

Appendix 1 – Governors for Schools Employability Project Progress Update.



Progress report for the City of London: 5 April 2019

Date of last report: June 2018

Prepared by: William Durham – Project Lead at Governors for Schools

Executive Summary

Since our last report, Governors for Schools have delivered several in-person events and webinars to support governors currently in, or interested in taking up, the position of Link Governor for Employability within primary or secondary schools. These are designed to support the guidance that can be found within the e-learning module we developed and launched in June 2018. 1000 unique users have visited our employability website pages and 270 people have used the elearning module. While these resources have been well-received, we were too ambitious in setting our target for this project. It is unlikely we will reach 1500 governors from 1000 schools accessing the e-learning module by September 2019.

Background to project:

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide the business case to support the importance of engagement between schools and businesses.
- To identify opportunities for governors to drive employability outcomes through their schools and encourage them to open up employability opportunities for students.
- To provide resources that help prepare governors for their role in driving engagement between businesses and schools.
- To up-skill governors to be able to help students understand the world of work and what they need to do to get a job.
- To provide opportunities that will impact on the outcomes of young people.
- Embed employability best practice in more schools across London. For example, delivery within the curriculum in several year groups, not just when there is a statutory duty to deliver this.
- Establish the idea and practice of a Link Governor for Employability across London schools

KPIs

1. Aim to engage a minimum of 100 governors to actively look to open up employability opportunities for students.
2. Aim to engage a minimum of 50 schools to actively engage with businesses.
3. Produce a suite of online resources to support the aims and objectives of this proposal. These materials will be produced using input from all stakeholders and subject matter experts. All materials will be quality assured and agreed with the City of London Corporation.
4. 1500 governors to watch the e-learning module across 1000 schools

5. 300 schools decide to have a Link Governor for Employability

What have we done since the last report?

Engaging governors with the importance of careers provision and providing them with the required knowledge to effectively challenge, support and act as a bridge between schools and the world of work remain an important part of our work.

In June 2018 our CEO Louise Cooper spoke at the Festival of Education – part of her talk focussed on the importance of governors getting involved with the drive to improve careers provision in schools across the country.

In September 2018 we held a speaker and Q+A event, hosted by Cicero Group, featuring Tom Ravenscroft (CEO Enabling Enterprise) and Dame Collette Bowe. 43 governors and school leaders attended this event which featured a lively debate with a focus at primary level.

On March 7th 2019 we hosted a webinar led by Lesley Thain, Head of Education at the Careers and Enterprise Company, to provide current information on careers guidance in secondary schools to mark National Careers Week. Over 100 governors registered for this though only 44 joined on the day. The recording of this webinar is now hosted on our website and YouTube channels.

We were due to present the project at a meeting of the Worshipful Company of Educators in January 2019, though this has been pushed back to the summer.

We have recently written out to over 600 governors placed within Secondary schools in London and the South-East in the last 5 years to advertise the Guildhall Apprentice 19 event – over 40 governors have responded to this enthusiastically showing good engagement levels and hopefully many more schools

Use of website resources:

Google Analytics of website:

Since going live on 19/02/18 the Employability resources section of our website has been visited 1,213 times, with 996 of these being unique users showing a good level of engagement with the resources that we have developed.

Our e-learning module has been accessed 267 times since its launch in mid-June 2018 and has recently been re-promoted alongside National Careers Week. The user base of the module is 64% Primary, 32% Secondary and 4% SEN though data records are incomplete as people do not need to have become governors through our service to access the module and we do not capture where people are governors if they simply wish to access the free e-learning modules.

Marketing of module and resources:

To date the e-learning module and resource packs have been promoted extensively within our networks. They have been shared with all of our placed volunteers, contacts within Local Authorities and clerking services as well as Multi-Academy Trusts we work with such as the Harris Federation. They have also featured prominently in our newsletters to schools and volunteers, social media output and

the e-learning module has been reviewed and shared by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

We would be grateful for any further introductions from Board members into other education networks

Feedback from governors:

“I’m really enjoying the role. It’s helping me to learn more about the school and the importance that careers have on the pupils and the school as a whole. It’s also a benefit that I’m able to help the school, by recommending companies that I’ve worked with through teaching.”

Careers Link Governor at Cox Green School.

What’s next?

We will continue providing relevant information to our governor community who are engaged with the need for schools to deliver effective careers provision at both primary and secondary. This will largely be through webinars and other delivery of information but may also include a future event.

We aim to deepen our relationship with the CEC and other organisations such as NESTA to deliver further webinars as developments occur in the sector – we are keen to continue promoting the need for careers guidance to begin at KS2. We are excited by the development of a Skills Builder framework for primary school children.

We will write a final report for the City of London Corporation in October 2019. In preparation for this we will undertake a survey of schools and volunteers who have used the resources and been engaged in the campaign in order to provide supporting data for KPI’s 1, 2 and 5.

William Durham

Project Lead at Governors for Schools