

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 18/03/2021
Subject: Education Activities Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8, 9 & 10
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: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author(s): Catherine McGovern, Business Administration and Events Apprentice Daniel McGrady, Lead Policy Officer (Education, Culture and Skills)	

Summary

This report updates Members on recent events and activities delivered across the three strategies overseen by the Education Board: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills. A calendar of meetings, forums and events for the 2020/21 academic year is included in **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the update on events and activities delivered since the last meeting.
- Note the calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year in **Appendix 1**.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board has oversight over three strategies: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills (2018-23).

Current Position

Education

1. Schools Reopening – from 8 March 2021

The Government announced that all pupils in all schools and further education settings can return to the schools from 8 March 2021. The Family of Schools have been updating risk assessments and equalities monitoring to ensure that the return to school is as safe as can be made possible for all pupils and staff. Schools have reported that they are looking forward to welcoming most pupils back to school (noting that for many schools, there has been a consistent in-

school contingent during the national lockdown). The schools are working with parents and pupils to ensure that the information and advice on testing, masks, arrival and end-time, school transport, corridor protocols, handwashing, etc. are clearly communicated and understood. Government also announced that the statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests for Summer 2021 have been cancelled and primary schools will use internal assessment data to be shared with secondary schools during transitions. Furthermore, GCSE and A-Level examinations have also been cancelled and grades will be awarded based on teacher assessments. Recent updates state that teachers will be provided with detailed guidance on assessment procedures by exam boards.

2. PAPYRUS Suicide Prevention Awareness Session - 19 January and 25 February 2021

Suicide Prevention Awareness sessions were organised by the City Corporation Public Health Team and hosted by the suicide prevention charity, PAPYRUS. The sessions were well attended by staff from the Family of Schools who were encouraged to share the learning with staff from their schools who could not attend. Participants were encouraged to consider the question 'should we talk about suicide?' and to peel away the attitudes and beliefs around this question to address the stigma that can surround suicide. They were also asked to examine personal and societal beliefs around suicide and to consider how we can all contribute to suicide prevention. The session was open, honest, and engaging. It resulted in a crucial discussion about the importance of this topic for schools and the wider community.

3. Chess Tournament and Workshops (Virtual) - Wednesday 3 March 2021

The Education Unit alongside Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) hosted the annual Family of Schools' Chess Tournament as an online event on Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 13:00-15:30. Two training sessions for the pupils took place prior to the tournament. Over 80 pupils joined the Tournament on the day facilitated by the online platform Chess Kid and between games, CSC facilitated discussions, tips and techniques and interactive conversations on past games and historic check mates. Pupils conducted themselves in a professional manner showcasing their extensive knowledge and passion as well as being enthusiastic players. All pupils who took part in the tournament received a year's free subscription of a gold Chess Kid account. The Chess Tournament also provided an opportunity for Fusion Skills development including problem solving, initiative, critical thinking, resilience and analysis and evaluation skills.

4. Family of Schools' LGBTQ+ month activities

The City of London Family of Schools have been celebrating LGBTQ+ Month in a variety of ways including through cultural and creative learning, resources, inspirational talks, literature, discussions, newsletters, assemblies, and lessons. Two featured examples include:

- The City of London Academy Hackney have been sharing examples of their pupils Art and Design creations made at home. Pupils were challenged to use their creativity to design a comic book character who fights for social issues to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month.
- The City of London Academy Southwark produced resources on social media, highlighting the LGBTQIA activities for pupils running throughout

the month. This included virtual Q&A sessions with prominent figures Wes Streeting, MP, and Chris Kenna, both of whom are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

5. Livery Education Network – 2 March 2021

The Livery Education Network met on 2 March 2021 to discuss, collaborate, and share best practice on education, cultural learning, and experiences of the world of work. Several synergies are emerging across the network including a commitment to school improvement and innovation, a priority around social mobility and fusion skills, school governance, and teacher recruitment and retention. At the March meeting, attendees shared approaches for effective remote learning, COVID catch-up projects, plans for schools reopening, and the upcoming London Careers Festival 2021.

Skills

6. National Apprenticeship Week 8-12 February 2021

National Apprenticeship week took place between 8-12 February 2021 and this year's theme focused on how employers train, retain and help apprentices achieve. There were over 16 City of London events across the week for apprentices, managers and CoL employees which included live interviews, guest speakers and an 'Inclusion for all' talk with Shaun Dellenty. The celebrations were also an opportunity to promote the City Corporation's London Careers Festival which will feature webinars and resources focused on the opportunities and access routes across a range of apprenticeships offered by the City Corporation and partners.

7. Livery Skills Council

The Livery Skills Network, under the oversight of the Livery Committee, are meeting on 21 April 2021 where most (if not all) livers will gather to discuss the urgent need for skills offers for young people and also longer term 'skills support'. This is an opportunity to engage the livers around skills development with a far-reaching commitment to more joined-up and substantial livery support. In some ways it is bringing the livers back to their founding principles but reinvigorating these for the future. Regardless of the size and resources of the livery, they are supporting this urgent work. Initial conversations have occurred, and these have already resulted in great support and interest. A survey has been distributed to all livers to gather their current activities and to identify targeted priorities going forward.

Proposals

Upcoming activities

8. Debating Tournament and Workshops (Virtual) - Tuesday 27 April 2021

The Education Unit alongside the International Churchill Society (ICS) and the English-Speaking Union (ESU) have moved the Family of Schools' Debating Tournament to Tuesday 27 April at 12:30-15:30 so as not to coincide with the reopening of schools from 8 March 2021. Two training sessions for the pupils have already occurred, which saw high attendance, and

the Education Unit has been impressed with the pupils' passion, engagement, knowledge and professionalism that they have shown throughout the workshops. Judges from the ISC, ESU and the Education Board will award prizes and provide feedback to each pupil during the tournament. Members of the Education Board are invited to attend the Debating tournament and should RSVP to Vasima.Patel@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

9. Find Fusion Platform - March 2021

As reported at the Education Board meeting on 28 January 2021, over January and February, an externally commissioned web development agency has been building 'Find Fusion', an online one-stop-shop to connect schools, businesses, cultural organisations and training providers for the mutual benefit of sharing and curating their learning opportunities. The website is now live and is currently in an initial launch phase with a small audience of teachers and partner organisations to test the site. A more formal launch across the Family of Schools is planned for after the Easter Holidays and a detailed update on the site will be shared with the Education Board at their meeting on 20 May 2021.

10. Mid-term Strategy Review

On behalf of the Education Unit, the Centre for Education and Youth (CfEY) have been carrying out a Mid-term Strategy Review to understand how the vision of the Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills strategies is being collectively realised across its partnerships 2.5 years into delivery. CfEY are in the process of drafting the reports which will be submitted to the Education Board at the meeting on 20 May 2021.

11. The calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year is included in **Appendix 1**.

Options

N/A

Key Data

N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

N/A. This report is for information only.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1** – Calendar of Forums and Events over the 2020/21 Academic Year.

Conclusion

Members of the Education Board have been updated on recent events and activities across their three strategy areas as well as upcoming events and activities over the 2020/21 academic year

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