

<b>Committee(s):</b> City of London School for Girls Board of Governors	<b>Dated:</b> 7 December 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Report of the Headmistress	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	3, 4, 8, 9, 10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Headmistress of the City of London School for Girls	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jenny Brown, Headmistress, CLSG	

### Summary

Update to governors on various aspects of school life, including:

- Events upcoming
- Works
- Exams
- Partnerships and Development

### Recommendation

The Board is asked to

- Note the report.

## Main Report

1. To have (almost) weathered this term and for school to have continued productively, busily and in the main cheerfully feels like a huge achievement in itself.
2. It's hard to think of a single item of school life that hasn't had to radically adapt and there is inevitable strain and discomfort associated with this. We could not be prouder of our staff and the way that they have coped with significant challenges. Our teachers, our facilities team; our IT staff, nurse and pastoral team; our senior team. It is humbling to consider how superbly they have persevered and delivered our central goal: great learning for our CLSG pupils.
3. Governors I am sure will want to show their appreciation to all staff formally in this meeting. And we are thinking now of small seasonal recognition for all staff to mark their outstanding effort.

## Events

Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	House Quiz and Festive Celebrations
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Autumn Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Term begins
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Y11 Parents Evening
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Prep Friends Committee Meeting
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Y8 City Girls in Science Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	GCSE and A Level Drama Workshop
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Life After City Speakers for Y9-13 (remote)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Friends Committee Meeting
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	11+ interviews: school closed for students (tbc with Y12 assisting) 7+ practical assessments
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Y9 Parents Evening
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Y7 Challenge
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y12 Talk re Oxbridge Higher Education Events
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	7+ Entry Results Published
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	7+ Offer Holders morning
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Sing & Swing concert (remote)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Y8 Junior Drama Production
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Y9 City Girls in the Arts Day
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y13 Mock Exams
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Y10 City Girls in the City Day
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Prep Friends Committee Meeting
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	11+ Offer holders afternoon

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Joint Concert with CLFS (remote)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Senior School Production of <i>The Tempest</i> (in various locations around the Barbican)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Colton Memorial Lecture TBC (remote)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y8 Parents Evening
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y12 Oxford Tea (remote)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Y7 Challenge
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	7+ Open Afternoon
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y10 City Girls in the City Day
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y13 Parents Evening
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Board of Governors
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Y13 Post-Mocks Breakfast
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Y7 Concert (remote)

4. Please note that all events are subject to change and are carried out in line with government guidelines and the school risk assessment.
5. Musical offerings have moved online, please see the non-public report for the links to the Autumn Concert and Scholars' Concerts.
6. The final day before half term saw the screening of the four House Drama short films, judged by the Oscar-winning director of *Les Misérables* and the *King's Speech*, Tom Hooper. Ordinarily a stage-based production, this year's special circumstances saw the Director of Drama, Mr Whyld adapt the competition into a short film contest, with each house given four weeks to devise, film, and edit ten-minute long features on the theme of 'Alone Together'.
7. Although prompted by adverse circumstances, the new format encouraged the pupils to think creatively and with ingenuity about how to deliver their stories. As a result, the finished products "far exceeded expectations", according to Mr Whyld, who insists that the pupils "triumphed" in the face of a difficult challenge.
8. Mr Whyld was not alone in this praise. Tom Hooper, who whipped out his own Oscar to deliver best film, was thoroughly impressed by the students' efforts, explaining that "directing is all about living on the power of an imagined future". In the end, St. Bride deservedly won the Best Overall Film award for their Wes Anderson inspired offering, summed up as "spectacular" by Mr Whyld, noting that the composition of their shots, the pace, and the design of the piece displayed professional level sophistication. Please see the article below for links to all the submissions.

