

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School	16 th March, 2023.
Subject: Report from Headmaster	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1 (d), (e); 2 (a), (b), (c), (d); 3 (a), (b), (c), (d); 4 (a), (b); 5 (d); 8 (a), (b); 9 (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/DISCUSSION/DECISION
Report author: Catherine Bennett, Development, Community and Partnerships Manager	

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 2023.

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.

The Tomlinson Review (2019) suggested that Freeman's partnership work was more limited owing to its geographical location. Subsequent reports to the Board of Governors and the Education Board, including this one suggest that a full range of community and partnership initiatives both with the 'family of schools' and in our local community are to be celebrated and the work of this Department goes from strength-to-strength each year.

Partnership work, supporting the community and bursary provision are key strands in the School's Mission Statement, *Learn, Lead and Make a Difference*.

Main Report

Partnership work with schools

- Freemen's partnership work with other schools has continued to grow and prosper during 2022, involving a total of 41 schools – 21 state and 20 independent. These numbers reflect school-based events, not including any voluntary activity undertaken by members of staff outside the school day. Whilst reviewing partnership work over the past year, two themes stand out for particular mention. Firstly, the extent to which our student body continues to embrace *Learn, Lead and Make a Difference*. A fantastic example being the collection of ski clothing for Ukrainian refugees, organised by a student in L6, along with a crowdfunding campaign to help cover the cost of transportation, owing to the large number of clothes collected. Other examples of student-led activities are included in the report. The second theme relates to the amount of recycling undertaken by the school, including a wide variety of items; from beds to Design Technology workbenches, a piano and a pool table, to name a few. A separate table has been included this year, to document the recycling undertaken by the school community. Partnership work with other City of London Schools continues apace, participating in City projects focussing on Art, Maths and Oracy, as well as music concerts and sharing Teaching and Learning knowledge. Relationships with local schools have also increased, most notably with the two schools on our doorstep – St Giles' Infant School and The Greville Primary School.

Name of School (S=State, I=Independent)	Details of activity
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
	Eight state and independent schools took part in a new programme set up by Freeman's, aimed at middle and aspiring leaders. A middle leader from each school reviewed a tricky topic at another school, undertook further research and presented their findings to the host school. Topics included - Supporting high achieving pupils, Development of outdoor learning and Effective use of technology to enhance learning.
	Love Languages competition

Nonsuch High (S), Tiffin (S), Ashford Prep (I), Kingswood House (I), Newland House (I), Notre Dame (I), Parkgate House (I), Pennthorpe (I), St David's (I), St Teresa's (I), Surbiton High (I)	Over 110 students from 12 schools (including Freeman's) took part in Freeman's 11th Love Languages competition. Performers sang, danced and recited poetry in one or more modern foreign languages, based around the theme 'Nature and the environment'.
Rosebery (S), Howard of Effingham (S), St Andrew's Catholic (S), Glyn (S), Cobham Free (S), Hinchley Wood (S), Downsend (I), Danes Hill (I), Ewell Castle (I)	Future Pathways careers fair
	Approximately 250 students and parents from 10 schools (including Freeman's), attended our annual careers fair.
Rosebery (S), Glyn (S), The Beacon (S)	Model United Nations conference
	45 students from three local state schools joined together with students from Freeman's to debate a wide range of topics such as "The question of economic inclusion of refugees", "The question of removal of individual state armies" and "The question of sweatshops". Over 20 Freeman's students from U4 - L6 Chaired and Co-chaired the committees, including teaching younger pupils how to participate in a conference.
British International School, Ukraine (I), St Constantine's International School, Tanzania (I), International School of Bremen (I), British Education Korea (I), International School of Florence (I)	Freemen's Global - fortnightly Enrichment workshops
	Over 120 students have so far benefitted from attending one or more Enrichment sessions led by senior leaders from Freeman's and elsewhere, focussing on areas including Study Skills, Your social media footprint and Introduction to UK universities.
City of London Academy Highgate Hill (S), City of London School for Girls (I), Nonsuch High School for Girls (S), Downsend (I)	Languages careers talk
	As part of Love Languages week, a Professor from UCL delivered a talk on 'Careers in languages', with a number of schools attending remotely and/or sharing the recording with students at a later date.
Rosebery (S), Oxted (S), Howard of Effingham (S)	Sports staff ran a mini-swimming gala to support GCSE moderation.
City of London School for Girls (I)	Joint Chamber Concert.
St Giles' Infant (S)	The Junior School Council invited pupils to create bookmarks for Random Acts of Kindness day, which were given to pupils at St Giles' School.
	The Junior School Book Swap - donate two books, choose one new book to take home - resulted in nine crates of books being donated to St Giles' School.

