

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board	3 December 2015
<b>Subject:</b> Education Strategy Update Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the City of London Corporation 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.

### **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 Corporation 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) Plans for the City schools concert on 25 January 2016 are being finalised, invitations will be issued shortly.
  - b) Governor training is scheduled for 3 December 2015. This opportunity has been circulated to governors at City schools and all Members of the Court

of Common Council. Key topics to be covered include new legal and statutory responsibilities, accountability measures, and the Education Strategy.

- c) The Chairmen of Governors' Forum met on 24 November and discussed the draft Education Strategy 2016 – 2019, the draft vision for the City schools, and the proposed training programme for governors.

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

- a) The Chairman of Policy and Resources hosted a dinner on 12 November for prefects from all the City secondary schools. This provided an opportunity for the prefects to meet their peers from other City schools, engage with Members of the City Corporation, and to provide views on a proposed shared vision for the City family of schools.
- b) Directors of Sixth Form met on 6 November and discussed the new A-level assessment guidelines, opportunities for students to attend mock university interviews at other City schools, and strategies to address social issues facing sixth formers.
- c) The Headteachers' Forum met in October and discussed the Education Strategy Refresh, The Accountability Framework, changes to the KS2 curriculum, and funding and resource pressures.

#### 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 collective projects. In addition, individual departments continue with their education programmes which include the events set out below:

##### Tower Bridge and Monument

- i. *Family Learning* – Big Draw event, 17 October. The Learning team created an art activity sheet, helping visitors to explore the panoramic views of London and the Bridge's beautiful architecture from the high-level walkways. Visitors used their drawings to help the learning team, and professional artists Elly Lines and Sarah Simmonds, create a large modular screen print in the Engine Rooms. An animation of the finished piece can be viewed at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pzquzd8WbsA>.
- ii. *Schools* – since October 2015 Tower Bridge has welcomed 347 school children as part of the Learning programme. The Learning team has made significant changes to the STEM workshop, increasing pupil-led problem solving elements. The changes were well received by students and teachers, when piloted with a returning school.
- iii. *Pilots* – On 9 November, Tower Bridge hosted the first of the National Literacy Trust project pilots for Young City Poets, working with Year 7

students from the Lammas School (secondary). Poets Aisling Fahey and Toni Stuart, delivered a literacy focused tour of the Engine Rooms with site specific support from the Tower Bridge team and led a workshop in the Bridge Master's Learning Centre, in which students produced a group list poem, inspired by the Engine Rooms.

#### Museum of London

- iv. During the recent half-term families took part in events at the Museum of London and Museum of London Docklands on the theme of 'Make do and mend'. Almost 3,500 visitors took part in activities, including: constructing London landmarks from recycled materials, listening to children's stories written during World War II, and making a giant patchwork quilt.
- v. October is Black History Month and the Museum of London ran the popular London Calling outreach show in nine secondary schools reaching 4,640 pupils. The interactive, drama-based show highlights the contribution made by black Londoners throughout the city's history.
- vi. The Museum of London is managing the City of London School Visits Fund and has created a website ([www.cityschoolvisitsfund.org.uk](http://www.cityschoolvisitsfund.org.uk)) which was launched on 2 November. A promotional postcard was also mailed to all eligible schools in London. The first four applications were received on 6 November.

#### Open Spaces

- vii. Research is showing how urban communities are becoming increasingly disconnected from nature. In response, the Open Spaces Department is launching a new learning programme, which aims to engage London's deprived and urbanised communities with their local green spaces. The programme will directly impact over 30,000 people from communities in half of London's boroughs and will engage new audiences in volunteering, education, and play in natural settings. The success of the programme will be measured by the effectiveness of its outcomes and will build teams of volunteers within the community as a lasting legacy.

#### Guildhall Art Gallery

- viii. Guildhall Art Gallery and London's Roman Amphitheatre are in the process of relaunching their education programme. Online resources for self-led visits to the Gallery and Amphitheatre will be live by the end of March 2016. Additional facilitated workshops will be launched by September 2016. So far, an increased emphasis on the education offer for the Amphitheatre (mainly through object handling sessions) has resulted in significant interest, with 150 school children visiting the site for facilitated sessions between 1 October and 10 November 2015.
- ix. It is hoped that a series of new educational projects will be rolled out before the end of the academic year. These include:
  - Return of the Romans! (KS2 Romans) – A theatrical performance by Freshwater Theatre Company in the Amphitheatre.

- “Meet a Roman” with Spectrum Drama (KS2 Romans) – A chance for children to meet and interact with a Roman character and find out about life in the capital almost 2000 years ago.
- Roman London: an introduction (adult education) – Exploring the heritage of Roman London this short course is designed to appeal to the interested amateur.

These are designed to broaden our educational programme and to utilise the space of the amphitheatre more intensively. Aided by the welcome introduction of the Schools visit fund, we look forward to developing this important educational resource.

6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment

- a) Planning is underway, in partnership with the National Apprenticeships Service, for the first two in a series of sector-focused roundtable discussions with City businesses on apprenticeships – one on law in January, the other on banking in March – to introduce and promote relevant new apprenticeship standards to city businesses.
- b) A launch event hosted by Sales Force at the Heron Tower took place in October for the next cohort of teachers joining the ‘Subjects in the City’ programme. Delivered by the Education Business Partnership Inspire! the project seeks to match 60 teachers from neighbouring boroughs with 60 City business employee mentors, to help make the curriculum more relevant to the world of work.
- c) The City Corporation has been working with the organisers of TeenTech City (which the City Corporation sponsors) to help engage additional businesses in the annual event which takes place in December and aims to introduce around 500 Year 7 & 8 students to careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).
- d) The Study, which is looking at the challenges faced by unemployed young Londoners and seeking to identify examples of good practice, has made progress following the Study Panel’s first meeting in October. The Panel, comprising some 20 senior people (a good cross-section of businesses, CoLC Members – including Education Board members – charities, and local authority leaders), will provide examples of good practice to help inform the development of ‘guiding principles’ by its final meeting in January. A launch event and a programme of dissemination of the Study’s findings will also be developed.
- e) Employee Volunteering Programme:
  - i. One new Access tutor at City Academy, Hackney has signed up to tutor A-level English Literature. This takes our total number of Access tutor volunteers to 10.
  - ii. One of our new Personal Advisers for The City Academy, Hackney, has arranged mini mentoring opportunities for three students, including meetings with Directors at HSBC, the Chamberlain’s Business

Application Delivery Team Leader, and a trip to Heathrow Animal Reception Centre.

- iii. Two of our Graduate Trainees volunteered at a careers talk at the City Academy, Hackney, in November to talk about their career paths with a group of Year 12 students.
- iv. Further activity planned for December/January include a speed interviewing session for Year 12 students at City of London Academy, Islington, and a Mansion House visit and events management workshop for the City Business Conferencing students at the City Academy, Hackney.

7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London

- a) Members will receive a separate update on the free school programme at the December meeting of the Education Board.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

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

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