

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School	4 th March, 2022.
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), 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 schools
- b) Charitable work undertaken by the school community
- c) Other community and partnership successes
- d) 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 2022.

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 Freemen'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.

Partnership work, supporting the community and bursary provision are key strands in the School's Mission Statement, *Learn, Lead and Make a Difference*. Whilst Covid-19 continued to impact on many partnership initiatives during 2021, the Freeman's community were able to move a number of events online, which removed any geographical limitations normally encountered when planning joint working with other schools and organisations.

Main Report

Partnership work with schools

1. 'In person' events with other schools were not able to go ahead for most of the year, however with some creative thinking events were moved online where practicable, working with a total of 29 state and independent schools during 2021. There has been a notable increase in partnership work with a local state secondary school, The Beacon, which will continue to grow over the coming year. The Partnership Forum meetings with all City of London schools and other City organisations have continued to provide an extremely useful forum for the sharing of knowledge and resources.

Name of School (S=State, I=Independent)	Details of activity
Epsom Primary (S), Walton-on-the-Hill Primary (S), West Ashted Primary (S)	<p>Freemen's Music Partnership</p> <p>Weekly pre-recorded lessons produced by Old-Free employed in Music Department, continued to be shared with 200 pupils at three local primary schools during the spring and summer terms, resulting in combined digital performances at the end of each term. An original percussion-only piece titled 'Heliosphere' was produced in March and the song 'One World To Share' was performed in June, during Refugee Week. The Music Partnership featured in the annual ISC Celebrating Partnerships Report for 2021.</p>
City of London (I), City of London School for Girls (I), The Beacon (S)	<p>Strength In Numbers - online maths support</p> <p>Sixth form volunteers from Freeman's, CLS, CLSG and The Beacon provided weekly online maths support to younger students at The Beacon. Over 70 calls took place during the summer and autumn terms.</p>
Rosebery (S), The Beacon (S)	<p>Virtual Model United Nations Conference</p> <p>Over 60 students from Freeman's, Rosebery and The Beacon came together (via Teams) to represent their country's views in a wide range of debates. Each committee was co-chaired by Freeman's students who attend the weekly MUN club and Year 12 students who organised the Conference as part of their Free Minds programme.</p>
	Careers, Education and Gap Convention

Glyn (S), Godalming College (S), Heathlands (S), Howard of Effingham (S), Merston Park (S), Reeds (I), Reigate College (S), Reigate Grammar (I), Rosebery (S), St Andrew's (S), St John's (I), St Teresa's (I)	Approximately 80 students from 12 local state and independent schools (in addition to 100 students from Freeman's) attended the annual CEG Convention at Freeman's in November. Students enjoyed talks from Bath University about the admissions process, a talk from ALPS (Association of Learning Providers in Surrey) about apprenticeships, as well as over 40 stands representing universities, along with representatives from industry.
Blenheim High (S), City of London (I), Donhead Prep (I), The Beacon (S), Wallace Fields Infant (S), West Ashted Primary (S), Whitgift (I)	Developing Leadership Through Partnership (DLTP) Eight state and independent schools (including Freeman's) are taking part in the launch of a new programme established by Freeman's, providing school to school improvement through collaboration and sharing good practice. A middle leader from each school takes part in a project focussing on a tricky topic at another school. The host school benefits from an external review on an area they would like addressed, whilst the project lead gains valuable leadership skills and experience in another school setting. The programme will re-start in September 2022 with a new list of topics to be addressed.
City of London School for Girls (I), Ardingly (I)	Freeman's Shakespeare Conference took place (virtually) in April, involving three external keynote speakers and presentations given by staff and students from all three schools.
The Beacon (S), Glyn (S)	Weekly online and in-school tutorials provided to a dozen sixth form students to help develop their mathematics skills and prepare them for entrance exams used by several of the UK's top universities. One to one support was also provided to help a student prepare for an Oxford interview.
The Beacon (S)	Parents and staff donated 30 laptops and tablets which were distributed to The Beacon School families struggling to access home learning during lockdown.
The Beacon (S)	Virtual Model United Nations after school club involved students from The Beacon as well as Freeman's own pupils.
St Giles' Infant (S)	St Giles' selected £400 worth of books, resulting from commission generated by a Scholastic book fair at Freeman's.
Putney High (I)	Virtual mock trial involving students from both schools.
City of London Academy Islington (S)	Students took part in Freeman's Dance Show.
Francis Holland Sloane Square (I)	Shared knowledge and experiences re bursary processes and the Royal SpringBoard programme.
Rosebery (S)	A level Drama students attended a dress rehearsal for Freeman's production of 'Road'.
The Greville Primary (S)	Teacher delivered a talk about Islam to Year 5 pupils.
Ballard (I)	Teacher taught lessons to cover staff illness.