	Teacher (and Governor at St Giles') organised and ran a Science Day for all pupils at St Giles'.
	The School has free use of the swimming pool on a weekly basis, all year round.
	Attended a mini-athletics competition, organised by Freeman's sports staff.
The Greville Primary (S)	Teacher delivered an assembly to 260 pupils on Islam.
	Language assistants delivered a French afternoon workshop for all Year 6 pupils.
	As part of Enrichment, a group of L6 students visit The Greville on a weekly basis to lead French lessons with pupils.
	Donated £500 worth of Scholastic books, earned as commission from Freeman's book fair.
West Ashtead Primary (S)	Student from West Ashtead participates in Freeman's Wind Band.
	Attended a mini-athletics competition, organised by Freeman's sports staff.
Glyn (S), Rosebery (S)	Teacher ran weekly programme to prepare students for university entrance exams in maths and related subjects.
Glyn (S)	Freeman's lead a Combined Cadet Force contingent, involving a growing number of students from both Glyn and Freeman's. This engagement involves significant weekend and holiday activity for students and brings staff from both schools together.
Therfield (S)	Student from Therfield participates in Freeman's Senior Jazz Band.
Danes Hill (I)	Lent costumes for school production.
St Peter's Catholic Primary	Musical soiree - massed choirs of Freeman's and St Peter's, Senior and Junior Brass, St Peter's Trumpets.
Tiffin (S)	Reciprocal Teaching and Learning visits.
City of London School for Girls (I)	Reciprocal Teaching and Learning visits.
St Martin's, Epsom	Free use of the swimming pool during spring term.

Charitable work undertaken by the school community

2. Some of the main recycling activities undertaken by the school:

Name of Organisation	Details of activity
Amber Foundation	Donated pool table, piano, desks and chairs to new homeless accommodation in Dorking. Staff also donated DVDs, books and a TV.
Besom	Donated three beds from Medical Centre to Besom Charity, for use by Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network.

Biddupur Vaishali Village School, India	Student in L6 took 85 donated blazers to school in India, run by her family.
Books2Africa	A total of 84 boxes of unwanted textbooks were sent to Books2Africa.
Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network	Ski jackets left over from previous ski trips, donated to refugee network.
Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance	Crisp packet collection, packets made into park benches and funds donated to Air Ambulance.
Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People	Large quantity of clothing donated by parents, not suitable for Ukraine ski clothing collection.
Ski clothing for Ukraine	L6 student organised a collection of ski clothing for Ukrainian's crossing at the Polish border. 70 boxes of clothes were donated by the Freeman's community, along with a crowdfunding campaign to cover the cost of transport.
Terracycle	Eco-committee organised a 'pencil case clearout', with unwanted pens, felt tips, highlighters and markers sent to Terracycle for recycling.
The Beacon School (S)	Donated six Design Technology workbenches.
The Greville Primary (S)	Books no longer needed by the library were donated to The Greville.
Ukraine-based medical charities	Medical Centre donated four boxes of medical supplies.

3. Weekly Enrichment sessions involving students have been re-focussed, to align more closely with *Learn, Lead and Make a Difference*. A large number of L6 students now lead Enrichment activities with younger pupils, however some of our longstanding relationships remain in place, for example Griffin Court residential home and Walton Heath Manor care home.

4. Some of the main community activities undertaken by the school, excluding recycling:

Name of Organisation	Details of activity
Concern Worldwide	Four members of staff participated in the Ration Challenge, eating the same amount of food for a week as a refugee living in a camp in Syria. Total money raised was £2,060.
Disasters Emergency Committee	Junior School sponsored silence organised by a student, raised £1,179 for the DEC Ukraine fund.
Eastside Young Leaders Academy (EYLA)	Freeman's students visited EYLA to talk to young people about boarding life at Freeman's.
Epsom & Ewell food bank	351kg of food (equivalent to 292 meals) was donated as part of Harvest collection.
Great Ormond Street Hospital	Sponsored 'jubilee' walk by all Junior School pupils raised £2,347.
Griffin Court residential home	Sixth form students have been visiting Griffin Court on a weekly basis for over ten years as part of Enrichment, including during 2022.

I Choose Freedom (local group of women's refuges)	Over 100 new books bought and donated by Upper School students, given to local women's refuges as Christmas presents for children.
Mid-Surrey Community Fridge	Donated apples from Freeman's Bothy.
Royal British Legion	Over £1,000 raised from the annual sale of poppies.
St Giles' Church	Junior School pupils created bookmarks and Boarders decorated 'positivity pebbles' to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day - all given to elderly parishioners at St Giles' Church.
The Grange, Bookham	Form 1 made pom poms and banners to help decorate The Grange for their Jubilee party.
Walton Heath Manor care home	Continued long-standing relationship with Walton Heath. Form 1 pupils wrote letters and sent bookmarks to residents. During the summer term pupils entertained residents in the garden. In December, pupils spent an afternoon at the care home singing carols.

