

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 1/07/2021
Subject: Strategic 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 Daniel McGrady, Lead Policy Officer (Education, Culture and Skills)	

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. As the academic year draws to a close, the 2020/21 calendar is now replaced in **Appendix 1** with the forward-looking calendar for the 2021/22 academic year.

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 to be delivered over the 2021/22 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. City School' Conference

On Monday 14 June, part two of the annual City Schools' Conference was held virtually and focused on Reimagine (using the pandemic as an opportunity to reflect and possibly transform the education system) and Reform (using the lessons learnt to reflect on the future of education and skills development). As with previous years, the conference was a practical and interactive meeting focused on implementable strategies and approaches. The conference was well attended by 92 participants representing school leaders, middle and curriculum leaders and partner organisations including Culture Mile Learning and business and research partners.

Cultural and Creative Learning

3. City Schools' Music Project – Listening Event

The Education Unit hosted a virtual 'listening event' on Wednesday 26 May 2021 to showcase the pieces of music the pupils in the Family of schools had created as part of the City Schools' Music Project. The project included workshops with two composers, Paul Griffiths and Sigrun Saevarsdottir-Griffiths who hosted these workshops for eight schools across the Family of Schools from Years 3-9. 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 listening event was attended by pupils, staff members, parents, guardians and governors within the Family of Schools. This was a positive and uplifting event which saw pupils cheering on other schools as well as being excited when their piece of music was played in the event and felt very proud with what they had produced. Feedback from the schools has been very positive with many schools pleased that the Education Unit continue the music event virtually.

4. Governor Training- School Data

On Wednesday 16 June, governors within the Family of Schools attended a training session on School Data delivered by the Strategic Director of Education and Skills as well as the City of London Academies Trust's Chief Standards Officer. The training session focused on how to analyse school data and how to spot areas within the school which may need improvement. A total of 18 governors attended. The attendees had fruitful discussions and were engaged in the session, however attendance was low proportionate to the number of governors in the Family of Schools.

Skills

5. Find Fusion Workshops

To support the launch of the Education Strategy Unit's new digital platform, called Find Fusion, workshops were conducted for teachers within the Family of Schools and City departments providing learning opportunities. The workshops focused on how to use the site to its maximum potential by showcasing the key features, how to find relevant opportunities, how to create Listings and curate 'Learning Journeys' that pull together learning opportunities under themes such as curriculum area and age group. Attendance and engagement at both

workshops were extremely good with a collective attendance of 35 across the two sessions. The participants have gone on to share the platform and learnings from the workshop with their colleagues. The workshops have seen a boost in engagement with the website with more users and content. You can find out more about Find Fusion on the website here: www.findfusion.org.uk

6. Fusion 3

Fusion 3 was delivered as a virtual event across 12 different cities from Sydney to California who each hosted an hour. Across all twelve sessions, 930 attendees were recorded. Furthermore, many sessions have since been viewed online and resources shared more broadly. The London event was opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell live from Mansion House and attended by over 195 experts from a range of industries, sectors and countries to share their perspective on fusion skills and systematic change towards fusion skills development across education, the arts, work and lifelong learning and to incite action around Fusion Skills. This session focused on inclusivity and access and 'How do we make sure all people have the fusion skills they need to flourish now and in the future?' and 'Where are people taking Fusion next?' The event involved active participation and experiential learning. A full event report is being developed and will be submitted to the Education Board at a future meeting.

Proposals

Upcoming activities

7. London Careers Festival

London Careers Festival 2021 builds on the success of previous year's events which together connected over 7,500 pupils with more than 120 organisations. The event is delivered virtually between 28 June – 2 July 2021. The virtual Festival provides numerous resources, live webinars and interactive workshops with businesses and employers for pupils to explore their career interests and develop their skills. A verbal update will be provided. Find more information on: www.londoncareersfestival.org.uk

Calendar of forums and events over the 2021/22 academic year

8. The provisional calendar of events and forums for the 2021/22 academic year is included in **Appendix 1**. The Education Unit is consulting with Headteachers and others on the dates and timings of school-based events at the meeting on 8 July 2021 and has consulted with City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) and Culture Mile Learning (CML) in the drafting. Whilst current Government advice is that the final stages of lockdown easing will take place on 19 July 2021, the Education Unit have been prudent in regards to confirming face-to-face events and are ready to respond to new announcements on the lifting of restrictions as and when they occur, as well as consider the health and safety of attendees. Furthermore, in light touch consultation with schools and partners through Forum meetings, there has been a widespread preference for a hybrid model moving

forward where both online and face-to-face formats are utilised. As a general principle, the dates and times of regular forum meetings have been confirmed, and the coordination of larger scale events, and events aimed at pupils, are currently 'TBC' as the Education Unit continue to consult with schools and plan the delivery of the 2021/22 action plan.

9. As in previous years, Education Board members are formally invited to attend all events hosted for pupils in the Family of Schools (which in the past has included a Debating Tournament, Chess Competition, City Schools' Concert and formal dinners). Invitations are also extended to Governing Bodies. For forum meetings, these are targeted to groups of attendees (including, Chairs of Governors, Headteachers, cultural lead governors and staff, skills lead governors and staff, safeguarding lead governors and staff). Invitations are sent to individuals within these groups and Education Board Members and other guests are welcome to attend at their request. For scrutiny and governance meetings (including the School data, Finance, and Safeguarding Scrutiny meetings), the Chair of the Education Board is invited to attend on behalf of the Education Board. These patterns of invitation and attendance will continue to be applied for the 2021/22 calendar of events and forums.
10. Calendar invitations will be sent to the official email address of all Education Board Members.

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 the tripartite of strategies as well as upcoming events and activities over the 2020/21 academic year, and into the 2021/22 academic year.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1** – Calendar of forums and events over the 2021/22 academic year.

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