

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 20/05/2021
Subject: Education Activities Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8, 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?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author(s): Catherine McGovern, Business Administration and Events Apprentice	

Summary

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

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the update on events and activities delivered since the last meeting.
- Note the calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year in **Appendix 1**.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board has oversight of three strategies: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills (2019-23).

Current Position

Education

2. Debating Tournament and Workshops (Virtual) - Tuesday 27 April 2021

As part of the Education Unit's series of events offered to the City of London's Family of Schools and extended Family of Schools, a virtual City of London Debating Tournament was hosted on Tuesday 27 April in partnership with The English-Speaking Union (ESU) and The International Churchill Society (ICS). In preparation for the event, two successful training sessions were hosted by a

trainer from the ESU for a total of 72 participants. The tournament itself saw eight schools participate with 27 pupils from Years 8-9. There were three judges from the ESU, ICS and Chair of the Education Board, Caroline Haines, all of whom were thoroughly impressed with the level of confidence, enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by all the pupils. Prizes were awarded to the winning team, runner up team, best rebuttal, best question asked from audience and most convincing debater. The Debating Tournament is an annual event for pupils to develop their Fusion Skills in oral communication, critical thinking and resilience.

3. Chess Tournament Legacy

All pupils who took part in the Chess tournament on 3 March received a year's free subscription of a gold ChessKid account and, since the tournament, pupils who took part have been extremely active on ChessKid. ChessKid put together a league table every week and a few weeks ago the five highest scorers were all from pupils who took part in the tournament, three from Redriff primary and one each from The Aldgate School and Newham Collegiate Sixth Form. There were 12 other pupils within the City of London Family of Schools who were ranked in top 100. ChessKid have 32,000 other pupils in their online club, from schools across the UK, so the pupils within the Family of School have been performing extremely well. Parents and teachers have been very positive about the pupils' increased use of ChessKid and the effect the tournament has had on them. The tournament and the ChessKid platform have provided an opportunity for pupils to develop their Fusion Skills including problem solving, initiative, critical thinking, resilience and analysis and evaluation skills.

Skills

4. Livery Skills event (Virtual) - Wednesday 21 April,

The Livery Skills event was hosted virtually on Wednesday 21 April with an attendance of 165 attendees from 93 Liveries and Guilds. The Lord Mayor warmly welcomed everyone to the event and focused on utilising challenging moments as a call to action to bolster and coordinate efforts to support skills and opportunities for young people. A more detailed report on the Livery Skills Initiative is included in the committee agenda for this meeting.

5. Find Fusion

The Education Strategy Unit at the City of London Corporation have launched a new digital platform called Find Fusion to connect and promote learning opportunities from the City Corporation and its partner schools, businesses and cultural organisations. Find Fusion is a signposting platform for learning opportunities and enables schools and learners to find events, courses, projects and resources relevant to them or learners that they work with, as well as for organisations to share their own learning offers with others. The platform connects and curates learning opportunities around themes such as learner type, fusion skills, curriculum area and other interest areas. Find out more on the website here: www.findfusion.org.uk Find Fusion Workshops will be conducted

for teachers within the Family of Schools as well as City Departments over the next couple of weeks.

Proposals

Upcoming activities

6. City School's Music Project

Due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of London's Education Unit was unable to host their annual schools' concert as a live performance. In order to continue to hold a valuable school-to-school collaborative project focused on music, two creative online workshops were delivered to each school focused on composition skills. Two composers, Paul Griffiths and Sigrun Saevarsdottir-Griffiths, hosted these workshops for eight schools across the Family of Schools from Years 3-9. The workshops were tailored according to the needs of the individual music departments but generally involved a singing and composition workshop. A sound recordist also took part in the workshops to gather the recordings of individual pupil's work and re-create the music in a studio. The Education Unit are hosting virtual 'listening event' on Wednesday 26 May 2021 to showcase the pieces together. Members of the Education Board are invited to attend the virtual listening event and should RSVP to Vasima.Patel@cityoflondon.gov.uk

7. Arts Exhibition project

In collaboration with Culture Mile Learning, pupils from across the City Family of Schools, from Reception to Year 11, have come together to contribute to a dynamic digital artwork. Working alongside professional artist Stuart Faromarz Batchelor, the project, #MOOD, has captured how young people are feeling at this unique moment in history. Pupils have created individual digital memes with a #hashtag expressing their feelings during the pandemic. The project has brought together the artwork of hundreds of individual pupils, across 10 city schools. Teachers across the Family of Schools have been the driving force behind this project and have supported each other, and their pupils, in order to ensure its success. The final artwork was released, along with a launch video, on 12 May 2021 during Mental Health Awareness Week. Participating pupils and their families can now interact with the collective artwork, finding their own individual art within the wider piece.

8. The calendar of forums and events over the 2020/21 academic year is included in **Appendix 1**.

Options

N/A

Key Data

N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

N/A. This report is for information only.

Conclusion

Members of the Education Board have been updated on recent events and activities across their three strategy areas as well as upcoming events and activities over the 2020/21 academic year

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

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