

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Education Board	Dated: 10/06/2025
Subject: Education Strategy 2024-29 Events Update	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes	Diverse Engaged Communities Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services Dr Deborah Bell Strategic Education and Skills Director
Report author:	Vasima Patel, Events Officer

Summary

This report provides Members with a summary of recent activities that the Education Strategy Unit has provided to the Family of Schools since the last meeting (January 2025). It also includes the upcoming activities for the remainder of the academic year.

The calendar of meetings, forums and events for 2024-25 can be found in Appendix One.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board has oversight of the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy 2024-29. It is committed to 'Supporting Education

Excellence', 'Embracing Culture, Creativity and the Arts' and 'Reinforcing Safety, Health and Wellbeing' of which the events deliver on.

Current Position

1. Chess Tournament

Held annually, this year's tournament saw the highest attendance yet, with nearly 140 pupils from nine schools within the Family of Schools gathering at Guildhall for an exciting day of chess. The tournament featured pupils from Year 4 to Year 12. While the primary goal was for pupils to improve their chess skills and enjoy themselves, the tournament also fosters camaraderie and friendship across the Family of Schools. The day began with coaching sessions from Chess in Schools and Communities to help prepare the pupils. After some practice rounds, they competed in six intense chess rounds. Medals were awarded for the highest individual scores, and trophies were given to the teams with the highest overall scores. Pupils left feeling proud of the strategic and critical thinking skills they developed, as well as the additional prizes they collected.

2. City Schools' Concert

This annual event, open to the Family of Schools, centred around the theme 'Songs of Resilience' this year, inviting pupils to explore and express their thoughts on resilience through creative workshops. By actively participating in the music-making process, they developed a deeper, more meaningful connection to their interpretations of resilience. The project commenced at the City of London School, where participants came together for the first time in an introductory workshop. Specialist composers then individually visited ten of the Family of Schools, where pupils collaborated to craft an ensemble piece of music. They refined their instrumental abilities and wrote song lyrics, all while reflecting on the concept of resilience and its personal significance to them. Rehearsals took place at City of London Academy Southwark and all day in the Guildhall. Finally, over 100 pupils ranging from Year 4-11, came together at Guildhall to deliver a heartfelt performance of their songs for their parents and teachers.

3. Maths Challenge

Over 400 pupils from London, and schools further afield, took part in the annual Christ's Hospital Maths Challenge. They spent the day at Guildhall tackling a variety of fun and engaging maths challenges, working in teams to solve problems and test their skills. The event finished with a prize-giving ceremony to celebrate the top performers. It was a great opportunity for pupils to enjoy maths in a collaborative and competitive setting.

Upcoming

4. Education Board Dinner

On Wednesday 11 June, the Chair of Education Board is hosting a dinner at Haberdasher's Hall to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of educators and pupils across the City of London and beyond. The theme for this year's dinner will be 'critical thinking'. The evening will be attended by pupils, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from the Family of Schools. Additional guests will also include senior academics, policymakers, politicians, senior civil servants, think tanks, and other influential figures in education. Professor Becky Francis CBE, CEO of the Education

Endowment Foundation and Chair of the National Curriculum and Assessment Review, will be the principal guest speaker.

5. Year 13 Alumni Event

A special alumni event celebrating Year 13 pupils, as they take their next steps, will be held at Guildhall on Tuesday 17 June. This is a relaxed opportunity to network and connect with like-minded peers from across the Family of Schools and share their plans for the future. Pupils will enjoy a soft drinks reception and light refreshments in a historic setting and hear from former pupils who will share their experiences and offer insights, tips, and advice on navigating life after school.

6. City Schools' Health Challenge

In consultation with leads from the Family of Schools, a 'sports day-like' event has been designed for pupils who may not typically participate in regular sporting competitions or leagues, with a focus on non-competitive activities. The event, perfect for those who may not traditionally enjoy sports but would benefit from understanding the importance of staying physically active, will take place at West Ham Park on Thursday 19 June. The day will begin with a warm-up session led by Double World Champion and Olympic Rower, Rory Gibbs. Following the warm-up, pupils will be divided into four groups and rotate through a series of activities across the park, including Boxercise, Dance, Team Building, and a Scavenger Hunt.

Options

7. N/A

Proposals

8. N/A

Key Data

9. N/A

Strategic implications – Supporting others to provide outstanding education, lifelong learning, and skills

Financial implications - None, existing approved resources will continue to be deployed.

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - Risk assessments are carried out for all events to identify and mitigate potential hazards for both learners and staff members as well as those attending events.

Equalities implications – All public sector equalities duties are adhered to. 'We believe that our commitment to improving educational EEDI can play a pivotal role in creating positive life outcomes for more learners - especially those facing the most challenge. This will ultimately contribute to a fairer, more prosperous society that benefits from richer diversity of thought. It is our ambition that at all times, all learners are acknowledged and supported, to give them the best chance to flourish' Education Strategy 2024-29

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

10. Members of the Education Board have been updated on recent events and activities across the Education Strategy 2024-29.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Calendar of meetings, forums and events for 2024-25

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