Charitable work undertaken by the school community

2. Weekly Enrichment sessions involving students helping in care homes and local schools was severely restricted last year, with only a limited amount of activity re-starting in September.
3. Some of the main community activities undertaken by the school:

Name of organisation	Details of activity
Air Ambulance - Kent, Surrey & Sussex	66kg of crisp packets collected to raise funds. Crisp packets are used in the construction of new park benches.
Care4Calais	Freemen's community donated clothes, food and toiletries.
Comic Relief, Donate4 Refugees, Muscular Dystrophy UK	Fundraising across the school raised a total of £1300.
Concern Worldwide	Ration Challenge involved a group of teachers eating Syrian refugee rations for five days, raised £5851.
Eastside Young Leaders Academy (EYLA)	Freemen's boarding students (in receipt of a bursary), visited EYLA to talk to young people about boarding life at Freemen's.
Farmington Institute (Oxford)	Teacher conducted a research project on teaching philosophy of science and gave a presentation at their annual conference.
Griffin Court Care Home	Group of students visited Griffin Court on a weekly basis as part of Enrichment, from September onwards.
Harrison's Fund (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)	Student organised a virtual summer concert involving students and family members, which raised £1444.
King's College London	Teacher ran a training session for PGCE Biology students.
Medecins Sans Frontieres	Over 50 students participated in the Missing Maps project, 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.
Momentum Children's Charity	Money remaining from last year's PPE fundraising campaign (£1820), plus other fundraising by the Junior School, resulted in a donation of £2880, to be used by the charity in their work at Epsom Hospital.
Reigate & Banstead Women's Aid	80 books and 20 chocolate selection boxes donated by sixth form students were given to the local women's refuge as presents for children in the refuge over Christmas.
Surrey and SW London Butterfly Conservation	Junior School homework club participated in butterfly monitoring for the i-record program.
Surrey Police	Junior School homework club decorated gingerbread for the local police station.

Walton Heath Manor Residential Home	Students exchanged letters with care home residents. A group of students provided (socially distanced) entertainment in their garden during the summer term.
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4. Ongoing voluntary commitments by staff included:

Name of organisation	Details of activity undertaken by member of staff
Ashted Parish	Provided meals for new families and families with pastoral need.
Bevendean School	Provided 'Thoughtful Thursday' cakes and gifts for staff wellbeing initiative.
Bevendean School	Made costumes for school show.
Leatherhead Community Fridge	Volunteered whilst furloughed.
Malden Wanderers cricket club	Umpire and coach U15 and U11 teams.
Marymount International School, Paris	Trustee and Chair of Estates & Security Committee. Member of Centenary planning committee.
National Tutoring Programme	Teacher provided tutoring as part of the Government scheme.
Princess Alice Hospice	Compassionate Neighbour - provided support to person in their final months.
Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation	Teacher ran London Marathon to raise £1695 for RNCSF.
St Barnabas Church, Epsom	Musical director and a worship leader.
St Giles' Church, Ashted	Leads services and/or gives sermon on a regular basis.
St Giles' Infant School	School Governor.
St Peter's Catholic Primary School	Coach at weekly netball club.
St Phillips Church, Norbury	Trustee and voluntary chaperone for the boys' choir.
The Scout Association	Cub Leader.

