

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors City of London School	09062021
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
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Summary

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

- Academic and Assessment Update
- Co-Curricular Update
- Covid-19 Update

Recommendation(s)

- Governors are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Academic and Assessment Update

1. Further to the Government's announcement that no public examinations would take place this summer, Ofqual's guidance of 24 March 2021 regarding the way in which centres would assign "teacher assessed grades" and CAIE guidance on the awarding of "school assessed grades", the School has initiated a process to perform its responsibilities, consistent with this guidance.
2. The Grading Protocol that is being applied by the School has been subject to external quality assurance by Pearson, on behalf of JCQ, and has been agreed without any required changes.
3. A subset of relevant governors was drawn together for a briefing on 22 April 2021 (at the start of the Summer Term 2021, but before the process of enacting this protocol was begun), for appropriate oversight of the Protocol. This included the Chair of the Board, the Chairman of the Academic and Education

Committee, and the governors with responsibility for Compliance and Learning Support.

4. Since that meeting, the protocol has been implemented by departments. Each department has also written their own Departmental Protocol and/or Rationale Document (CAIE). These are being checked by the Deputy Head Teaching & Innovation. DH T&I and DoS are meeting with individual HoDs to check that each department is implementing the protocol in the same way and that data is being collated in accordance with the guidance provided.
5. The implementation of the Protocol has included in-school assessments for pupils in Years 11 and 13. These were completed before half term.
6. A programme of study is being run for pupils in Year 11 through the second half of the Summer Term.
7. The impact of arrangements for the awarding of GCSE and A-level grades this summer on staff workload should not be under-estimated.
8. A verbal update on the progress of this process will be provided at the meeting.

Co-Curricular Update

9. The following co-curricular highlights are drawn to governors' attention:
 - **COVID-19:** The 'Schools coronavirus operational guidance' continues to place considerable limitations on what is possible. There is some optimism that updates to this document will allow for more co-curricular activity.
 - **Charity:** The Charity Committee continue in their fundraising efforts and, at the end of the Spring Term, hosted a joint CLS v CLSG Square Mile Quiz involving pupils, parents and staff. Despite CLSG edging it, the event was a great success with over £2000 raised. The current amount accrued stands at just over £44 000 and there is growing confidence that the Sponsored Walk and Row will both be able take place in the latter part of the term. Although all funds by pupils raised go to Switchback, the founders of the Indian Culture Club asked if they could organise a standalone event for a charity seeking to support communities in India who are dealing with the ravages of COVID-19. We said 'yes' and with the help of match-funding they are likely to clear £4000!
 - **Sport:** Inter-school fixtures are now permitted and have resumed.
 - **Music:** There are still considerable restrictions on music making, but the Department has planned an exciting programme for the Summer Term, including some live performances. Pupils continue to enjoy individual success - for example, a pupil in First Form has just reached the semi-finals of the Wales International Piano Competition.
 - **Drama:** All the LAMDA exams took place in late April. The Drama Department invested a considerable amount of time over the course of the Easter holidays helping prepare pupils.
 - **House Championship:** The House Championship continues to flourish with a wide variety of events to engage the pupils. Recent ones include Table-Tennis, Indoor Rowing, Virtual fitness, Maths, Quiz Competition and

Chess. These have been particularly valued by the pupils in the absence of inter-school competition.

- **DofE:** A full schedule of DofE expeditions is planned for the term to allow for pupils to complete the full Awards. This includes 'legacy' pupils from last academic year. A small number of these expeditions will be residential.
- **Visiting Speakers:** It has been lovely to welcome visiting speakers into the building. Sir Anthony Seldon gave a brilliant talk to Sixth Form History and Politics pupils on his book *The Impossible Office*.
- **Competitions:** A pupil in the First Form was runner-up in the BBC Young Reporters Competition. A pupil in the Fifth Form achieved joint first prize in the David Grossel History Prize 2021. A pupil in the Junior Sixth Form won the Economics Prize in the Minds Underground Competition. Two CLS teams have also reached the finals of the Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize. We will know the outcome later in the term.

Covid-19

10. Pupils and staff returned to onsite education on 8 March for three weeks before the Easter vacation.
11. Their return was accompanied by the implementation of an on-site Lateral Flow testing programme, where consenting pupils took a test before returning to school, following by two further tests over the first 10 days in school. Consent rates were 97%+ in all year-groups. After that initial period, pupils have been provided with home-test kits so that they can test twice weekly under the supervision of their parents, with results being submitted to both the school and the NHS; consent rates have increased since this move to home testing, with one year-group now being 100% (Year 9, which – perhaps as a result – was the year-group which had the highest prevalence of positive cases during November-December 2020). To date, over 3750 tests have been reported to the school, with no positive results. Participating in the testing programme is voluntary and, although consent is high, the number of reported tests is lower than would be expected if all pupils were taking a test twice each week (which would give equate 1800 tests per week); we will focus on regular reminders to pupils and parents about the importance of reporting their results, alongside issuing new batches of test kits as they arrive at school.
12. In school protocols for the period since 8 March have largely been the same as those introduced in September 2020 to enhance hygiene and social distancing. The additional risk mitigation measure was the requirement that staff and pupils wear face coverings in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained – this in addition to the requirement to wear face coverings in all indoor communal areas. From 17 May 2021, as part of the Stage 3 lockdown easing, the Government has announced that pupils and staff will no longer be required to wear face masks in classrooms. As in September 2020, we are asking staff and pupils to continue to wear masks in communal areas where social distancing cannot always be maintained.
13. The impact of the COVID-19 protocols on the School's co-curricular provision is addressed elsewhere in this report.

14. Plans for the latter part of the Summer Term will be dependent, to a large extent, on progression to Phase 4 of the roadmap on 21 June 2021. A verbal report on the status of these plans will be provided at the meeting.

Appendices

- **None**

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