



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

WEEK COMMENCING 29 JUNE 2020

Reminders for this coming week:

GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

30.06.20
15:30 – 17:30

SEPTEMBER PLANNING MEETING - PRIMARIES

01.07.20
10:30 - 11:30

GEP RESOURCES COMMITTEE

01.07.20
15:00 – 17:00

SEPTEMBER PLANNING MEETING – SECONDARIES

03.07.20
14:00 – 15:00

Forthcoming meetings:

GEP AUDIT COMMITTEE

07.07.20
17:30 – 19:00

JOINT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

10.07.20
08:00 – 10:00

GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15.07.20
10:00 – 12:00

GEP BOARD

16.07.20
17:30 – 19:00

Wimbledon?

The last week of June is traditionally the beginning of the Wimbledon tennis championship. Whether you are a tennis fan or not, Wimbledon is one of those markers in the year. A symbol of mid-summer, strawberries, cut grass and, invariably, rain. This year, the championships have been cancelled for the first time since World War II. Like many 'events', we have seen cancellations, postponements and reimagining of our traditional placeholders.

Our education community is no different. Lessons, transition events, staff meetings, induction processes, student feedback, music lessons, staff training sessions and even the time and nature of the school day has all adjusted and changed in the current circumstances. The old adage 'change is the only constant', has never felt more appropriate. As human beings, particularly in schools, we are used to routine. We like order, certainty and structure. I have been immensely impressed in the manner in which our schools, staff and children have adjusted and embraced the 'new normal'.

A further human trait is that of adaption. Virtual parents' evenings, video tours of school for interactive induction processes, virtual teach meets, live lessons, sound recordings and even collaborative musical performances are all examples of this adaption. On a more practical and less technological basis, we have also seen our communities being galvanised into action. Community food drops, pastoral support visits, computer hardware trade-ins and sharing are all tangible signs of our adaption. Our ability to adjust and better provide for our children and staff is something we should both feel proud of, but also acknowledge is ongoing.

Educational change can feel like a washing machine at times that governs much of our experience of the school year, constantly spinning and never settling on a routine and rhythm. We need to accept that change is our new constant, in educational practice and in life generally. We are continually balancing the human desire for structure and certainty, against the call for innovation, adaption and betterment. In truth, this is what education prepares our young people for. Education prepares children for this change. This adaption. This betterment. These last few terms we have modelled better than ever before our learning and our adjustment.

The certainties of Wimbledon, transition days or classroom practice may be different this year – but our human traits of structure and adaption remain. A reality which education helps us to thrive in.

Actions for Trustees:

Agenda and papers for the Education committee on 30th June at 3.30pm have been published, please contact Gary Lelliott if you have not received the link
Agenda for the Resources committee on 1st July at 3pm has been published and the papers are following shortly

Actions for Heads:

September planning meetings are taking place on 1st July for primary colleagues and 3rd July for secondary colleagues
All heads have been asked to call Chris Tweedale to update him on their reopening plans and progress

Actions for Governors:

Thank you to everyone who attended the briefing last week.

School Improvement Update:

Evidence Based Education has published a '[Great Teaching Toolkit: Evidence Review](#)' which you might find interesting. In summary, the report identifies four priorities for teachers who want to help their students learn more:

- understand the content they are teaching and how it is learnt
- create a supportive environment for learning
- manage the classroom to maximise the opportunity to learn
- present content, activities and interactions that activate their students' thinking.

School Operations:

The month of June sees school life resuming to a new normal. On top of the ongoing provision for keyworker children and the vulnerable, primary schools have seen the return of Years R, 1 and 6; secondary schools have hosted Years 10 and special days for Year 12s.

Parents, pupils, staff and unions seem comfortable with return arrangements -a testament to the detailed work that has been undertaken on risk assessments by Senior Leadership teams, with extensive support from GEP head office colleagues. Hand hygiene is paramount, temperatures are checked, cleaning routines have changed, PPE equipment is on hand, school corridors and classrooms have been rejigged, school staff and pupils operate in a series of bubbles that do not mix.

As the government further lift lock down measures from 4th July, we await guidance on what that will look like for schools in September. Schools are already making plans to bring some year groups back for transition sessions in July and August. Schools also have a window of opportunity to reclaim a very limited set of costs from the government due to COVID-19.

From an HR Perspective, we continue to support schools with return to work queries and ensuring that our school environments are as safe as possible for our staff. Where staff are shielding, due to being clinically vulnerable or who are living with family members who are extremely clinically vulnerable, we continue to support alternative working arrangements, be these altered duties at school or working from home.

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Jack's (virtual) visits this week:

Joint GEP/AST Senior team meeting	29.06.20	10:00
Meeting with Union Reps	30.06.20	10:00
Education Committee	30.06.20	15:30
Boxgrove visit	01.07.20	11:30
Resources Committee	01.07.20	15:00
Guildford Grove visit	02.07.20	12:30
Sandfield Pay & Appraisal Committee	02.07.20	14:00
Fullbrook visit	03.07.20	08:30
GEP Executive	03.07.20	10:00
University of Surrey collaboration meeting	03.07.20	12:00