5. Ongoing voluntary commitments by staff included:

Name of Organisation	Details of activity undertaken by member of staff
Association of School and College Leaders	Serves on the Ethics, Inclusion and Equalities sub-committee.
Barnett Wood Infant School	School Finance Governor.
Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network	Taught English to refugees as part of a week-long summer school.
Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network	Taught Dance to refugees as part of a week-long summer school.
Epsom Downs Primary School	Co-opted Governor with responsibility for SEN.
Farnham District Scouts	Scout Leader.
Freeman's Bursary Fund	Members of staff walked over 72km, equivalent of Gold Duke of Edinburgh, raising £3,020 for the school bursary fund.
Guildford Diocese	Lead services and preach across various parishes to help cover leave/vacancies.
Guildford Diocesan Board of Education	Statutory oversight and support of church schools and multi-academy trust.
Marymount International School, Paris	Trustee and Governor. Chair of Estates and Security Committee.
Molesey Churches Night Shelter	Volunteered weekly at a homeless night shelter.
North Leatherhead Hub	Assist with monthly 'Family Feast' event, providing free hot meals to families in the community.
Northmead Primary School	School Governor
NSPCC	Organised concert to raise money for charity.

Oakfield Junior School, Fetcham	School Governor
Princess Alice Hospice	Compassionate Neighbour Scheme - spends an hour a week with one of their terminal patients.
Reading Girls' School	Mentoring a food teacher in own time, evenings and weekends.
Reeds School	Provides support for Combined Cadet Force.
Royal Events Team	Member of Royal Events Team, assisted with Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
Russian Orthodox Church	Directed church choir.
SANDS Charity	Raised over £2,900 for charity supporting bereaved families.
Society of Heads	Mentors new and aspirant Heads through the Society of Heads.
St Barnabas Church, Epsom	Worship leader, playing and singing at services.
St Giles' Church	Lead services and occasionally preach.
St Giles' Infant School	School Foundation Governor - SEN and Science.
St Nicolas' Church, Bookham	Parish Safeguarding Officer.
St Peter's Catholic Primary School	Volunteers weekly with netball club.
St Phillips, Norbury	Trustee and volunteer chaperone for Libera boys' choir.
The Greville Primary School	Volunteers as a parent reader.
Under One Sky	Volunteer once a month to distribute food to the homeless in London.
Woodcote Primary School	School Governor

Other community and partnership successes

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 between 2020-22, all leaving to continue their education at university. One new SpringBoard student joined L6 in September 2022.

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, however owing to the increased number of students in school from September 2022, the overall percentage has decreased. 19 students (2%) in 2022/23, in comparison to 22 students (2.87%) in 2021/22, 3% in 2020/21, and 2.56% in 2019/20. Livery Companies and Foundations who provide funding towards bursaries received a Christmas card from the student(s) they are supporting, early in December.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

9. A total of 141 students achieved awards during 2022, either directly through the school or via the Combined Cadet Force. 97 students gained a Bronze award, 36 Silver and 8 Gold.

The completed awards represent approximately:

- 3030 hours of voluntary service
- 2695 hours of physical activity
- 2695 hours of learning new skills
- 668 days on expedition
- 40 days of other residential activities (Gold only)

10. The number of students starting to work towards a new award are as follows: 96 students are currently working towards Bronze, 74 Silver and 19 towards Gold.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

11. 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.
12. The contingent comprises 143 cadets in total: 113 cadets and 10 members of staff from Freeman's and 30 cadets and 4 staff members from Glyn.
13. Highlight from the year includes volunteering at the Shere Hill Climb event, an annual race involving over 240 vehicles.

British School, Ukraine

14. Through Freeman's Global, enrichment activity has been provided to pupils from The British School, Ukraine as highlighted in a recent article in *The Times Educational Supplement Magazine* [Ukraine war anniversary: How schools have kept going | Tes](#).

Future collaborations and events currently being planned

Partnership with Star Academies

15. Freeman's launched a new partnership in January 2023 with two schools (Bay Leadership Academy and The Valley Leadership Academy) in Lancashire, who are part of Star Academies trust. All Freeman's careers talks are now being made available to partner schools (including all City Schools and the two Star Academy

Schools). A selected group of students from Bay and The Valley will also benefit from bespoke mentoring support, visits to Freeman's and the opportunity to apply for a full boarding bursary for Years 12 and 13.

Refugee Buddy Club

16. A collaboration with Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network involving a group of 24 students from Freeman's and local refugee families from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria. Following training sessions for Freeman's students on coaching, safeguarding and learning more about refugee families in the UK, the club started at the end of January, with the aim of providing one-to-one support with English language skills. Transport is provided for families who wish to attend in-person each week, whilst other young people chat via Teams.

GCSE booster course for City Academy Schools

17. Following a successful bid for funding from the City Partnerships Grant, Freeman's will be hosting 40 students from four City of London Academies for a three day, two night stay at Freeman's School during the Easter holidays. Students will benefit from lessons in maths and English, as well as spending time doing extra-curricular activities. The programme is targeting students currently working at Grade 6, who are able to achieve Grade 7 or above, thereby supporting each School's 'Progress 8' measure.

City of London Virtual School Oracy programme

18. During two weekends in the summer term, Freeman's will be hosting a group of students from the City of London Virtual School, with some staying overnight and others travelling to Ashted each day, ensuring the programme is accessible to as many students as possible. Freeman's Director of Drama will lead a programme of workshops, supported by students from Freeman's, focussing on improving oracy skills – highlighted as an area for improvement by the Head of the Virtual School.

Appendices

Nil.

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