

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors City of London School	06102021
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 June.

- Start of Year 2021-22
- Academic Update
- Curricular Update
- Co-Curricular Update
- Partnerships and Charity Update

Recommendation(s)

- Governors are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Start of Year 2021-22

1. The start of the 2021-22 academic year has seen the School's operations returning to a greater degree of normality. Pupils are not constrained to 'bubbles', and hence are able to move around the building more freely. This is having a very positive impact on the co-curricular life of the School, in particular, and in terms of pupil wellbeing. We have also been able to welcome parents back into the School building for the first time since March 2020; this has enabled us to run meaningful induction events for parents of new pupils, including through the provision of school tours (since many parents of pupils who

joined the School this September have never been able to visit the School). These opportunities for on-site visits have been enthusiastically welcomed.

2. Mitigation measures relating to Covid-19 remain in place. In particular:
 - We are asking pupils and staff to prioritise hygiene and hand-washing in particular. We are conscious that this might help to prevent the spread of any respiratory infections, the prevalence of which is expected to be high this year.
 - We are maximising ventilation around the School as much as possible, and monitoring air quality with a CO₂ monitor.
 - Face coverings will continue to be worn in crowded and enclosed spaces, including on school transport to and from Grove Park, in assembly and in the dining hall queue.
 - All members of the School community (with the exception of pupils in Old Grammar) are asked to take lateral flow tests twice-weekly at home (and all pupils, except those in Old Grammar, had two tests undertaken at School at the start of the Autumn Term, including one before their return).
 - Pupils and staff are asked to remain at home if they have symptoms of Covid-19, and to take a PCR test. Any positive lateral flow test will result in self-isolation, pending the result of a confirmatory PCR test.
 - Pupils aged 16 and above are eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine; at the time of writing, it has been announced that vaccines will also be made available for pupils aged between 12 and 15. These are to be administered by the School-Age Immunisation Service, who will also handle issues of consent.
3. The new pupil café opened on time at the start of this term, and has been very much welcomed by pupils.

Academic Update

4. As the Board will be aware, grades this summer were awarded by the School, consistent with the School's Protocol, which was approved by the Academic and Education Committee, and externally by the exam boards.
5. Further to the standard audits of the School's grading process undertaken by exam boards, no grades were changed, and the School was not subject to any additional external quality assurance measures.
6. The School is currently assuming that exams will take place for both GCSE and A-level in the summer of 2022, though further information is actively awaited on the standards that will be applied in those examinations, and on any adjustments that are to be made in light of educational disruption.

Curricular Update

7. This term sees the launch of several developments in relation to teaching and learning.

One-to-One Devices

We are moving to a one-to-one system for pupils' devices, as opposed to bookable classroom resources and specialised IT rooms. The structure of individual devices for this academic year will be:

OG and 1st Form: no individual devices due to their age. They will continue to use in-school IT resources when necessary.

2nd – 4th Form: pupils provided with devices by the school that are fully controlled by us.

5th – S6th Form: pupils bring their own devices to lessons.

Devices have been rolled out to pupils over the early weeks of term: we are launching it with a 'soft start' so that staff can get used to the senso.cloud monitoring software that will be used for classroom device management.

Design, Computing and Robotics (DC&R)

This academic year sees the launch of Design, Computing and Robotics, our own Design and Technology subject that is based around the 21st century technologies.

This course will be based around the design cycle and will teach the pupils, using contemporary case studies, how to approach a problem and develop the solution. Pupils will also learn principles of programming in Python and Java and 3D design in Rhino 3D. Robotics elements of the course are using Lego Mindstorms, kit recommended by the Imperial College and used by their students.

This course has proved very popular with 145 pupils (i.e. 80%) in the Third Form choosing it.

City +

The joint enrichment programme for the Sixth Forms at CLS and CLSG is launched. The programme will run weekly, between break and lunch time on a Tuesday, across both sites. In each half term, pupils will attend a four-week seminar-style course, selected from a wide range of options. In the remaining weeks talks and events will be held, which will allow for guest speakers on a wide range of topics, including from the RSE and PSHE agendas, and Higher Education and Careers.

