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Report of: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	For Information
Report author: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	

Summary

This report provides members of the Board of Governors with an update on news and pupil outcomes from City of London School since the last meeting in June 2018.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Academic Update

Since the last meeting of the Board, pupils at the School have received results in A-level/pre-U and GCSE examinations. These results were discussed in detail at the Academic and Education Committee meeting, and as part of the Governors' Strategy Day in September 2018. Headline information is provided below.

Results at A-Level and Pre-U

- 68.5% of all grades were at A*-A (at A-level), or D1, D2 or D3 (Pre-U). Over 38% of grades were at A*, D1 or D2.
- 47% of all Pre-U grades were at D1 or D2, suggesting that the move to Pre-U in a range of subjects has been a success.
- 24 pupils got three A*s (or equivalent), or better. This is a school record.
- 71 pupils (from a cohort of 138) got nothing below an A grade (or equivalent).
- 104 pupils got ABB or better.
- Of 27 pupils (including three leavers from 2017) holding offers from Oxford and Cambridge, 25 had their place confirmed. This was a significant improvement on the conversion rate of 2017. The School is pursuing an appeal process in relation to the results of one of the other two boys.

The introduction of the Pre-U has been successful:

- Curriculum has content that permits in-class preparation for leading university courses.

- The development of resources has permitted excellent professional development for staff, with several benefiting from opportunities to become examiners.
- The School has high levels of confidence in the assessment and quality of the marking.
- There has been positive feedback from the pupils.
- Results have been strong.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has had its third set of results, and is enjoying considerable success, popularity and interest.

- Results have been excellent: 96.1% A* - B over last two years
- From 76 entries, there have been 44A*s and 23 As.
- The range of projects undertaken has been extensive and eclectic, from film, to hover board construction and essays on a huge range of subjects both linked to, and separate from, the curriculum.
- There has been positive feedback from pupils about the opportunity, with several receiving lower university offers as a result of offering the qualification.

Results at GCSE

Results at GCSE were strong, and in line with the School's performance across the last five years.

- 69% of grades awarded were at A*, 9 or 8.
- 91% of grades awarded were at A*, A, 9, 8 or 7.
- 60 pupils secured nine A*s or better.
- Over 90 pupils secured no grade below an A (or a 7).

Competitions and Prizes

We have had outstanding success in the John Locke Institute Competition, and in academic competitions run by Robinson College, the New College of Arts and Humanities, Erasmus, Oriel College and Juvenes Translatores. One pupil won the Gamble and Hill (Cambridge) Short Film Prize. One boy represented the UK in the UK Linguistics Olympiad; he was one of 8 people selected to do this from 1500 competitors – he won a Bronze Medal in Prague.

Universities Report

The following report has been provided by Chris Webb, Director of University Applications, and was submitted for discussion by the Academic and Education Committee.

Headline Statistics

In total there were 163 applicants to UCAS (138 from the leaving cohort, and 25 students who had left the school in previous years).

111 of the leaving cohort have been placed at a UCAS institution, as were all 25 of the previous leavers, so in total 83% of all applicants were placed (87% including art foundation or courses abroad).

If we take the 2018 leaving cohort, 82 were placed at their first-choice institutions, 15 at their insurance places and 14 placed in clearing.

Of the 82 that were placed at their first-choice universities, 68 met their conditions of offer. There were 14 students who missed the conditions, yet still accepted (including a student for History at Cambridge).

15 students were placed at their insurance offers, from which 8 met the conditions of entry and 7 did not, but were accepted anyway.

14 students accepted offers from clearing, with many choosing to re-apply in the 2019 cycle instead.

This leaves 21 students who have not been placed this year, of whom four had already withdrawn prior to results. The remaining 17 missed offers, and so entered clearing but then made the decision to re-apply in the next cycle.

Destinations

Institution	Number
Cambridge	17
Warwick	11
King's College, London	10
Bristol, UCL	9
Durham, Oxford	7
Edinburgh, Nottingham	6
Imperial, Leeds, York	5
Bath, Queen Mary, LSE	4
Newcastle, City	3
Birmingham, Lancaster, Manchester, Sussex	2
Bangor, Cardiff, Loughborough, Royal Holloway, Sheffield, SOAS, Southampton, St Andrew's, Swansea	1

We saw 24 students take up places at Oxford or Cambridge. Interestingly, we saw students take up places with post-results applications, in spite of needing to retake an A-level/Pre-U qualification.