#### [House Film Competition](#)

9. The Senior Performance of *The Tempest* has been postponed until March 2021 due to the second lockdown.

## Works

10. Please note these works are dependent on availability of materials and labour over the break and during Covid restrictions:

- Replacement and testing of the distribution boards
- Key suiting
- Replacement of the heating on B Floor
- BMS works (incorporating heating and control of ventilation)
- Upgrading of the sports surface
- Replacement flooring in Prep classrooms
- Final roofing works
- Repairs to the Swimming Pool
- Making good to DT floor following the roof leak
- Decoration of Prep classrooms (may be done in-house, dependent on staffing)

## Exams

11. Mocks are currently taking place for all Year 11s. At this point we are leaving open the possibility of another set of mocks in February, to accommodate the need for really well-tracked data, should Centre Assessed Grades, or rankings be required in the summer. The position currently appears to be that the government are very keen for exams to go ahead, but will think robustly about mitigations for pupils who have missed a lot of school or indeed for those unable to sit summer exams for C19-related reasons.

12. We had 8 leavers (Y14) do their A Level retakes and 9 Y12s sat GCSE retakes during the course of this half of term.

## Partnerships Report

13. Can there have been a year in which the importance and benefits of working together have been felt more acutely? We navigated being together apart in our lives and learning at CLSG, finding shared purpose within the City Family of Schools and with other institutions and businesses in our community to recognise and mitigate new challenges and hardships under lockdown. This was always to have been an important year for CLSG's partnership work, as we welcome our new Director of Partnerships CLSG and CLS: Laura Hynes, who works closely with our Deputy Head Partnership and Co-Curriculum at CLSG, Rosie Lockyear (and with her parallel at CLS). This new team have hit the ground running, tackling restrictions thrown up by Covid with resourcefulness and turbo-charging this key element of our School's vision *Finding space to Pioneer*.

14. We are very proud of the service pupils across the school offered in their local communities during lockdown, some examples of which you will find in this report and of the way in which the school's charitable fundraising continues apace in the face of C19 restrictions. Who knew that a Big Bursary Busk could move so seamlessly into digital form? Digital space may be thin in comparison to being with each other in a room, but it is also limitless and feels excitingly available for

new, effective, innovative connections both locally and with our partners overseas.

15. This year was also, of course, informed by the urgent cry for durable cultural change in the wake of the BLM movement. The principles of equality and anti-racist, or in John Amaechi's words, 'anti-incivility' inclusion are closely aligned to our partnership work. It celebrates the multicultural city we are embedded in and aims to be part of the equalising and broadening of opportunity through active, purposeful and responsive partnerships. Our commitment to the bursary programme is also important: we celebrate the large number of transformative bursaries we offer, which have such important impacts on pupils' lives.
16. Partnership is about shared space. We celebrate and enjoy the immense values of shared learning space, shared City space, shared workspaces and the harmony and excitement of learning from others beyond our school walls, whether in person or through digital space. Our teaching and student mentoring at Shoreditch Park remain mutually enriching enterprises in person or online. The Cultural Leaders programme, with Linklaters, the How to Academy and CLS raised aspirations and awareness of different careers. The Arts and Culture Network offered networking online and in person and we continue to increase access to higher education and academic support with other schools for pupils aspiring to elite universities.
17. So while the 20:20 vision we had at the start of the year had to adapt; the attached report shows how much we can accomplish together whether in person, or apart and I thank our staff, our partners and most importantly our pupils for their commitment and contribution to partnership throughout the year.
18. Please see Appendix A to this report for the CLSG draft Partnerships Booklet.

## **Development**

19. See Appendix B For the draft Case for Support, an interim document for our Bursary Scheme. The new Development Manager, Rebecca Thomas, starts in January 2021 and will no doubt hold this as a campaign for the New Year.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications –**

Strategic implications - None  
Financial implications - None  
Resource implications - None  
Legal implications - None  
Risk implications - None  
Equalities implications – None  
Climate implications - None  
Security implications - None

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Draft Partnerships Booklet
- Appendix B – Draft Case for Support

### **Jenny Brown**

Head, City of London School for Girls

T: 020 7847 5500

E: [brownj@clsq.org.uk](mailto:brownj@clsq.org.uk)