

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	23 rd September, 2021.
Subject: Report from Headmaster	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).
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

Summary

This report is for Members' information and 'the record' and includes:

- a) COVID-19
- b) Wider impact of BREXIT
- c) Public Examinations
- d) Community and Partnership work
- e) Diversity and Equality
- f) Educational Trips and Events

Members are asked to consider the contents of this report and might like to pay particular notice to items for discussion/decision.

Main Report

a) COVID-19

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Governors will be pleased to hear that School has started well. 15 pupils did not start the term (two thirds of them had been to the Reading Festival – who would have thought they would catch COVID there?!) and our protocols regarding online learning were followed.
2. The School has followed the policy of following Government guidelines throughout the pandemic; however, we did not bring pupils back ahead of the start of term to test nor did we test them at School, preferring to supply families with enough resource to test regularly throughout the holiday and before the start of term. This decision was communicated to parents at the end of last term and was not received negatively.
3. We feel that ventilation is key and have said as much to colleagues. Members may know that State Schools are being given CO2 monitors; our own view is that if doors and windows are open – which we are monitoring – we do not need a machine to monitor levels. Freeman's is fortunate to have largely capacious classrooms which are easy to ventilate and sensible staff who understand the benefits of so doing. Pupils and Staff have been encouraged to wrap up in coats and mufflers when the cold strikes, as last year.

4. The latest version of our Risk Assessment was sent to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and is enclosed here for Governor reference as **APPENDIX 1**.

b) Wider impact of BREXIT

FOR INFORMATION:

5. The Town Clerk has asked that Brexit and its impact be discussed at all Grand Committees.
6. There has been some press coverage regarding challenges in supply chains in some areas; Sodexo is monitoring this situation. There has as yet been no impact on the School.

c) Public Examinations

FOR INFORMATION:

7. At A Level, 49% of all grades achieved were A* grades; 81% of grades achieved were A* / A grades; 95% of grades achieved were A* - B grades and 99% of grades achieved were A* - C grades. This resulted in another strong set of University outcomes for pupils with 84% gaining entry to their first choice universities, 5% making insurance offers and 4% gaining access through Clearing. Unfortunately, 6% were unplaced which is a higher figure than previous years. 67% of our pupils were placed at Russell Group Universities though it is important to add that the most popular university for pupils here (11 of them) was Bath which is not a Russell Group University though still one of the most successful universities in the country. 6% of this year's cohort went to Oxbridge.
8. At GCSE, 44% of pupils were awarded grades A* or 9s, 72% grades A* or 8-9s and 89% grades A*-A or 7/8/9 with an impressive 10 pupils gaining all 9s.
9. I do not underestimate the amount of work that colleagues put into assessing, collating, and grading pupils' work this year - work that should have been done by the examination boards – and I am very grateful for the workload that colleagues took on to support our pupils in this regard.

d) Community and Partnership work

FOR INFORMATION:

10. I was fortunate to see one of our SpringBoard pupils in an Artist Development Programme production of *Nightshade* (a reworking of Romeo and Juliet) over the summer at Hackney Empire. This project involves taking a group of 14-19 year olds and presenting a new piece of theatre in just ten days and I was proud to see a Freeman's pupil playing Juliet in this context on a professional stage.
11. *Model United Nations Conference*
Over sixty students from two local maintained schools (Rosebery and The Beacon) as well as Freeman's, took part in our first virtual MUN conference in July. Students from each school came together (via Teams) to represent their country's views in a wide range of debates within the Environmental, Disarmament, Eco, and Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committees. Debates included youth recruitment in terrorism, inclusion of refugees in their host country, and veganism. Each committee was co-chaired

by Freeman's students who attend the weekly MUN club, and Year 12 (Lower Sixth) students who have been preparing for the conference as part of their Free Minds programme.

12. *Books for Bursary Students*

The Sue Thomson Foundation donated money to cover the cost of buying 22 students who are in receipt of a significant bursary (>50% fees) a book of their choice to read over the summer holidays. Note - this number excludes students who joined the school in September 2021.

e) **Diversity and Equality**

FOR INFORMATION:

13. We continue to develop and imbed an inclusive ethos and a celebration of diversity at Freeman's and key points of focus this year will be:

- An increased focus on diversity and equality through assembly provision;
- Targeted presentations to Upper School students on issues around gender by a well-known author and speaker;
- More whole-school celebrations and recognition of religious diversity, throughout the year;
- Student-led Diversity Council to work closely with staff Equality and Diversity Committee in continuing to develop Freeman's Equality Diversity Inclusion (EDI) ethos;
- A further survey has been commissioned for next summer term so that the company that we engaged this time last year can measure the outcomes of what we have done thus far;
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education provision will be purposefully led by the new Head of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE).

f) **Educational Trips and Events**

14. FOR INFORMATION:

This summer was again devoid of almost all Educational Trips, though Duke of Edinburgh Bronze went out at the end of last term and the Gold expeditioners were engaged in the last week of the summer holidays for their qualifying walk.

15. It is welcome that we are now in a position to take trips and visits out again and a schedule of activity planned for the period ahead are included as **APPENDIX 2**. I have written to Governors separately about some of the key events that they may well wish to support.

g) **Pupil Achievements**

16. An U5 pupil has had great success in his golf throughout the year representing the school in a number of competitions, accompanied by another U5 pupil, and two L4 students. The student has entered a number of tournaments both Nationally & Internationally and now has a handicap of 1 as well as a World Handicap ranking.

17. An U3 pupil is now ranked 4th Nationally for her age group in high jump and has had a successful summer competing in various athletics meets. A U6 student continues to regularly be selected for London Irish U18 rugby team and a number of Freeman's pupils have been selected to attend Performance Centre trials for hockey.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** *COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT*
- **Appendix 2:** *School Trips and Visits 2020-21*

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