

Board of Governors: City of London School partnership with Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College

Context

Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College (Stepney Green) is a single sex boys comprehensive located in Tower Hamlets. Over the past decade the School has undertaken a remarkable journey of transformation. From being in Special Measures, the school has now been consistently judged as outstanding in OFSTED inspections under its Headmaster, Paramjit Bhutta, with a GCSE score of over 80 % A* - C.

Stepney Green has been helped over the past eight years by City of London School (CLS) with Year 10 and 11 students from the School attending 'gifted and talented courses' in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and English. From September 2013 Tower Hamlets has introduced a sixth form in recognition of the substantial progress achieved between Years 7 and 11.

The partnership between the two schools has been deepened following a successful bid by Stepney Green for a grant from The London Schools Excellence Fund (part of the Mayor's Education Programme) to help support the introduction of a Stepney Green Sixth Form. An integral element of this bid was for CLS to assist both in the teaching of Stepney Green students and provide training to teachers who have limited experience of A-Level teaching. This project was one of only 37 to be approved in Greater London and CLS understands that it is the only independent school to be involved in a successful bid in this way.

The Sixth Form Partnership

The focus of the scheme is 'sharing academic capital' and the objective is bolstering subject knowledge of teachers new to A Level delivery and enhancing their confidence

CLS has selected five experienced members of staff, one from each of Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and History. Each of these teachers will both coach and mentor two members of staff from Stepney Green. Another member of staff will act as the Project Co-ordinator.

The structure is such that through close mentoring, and coaching using the GROW model, CLS staff will engage in reciprocal observations each term, as well as regular 'learning conversations' with their Stepney Green counterparts. Alongside these formal opportunities, the intention is that there is an open channel of communication between the two schools, sharing resources, ideas and opportunities as well as the willingness for CLS staff to make themselves available to answer questions and foster a supportive relationship with their Stepney Green colleagues. The hope is that there will be a measurable improvement in confidence on the part of the Stepney Green staff about the content and delivery of their subject at A-Level.

With regards to direct pupil provision, the CLS staff are also coordinating and providing one afterschool master class per term in each of the five subjects. This will mean that all of the Stepney Green pupils (only 20 in the first intake) will visit CLS four times each term so as to maximise their opportunities to share in the facilities available as well as experiencing a range of teaching styles. Further support is being offered by the CLS Higher Education team. Stepney Green staff will attend the CLS Higher Education Forum and meet with the Higher Education Liaison Officer to discuss the university admissions process. The Head of Sixth Form from CLS will also be offering assistance to his Stepney Green counterpart.

These activities will run from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

Progress

In early January, twelve Stepney Green staff visited CLS for the formal launch. They met their CLS partners and arrangements were made for lesson observation and master classes for this term.

Project Finances

The six members of CLS staff referred to above which each receive a responsibility allowance for the period of the project to reflect the additional workloads which they are undertaking as a result of this project. The total cost of these allowances is £14,000 and this will be refunded to CLS in full by Stepney Green from the monies which it receives from the London Schools Excellence Fund.