

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board – For Information	23 April 2015
Subject: Education Strategy Update Report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information

Summary

This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

A report including the full Education Strategy Development Plan will be submitted bi-annually.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Each objective is underpinned by a series of recommendations. Every recommendation identifies a key deliverable that the City is seeking to achieve and details specific actions that will facilitate this.

Current Position

2. The implementation of the Education Strategy is overseen by the Education Board. This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

Education Strategy Update

3. Strategic Objective 1: To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education

- a) The Headteachers' Forum agreed that there is a need to create a coherent system for reporting 'value added' performance, as well as attainment with regard to sixth form data across the City schools. While 'value added' data is publicly available in the state sector and across academies, the same is not true across the independent sector. To this end, the Education Strategy Adviser has visited the three independent schools. Having met with representatives at CLFS, CLSB and CLSG he is now in a position to prepare a format that can be used to provide information with regard to student progress as well as attainment for the next cohort of A level students. Once data is presented in this way, a more accurate comparative measure of performance across the City schools will develop and this will, in turn, enable a more informed debate as to how performance across all City schools can be best supported.
- b) Teachers from Redriff Primary school visited the Guildhall on 13 April and were provided with an outline of the education opportunities that are available at the City's institution, such as the Museum of London, Tower Bridge and Monument, and the London Metropolitan Archives.
- c) Videos promoting the City academies to residents living within the square mile have been filmed and will be published shortly. The Deputy Chairman of the Education Board will also address the Barbican Housing Association's AGM on 21 April, outlining the City's educational offer.

4. Strategic Objective 2: To strive for excellence in the City schools

- a) Simon Hughes MP attended COLAS on 12 March as part of a Sixth Form Assembly to discuss British Values, Extremism and Radicalisation.
- b) The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) published its report on the City of London School for Girls following an inspection that took place from 20 to 23 January 2015. The report confirms the exceptional quality of the education provided by the school and the inspectors awarded the school the highest possible grades in all categories.
- c) The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT), recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and recognised the value City of London Academy Islington (COLAI) and The City Academy Hackney (TCAH) add to enable students' high achievement at GCSE. Both qualified for three SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards by being in the top 20% (COLAI) and top 10% (TCAH) of non-selective schools nationally for high attainment; the top 10% nationally for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16, and special recognition for their success in enabling students to fulfil their potential. The schools have been invited to receive their awards at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by SSAT at Holland Park School in London on 12 May.

5. Strategic Objective 3: To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities

- a) The Learning and Engagement Forum continues to meet to discuss closer working and one output of this has been the City Stories pilot day which was held for Year 7 students from COLAS and is reported on in Appendix 2. In addition, individual departments continue with their education programmes which include the events set out below:

Museum of London

- i. The Museum of London (MoL) is working in partnership with the Charterhouse on a £4m project to open up the site to the general public for the first time, including the creation of a learning programme for schools, families, and adult and higher education groups that will be managed by the museum. All funding is now in place, including a grant of £1,586,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which was confirmed in mid-March. A grant of £111,000 was also been secured in March from the John Lyon's Charity to fund the Learning Programme Manager post for three years. The post will report to the Head of Learning at the museum and will be in place by January 2016. The site will open to the public in September 2016.
- ii. MoL has produced two new films as part of a suite of new online resources to support the teaching of Stone Age to Iron Age in London's primary schools. This is part of the museum's Prehistory in the Primary Classroom teacher training project, which is supported by the GLA's London Schools Excellence Fund.
- iii. MoL and Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) are working in partnership to offer schools a chance to take part in object handling and drama workshops at the museum before they attend RSC productions at the Barbican. A three-day pilot will take place in November and December this year and provide a model for larger programmes in the future.
- iv. Following discussions between the National Literacy Trust and the City's cultural institutions, MoL is working in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust (NLT) to develop a suite of online resources and teacher training courses that are designed to support the teaching of literacy through visits to cultural venues. The City's other cultural venues have been invited to join the project and partners will be confirmed in April. The resources and training will be piloted with City academies and provide a model for the wider cultural sector in London and beyond. The £20,000 project is being funded by the NLT and will be completed by the end of December 2015.

Tower Bridge and Monument

- i. The Tower Bridge and Monument Education team (the Education Team) has worked with its community engagement partner, Mosaic Network, to run a 'World of Work' event at the Bridge. Year 9 pupils from Ealing met marketing and operational Tower Bridge staff, following a facilitated tour of the Bridge, which focused on its tourism business. Students then worked in teams to design their own advertising campaign or create their own press release. The day proved a success, and as a result more Mosaic 'World of Work' visits will take place in the autumn term.
- ii. The Education team hosted The Challenge youth board meeting, cementing our partnership with organisation ahead of running seven National Citizen Service youth engagement days this summer.
- iii. Since November, the Education team has welcomed c.900 pupils at the Bridge participating in our formal learning programme, and continue to receive positive feedback from teachers and pupils.

