

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen’s School (For decision)	18 th March, 2024.
Education Board (For discussion)	16 April 2024
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; 6) d; 8) a, b, c, d; 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: Jason Harrison-Miles, Director of External Relations	

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 2024/2025.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Board of Governors, City of London Freemen’s School are asked to:

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Give approval to send a copy of this report to the Education Board.

Members of the Education Board are asked to note the report.

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*.

Main Report

Partnership work with schools

1. Freeman's Community and Partnerships work continues to flourish. In the last year, we have worked with over 40 state and independent schools, both locally, nationally, and internationally. These numbers reflect school-based events, not including any voluntary activity undertaken by members of staff outside the school day. Many of the partnership activities are long-held traditions from Freeman's such as our annual Love Languages Competition or Future Pathways Careers Fair, but this year we have seen some new additions to the calendar. We hosted our first TeachMeet with local state and independent schools, allowing staff the opportunity to share best practice and advice on a range of interesting topics. We also launched the first in a series of online talks on inclusivity. Two L6 students delivered inspiring keynote speeches, igniting thoughtful discussions on the topic of "How the rise in populism in politics has led to an increase in racism across Europe and the UK". Held in our state-of-the-art X20 classroom, the event welcomed participants from around the globe, emphasising our commitment to global dialogue and understanding.

Name of School (S=State, I=Independent)	Details of activity
Nonsuch High (S), Tiffin (S), Newland House (I), Notre Dame (I), Norland Place (I), St David's (I), Greville (S), St Catherine's (I), Tiffin (S), Reading Blue Coat (I)	<p>Love Languages competition</p> <p>Year 5 to Year 8 students from 10 schools (including Freeman's) took part in Freeman's 13th Love Languages competition. Performers sang, danced, and recited poetry in one or more modern foreign languages, based around the theme of 'Holidays.' Performances were judged on quality of language, creativity & originality, and quality of performance.</p>
Beacon School (S), Blenheim High (S), Glyn (S), Howard of Effingham (S), Reeds (I), RGS (I), St Andrews (S), St John's (I), St Teresa's (I)	<p>Future Pathways careers fair</p> <p>Over 300 pupils and parents from 12 schools (including Freeman's), attended our annual careers fair.</p>
Therfield (S), Notre Dame (I), Danes Hill (I), Barrow Hills (I), St Johns (I), Rosebery (S), Sevenoaks (I), St Andrews (I), COLA Islington (S), St Giles (S)	<p>Teach Meet</p> <p>Speakers from a range of schools joined Freeman's staff to for our first TeachMeet, where colleagues shared best practice, advice, and support in a series of short lectures and presentations. The event went so well that the school has since launched online sessions and the 2024 TeachMeet will be broadened to include admissions and marketing staff.</p>

St Constantine's International School, Tanzania, International School of Bremen, Germany, The British International School of Ukraine, Kyiv	Freemen's Global Series of presentations to Freemen's Global students, including one in January led by Director of Strategy for Vodafone UK, about working for a global organisation.
St Christopher's (I)	FSA (Freemen s School Association) hosted the outdoor cinema night on behalf of St Christopher's PTA when the trailer with the screen was too big for their site.
RGS Guildford (I), ACS Cobham (I), Cranmore (I), Danes Hill (I)	The Sports Department ran an U10 and U11 Biathlon event (swimming and running).
City of London School for Girls (I)	Annual joint chamber choir concert at St James' Church, Piccadilly
St Giles' Infant (S)	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.
The Greville Primary (S)	The school has free use of the swimming pool on a weekly basis, all year round. As part of Enrichment, a group of L6 students visit The Greville on a weekly basis to lead French lessons with pupils.
Glyn (S)	Freemen's lead a Combined Cadet Force contingent, involving students from Glyn and Freemen's.
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. Weekly Enrichment sessions involving students focus on *Learn, Lead and Make a Difference*. In the Seniors, most students involved have been delivering sessions to lower-year groups, but we have continued with various outreach projects. Groups routinely visit the Vale School and the Greville, and we also send a group of volunteer students to Griffin Court. We have also had considerable success with the Bothy, producing a considerable amount of food for the Epsom food banks – potatoes, squash, turnips, swedes, apples, garlic, and onions were all donated at various points in the year.
3. Some of the main community activities undertaken by the school:

