



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 22 JUNE 2020

Reminders for this coming week:

[CEO BRIEFING TO GLACS](#)

23.06.20

17:30 – 18:30

Forthcoming meetings:

[GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE](#)

30.06.20

15:30 – 17:30

[GEP RESOURCES COMMITTEE](#)

01.07.20

15:00 – 17:00

[GEP AUDIT COMMITTEE](#)

07.07.20

17:30 – 19:00

[GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE](#)

15.07.20

10:00 – 12:00

[GEP BOARD](#)

16.07.20

17:30 – 19:00

Heads as Trust Leaders

It was a pleasure to spend a morning last week with Headteachers from GEP and Athena. The resolve, fortitude and commitment from our leaders has been commendable during this difficult period of educational lockdown. Colleagues will be the first to, rightly, point out that schooling is a team effort and all our staff have taken measures above and beyond during this time, however, it is right to thank and acknowledge the work of our school leaders at this time.

Our meeting focused both on sharing the immediate and sustained learning at this time. All schools are adapting, improving and moving educational provision during these weeks. The situation certainly is dynamic, and the value of sharing, communicating and bouncing ideas off each other was well received last week.

The meeting was also focused on looking towards next academic year and improving our trust from within. Headteachers are formidable drivers for improving trust provision. As has become our mantra: 'the trust are the schools and the schools are the trust'. Rather like the famous Kipling poem, 'the law of the jungle', it is vital that the rather arbitrary division of school and trust is blended. We, of course recognise that both organisations exist within their own right, but also as part of each other.

To this end, Headteachers are leading core aspects of our school improvement work at a trust level next year. Colleagues have always played an active role in trust development, however we wish to build and develop this further as we move forward. It was inspiring to hear colleagues share their development goals, compare these to trust improvement aims and find an active middle ground that combines individual talent and wider development delivery. Sharing the best of ourselves for the good of the collective is a vital role of effective trust working and it is exciting what we can achieve when we work together.

The summer term continues to build in provision. Our blended learning and education model progresses as in-school contact grows and on-line provision matures. It is still generally unclear what September provision looks like, even if the mood music seeks to secure a more general return for all, what we do know is that through galvanising all our collective efforts we can support each other, provide quality for the children, invest in our staff and improve our trust.

Actions for Heads:

All heads to feedback to Andrew Roach, their thoughts on the National College online CPD offer as discussed in the last meeting

Actions for Governors:

Contact your clerk or chair if you want to sign up to the CEO's briefing to GLACs taking place tomorrow at 17:30

School Improvement Update:

Build Back Better

There has been much discussion this week regarding the 'recovery curriculum' and the need to address gaps that have developed over the last 12 weeks. In contrast, John Hattie has been urging school leaders to recognise that much has gone very well during 'schooling's unnatural experiment' and there is an inherent danger of us rushing back to the old normal. A significant number of pupils with high levels of self-regulation have thrived during this period. Research from 6000 pupils has provided a list of Top 10 Student Positive Aspects regarding home-learning. Some pupils have thrived:

1. Working at own pace
2. Having time for other interests and hobbies
3. Not having to get up so early
4. Being comfortable at home
5. Being able to spend time with family
6. Not having to travel
7. Doing more work - more focused
8. Having fewer distractions
9. Engaging with friends
10. Being more responsible & accountable for their own learning.

It will be important for us to reflect on 2 key questions before we rush back to the old normal:

1. What has gone well?
2. What must we never forget?

SCITT Update

Virtual SCITT recruitment has continued over recent weeks in order to recruit both primary and secondary trainees. Recruitment currently stand at 58 trainees which is the highest number of potential trainees ever recruited. Many congratulations to the SCITT team. Every GEP school will be hosting at least one trainee from September and every GEP school has appointed at least 1 trainee who will be employed as an NQT. This clearly demonstrates the value that George Abbot SCITT provides for our schools.