Other community and partnership successes

Counterpoint

- An evaluation report was published by Achievement for All in April 2021, following the end of the two-year pilot programme. The Deputy Head of our Counterpoint partner primary school Walton-on-the-Hill, was quoted in the report saying, *“Overall, I think the project has been fantastic and the links we have made with the lead school (Freemen’s) is hopefully something we can foster and develop in the less tumultuous years to come. Having a strong partnership with a school like that affords an amazing opportunity for staff development and to further enhance our current curriculum offer. Hopefully, we can give back as much as we gain.”* The school relationships initially established via Counterpoint have continued during 2021, with further joint working planned for 2022.

Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation

6. Full boarding bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds in inner-city London continue to be provided, via the SpringBoard Foundation. Four SpringBoard students benefitted from a Freeman's education during 2020-21, with one student leaving in July to study Medicine at Cambridge University.

Sue Thomson Foundation (STF)

7. The Sue Thomson Foundation provided a full boarding sixth form bursary for a student coming from inner-city London with a disadvantaged background, during 2020-21. The Foundation increased their funding in September 2021 to provide an additional full boarding bursary for a new Year 12 student, with a similar background. STF has recently agreed to increase their bursary funding further, to cover a day pupil from a disadvantaged background who lives locally, in addition to maintaining funding for two full boarding students in the sixth form.

Bursaries

8. The number of students in receipt of significant bursaries has remained similar to previous years. 2.87% of students in 2021/22, in comparison to 3% in 2020/21, and 2.56% in 2019/20. Following very positive feedback from Livery Companies after Christmas 2020, students in receipt of a Livery Company bursary once again sent Christmas cards to the Livery Companies early in December.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

9. A total of 159 students achieved awards during 2020/21, either directly through the school or via the Combined Cadet Force. 121 students gained a Bronze award (artificially inflated by the previous year's cohort whose expeditions were delayed by Covid), 33 Silver and 5 Gold.

10. The completed awards represent approximately:

- 3175 hours of voluntary service
- 2880 hours of physical activity
- 2880 hours of learning new skills
- 722 days on expedition
- 25 days of other residential activities (Gold only)

11. A large number of students decided to continue from Bronze to Silver, and Silver to Gold, with a total of 103 students currently working towards Bronze, 73 Silver and 26 towards Gold.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

12. 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.
13. The contingent comprises 136 cadets in total: 106 cadets and 10 members of staff from Freeman's and 30 cadets and 4 staff members from Glyn.

Future collaborations and events currently being planned

Teaching and Learning network

14. The Junior and Senior School Teaching and Learning Leads visited City of London School and City of London School for Girls in November, to observe lessons and share best practice. A return visit is planned before Easter. Staff from Tiffin School visited Freeman's in January, with the Freeman's Teaching Leads paying a return visit to Tiffin during March. Further visits are planned with other schools, typically one visit per half term, in order to share knowledge and build valuable teaching and learning networks.

Sports festivals for local primary schools

15. A Year 2 athletics festival involving three local primary schools is planned for the summer term, the intention being to run the event on an annual basis.
16. The Games staff are organising a Year 5 football tournament for local primary schools, taking place in the autumn term, which will also continue on an annual basis.

My Life Story – a joint project with St Giles' Church

17. A new project will be introduced as an option for Year 12 Enrichment in September, whereby a group of students will each meet with an older person on a weekly basis, to capture their Life Story, which will be published in a book. A celebration afternoon tea will conclude the project, bringing together students, the older people and their families, to share extracts from the books.

Post-GCSE volunteering in local primary schools

18. Replicating a project run by City of London School for Girls during summer 2021, Year 11 students will be given the opportunity to volunteer for a week in local primary schools following the completion of their GCSE exams.

Appendices

Nil.

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