Name of Organisation	Details of activity
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Disasters Emergency Committee	Students raised money to support those affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria and raised £456
Eastside Young Leaders Academy (EYLA)	Freemen's students visited EYLA to talk to young people about boarding life at Freeman's
Epsom & Ewell food bank	523kg of food (equivalent to 502 meals) was donated as part of Harvest collection.
Freemen's Bursary Fund	The Headmaster walked The Pilgrim's Way last March to raise funds for the School's Bursary Fund.
Leatherhead Food Bank	Crops are grown at school and donated to the foodbank once harvested
Leatherhead Trinity School	Our library donated some new books to be used in the school's new 'reading spine'
Griffin Court residential home	Sixth form students have been visiting Griffin Court on a weekly basis for over ten years as part of Enrichment
Wildlife Aid, Royal Marsden, Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation	Pupils raised £3,428 through a range of fundraising activities for its annual Rag Week, including staff performing in a special Top of the Pops performance.
Combat Stress	Members of Freeman's CCF marched 10km with weighted kit to raise money for mental health treatment for veterans
Royal British Legion	Over £1,000 raised from the annual sale of poppies.
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
British Red Cross	Students ran a cake sale to support the humanitarian crisis in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, raising £383.30
Movember	A member of staff and two of the senior cadets not only grew moustaches but ran a combined total of 350km- one doing 150km with a 15kg weight vest, and the other two running 100km each, raising £1500 for the Movember charity
Trussell Trust	Boards performed a Christmas Pantomime Aladdin and organised a staff vs student volleyball game.
Little Princess Trust UK	Staff member and her daughter donated 22 inches of hair to be made into wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment
Epsom & Ewell Refugee Club	Weekly club for refugee families from the local area to meet with current pupil 'buddies' and to learn more about each other's cultures
Falcon Flyerz	Disabled hockey sessions run at Freeman's on a Sunday morning

4. Ongoing voluntary commitments by staff included:

Name of Organisation	Details of activity undertaken by member of staff
Barnett Wood Infant School	School Finance Governor
Epsom Downs Primary School	Co-opted Governor with responsibility for SEN
St Giles Infant School	SEN and Science Governor
St Nicolas' Church Bookham	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Surrey Rainbow Choir	Musical Director of Surrey's LGBTQIA+ Choir. 40 th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall
Dorking Wanderers Football Club	Volunteer referee and coach for Under 7 team
Brockham Badgers football Club	Volunteer referee for Under 8 team
North West Surrey Synagogue	Volunteer support for accounting functions and member of the finance team
England Netball	Chair of London and SE Regional Management Board
Princess Alice Hospice	Compassionate neighbour spending time weekly with a patient
The Horton	Founding Trustee and now volunteer director of the subsidiary company owned by The Horton charity
Leatherhead Cricket Club	Chair
Shere Hill Climb	Assist with parking/marshalling/ticketing for event that raises money for Surrey Air Ambulance and other local charities.

Other community and partnership successes

Oracy programme

5. We hosted a group of young asylum seekers who are currently living in or around the London area, to the very first 'Oracy Day' in June. The workshop was dedicated to enhancing pupils' oracy skills, boosting their confidence when speaking English, and shaping their future educational outcomes. Working in partnership with City of London Virtual School, utilising funding from the City Partnerships Grant, this workshop brought together expertise and resources from both institutions. All attendees reported increased levels of confidence when speaking English and their vocabulary had also been extended because of the workshop.

Sue Thomson Foundation (STF)

6. The Sue Thomson Foundation provided a full boarding sixth form bursary for a student coming from inner-city London with a disadvantaged background for the last two years. From September 2024, the Foundation will cover a bursary for a new Sixth Form student joining from one of the Star Academies.

