of charge for two hours every week, for two terms each year.
The Vale Primary School	As part of Enrichment afternoon, pupils help with various activities in the classroom.
Walton-on-the-Hill Primary School	£500 book voucher donated to the school, as a result of commission from Book Fair.
Woodlands Special School	As part of Enrichment afternoon, pupils help with various activities in the classroom.
Various schools	Freeman's organise a free after school activity session (called Freeman's Fun) twice a year for Year 1 children, involving a range of activities such as art, music, drama, PE games and fun science experiments.

Secondary schools	
Name of school	Details of activity
Carshalton Boys Sports College	Carshalton boys watched Freeman's pupils perform plays they were studying at A level and GCSE.
Epsom College	Head of Biology from Epsom College attended a networking event held at Freeman's to share good practice.

Glyn School	Ongoing joint initiative running a Combined Cadet Force, based at Freeman's. See paragraph X for more details.
	Teacher from Glyn attended a network training event on Food Technology run by Freeman's staff.
	A Freeman's Mathematics teachers is paid to take a small number of intervention and stretch lessons at Glyn. Last year, one of these pupils was successful in gaining an offer from Oxford.
Howard of Effingham School	Thirty five students attended Freeman's Careers, Education and Gap Convention (CEG).
Oxted School	Freeman's host a mini swimming gala twice a year, to enable other schools to complete GCSE moderation. Teachers and pupils from Oxted participated in this event.
Secondary schools - continued	
Name of school	Details of activity
Reed's School	Ten students attended three evening sessions at Freeman's school to get interview advice and practice regarding university applications for veterinary science or medical degrees.
Rosebery School	History textbooks donated to Rosebery school; no longer required by Freeman's due to change in exam board.
	Rosebery use the Freeman's pool on an ongoing basis.
	Freeman's host a mini swimming gala twice a year, to enable other schools to complete GCSE moderation. Teachers and pupils from Rosebery participated in this event.
	Twelve students attended Freeman's Careers, Education and Gap Convention (CEG).
St Andrew's School	Teacher from St Andrew's attended a network training event on Food Technology run by Freeman's staff.
	Seven students attended three evening sessions at Freeman's school to get interview advice and practice regarding university applications for veterinary science or medical degrees.
	Ninety four students attended Freeman's Careers, Education and Gap Convention (CEG).
St John's School	Head of Biology from St John's attended a networking event held at Freeman's to share good practice.
Therfield School	Two members of staff from Freeman's presented at a Biology TeachMeet organised by Therfield, which was attended by over 100 teachers.

Wimbledon High School	Head of Biology from Wimbledon High attended a networking event held at Freeman's to share good practice.
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C. Charitable work undertaken by the school community

5. A number of staff and pupils continue to volunteer with organisations in their free time, for example: holding governorships at other schools; serving for the Independent School's Inspectorate; serving on ASCL Council and Society of Heads Committee; coaching the Year 9 players for Harlequins Rugby Club Developing Player Programme. However, the table below aims to demonstrate the diversity of events carried out under the direct remit of Freeman's School.
6. Some of the principal community activities undertaken by the school.

Name of organisation	Details of activity
Ashtead Rangers	Biology staff and pupils worked with Ashtead Rangers to conduct field work on Ashtead Common, and inform how to manage Ashtead meadow.
Born Free, Canine Partners, Five Talents UK , Mediart charities	Charities selected by different sections of the school for 2018-19. A variety of fundraising activities resulted in a total of £5,400 being donated across the four charities.
Cambridge Assessment International	Biology staff provided two days of subject specific training for Cambridge International trainers.

Name of organisation	Details of activity
Children In Need, Jeans for Genes, Macmillan Coffee Morning	Over £1,000 was raised for these nationwide charitable initiatives.
Community tea parties	Held every half term, involving one group of students baking cakes to be served at the tea party, whilst another group of students prepare activities and run them on the day.
Epsom & Ewell Food Bank	Annual Harvest collection of food and toiletries, with a total weight of 322kg.
Griffin Court sheltered housing, The Red House Care Home, Walton Heath Manor Care Home	Students participate in a variety of activities at these elderly care homes on a weekly basis as part of their Enrichment afternoon.
Harrison's Fund (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)	Local charity - given free use of the Recital Hall for a charity fundraising concert.
Labaid Foundation	Donation of surplus science equipment sent to schools in Africa.
Leatherhead Start - Meeting Room	Pupils prepared meals on a regular basis for a local homeless charity as part of their Enrichment afternoon.

