

Principal's Public Report

Main report

1. Quality of learning and teaching environment

I am pleased to report an outstanding final period of the 2016/17 academic year including excellent performances and presentations by our graduating cohort. Thanks to all Board members who supported our students by attending many of the final works. Preparations are now underway for graduation ceremonies in November where the Lord Mayor will twice deliver the occasional address.

Our award of silver in the recent TEF in no way diminishes the excellence and innovation of the teaching and learning that is the hallmark of a Guildhall education. While we acknowledge that we must work harder to improve our performance in the National Student Survey, particularly improving our ratings for assessment and feedback, this score does not seem to have had a negative effect on our recruitment figures which remain strong.

2. Partnerships with Barbican and with the City of London

A more formalised artistic and educational alliance with the Barbican is a key objective within the new five year plan. We have progressed possible partnership initiatives through a series of joint workshops led by consultant, Sian Bird. The Joint Directorate for the Barbican Centre and Guildhall School has identified a number of emerging priority issues which it feels can be most effectively addressed by working together including strengthening UK and global positioning, building the destination value within Culture Mile, demonstrating the value of the arts and changing artistic practice, learning and consumption.

My work as a Chief Officer of the City of London has required a great deal of my time over these first seven months. I have attended City events including the State Banquet for the King and Queen of Spain and an evening at the House of Commons. I was invited to make a presentation at the Summit Group where I introduced aspects of the new strategic plan and received positive support for joint working where appropriate. The Deputy Chair, Vivienne Littlechild and Board member Christina Coker accompanied me to a City Risk Challenge session where we discussed Brexit, Safeguarding and the challenges of the current higher education environment. I have continued to contribute to the City's Corporate Policy and to the new emerging City Cultural Policy.

Two very large on-going projects are requiring a great deal of attention. Culture Mile, including the proposed Centre for Music, has now been launched at both a joint Barbican/Guildhall all staff meeting and a press conference. Culture Mile is an ambitious and transformational initiative which will create a vibrant cultural area in the north-west corner of the City over the next 10 to 15 years. Stretching just under a mile from Farringdon to Moorgate, Culture Mile will have creative exchange, cultural collaboration and learning at its core in an area where 2,000 years of history

collide with the world's best in culture. It will be important to nominate champions within Guildhall Senior Staff to drive the partnership initiatives of Culture Mile, Culture Mile Learning and the Centre for Music.

3. Under 18's Programme

The Head of Junior Guildhall continues to oversee an outstanding learning and teaching programme within an ever vigilant and caring environment. Her responsibilities also extend across the whole School as Guildhall School's lead on Safeguarding and Prevent issues. As a result of this we have increased administrative support to her which will enable her to bring her expertise in these two extremely important areas to the upcoming review of the Under18 offer and play a major role in the implementation of the reshaped programme. The School was recently nominated as a model of good practice in terms of our Prevent programme and our Lead asked to present at the HEFCE conference.

I recently visited our CYM in Saffron Walden to meet students, staff and volunteers. I was extremely impressed with the quality of work that I saw and the diligence in ensuring a safe, productive and enjoyable learning and teaching environment. We have a new safeguarding action plan in place for all of the CYMs and the first meeting of the City-led monitoring group is scheduled for September. I can report good progress in resolving some of the difficulties associated with regional partnerships.

4. Future Sustainability

Some research has been carried out into possible rental spaces close to the School which might allow us to either accommodate staff who are using performance/rehearsal spaces for offices or provide more teaching space especially in relation to development of new higher education courses and the short course programme. Liverpool University in London which is situated on Finsbury Square has expressed interest in a partnership which may deliver affordable space for us and joint working opportunities for specific e-learning initiatives. We are continuing to explore this possibility.

An interim Director of Advancement is now in post. Significant progress has been made in settling the development team and we are planning to go to market for the Vice Principal/Director of Advancement in early September depending on approval from City Corporation HR Department. An enhanced case for support for a fundraising campaign is taking shape based on the new narrative and initiatives within the strategic plan.

A new Chair and a new CEO of the Office for Students have been appointed and we are hoping for greater clarity around Higher Education and Research Bill issues. We continue to be involved on many fronts with organisations such as UUK, CUK, London Higher and CIFA, providing information to the government in their Brexit deliberations. We recently contributed to a briefing paper by the City of London Corporation to inform the House of Commons Second Reading of the

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. The City outlined its position on Immigration and the Arts, citing free flow of the creative sector including students, as a key benefit to London and the UK.

The School has received some profile raising press over the last few months including the fact that two alumni will be taking on extremely high profile roles in the industry. Jodi Whittaker will play the new Dr Who and Daniel Craig will again play James Bond in the next blockbuster. Both Culture Mile and Centre for Music have presented Guildhall School as major partners and this has led to an increase in media interest over the last few months.

5. International Update

We continue to liaise with Central Academy of Drama, Beijing in readiness for the commencement in September of the first cohort of Chinese students within the shared degree programme. We have also received visits from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts for benchmarking purposes and to explore possible degree sharing. Our technical theatre training programme delivered in China in association with our high level industry partners has been a great success. A recent meeting with the British Council explored possibilities of rolling this programme out to other countries such as Argentina. We are working with the Royal Opera House to ascertain next steps.

4. Awards and Prizes

Internal

Gold Medal Music	Josep-Ramon Olivé
Gold Medal Acting	Steffan Johnson Dowdeswell (professional name Steffan Cennydd)
Gold Medal Technical Theatre	Oscar Selfridge
Lutine Prize	William Thomas

External

Junior Guildhall

Alexander Papp, Violin

- Winner of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Notes For Scotland competition

Will Harmer, Composition

- Winner, Upper Junior Category of the 2017 BBC Proms Inspire Competition

Leia Zhu, Violin

- Winner, Kocianovo Ústí competition in Czech Republic

**Academic Assurance:
employability**

Seniors

Ryan Drucker (Guildhall Artist Masters, Piano)

- Joint Winner, 2017 Brant International Piano Competition

Antonina Suhanova (Guildhall Artist Masters, Piano)

- Senior Award Winner, Hattori Foundation 2017 Awards
- Winner, Kenneth Loveland Gift 2017 Award

Thibault Charrin (Guildhall Artist Masters, Piano)

- 2nd place, 7th Piano Composition Competition Fidelio

Gideon Brooks (Guildhall Artist Masters, Trumpet)

- Winner, Coro Nuovo Young Musician of the Year

Alumni

Paapa Essiedu, (Acting, Graduated July 2012)

- Winner, Ian Charleson Award

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