

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	6 July 2015 20 July 2015
Subject: Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme, which was launched in March 2015. It examines primary and secondary school engagement, which is currently ahead and slightly behind schedule respectively, in terms of the target number of sessions run. Teacher feedback has been wholly positive. The Programme has also worked with two high-profile institutions, the Royal Geographical Society and the Museum of London.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Consider forwarding information about the Education Programme to contacts in local secondary education, if appropriate.

Main Report

Background

1. The Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme was officially launched in March 2015, during British Science Week. Its aim is to develop and deliver an impartial Education Programme, alongside the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. It will be taking advantage of the unique opportunities provided by the Ponds Project to engage and educate children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Geography and Citizenship topics. This Education Programme had been welcomed by the Ponds Project Stakeholder Committee.
2. The principal focus is to engage with secondary schools. However, the intention is also to engage with primary schools, tertiary educational institutions, and possibly non-school-related youth groups.
3. As well as delivering sessions directly, the Education Programme will produce a range of educational materials that can be used by schools themselves as an educational resource. Most of this resource development will occur in the final stages of the project.

4. It is intended to develop partnerships with other organisations to help with the delivery of the Programme.

Current Position

5. There are currently four different education sessions on offer to secondary schools, and one on offer to primary schools. Two of the secondary sessions take place in schools, and the other three sessions occur on Hampstead Heath. The plan is to develop further prescribed sessions for schools, as well as offering them bespoke sessions. All sessions are offered free of charge.
6. To date six different primary schools have been engaged with, over nine sessions. The secondary schools so far engaged with are Hendon School, Grieg City Academy, Hampstead School, Highbury School and Westminster Academy, reaching a total of 365 secondary students over 14 sessions. There are also bookings in June and July from Parliament Hill School, William Ellis School, Highbury Grove School, UCL Academy and St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School. This sets us well ahead of our targets for primary school sessions, and only slightly behind on our targets for secondary school sessions.
7. There has been excellent feedback from both primary and secondary school teachers taking part in the sessions. Of those teachers who submitted a feedback form, 100% agreed that the learning objectives of their sessions were met very well. Currently only 50% of teachers are returning the feedback forms given to them, though it's hoped to increase this number by at least 20%.
8. The Royal Geographical Society has been working with the Ponds Project Education Programme to develop educational resources based around the Project, to be published on their website. A Ponds Project Case Study document and an 'Ask the Experts' piece on the Ponds Project, from the point of view of a City of London Senior Ecologist, are now both available online for teachers.
9. The Museum of London has also been working in partnership with the Education Programme. As well as including a piece about the Project in their Teachers' Network Enews publication, the Education Programme Officer was invited to run sessions for their London Knowledge Day on 1 April 2015. This event took place at the Museum of London Docklands. Year 7 students from Westminster Academy attended and took part in a range of cross-curricula activities.

Proposals

10. One of the principal challenges faced by the Ponds Project Education Programme is engaging with secondary schools. As Members of the Committee may have contacts in secondary education, they may wish to let them know about the Programme and put them in contact with the Education Programme Officer. This would help publicise the Project and reach the targets set for secondary school engagement.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The Ponds Project Educational Programme outreach work supports the City's vision for "high quality, accessible and responsive services benefiting its communities, neighbours, London and the nation", and specifically supports KPP5 "Increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation".
12. The programme also supports the aspirations of the City's Education Strategy and the broader London agenda.

Conclusion

13. The Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme has made an encouraging start, engaging with a range of primary and secondary schools, resulting in positive teacher feedback, as well as collaborating with high-profile institutions. Assistance with informing secondary schools about the Programme, and encouraging their participation, would be welcome, as this is one of the principal challenges the Programme faces.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Secondary Education Programme – Publicity material sent to teachers.
- Appendix 2 - Education Project Report: Activity in May 2015.

Susannah Glover

Education Project Officer
Open Spaces – North London Division

T: 020 7332 3738

E: susannah.glover@cityoflondon.gov.uk