The Barbican

- i. "Barbican Box" is a suite of projects for secondary schools which provide teachers and students with a set of training, resources and mentoring, to enable them to use the Barbican's programme to inspire young people to create their own work. Many of this year's Barbican Box projects culminated in this period with a series of impressive showcases of young people's work professionally presented across Barbican venues. Barbican Box Music culminated in an afternoon of performances from 100 young people in the concert hall, and 153 students from 8 schools shared their theatre pieces over three afternoons in the Pit Theatre. The third Barbican Art Book "Bridging Worlds" was launched with an evening event in the Fountain Room, as was the installation of a new exhibition of the young artists' work in the Camera Café.

In total this year's iterations of the Barbican Box projects are working directly with over 750 young people from 35 schools across the City, Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, and bringing many more students, families and teachers into the building for performances and sharings.

- ii. "Dialogue" is an annual celebration of the work Guildhall School students create with East London communities. It culminated at the end of February with a performance which took over the Barbican Foyers. The festival featured collaborations with Core Arts, St Mungo's and Haggerston School, as well as a community choir built as a legacy of last year's Snapshot Songs project. The event also coincided with the school's Reflective Conservatoire Conference and was well received by the international delegates.

- iii. “Focus” is a festival of film for teenagers and young adults took place across a weekend in March. The festival was curated by the Barbican Young Programmers and featured a range of films and workshops. At the launch event for the festival we hosted a screening of work created across the BFI’s national network of Young Film Academies – including the films produced by the participants in our own programme. 14 of the 18 Film Academy participants were also successful in achieving Arts Award Silver through their work on the scheme – a nationally recognised qualification.
- iv. As part of the build-up to this year’s “Waltham Forest Garden Party” – programmed by the Barbican and presented in partnership with Waltham Forest Council, we travelled to Waltham Forest to offer residents a tantalising taster of what to expect. Drum Works, Hackjam.it, the Asian Centre and Tottenham Hotspur’s Coaching Staff, Chocolate Films and even Louise Jefferies Barbican’s Director of Arts landed, with a bang, in Priory Court Community Centre. The afternoon of music, dance, football, coding, filming and spoken word, culminated in a nail-biting talent show with contestants battling it out to win a performance slot at this year’s Garden Party. The Barbican Young Poets will also be performing at the event in July and Creative Learning is working in partnership with schools in Waltham Forest on a new Barbican Younger Poets programme.
- v. The “Magnificent Obsessions Public Family Day”, inspired by Barbican’s current exhibition, offered members of the public the chance to have their most prized possessions assessed by prestigious auction-house Christie’s experts and participate in interactive games and workshops. Around 400 people attended the day.
- vi. As part of “Teach Through Music”, a year-long professional development programme for secondary school music teachers, we hosted an “INSPIRE” event making the case for music in schools, during which 80 teachers, school-leaders and others discussed, debated and demonstrated ways to raise the profile and highlight the impact and value of, music within, and beyond the curriculum. For a flavour of the day’s events please see the storify.
- vii. Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning also supported a “Convergence Session Day” in association with Ableton music production software, Powster AV company and Pointblank Music School to offer young people the chance to explore and experiment with their newest gadgets and ultimately collaborate on a piece of original electronic music and Video accompaniment. With an inspiring interview with Techno-God, Pantha Du Prince, and top-

notch tutorials the pieces offered at the end of the day were wonderfully impressive.

6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment
 - a) The new Business Engagement Manager is now in post and leads on the engagement of City employers on education to employment work. Since starting in post, there have been two joint mail outs to City businesses (one hard copy and one electronic) promoting the City Corporation's offer to businesses. Further work is underway to coordinate employer engagement activities across the City Corporation including mapping of existing activities that support education to employment. (Further information is provided in other papers being considered at this meeting.)
 - b) The City Business Traineeship programme (which offers paid summer work placements to high achieving A level students from City fringe schools) is currently being re-tendered with a view to continuing the programme for at least three years. The programme is very successful with 108 people placed into positions in 2013-14.
 - c) In March 2015, City Corporation hosted the Strategy Launch of "London Works", a not-for-profit recruitment agency that was established using seed funding from City Corporation. London Works supports candidates from less privileged backgrounds to secure employment and in its first year placed over 100 people into jobs.
 - d) Officers are undertaking some discrete 'fact-finding' on the awareness of, and attitudes to, apprenticeships amongst City businesses to understand more about the low levels of take up of apprenticeships by City employers.
 - e) A number of academy students will have work placements at Guildhall later this term, so far in 2015 there have been the following placements: 11 from TCAH, 3 from COLAS, and 1 from COLAI.
7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London
 - a) Inaugural project board meetings for the two new free schools and the Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School expansion took place on 26 March.
 - b) On 9 April Officers met with officials from the Department for Education to begin the pre-opening path for the City's two new free schools.
 - c) There will be an opportunity to discuss the development of the next iteration of the Education Strategy at the June meeting of the Education Board.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. The Education Strategy complements and supports the City of London's corporate policies and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Education Strategy Development Plan.
- Appendix 2 – City Stories: Summative Evaluation

Background paper

City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013–15.

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