

Committee	Dated:
Education Board	23/07/2020
Subject: Education Activities Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

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

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the update on recent events and activities across the three strategy areas.
- Note the calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year in **Appendix 1**.

Main Report

Education

1. Support to the Family of Schools during School Closures

The Education Strategy Unit have provided regular and sustained support to the Family of Schools leading up to and since the Government announced that schools would close to the majority of pupils from 17 March 2020 and subsequently that they should begin to extend their opening from 1 June 2020.

This support has included:

- Expanded provision of School Forum meetings including the Headteachers' Forum, Chair of Governors' Forum, Skills Forum, Cultural and Creative Learning Forum and Governor Training sessions delivered online.
- Provided regular policy briefings to schools on the latest Government Announcements, a detailed international review of school recovery plans sent to school leaders and governors and topic-based briefing documents on risk assurance, staff wellbeing, equalities, recovery curriculum models and remote learning projects and opportunities.
- Collated a number of resources including guides for parents on supporting pupils' home learning, cultural and creative learning at home resources and skills and careers resources for the London Careers Festival.
- Participated in a number of national and global initiatives including the Department for Education's school recovery group and the OECD's international forum on recovery curriculum models. The insights gained from these have been shared with the Family of Schools and best practice from the Family of Schools has fed into our participation in these platforms.
- Commissioned research into the horizon for education systems and the learning opportunities arising from COVID-19.

- Continued ongoing projects supporting the Family of Schools including the commission of an online school data dashboard to improve analysis and transparency of school data, the scoping of an online one-stop-shop for schools to more readily access the cultural and work-related learning opportunities provided by partners and the City Premium Grant funding round for 2020/21.

Skills

2. London Careers Festival 2020 (29 June 2020 to 3 July 2020)

Following the announcements on social distancing requirements, the London Careers Festival Working Party made the decision to provide the 2020 event as a virtual week-long event of online work-related experiences for pupils and teachers across London and beyond. In just three months, the Festival was re-programmed and organisations across a range of sectors were galvanised to virtually host young people for a mix of webinars, workshops and online resources. In summary:

- Across the week, 76 sessions were delivered by 39 organisations attended by 65 schools across primary and secondary schools and colleges.
- Over 154 resources were posted on the London Careers Festival website ranging from videos, tutorials, worksheets, quizzes and online virtual tours all aimed at providing learners and educators with experiences of the world of work and a chance to develop fusion skills

The Virtual London Careers Festival was a big success. Based on a survey, over 85% of pupils reported that the Festival helped them to imagine their futures and 84% reported that they enjoyed the Festival online. A full evaluation report is being developed and will be submitted to the Education Board at their meeting on 24 September 2020.

3. Adult Skills and Education Service (ASES)

ASES have continued to provide adult learning courses to residents and workers as well as accredited apprenticeship training, moving rapidly to online teaching and learning within the first week of sites closing. For learners undertaking accredited study programmes, tutors are providing each learner with a bespoke, individualised online learning programme. For more vulnerable and elderly learners, for whom learning can be a way to socially interact and communicate, ASES have upkept regular communication through letters, postcards and hard copy resources to ensure they can continue their learning in some way and keep in contact with their groups. Apprentices continue to make a wonderful contribution to the City Corporation and ASES are working with all learning providers to ensure that the apprentices progress to their qualification and end-point assessments (EPA) continue.

Cultural & Creative Learning

4. Culture Mile Learning

Although COVID-19 necessitated the closure of cultural venues across London, cultural partners within the Culture Mile Learning (CML) network continued to provide online and hardcopy cultural and creative learning resources for families and children. Recent projects have included:

- Culture Mile Play Packs – 11 CML partners contributed to hardcopy packs of creative activities and resources for primary school-aged children. The Play

Packs have been distributed monthly since May to families via the Family of Schools, food banks and other community networks, they are aimed at families who are most in need, including those without access to computers or the internet. To date, CML distributed 500 copies in May and 1,500 in June.

- Becoming a 'City of Learning' – CML was successful in a competition along with the boroughs of Westminster and Waltham Forest to join the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and City and Guilds Cities of Learning Programme (see www.thersa.org/cities-of-learning). The initiative aims to increase the employability of disadvantaged young people through creating digital badges to recognise skills development and offering learning pathways to guide career development. The beneficiaries of the pilot phase, for which CML received £5K from the RSA, will be the pupils at the five secondary academies in the City of London Academies Trust.

5. Family of Schools Cultural and Creative Responses

The Family of Schools have led a number of exceptionally high-quality creative responses to school closures and COVID-19 and facilitated sustained engagement in the arts in culture by families, pupils and teachers. Some examples include:

- The English Department at City of London Academy Highgate Hill (CoLAHH) have collaborated with CML and the London Metropolitan Archives to develop a series of fortnightly webinars focused on CPD for English teachers teaching Victorian supernatural texts. The project uses culture to inspire creative teaching methods and will lead to the development of schemes of work to be delivered next academic year.
- The Art Department at City of London Academy Highbury Grove (CoLAHG) have been running a photography module called 'The Hidden City' co-taught by the school's Art Teacher and a professional photographer and supported by CML. Pupils respond to webinars with their own photographs depicting their lives in lockdown. The project aims to enrich the Key Stage 4 and 5 curricula while serving as a CPD opportunity for teachers. It has gained very positive feedback from parents who report an increase in motivation and routine among the young people participating.
- At Sir John Cass' Foundation Primary School, the Art Teacher has been using Google Classrooms to post different Art challenges each week, designing the challenges to be suitable for a range of age groups from Years 1 to 6 with resources that are readily available at home. A page has been created on the school's website with video projects that pupils can follow at home. Pupils send their work in which are then uploaded on a virtual gallery.

Upcoming activities

6. The calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year is included in **Appendix 1**. The calendar reflects the plans for a continued online provision of events and forums over the Autumn Term, with plans for face-to-face provision from January 2021. The Education Strategy Unit and partners will remain alert to Government announcements which may affect these plans and adjust accordingly. A more detailed update on upcoming projects and events over the

Autumn Term will be provided at the meeting of the Education Board on 24 September 2020.

Appendices

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

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