Item 5
25th June 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

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WEST ONLINE SCHOOL UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the committee of:

- how West OS will ensure the highest quality of learning and teaching provision in session 2024/25.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to note the:

- progress of West OS to date;
- reach of West OS across the partnership; and
- developments to West OS going forward within the year of tapered funding.

1. Background.

1.1 This paper summarises the work of West OS as it has continued to diversify its output, content, themes covered and expand its reach in classrooms.

1.2 From April 2022, two development officers have augmented West OS from being purely an online bank of recorded lessons to a resource that has a wider reach and impact during the school day/year. West OS now has an open access podcast series for young people and practitioners; Masterclass series for Senior Phase learners and delivers BGE LIVE lessons.

1.3 BGE Live lessons have are now became intrinsic to the daily work of West OS and cover a range of topics and themes that have been shaped by practitioners and young people. BGE LIVE lessons take place via Teams and teachers sign up their young people to take part. West OS directs teachers towards prior reading, knowledge and resource needed before joining the lesson.

2. Changes within 2023-24

2.1 Since Feb 2023, West OS development officers have delivered over 70 live and interactive lessons to primary and secondary young people. BGE live is supported by an array of industry experts from various institutions and organisations, such as: Scientists from Merck, Local councillors, Cyber security experts, Police Scotland, AI experts, Mental Health specialists, National Art Galleries, Equalities Officers, TIE and Daydream Believers.

2.2 BGE LIVE lessons have gained traction with 50-170 different classes signing up to participate in each series of lessons. Each BGE Live is offered as a curricular package with 3-5 lessons being offered for each theme and an accompanying Padlet with links to resources; prior and post reading for practitioners and follow up tasks for learners. Key themes also have a podcast aimed at practitioners. In each live lesson, young people utilise a learning mat to record their work and are asked to explore scenarios, challenged by critical questions and have time to reflect. Young people and their teachers are also encouraged to participate using online applications such as: SLIDO, polls, Menti metre and chat function on Teams. The 3-5 lesson series allows for progression and for prior learning to be built upon. Young people have the opportunity to listen to industry experts, outside speakers, take part in live experiments, have directed outdoor learning activities, debate and share their views during the lesson and after.

2.3 New and highly successful lesson themes for West OS revolve around real life issues and Learning for Sustainability. These have included exploring Race equality-Antiracism, LGBT Inclusive education, STEM and Solarpunk Island. Due to the nature of these themes and resources needed, a teacher webinar has been offered to practitioners, with delivery partners, in order to support and guide when approaching the lessons and to engage in professional discussion.

2.4 The themes that have gained most interest are: Anti-racism, LGBT Inclusive Education, Stem, Creative Thinking and Mental Health. There are clear links between current national priorities and local SIP priorities with practitioner

evaluations reflecting this need to fill gaps or use lessons as a springboard into topics.

3. Spotlight on Anti-racism, Inclusive Education and Solarpunk Island

3.1 **"My Diverse Scotland"** is a new West Partnership learning series that explores anti-racist education. This has been a hugely popular curricular package and directly links to current national and local priorities. The lessons were initially delivered as part of a pilot with 9 schools from across the partnership. Lessons were created by West OS; had practitioner input and were quality assured by equalities officers, university lecturers and education consultants. Following this very successful pilot where learners and practitioners actively shaped the lesson content, discussion and resources required; all learners were then invited to showcase their work via a learning summit at the Emirates Arena. Anti-racists workshops delivered by West OS and WOSDEC were integral to the day's success. Two films were also created to help young people answer the call to action and to outline the results of the showcase event. Following the successful pilot the lessons were edited, revised and made available to learners and practitioners as a BGE LIVE. Lesson topics include: Identifying racism, non-racism versus anti-racism, colonialism and a teacher webinar was delivered in partnership with WOSDEC in order to increase practitioner knowledge in this area. 170 different classes signed up to take part and attendance at these BGE LIVE lessons averaged 95 different classes. It is clear that this lesson package adds value and makes a positive impact where practitioners and young people are more confident in approaching their anti-racist journey.

3.2 Following feedback from a previous West Partnership Board meeting, West OS collaborated with Time for Inclusive Education to explore **LGBT inclusive education**. Exploring Stereotypes and challenging homophobic language were the central areas for focus. A teacher webinar started the lesson series and offered a platform for practitioners to learn about current policy, guidelines and lesson content. The lessons attracted sign up from over 60 different classes. Positive evaluations once again indicated that these lessons were particularly well received. A podcast coincides with this learning series and has further help and support from TIE and a DHT regarding how to embed LGBT inclusive education in the curriculum.

3.3 **Solarpunk Island** is a lesson series created by Daydream Believers and has also attracted huge interest across Scotland. West OS have welcomed the flexible approach to this learning package and have created their own lesson series which is underpinned by Inter-disciplinary Learning (IDL) and explores creative and critical thinking skills. Over 65 different classes signed up to this series which interweaves Literacy, STEM, and Mental Health and is led by West OS and a range of delivery partners. A teacher webinar was led in conjunction with Daydream Believers' founder and West OS. The lessons gave a clear insight and steer towards what can be achieved through working with partners and industry experts-whilst working to solve a problem. Young people are asked to think critically and problem solve using prior knowledge and research in order to survive sustainably on the Island. There is scope for these lessons to be cultivated and adapted to suit a schools' own context and need. West OS utilised

partners and their production company to create a short, emotive film in order to enhance the immersive nature of the lesson. Keep Scotland Beautiful delivered a lesson on living sustainably; whilst Headstrong have explored building resilience and recognising skills and talents for the Mental Health element. It is apparent that no one schools' experience will be the same. This range of lessons will be further developed for session 2024-25 and look to further incorporate STEM, Art and Engineering.

4. Further WEST OS Activity

4.1 Whilst the online bank of recorded lessons, **or video vault**, is still utilised by some learners and practitioners across the partnership; it is clearly evident that it has waned in popularity and used more as an exam revision tool. During school lockdowns its use was much more prevalent and the need for it greater. Following discussions with practitioners and young people; it would be suggested that the resource bank has reached its limit and that the LIVE lesson element of West OS is a making a much greater impact on learning and teaching. West OS will build upon the building of key partnerships in order to ensure lessons are engaging, relevant and have expert input. For session 2024/25, West OS will continue to draw attention to the abundance of resources, masterclasses and podcasts but no new content would be added to ClickView other than BGE LIVE recordings and resources.

4.2 A new reference group will be established to discuss and develop content for BGE LIVE. The group will work closely with the West OS principal teacher and continue to drive forward the hard work and impact of West OS. The group will also seek to bring about a longevity to West OS work and progression. A new evaluation strategy will also help to ensure that continuous improvement is achieved and so that the highest quality learning and teaching provision continues by keeping learners at the centre of all new work and themes covered.

5. Recommendations

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