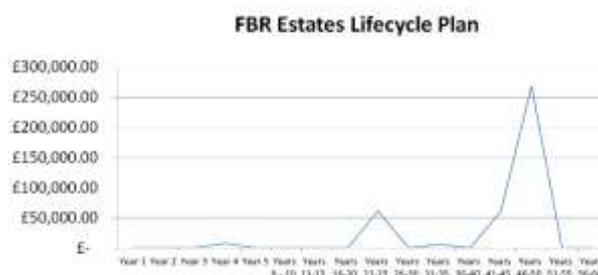
STEM Clubs Week is running from 22-26 June 2020 and this year's theme is sustainability

STEM Learning are running a free online event for pupils and educators and it is packed full of fun interactive challenges, career talks from STEM Ambassadors, webinars from STEM professionals, STEM Club Champion workshops and case studies from schools. Click [here](#) to get all the details.

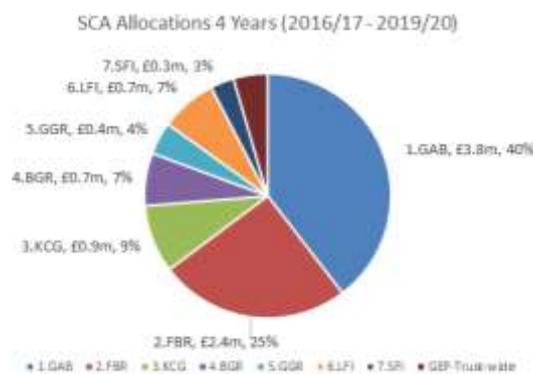
School Operations:

GEP Good Estates Management – School Condition Reports

Baily Garner conducted another series of surveys in each of our schools during lockdown, to identify the overall condition of each building across our estate and assist in producing long-term plans for maintenance and repairs. Part of their work even maps out the cost of building maintenance over a 60-year lifespan (see Fullbrook 'FBR' example). Due to good investment in our estates over the last four years, (of which much work is still ongoing), our immediate needs are low relative to our funding (£0.7M in the first year; £1.5M in years 2 & 3; £6.6M in years 4&5).



The GEP Estates Manager is checking through all reports for accuracy, and mapping out priorities, should our current £2.3M funding not continue in future years. All schools have existing SCA allocations which are to be spent on previously identified condition improvements from the 2019/20 round of funding. These must be completed within budget by March 2021, or we risk having to return funds to the ESFA. Once we have reviewed the current condition survey priorities against previous allocations and related budget forecasts, new allocations will be proposed by the COO & GEP Estates Manager for trustee approval.



GEP IT Network Team - In school support

Over the last couple of weeks our schools have opened our doors to more students and staff, this has meant that the Network Team have either been on rota to be in school providing support or have been continuing to support remotely. As we are trying to limit our interaction to a minimum in school when in person, we kindly ask if you are in school and need help please log it in helpdesk and we will assist as soon as feasibly possible, thank you.

GEP IT Network Team - New home learning systems

Kings College

Recently we have launched a new hand-in system within the Kings Student Learning Environment for students to easily hand work into teachers. Initial feedback was very positive and based on feedback we are already looking to implement an update to fit the needs of our students and staff at Kings.

George Abbot

This week we launched a completely new Student Learning Environment based on SharePoint for George Abbot. We have taken what we have learnt from implementing Student Learning Environments in our other schools and brought it all together into one complete solution. The new George Abbot SLE has multiple areas:

- SLE Documents - A place for teachers to share work with students
- SLE Work Submissions - A place for students to hand in work to teachers, this will also be used for year 10 mock exams
- The George Abbot Journey - A pastoral area for student information, such as careers, clubs and trips information

We are so very grateful for all the positive feedback, here is just one email we received:

"Thank you to the IT department who have clearly worked incredibly hard getting this ready in short time. There has been a marked difference over the past 12 months with IT. Super on it and supportive. Thanks to all."

We are now looking to update our other Student Learning Environments in other schools with the new technologies that we have implemented at George Abbot.

GEP IT Network Team – Helpdesk update

May saw the help desk team receive over 730 tickets and we have been able to close 637 tickets during the same period. Of these, 48% were classed as 'Online Services', this meant providing support to students, staff and parents who use a wide range of online systems when learning or teaching at home. Since the start of March the team are on track to close 2800 tickets by the end of June, continuing to be our busiest period to date.

As always, we please ask that you log any issues or queries in helpdesk by emailing: networkhelpdesk@gepacademies.com

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Jack's (virtual) visits this week:

CEO Briefing to GLACS	23rd June	17:30
Finance meeting	24th June	11.30
Data dashboard	25th June	09:00