

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	25 June 2015
Subject: Partnership Activities in the City Schools	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Strategic objective two is, "To strive for excellence in the City schools". This objective includes a recommendation that the City "will encourage school-to-school support as an effective way of raising standards and improving outcomes" and "...will actively promote collaboration between schools and academies encouraging them to work together, share best practice and to support other schools and academies in challenging circumstances to support excellent teaching and learning across the City schools".

In June 2015 a Chairmen of Governors' Forum and a Headteachers' Forum were established to provide the opportunity for attendees to discuss areas of common interest and opportunities where the City schools could work together.

This report provides an overview of the partnership activities that have taken place during academic year 2014 – 2015 and identifies some activities that it is proposed are developed, in consultation with the Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors, during the next academic year.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Strategic objective two is, "*To strive for excellence in the City schools*". This objective includes a recommendation that the City "will encourage school-to-school support as an effective way of raising standards and improving outcomes" and "...will actively promote collaboration between schools and academies encouraging them to work together, share best practice and to support other schools and academies in challenging circumstances to support excellent teaching and learning across the City schools".

2. In June 2015 a Chairmen of Governors' Forum and a Headteachers' Forum were established to provide the opportunity for attendees to discuss areas of common interest and opportunities where the City schools could work together.

Current Position

3. During academic year 2014 – 2015 a number of partnership activities have been developed, including:
 - a) A Level Subject Workshops
In the spring term nine subject meetings were held to enable Heads of Department to discuss how to achieve the best grades at A Level. Having received positive feedback about the workshops a second round is being developed which will follow on from the original meetings and also include additional subject areas.
 - b) Directors of Sixth Form Meeting
At their first meeting the directors discussed the sharing of best practice, areas of common concern, and the development of partnership working to enable expertise to be shared between schools.
 - c) Careers Advice
 - i. Year 12 students from The City Academy, Hackney, and City of London Academy, Islington, attended the City of London School for Girls' Higher Education Evening.
 - ii. The City Academy, Hackney, hosted its first information evening regarding Higher Education for sixth form students, supported by City of London School for Girls.
 - iii. A joint careers fair for the City schools is being planned for March 2016.
 - d) Governor Training Programme
 - i. All City schools have been provided with access to the 'Modern Governor' website which provides e-training modules for governors.
 - ii. The Education Unit held data training sessions for governors in December, provided bespoke data training sessions for individual governing bodies, and safeguarding training sessions for governors in the spring term.
 - iii. A further programme of training for governors is currently being developed.
 - e) Progress 8
At the January meeting of the Headteachers' Forum best practice on Progress 8 was shared, and progress measures were discussed.
 - f) Enrichment Activities
 - i. Students from City of London School for Girls and the Hackney and Islington academies took part in a 'Dragons Den' style event at Mansion House.

- ii. 240 Year 7 pupils from the City of London Academy, Southwark, took part in “City Stories”, a day of activities organised by the Museum of London, in collaboration with the Barbican and Tower Bridge, to help increase pupils’ understanding of the history of the City.
- iii. Students from the Islington and Southwark academies visited the Old Bailey for a tour led by Charles Henty and the Recorder of London, a meeting with one of the judges and the Witness Service.
- iv. Year 10 students from the City schools attended a neuroscience event in the Livery Hall that was organised by City of London School for Boys. The workshop facilitators and speakers were drawn from UCL’s Neuroscience Department.
- v. Prep school students from the City of London School for Girls held a “takeover day” at the Guildhall Art Gallery.
- vi. Teachers from Redriff Primary school visited the Guildhall and were provided with an outline of the education opportunities that are available at the City’s institution, such as the Museum of London, Tower Bridge and Monument, and the London Metropolitan Archives.
- vii. Year 6 students from Redriff Primary School visited Mansion House on 12 June 2015 and students from and Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School will visit on 19 October 2015.

Proposals

4. In addition to building upon partnership activities that have taken place this academic year, a series of opportunities will be developed in consultation with the Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors. Proposed initiatives include:
 - i. Headteachers are considering opportunities to provide their staff with access and support to undertake a Masters in Teaching and Learning, supported by CoLC.
 - ii. Providing increased access to specialist university application advice – including assistance with applications and mock interviews for ‘Oxbridge’, medicine, and veterinary science.
 - iii. The Heads of Music are considering a proposal to hold a concert for all of the City schools in January.
 - iv. Headteachers have agreed that the autumn term is the best time for the Policy Chairman to host an annual dinner for Head Girls and Boys.
 - v. Proposals for a debating competition and art competition/exhibition will be developed.

Conclusion

5. A series of partnership activities have taken place during academic year 2014 – 2015 and, where they have been successful and it is appropriate, these initiatives will be continued during the next academic year. In addition, proposals for new partnership activities will be developed in consultation with the Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors.

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