We have also seen five students take up places in the US, and one has joined an Art Foundation course.

Trends and Patterns

Many students missed the conditions for their first-choice institutions this year (64), and only a minority were still taken at these institutions (14) or at their insurance choices (15). This means that, for our cohort, if they miss their offers it is more likely than not (35 out of 64) that they will not be placed, and will be in clearing. This is

counter to a popular view amongst parents, students and the media that, due a current demographic dip in young adults, institutions are keen to take students anyway. This may be the case across the sector, but not for the courses and institutions that our students typically apply for.

Clearing continues to offer many excellent courses and, if students are willing to use it, can offer a route to Russell Group institutions in spite of missed grades. This year, for example, we have seen a student placed at Newcastle for Law, Nottingham for Philosophy and Warwick for Engineering; a highly competitive course. What we tend to find at CLS is that students are a little reticent to use clearing, and rather re-apply the next year. This is not necessarily problematic; many of the students are keen to be more considered in their choices, and often wish to see if they can improve their grades through resits. Nonetheless, some students are missing excellent courses by not embracing what is on offer in clearing.

In a similar pattern to last year, we saw many more students offered and taking places at Cambridge than Oxford (17 to 8). Two students missed offers. In both instances it was by one grade in one subject; again highlighting the lack of flexibility at the institutions our students apply to. Although it is always disappointing to see students miss these offers, it was heartening that the number of students in this position is much reduced from last year.

There was considerable success with medical applications. Of the eight students in the leaving cohort who applied, all were accepted onto Medicine courses at Russell Group institutions, including two Oxbridge medics.

In a similar pattern to last year, we saw considerable success by the students who applied post-results. This is especially pleasing as the majority this year were doing so on the basis of at least one subject having to be re-taken. Often there is a concern that universities will look poorly on the initial results of students, but that does not generally seem to be the case. All the students in this position bar one made their first choice institution, and that included three students that were accepted at Oxford or Cambridge who needed to improve either an A-level or a STEP maths qualification. Students in the same position were also placed at institutions such as Warwick, Bristol, KCL and UCL. Although the numbers are unknown at present, we are likely to see a number of students withdraw from these places over the coming weeks in order to re-apply, and many have already expressed an interest in doing so. There are many students who have two, three or even four A* or equivalent grades who would like to reconsider their options, most likely in the hope of an Oxbridge offer. This is often a successful route, and these students are able to make a highly competitive application.

Overall, this is an excellent set of outcomes for this cohort, especially when we consider that many will make successful application post-results, especially those with exceptional results. The number of students who missed their first choice offers is an area to be addressed, through a combination of reviewing how we predict grades, continuing to offer advice regarding sensible choices and through increased mentoring by the 6th form teaching team to help the students make the grades they need.

Co-Curricular Report

- **Charity:** The Charity Committee presented a cheque for £84,062.35 to Amref. This is the highest amount ever raised. The 48 Hour Sponsored Row and Magic Flute, both of which took place in the final week of the Summer Term, raised over £20,000.
- **CCF:** A boy in the S6th Form has been successful in gaining an Army Officer Scholarship after attending the Army Officer Selection Board at Westbury. In a September trip to Benson, 24 boys from the RAF Section all managed (under instruction) some flight-time. Over 50 boys from the 3rd Form have joined the CCF this year.
- **Duke of Edinburgh:** The Silver and Gold expeditions to the Brecon Beacons in June were a great success. Over 40 boys will achieve one of these awards before the year is out.
- **Sport:** The Senior Football and Basketball teams did their pre-season training in Rotterdam. The 1st XI Football team have made a strong start to the season defeating Westminster 3-0 and progressing to the last 32 of the ISFA Cup with a 8-0 victory over Bournemouth Collegiate College. The U18 Basketball side are undefeated, and thrashed Sevenoaks School 97-39 in their most recent fixture.
- **Music:** The music at the Lower School Concert in June was of the usual high standard. In the final week of the Summer Term the Great Hall played host to 3 performances of the Magic Flute. A J6th and 5th Former were entirely responsible for producing, directing and conducting this opera. An extraordinary achievement.
- **Drama:** The Lower School Production (joint with CLSG) of Seussical in June was superb. This term's production is Chess.
- **CLS London Week:** As has been the case in recent years, in the final week of the Summer Term, in place of the usual timetable, CLS London Week took place. Each year group followed a different programme of events, alongside numerous overseas and residential trips. OG spent a day focussed on Shakespeare in London (including a guided walk and workshops with the Young Shakespeare Company), created comics with Jim Meadway and went on the Harry Potter Studio Tour. The 1st Form visited Hampton Court, the British Museum and participated in day of varied Modern Languages activities. The 2nd Form took part in a Music Composition Workshop, visited Portsmouth, St Paul's Cathedral and hosted a large group of Buddhist monks for an afternoon! The 3rd Form were looked after by the Science Department, who laid on a range of extension activities and travelled to Epping Forest for fieldwork. The 4th Form spent a day focussing on Maths (including an Origami Challenge and talk from Matt Parker on Adventures in the 4th Dimension), participated in a Sports Festival at Grove Park, took part in workshops laid on by the 'Good Lad Initiative' and were introduced to the work of the Samaritans. The J6th Form made short films with the Young Film Academy, heard from leading experts on

