

Committee(s): Board of Governors, City of London School	Date(s): 11 March 2020
Subject: Head's Report	Public
Report of: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	For Information
Report author: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	

Summary

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

Recommendation(s)

- Governors are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Academic Update

1. Boys continue to excel in a range of academic competitions. Since the last meeting of the Board, these successes have ranged from a team of Year 8 pupils who have progressed to the National Finals of the 'Big Bang Competition' (a competition for young scientists and engineers), for their project on Noise Pollution Detection and Classification using AI on Raspberry Pi, to a Senior 6th pupil who scored the highest mark nationally in the CISI Securities and Investment Certificate.
2. **Sixth Form:** Offers continue to flow in from high-tariff universities, though we await much news from Durham, Edinburgh and St Andrew's. 25 pupils received offers from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, including eight leavers.
3. The timetable for 2020-21 is in the process of being drawn up. English Language is not being run as an A-level option for the Junior 6th. Biology, French, German, Mathematics, Russian and Spanish are moving back to A-level courses with effect from September 2020, in advance of the withdrawal of the Pre-U qualification. Remaining Pre-U subjects will return to A-level courses from September 2021.
4. We are hosting five PGCE students from King's College, London, for their second placements. These are in the Biology, Chemistry, English, Language and R&P departments.
5. The curriculum review is ongoing, with proposals presented to the Board in June 2020, with scheduled implementation of most changes from September 2021.

There will, however, be a change to the (current) non-examined RE course for the 4th and 5th Form in September 2020. This will be replaced with a more holistic course, geared at developing pupils' critical literacy and reasoning. It will include matters of a philosophical and spiritual nature.

6. There have been significant changes to the technology that we use around the School since September 2019. We have adopted a 1-to-1 system for staff devices, making it easier for teachers to work in different classrooms, and allowing them to work from home without the danger of school data being accessed on external machines. Pupils are exposed to the Microsoft Office work environment – 'Teams' – which will help them to develop as competent users of current technologies, and better prepare them for the world of work both at university and in professional employment.

Co-Curricular Update

7. The following summarises some co-curricular highlights that have been enjoyed by the School community since the last meeting of the Board.
 - **Holocaust Memorial:** The marking of Holocaust Memorial Day is now a well-established feature of the school year. Alongside the annual Holocaust Memorial Ceremony, we welcomed the Holocaust Survivor Gerald Granston, who spoke movingly about his experiences. A representative from the Holocaust Education Trust delivered sessions to the 2nd Form and all boys in the 3rd, 4th and J6th Forms attended a live webcast with Susan Pollack MBE. Representatives from CLS also attended the UK Commemorative Ceremony as ambassadors for the Ishami foundation. Numerous articles, written by the boys and published in The Citizen, bore testimony to the impact of these events.
 - **Sport:** This is proving to be another exceptional year for sport. The 1st XI Football team have won 18 of the 22 matches they have played so far this season. Equally successful are the U19 Basketball Team, who have won 11 of their 13 contests and, at the time of writing, are in the last 16 of the National Finals. The Junior Cross-Country team have secured a place in the National Schools' Finals having achieved second place in the London Schools' Championship. Great efforts are made to provide boys with opportunities to represent CLS – so far in 2019/20 64 teams have played in 467 competitive fixtures.
 - **Music & Drama:** This term there has been a number of informal music recitals, giving younger boys the opportunity to develop their performance confidence, by playing in front of their peers and parents. The music at the Lower School Concert was superb, with an unprecedented range of ensembles performing. CLS was proud to host the annual City Schools' Concert and our Chapel Royal Choristers spent two days at St James' Palace recording the music of Pelham Humfrey. 80+ boys have taken LAMDA exams and the main drama production this term is 'Pastiche', a student-led venture.
 - **CCF:** The CCF has organised a number of successful trips. The RAF Section managed to enable over twenty boys to experience solo flying and a boy in the S6th Form has been selected to represent the Royal Air Force Air Cadets on the International Air Cadet Exchange in the summer.

- **House Competitions:** The House Championship continues to flourish with a wide range of events on offer to allow for maximum participation. This term alone there have been competitions in Maths, Debating, Modern Languages Spelling Bee, Rowing, Table-Tennis, Swimming, Water Polo, Quiz and Science.
- **Schools' Challenge:** Our Schools' Challenge Quiz Team have again reached the regional finals.
- **Scriveners' Handwriting Competition:** Boys in the OG to 3rd Forms excelled in this competition, with CLS achieving 2 first place awards.
- **Politics Society:** The Politics Society hosted former Prime Minister, David Cameron. An invitation was extended to all the City Family of Schools, many of whom attended.
- **Trips:** The trips schedule remains a busy one and over the February half-term the History Department were in Berlin and the Modern Languages Department were in Granada and Hamburg.

Pastoral Developments

8. The following developments in the pastoral sphere have occurred since the last meeting of the Board in December 2019.
- Shaun Dellenty (Author of 'Celebrating Difference') gave a talk to the 3rd and 4th Forms for LGBT History Month.
 - The Afro-Caribbean Society goes from strength to strength, and discussions have included the widening of the curriculum, diversity within the staff body, and suggestions for how best to tackle unconscious bias.
 - We are hosting the meeting of the CoL DSL Forum.
 - The Ishami Foundation Ambassadors (two pupils, with two members of staff) attended the Holocaust Memorial event in London, attended by the Prime Minister and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Appendices

- None

Alan Bird

Head, City of London School

T: 020 3680 6400

E: head@cityoflondonschool.org.uk