The timetabling team developed the timetable to allow all J6 pupils to be available for periods four and five on a Tuesday. The intention is to roll this programme on next year so that both year groups take part. This is already the case with CLSG, who have moved from an existing programme to joining CLS for this joint programme.

Joint protocols and codes of conduct have been developed to be used by both Schools. These give guidance to staff and pupils regarding how the programme will operate and outlines the procedures that have been put into place.

Safeguarding protocols have been developed, and procedures developed around effective registration of pupils, and lines of accountability for any concerns raised.

The Assistant Head of Sixth Form holds responsibility for the running of the programme and is a key part of their job description. The Head of Sixth Form also has oversight and has helped develop the structure and protocols for its successful implementation and development.

Future Guidance Department

The new Future Guidance Department is launched, bringing the management of Careers, Higher Education and skills into one overarching structure. The priorities identified in the Careers Review in 2019 will form some initial areas of focus for the new Director of Future Guidance.

Co-Curricular Update

8. The following co-curricular highlights are drawn to governors' attention:

- **Sport:** Cricket fixtures resumed in the Summer Term and the U14 XI reached the final of the London Schools' Competition and the U15XI were crowned champions. Full sporting provision, including fixtures, has now resumed with the removal of the restrictions formerly in place.
- **Music:** Extensive provision continued in the Summer Term and there is much excitement about the resumption of a full programme of concerts and recitals this term.
- **Drama:** Exceptional results were achieved in LAMDA qualifications. 50 of the 80 entrants received distinctions. The planned Autumn production is the musical Sprites, written and directed by a member of the English Department.
- **Duke of Edinburgh:** The Duke of Edinburgh leaders did a remarkable job to ensure all Gold, Silver and Bronze participants (over 200) were able to complete the expedition element of the qualification over the course of the Summer Term.
- **CCF:** The CCF has a record number of participants and weekly (in-person) sessions resume. Arranging residential camps continues to prove difficult - COVID-19 and more limited MOD provision the main contributors to this.
- **House Championship:** This continued to flourish in the Summer Term, with myriad competitions taking place.
- **Educational Visits:** Domestic day and residential visits have resumed. Both the Art and Geography Departments are taking Sixth Form groups on residential visits this side of half-term.
- **Clubs and Societies:** The requirement to maintain year group 'bubbles' was a major limiting factor last year and there is much relief this is no longer the case. Freshers' Fair took place in second week of term and was instrumental in encouraging pupils to re-engage with this aspect of school life.

Partnerships and Charity Update

9. The Partnerships Report for 2021 will be prepared for consideration by the Board, in draft form, in December 2021. For now, the following highlights are drawn to the Board's attention.

- **Charity:** The School presented a cheque to Switchback for just over £82,000 in September 2021; this represented the culmination of a great deal of fundraising work by pupils across the School (supported by staff and parents) over the last two years. A letter from the Chief Executive of Switchback is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. At the time of writing, pupils are voting for the charity that will be supported by the School over the coming academic year.

- **Family of Schools:** Work with the City of London Corporation Family of Schools is developing considerable momentum, with the most recent Partnership Forum taking place in late September. This Forum is facilitating a wide range of collaborations with both primary and secondary schools, including new initiatives for staff professional development.
- **Higher Education:** Extensive support has been provided for pupils from partner schools with their university applications. NCS, Oasis Academy, Southbank and City of London Academy, Southwark have been particularly appreciative of our efforts.
- **Community Service:** Pupils continue to devote countless hours on this front. Two CLS pupils have been invited to open the library at City of London Primary, Islington, in recognition of their efforts to resource the school's library. Pupils demonstrated great initiative last year, finding creative ways to support partner organizations like the Salmon Centre, Maggie's Barts and Aldgate Primary School.
- **Existing Partnerships:** A stand-out success in recent months has been the work CLS does with IntoUniversity. One of our aims is to increase pupil participation in partnership work and this is perhaps best exemplified in the efforts of the Junior Sixth pupils in creating an Youtube Channel of educational films, now being used nationally by IntoUniversity.
- **New Partnership:** The pandemic delayed our plans to host Eastside Young Leaders' Academy on Saturday mornings. This is now in place and pupils and staff will soon be contributing to their programme.
- **Director of Partnerships:** The Director of Partnerships returns from maternity leave in November.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Letter from the Chief Executive of Switchback

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