Medecins Sans Frontieres	As part of Enrichment, students helped with the Missing Maps Project (ongoing), to map the most vulnerable parts of the world for the benefit of MSF, the Red Cross and local people.
Save The Children	A tennis tournament is held each year to raise money for Save The Children.
St Giles' Church	Freemen's choristers sing with the Church choir at two Sunday services each term.
Woodland Trust	Major two year project. Approximately one thousand saplings were grown from seeds donated by the Woodland Trust. School staff and pupils transplanted the saplings to Langley Vale Centenary woodland.

D. Other community and partnership successes

7. Counterpoint:

The Counterpoint programme was devised by Roland Martin and Professor Sonia Blandford (CEO and Founder of Achievement for All) to provide a delivery and research framework for partnership activities between independent and maintained schools, aimed at improving academic, social, economic and cultural outcomes for all children.

Freemen's School launched the flagship pilot project in September 2018, along with their partner schools, Walton-on-the-Hill Primary School and Rosebery School (secondary). A cohort of pupils in each school are being tracked during the two year pilot, during which time there is an increased focus on parent and carer engagement, community and social understanding, as well as educational outcomes. In addition, Freeman's has involved, and continues to involve, the partner schools in knowledge sharing opportunities for staff and pupils. The impact of partnership activities will be evaluated as part of an Action Research project during this academic year. It should be noted that Walton-on-the-Hill joined the pilot towards the end of the first year. There has already been a significant amount of knowledge sharing across a number of subject areas since the start of the academic year, which will be captured in the 2019-20 report.

8. Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation:

Freemen's has continued to provide full boarding bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds coming from inner-city London, via the SpringBoard Foundation.

Five SpringBoard students benefitted from a Freeman's education during 2018-19. Two of these students completed their A levels in Summer 2019 and have since been replaced by one student in Year 9 and another student in the Lower Sixth.

9. Bursaries:

The number of students in receipt of bursaries has continued to grow, in line with our aim to provide 5% of pupils with a significant bursary. This year we will be continuing to strengthen our relationships with the livery companies, who provide a substantial proportion of the funding for bursaries.

10. Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

A large number of Freeman's pupils participate in the award scheme, supported by members of staff. A total of one hundred and thirty five pupils achieved awards during 2018-19, either directly through school or via the Combined Cadet Force. Sixty five pupils gained a Bronze award, fifty eight Silver, and twelve Gold.

The completed awards represent approximately:

- 3000 hours of voluntary service
- 2500 hours of physical activity
- 2500 hours of learning new skills
- 700 days on expedition
- 60 days of residential activities

A further one hundred and fifty pupils are currently working towards an award.

11. Combined Cadet Force (CCF):

Freemen's continues to employ a full-time Contingent Commander, who leads a CCF unit involving pupils from Freeman's and Glyn schools, based at Freeman's school.

Numbers have remained fairly consistent over the past couple of years, with eighty two pupils from Freeman's and twenty three pupils from Glyn attending during 2018-19. The partnership with Glyn is invaluable as their CCF staff are predominantly female, and 40% of the total unit are female. The majority of Freeman's staff involved in CCF are male.

E. Future collaborations and events currently being planned

12. GCSE revision course for City Academies:

Following the success of the three day GCSE maths and English Easter revision course held in 2017, Freeman's will again be hosting the event in April 2020 for forty pupils from five City Academies. One of the aims is to bring up the grade boundaries of the most able students, in view of the Government's Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures. Making use of our boarding facilities, the students will have an opportunity to experience a residential education in preparation for life beyond school, as well as booster sessions in Maths and English. Our Counterpoint partner Achievement for All will be running workshops on resilience and positive self-talk, with Freeman's staff leading pastoral sessions on Art and Drama.

13. We are actively seeking to increase our partnership working with the other City of London schools, looking for opportunities to network, share knowledge and resources.

14. A number of partnership working activities have already been planned for this year with our Counterpoint partner schools, involving sharing best practice as well as events with children from all schools taking part.

15. A project will be taking place later this year involving young people from Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP) working with pupils from Freeman's on a crowdfunding project, to raise money for LYP. The Community and Partnerships

Officer from Freeman's will run the project with the combined group at the LYP location during the summer term.

16. Freeman's will be running a Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in the summer term, involving Freeman's pupils and students from two local secondary schools. The group of around one hundred students will practice their leadership, negotiation and speaking skills whilst role-playing delegates attending various UN committees.
17. A visually impaired cricket event is planned for the summer term, in celebration of the Paralympic games, and in line with the Freeman's focus for 2020 on charitable events relating to eyesight. Pupils from local schools will be invited to take part with Freeman's pupils in fun, visually impaired cricket games, which will be followed by a cricket match with Freeman's staff playing against a team of visually impaired cricketers.

Appendices

Nil

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