

Committee(s): Board of Governors, City of London School	Date(s): 11/12/2019
Subject: Head's Report	Public
Report of: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	For Information
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Summary

This paper provides the Board with an update on key developments in the School since the last meeting of the Board in October 2019.

Recommendation(s)

- Governors are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Academic Update

1. Strong public examination results from the summer – reported to the Board in October – resulted in a national ranking of 15th in the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' league table. This was an improvement from a ranking of 48th in 2018, and resulted in the School being named as The Sunday Times London Independent Secondary School of the Year 2020.
2. The national ranking is based upon a combination A-level grades at A* to B and GCSE grades at A* to A. When one looks at A-level grades at A*, the School was ranked 6th; and when one looks at A-level grades at A*-A, the School was ranked 7th. Based on GCSE grades alone, the School was ranked 10th.
3. The Editor of The Sunday Times Schools' Guide, 'Parent Power', wrote as follows.

"A ranking in the top 20 nationally represents an academic high point for City of London School in recent years. But the school is about so much more than academic success. In an era when independent schools often find themselves under fire for being bastions of privilege and entitlement, City of London is a beacon for social mobility, its students recruited from across the capital and reflective of its social and racial diversity."

"Boys are taught to be Kind and a five-year strategy document enshrines this word alongside Ready and Aware as the three pillars on which the school aims to found its future success. Our award recognises this approach alongside a long-

standing record for academic achievement, which reached new heights with the publication of this summer's examination results."

4. 99 'early' applications to university (i.e. by the deadline for Oxford, Cambridge and the medical schools) were submitted.
5. The Pre-U is being withdrawn as a Key Stage 5 qualification. The last year-group to follow the Pre-U in the subjects in which the School offers it is the current 5th Form (Year 11). By September 2021, the School will offer A-levels across the board. The Biology and Mathematics Departments have decided to move to A-level qualifications from September 2020.
6. A Third Form pupil has won a national English Heritage competition; a Senior 6th pupil has won first place in the NCH Economics Essay Competition.

Co-Curricular Update

7. The following co-curricular highlights have been enjoyed by the School community since the last meeting of the Board.
 - **Charity:** The School have selected Switchback as the nominated charity for 2019/20. We are pleased that this is aligned with one of Alderman Russell's Mayoral Themes – 'Increase Opportunities for Cultural Rehabilitation in Prisons'.
 - **Sport:** As usual, the Autumn Term is packed with sports fixtures. The record, as of late November, is: Football – P98, W53, L30, D15. Basketball – P20, W13, L7. Water Polo: P28, W13, L11, D4. The 1st XI Football side are enjoying a particularly successful season and have lost just one game. Their record against 'local rivals' is particularly strong, with victories against Alleyn's, Haberdashers' Aske's, Latymer Upper and Brentwood.
 - **Music:** The annual Autumn Concert was notable for the quality and range of music. The Music Department choose challenging pieces with the Senior String Orchestra performing Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel Prelude*. The Senior String Orchestra tackled Astona Concert Waltz, with the added pressure of having the composer seated in the Great Hall! Also of note was the Junior String Orchestra, who played two pieces from Grieg's Peer Gynt. The evening concluded with some quality Swing and Jazz music. Great efforts are made to give the pupils the opportunity to perform in major concerts and over one hundred boys participated.
 - **Drama:** The Drama Department chose Pink Mist for the Upper School Production (joint with CLSG). It was an ambitious project and, as we have come to expect, was brilliantly delivered.
 - **Visiting Speakers:** The School continues to host a wide range of visiting speakers. A new initiative this year has been the Lower School Speaker Programme. This is designed to enrich the educational experience of the younger boys and this term we welcomed Dan Jackson (a former AFL player and founder of Foundation Performance) and Aron Phipps (Paralympian).
 - **International Honours:** The President of the JCC presented an international honours tie to pupil in the 5th Form who fenced for GB in the European Fencing Championship, Budapest.

- **Remembrance:** CLS goes to considerable efforts to mark Remembrance. Beyond our own Remembrance Assembly and Service, the Chamber Choir sung at the annual Garden of Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral. The CCF participated in the War Widows Parade and the Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey. Our Chapel Royal Choristers sung at the National Service of Remembrance.
- **Educational Visits:** There have been over 60 educational visits this term, including overseas trips to Bordeaux, Rome and Venice.

Appendices

- None

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