



## GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 7th September 2020

### Reminders for this coming week:

#### JOINT AST/GEP EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING

07.09.20  
10:00 – 11:30

#### STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MEETING

10.09.20  
09:00 – 11:00

### Forthcoming meetings:

#### GEP BOARD

14.09.20  
13:00 – 15:30

#### AST/GEP JOINT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

18.09.20  
08:30 – 10:00

#### AST/GEP JOINT SENIOR TEAM MEETING

21.09.20  
10:00 – 11:30

#### AST/GEP JOINT HEADS MEETING

24.09.20  
09:00 – 12:00  
Exact timings tbc

#### GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

01.10.20  
13:00 – 15:30

#### AST/GEP JOINT EXECUTIVE MEETING

05.10.20  
10:00 – 11:30

### Trust working – just like cricket!

My great thanks to colleagues who last week adapted, supported and secured a positive return to full reopening at the start of the Autumn term.

In conjunction with the return of international cricket on the BBC for the first time in over 20 years, I was reflecting upon the skill set required in the quintessentially English summer game and that of trust working.

Cricket, unlike many other sports has an intriguing balance between the individual and their place in the team. Just like trust working, cricket is undoubtedly a team sport, made up of eleven players seeking to perform together for an agreed outcome. Schools come together as a trust to perform better together than they do apart. To pull from each other's strengths and secure overall performance.

Unlike the majority of other sports however, cricket also has keen roles for the individual. A single batter, or bowler can score a vast number of runs, or take many wickets and lead a side to victory. They can, as an individual, operate on a higher plain than others and make a significant contribution to the outcome. This is because the skill sets involved are quite unique and players can seem to drive success on their own. While a footballer can score 5 goals, they still need someone to pass them the ball and others to stop the ball going in at the other end. In cricket if you open the batting, it is possible to score all the runs without the vast majority of other players even taking part.

However, while this might work for a period in a game or two, occasions soon materialise when others need to assist. Fielders need to take the catches, or stop the runs. Batters need someone to bat with, to take the singles and support individual endeavours. Bowlers need someone or somebody to bowl from the other end, to maintain pressure and do their job.

The same is true with effective trust work. Schools can work wonders on their own. They may not feel the need to rely, or contribute to collective improvement, however, over time and circumstance the 'team ethic' materialises. We are stronger together.

It is a hallmark of our trust that we have this team ethic, within individual performers. At another level schools are the same. We all have our individual jobs to do. Once reception opens, the receptionist is leading the way, the classroom door requires the teacher to take ownership and lead the learning.

School trusts work best when our individual talents are allowed to flourish, but also where we all support and contribute to each other's success. Whether we enjoy or detest the infernal game, it does help remind us of how we work best, together.

## Actions for Trustees:

- Please click [here](#) for details on upcoming governance training sessions
- The agenda and papers for the board meeting have been published

## School Improvement Update:

### Plans for Remote learning

As a trust we have learnt a considerable amount regarding on-line learning during lockdown. Schools performed well in rapidly changing and unforeseen circumstances to provide access to learning for our pupils. However, we are equally aware that the risk of personal, local and national lockdown remains as we move into the Autumn term and beyond. Therefore, we seek to work with schools to provide some direction, clarity and planning for situations we hope not to need, but in reality seem likely.

We therefore expect all schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education where individual pupils, classes or groups of pupils need to self-isolate, or when there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home. This may mean that some pupils in the same teaching group are simultaneously learning in school and others engaging in remote education. All provision will need to consider staff workload and the need to work efficiently. Schools are expected to consider how to continue to improve the quality of their existing offer and have a strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision by the end of September 2020.

Our work operates on three themes:

- Reduce workload for staff by trying to minimise the need for teachers having to prepare different work for pupils who are in school, who are isolating or who are experiencing a temporary bubble lockdown
- To collate our previous learning from lockdown educational provision and improve it
- To be better prepared for the onset of on-line learning and to ensure a level of consistency within and between schools, in order to continue to offer excellent provision in GEP schools.

Further details will be shared with schools this week.

## School Operations:

### Summer Work

Over the summer the GEP Network team have worked hard to implement new systems and devices ready for a new year. I am pleased to say that by purchasing products and systems together we have been able to secure discounts that we could never have achieved as separate schools.

Below is just some of the good work accomplished over the summer and the first week in September:

- Seesaw

Working with our primary schools we have managed to decide on a new product to help teachers when setting work for home learning, named Seesaw. We hope that Seesaw will become an effective way for teachers to set work for home learning and help with student engagement. A big benefit by deciding together has meant we have been able to secure a discount by purchasing together as a trust.

- New Computers

Over the summer we managed to work with suppliers to secure a fantastic discount to purchase desktop computers for just £165 each. This has meant that our development plans went further than expected in schools and we have been able to replace computer rooms and even install a brand-new computer room in one of our secondary schools to help with additional IT room needs.

- Kings College Website

Kings College has a brand-new website that we hope will showcase the fantastic work staff and students are doing at Kings College, as well as bringing the design of the website in line with our GEP website theme and branding. If you have a spare minute please have a look:

<https://www.kingscollegeguildford.com/> More school websites to be updated soon.

- GEP Wide Backup Solution

Over the summer the network team designed, installed and initially setup a GEP wide backup solution. This is setup in one of our school's remote buildings as an internal cloud backup solution and enables our schools to have remote backup solutions at a fraction of the price that it would cost to use an external company. The system also has disaster recovery built in by a termly backup to removable storage that will be securely stored in a separate school, ensuring our school data is as safe as we can possibly make it. An example of the cost saving is, in one of our primary schools they will save 86% on their offsite backups with this new solution.

- Helpdesk

With another academic year completed for the GEP network team and our first full year as the GEP central managed team we have helped you with 8,300 tickets over just one year. As you would expect September is our busiest month with 638 tickets created just last week. We ask for your patience at this time as we work hard to help each and every one of you.

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### Jack's visits and meetings this week:

<b>GEP/AST Joint Executive meeting</b>	<b>07.09.20</b>	<b>10:00 – 11:30</b>
<b>Kings School visit</b>	<b>08.09.20</b>	<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>
<b>1:1 with GEP Chair</b>	<b>08.09.20</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>
<b>Trust School Improvement mtg</b>	<b>10.09.20</b>	<b>09:00 – 11:30</b>
<b>Guildford Grove School visit</b>	<b>10.09.20</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>
<b>Fullbrook School visit</b>	<b>11.09.20</b>	<b>08:00 – 09:00</b>