

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors City of London School	09122020
Subject: Head's Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	For Information
Report author: Alan Bird, Head, City of London School	

Summary

This paper provides the Board with an update on key developments in the School since the last meeting of the Board in October 2019.

Recommendation(s)

- Governors are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Academic Update

1. The majority of pupils in the Senior Sixth Form have submitted university applications. Many applied for Oxford, Cambridge and/or medical school, and hence are now awaiting invitations to (virtual) interviews. Offers are starting to come in from other universities.
2. Parents' Evenings are now being run virtually, using the SchoolCloud system. Feedback from parents has been very positive, such that we will consider the continuation of this system (at least in part), even when Covid-19 restrictions ease.
3. This term has seen further developments in our use of technology, with all homework being set on Microsoft Teams, and roughly 50% of work being submitted through OneNote. Some departments have moved to an almost paperless way of working.
4. Pupils in the Fifth and Sixth Form are now allowed to bring individual devices to lessons, regardless of individual learning plans. Approximately 50% choose to do so (slightly lower in the Fifth Form, slightly higher in the Sixth Form). Plans for

one-to-one devices, reported to the Board in October, are now progressing for September 2021. Parents have been informed.

5. September 2021 sees the further roll-out of elements of the School's curriculum review, with the introduction of Computing, Robotics and Design for the Third Form, and the introduction of a new co-educational enrichment programme in the Sixth Form, jointly with CLSG.
6. The School is currently operating under the assumption that GCSE and A-level/Pre-U examinations will take place as normal next summer. However, contingency planning is also underway, should the School be asked to submit Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs) and/or rank orders for pupils in the Fifth Form and/or Senior Sixth Form. It is to be noted that the uncertainty around this is creating additional stress and anxiety for pupils in these year groups, and the Fifth Form in particular.

Co-Curricular Update

7. The following co-curricular highlights are drawn to governors' attention:
 - **Charity:** The new Charity Committee are leading our continuing support for Switchback and have come up with innovative ways to raise funds. They have also helped with other charitable endeavours, including arranging food and Christmas present collections for the Salvation Army.
 - **Eco-Schools:** The Eco Schools programme was launched in September and over fifty pupils are participating. At present, the Eco Schools Committee and Action Teams are focusing on biodiversity, waste and energy and have undertaken a major audit of the School. The Committee are also seeking to raise awareness about environmental issues through weekly articles in *The Citizen* and visual displays around the School. It has been fantastic to see the level of pupil engagement in this.
 - **Sport:** The PE Department have run a full timetable of PE, Swimming and Games. Squads in Football, Water Polo and Basketball are training together, but fixtures have not yet resumed. For this reason, greater emphasis has been placed on Inter-House and Inter-Form competitions.
 - **Music:** The Music Department has been able to continue its excellent and wide-ranging provision for the pupils. 1:1 music lessons continue to take place with VMTs, who also lead the Junior Class small group instrument sessions. A weekly recording accompanies the Friday SchoolPost. Ensembles are led by academic staff, and there is a choral and instrumental provision in every year group, ranging from and including ukulele ensembles, choirs, jazz ensembles and chamber orchestra. The choirs, First and Second Year Strings and Sixth Form soloists have filmed the annual Carol Service and the Sixth Form ensembles are performing a Christmas Concert. The Chapel Royal continues to rehearse and were delighted to be joined by the London Youth Choir for some online rehearsals.
 - **Drama:** Covid-19 has created several limitations for Drama this term but all practical lessons are running. In addition, nearly ninety boys enrolled in the LAMDA classes, which are being run at lunchtimes in year group bubbles. Equally, there have been a good number of newcomers to the Student Tech

Team who are busy working on the lighting grid, the sound desk and learning about QLab software. These pupils have been invaluable during preparations for the IGCSE practical examinations.

- **Visiting Speakers:** The School has hosted a number of visiting speakers including Aaron Phipps (Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby player), Amelia Gentleman (Journalist) and Andrew Russell (Head of Corporation of London Virtual School)
- **International Honours:** International Honours have been presented to two pupils for their selection for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and one pupil for their selection for the Great Britain U19 American Football Team.
- **Remembrance:** A Remembrance Assembly, including a filmed ceremony was shown to pupils on the morning we would usually have held the Remembrance Service. The Head, Chair of Governors and Treasurer of the JCC all laid wreaths as part of the ceremony. Our Chapel Royal Choristers were present at the National Service of Remembrance.
- **Success in National Competitions:** A remarkable ten pupils were highly commended in the John Locke Essay Prize and pupils have also had success in the Author of Tomorrow: Adventure Writing Competition, the RA Butler Prize, the Julia Wood History Prize, the Robson History Prize and the Young Writers SOS Trapped competition.

Covid-19

8. As of 29 November. The School has had 12 confirmed cases during the Autumn term: 2 in the First Form, 4 in the Third Form, 1 in the Junior Sixth Form, 1 in the Senior Sixth Form, 2 amongst teaching staff, 1 visiting teacher and 1 member of support staff. We would naturally prefer this number to be lower, but we are aware of many schools which have a much higher number of cases.

Following three cases amongst Year 9 pupils in w/c 23 November, further information was provided to parents about the way in which the School handles a positive case. The letter sent to parents is attached as **Appendix 1**.

A designated governor's panel has met periodically to review and approve the School's ongoing approach to COVID-19 management; this panel comprises the Chair, Deputy Chair, Designated Health & Safety Governor, Designated Safeguarding Governor and Staff Liaison Governor. The whole-school risk assessment was approved by this panel on 26 August prior to staff and pupils' return to school, and reviewed and reapproved on 1 October 2020. This panel met again on 30 November: a verbal update on matters arising, and the School's ongoing management of its COVID-19 response more generally, will be provided at the meeting.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Letter to Parents re. Covid-19, 27 November 2020

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