Bursaries

7. The number of students in receipt of significant bursaries has remained similar to previous years. 20 pupils in 2023/24 (2.1%), compared to 19 students (2) in 2021/22, 3% in 2022/23, and 2.56% in 2019/20.
8. Former pupil Rosemary Roach donated the Wilkes Piano Bursary in memory of her father to encourage students whose financial circumstances may otherwise mean that paying for additional tuition is beyond their means. Another former pupil Mark Cuthbert continues to support guitar bursaries.

Refugee Club

9. 20 Refugee families, predominantly from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Syria, who live in the local area, joined the Refugee club to improve their English and to find out more about their community. Each young person was paired with one or two Freeman's students. The buddies meet every Tuesday after school and had a chat or played games together. 24 Freeman's students participated in the Club, and Freeman's teachers also provided language support for the parents of the refugee families who attended. Activities included: a music workshop led by Surrey Arts; a fun tie-dye session where the buddies decorated t-shirts for each other; and a farewell party where each family brought in a traditional dish from their home country.
10. Freeman's students also benefitted from the experience and learned more about refugee families living in the UK. We surveyed the students before and after the Club and the average score for 'Feeling confident about yourself' increased by 21%, the 'Ability to think creatively' rose by 17% and 'Ability to solve problems' increased by 24%.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

11. A total of 153 students achieved awards during 2023, either directly through the school or via the Combined Cadet Force. 77 students gained a Bronze award, 58 Silver and 19 Gold.
12. The completed awards represent approximately:
 - 3,805 hours of voluntary service
 - 3,180 hours of physical activity
 - 3,180 hours of learning new skills
 - 808 days on expedition
 - 95 days of other residential activities (Gold only)
13. The number of students starting to work towards a new award are as follows: 89 students are currently working towards Bronze, 72 Silver and 30 towards Gold.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

14. 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.
15. The contingent comprises 168 cadets in total: 130 cadets and 10 members of staff from Freeman's and 38 cadets and 4 staff members from Glyn.
16. Highlights from the year includes volunteering at the Shere Hill Climb event, an annual charity fundraiser involving over 320 vehicles, three weekend training exercises involving low level military tactics and representing our brigade in a national competition.

Star Academies

17. Freeman's launched an exciting new partnership in January 2023 with two Star Academy Schools in the northwest of England, Bay Leadership Academy and The Valley Leadership Academy. Star Academy School's Aspire Programme aims to support more pupils to secure aspirational post-16 opportunities at world-renowned educational institutions like Freeman's. Year 10 students in both schools were given the opportunity to attend our careers talk, and a targeted group of Year 10 students attended a residential visit at Freeman's in the Summer, with four taking part in the Freeman's Summer School. Two students have accepted places to join Freeman's in September 2024.

GCSE Booster Course for City Academy Schools

18. During the Easter holidays, Freeman's hosted 40 students and 9 teachers from four City of London Academies for a 3-day residential course. The course was funded through the City Partnerships Grant. Students benefitted from booster sessions in GCSE maths and English, as well as extra-curricular activities in the evenings. Students working at a Grade 6/7 level are selected by their teachers to attend the course each year, with the aim of boosting their grades up to a Grade 8/9 or above, thereby supporting each school's 'Progress 8' measure. The course also exposes Year 11 students to residential education with a view to university applications and future experiences.

Future collaborations and events currently being planned

100 Years in Ashtead

19. June 2026 marks 100 years since City of London Freeman's School moved from Brixton to Ashtead. We are planning activities to mark the centenary, working not only with our parent body, the Freeman's School Association, and our Alumni with the Old Freeman's Association, but also with the local Ashtead Community.

TeachMeet 2024

20. Our TeachMeet 2024 is scheduled for September and in 2024, we want to broaden out the TeachMeet to include admissions staff and will separate discussions into key strands. Our goal for the event is to share knowledge and best practice, whilst giving attendees the opportunity to network with colleagues from the state and independent sector

within a relaxed and open environment. Colleagues from Freeman's and other visiting schools will be presenting their thoughts and ideas in 5-minute slots, shared in the form of a TeachMeet.

Appendices

Nil.

Link to report on School website: [Community and Partnerships | City of London Freemens School](#)

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