



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 14th September 2020

Reminders for this coming week:

GEP BOARD

14.09.20
13:00 – 15:30

TRUST ACTION COMMITTEE

16.09.20
08:00 – 10:00

AST/GEP JOINT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

18.09.20
08:30 – 10:00

Forthcoming meetings:

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

GEP RESOURCES COMMITTEE

08.10.20
13:00 – 15:30

GEP ALL HEADS MEETING

08.10.20
08:00 – 11:00

The only way to respond

... is as a team

Last week saw a highly productive headteacher's meeting. Our task, to review the start of term, and consider our next steps has never been more focused. Returning to full school opening in the midst of a pandemic is about as multi-layered, challenging and complex as can be imagined. The professionalism, drive and commitment to meet this challenge from schools is inspiring.

When addressing such a multifaceted challenge, it is easy to seek all the answers oneself. To list all the tasks and embark ticking them off, clarifying expectations, reporting lines and reviewing strategies. Indeed, this will undoubtedly be an essential part of every school strategy. The role for local governing bodies to be clear with these and evaluate these on the ground is also apparent. However, as we met as headteachers, the sharing of ideas, opinions, experiences on the ground and the airing of specific questions, it became clear that collectively we are stronger.

Heads fed back on challenges and successes, the practical strategies that made their application of policy easier and what worked in their settings. Others picked upon this learning and verbalised how this can support their setting. In essence, we learnt together. All schools recognise the unstinting support the trust had provided. The monitoring systems, the risk assessment frameworks and the regional overview.

In the midst of this challenge, it was clear why we are a trust.

Our attention also turned to hypothesising about the immediate future. How are we making provision for blended learning? What will be school approaches to learning from previous virtual schooling approaches and improving these for the future? School leadership teams have already been discussing these tasks, conducting training and instigating further support for staff. SLTs are working on clearer expectations for children. IT systems are being reviewed and audited, in order to better support our children during the Autumn term.

Not all problems can be foreseen. Not every challenge can be totally overcome. We are in a time of unknowns. However, what was clear was that as a team we are stronger. Our only response is as a team. It is what you do in a trust.

Actions for Trustees:

There is a training course taking place via zoom on Monday 21st September entitled Governors and governance compliance. It will be covering the following topics:

- What is the role of the governor?
- What does a school visit look like?
- How can a governor ensure governance compliance?

To sign up, please click [here](#)

School Improvement Update:

Enquiring Teachers 2020-21

For a 5th year, GEP is working in collaboration with the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, Epsom College and City of London Freemen's School to engage in this CPD programme. The 'Enquiring Teachers Programme' is designed to give teachers the opportunity to explore an aspect of teaching and learning that will have a positive impact on their school. We are looking to fund and deliver up to 5 enquiries across GEP drawing on both primary and secondary colleagues to engage in research activities.

These projects will provide an excellent opportunity for colleagues to undertake enquiry and reflection and to engage in research activities. I attach a link to our previous research projects in our research journal: <http://www.georgeabbotteachingschool.co.uk/research-development/>.

Click [here](#) for further details and [here](#) for an application form. Should you require a word version of the application form please contact Lisa West (lwest@gepacademies.com)

Curriculum Learning Networks

A reminder that we are looking for a school representative (where applicable) to attend the Curriculum Learning Networks listed below. Please can you send the name and email address of the colleague you would like to attend from your school to Jackie Blackwood (JBlackwood@gepacademies.com).

- Pupil premium
- SEND
- Primary Maths
- Secondary Maths
- Primary English Moderation
- Primary Science
- Secondary English
- Secondary Science
- Secondary Teaching & learning
- EYFS
- Post-16

School Operations:

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for your personal efforts and flexibility over the past few months, we recognise that we have all experienced unprecedented levels of disruption in both our work and personal lives. Having returned to school and to some form of normality we also acknowledge that normal is still a long way off and that transition to new work practices, methods of communication and collaboration are constantly evolving. Your ongoing support is immensely appreciated.

Casual workers

Due to a change in legislation in relation to the way holiday pay is calculated for casual workers, there is a new engagement letter for our casual members of staff which sets out the new contractual arrangements.

This is saved in GEP Shared Documents, further guidance documentation around the method of calculation of holiday pay will be available shortly.

Contacts: Jack Mayhew: CEO Ali Larcombe-Fish: COO Andrew Roach: Education Director Lisa Wilde: Financial Controller Lyndsay Cameron: SCITT Director Jo Coles: HR Manager Richard Wiseman: Estates Manager Ben Sayers: Head of IT Gary Lelliott: Head of Governance Jackie Blackwood: Teaching School Manager Graham Tuck: Secondary Improvement Director Kathryn Krynicki: Primary Improvement Director Carol Pearce: Primary SIP Jane Abbott: Secondary SIP Gaby Sutton: Senior Administrator/PA to CEO	jmayhew@gepacademies.com alfish@gepacademies.com aroach@gepacademies.com Lwilde@gepacademies.com Lcameron@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk jcoles@gepacademies.com rwiseman@gepacademies.com bsayers@gepacademies.com glelliott@gepacademies.com jblackwood@gepacademies.com gtuck@gepacademies.com kkrynicki@gepacademies.com Cpearce@athenaschools.co.uk Jane@lawn3.com gsutton@gepacademies.com	01483 888188 01483 888022 01483 888047 01483 888022 01483 888070 01483 888074 01483 888007 01483 888007 01483 888007 01483 888047 01483 888188
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Jack's visits and meetings this week:

Maths school meeting	14.09.20	11:00 – 12:00
Committee work plan meeting	14.09.20	12:00 – 13:00
GEP Board meeting	14.09.20	13:00 – 14:00
Trust Action Committee	16.09.20	08:00 – 10:00
Teaching School Hub meeting	16.09.20	13:00 – 13:45
Joint Development Group meeting	18.09.20	08:30 – 10:00
George Abbot School Visit	18.09.20	12:00 – 13:00
Finance update	18.09.20	13:30 – 14:30