a range of career-related issues and learned how to cook. Alongside the main programme, other options included coding with the IT Department and a focus on African art with the Art Department. There was also the CCF Central Camp, DofE Gold and Silver Expeditions, a 1st Form History and Modern Languages Trip to Normandy, a 2nd Form outward bounds Trip to Pembrokeshire, a Modern Languages Trip to Lille, a Physics Trip to the CERN and a Chess Trip to the National Finals at Oundle School.

- **Clubs and Societies:** These were launched at the annual Freshers' Fair – there are now over 70 in existence. New additions include the Magic Society, Birdwatching Society, Economics Discussion Group and the Chinese Culture Club.
- **Questionnaire:** In 2018 a survey of co-curricular was undertaken of boys in the 1st, 4th and J6th Forms. Below is a summary of results:

1st Form – 77% of boys have represented the School in a competitive fixture. 85% have competed in Inter-Form competitions. All have taken part in House Drama, and nearly 36% in a major production. 77% have received music lessons on a specific instrument, with over 54% taking part in a recital or concert. 95% of boys have taken part in the activities of a club/society. Over 64% have been on a residential trip. 29% have contributed an article to *The Citizen*. 86% have actively raised money for the School Charity. 79% of boys take part in a co-curricular activity on at least a weekly basis. 96% of boys rate co-curricular provision as good/very good/outstanding.

4th Form – 80% of boys have represented the School in a competitive fixture. 94% have competed in Inter-House competitions. 20 % have taken LAMDA exams at the School. 52% have performed in a recital or concert. 53% have been a member of the CCF and 43% have participated in Duke of Edinburgh. 90% have taken part in a Club or Society. 40% of boys have contributed an article to *The Citizen*. Nearly 92% have been on a residential trip, with over 46% between 4 and 7 trips. 8% have been on more than 8. Over 80% indicate that they take part in a co-curricular activity on weekly basis, 27% on a daily basis. 83% boys rate co-curricular provision as good/very good/outstanding.

J6th Form – 75% have represented the School in a competitive fixture. 79% have competed in Inter-House competitions. 95% of boys have taken part in the activities of a club/society. 42% have taken LAMDA exams. Nearly 53% of boys have performed in a recital/concert. 95% have been involved in club/society. Over 57% have written for *The Citizen*. 84% have been on a residential trip – 39% more than 4, 14% more than 8. 70% have mentored another student. 85% rate the co-curricular provision as good/very good/outstanding.

Pastoral Report

- The new Pastoral and Wellbeing Advisor is now in post.

- The School has been identified as a beacon of good practice in the area of Mental Health First Aid Training. The Assistant Head (Co-Curricular and Staff Development) was asked to write a blog for the ISC on our experiences in this field.
- The new Anti-Bullying Council is now up and running.
- Pastoral mentors are becoming increasingly embedded in school culture.
- Representatives from the LGBT+ Society were invited to the Pink News Annual Summer Party at Westminster.
- CLS recognised Pride Week with a series of events, speakers and a flag-raising ceremony.
- At the instigation of a Fifth Former, the African and Caribbean Society has been set up and has been well-attended.

Appendices

None

Alan Bird

Head, City of London School

T: 020 3680 6400

E: head@cityoflondonschool.org.uk