



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

WEEK COMMENCING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

Reminders for this coming week:

AST/GEP JOINT SENIOR TEAM MEETING

21.09.20
10:00 – 11:30

AST/GEP JOINT HEADS MEETING

24.09.20
08:00 – 11.30

Forthcoming meetings:

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

13.10.20
08:00 – 11:00

GEP BOARD MEETING

19.10.20
13.00 - 15.30

GEP AUDIT COMMITTEE

05.11.21
13.00 - 15.30

Getting our heads together

The old adage 'two heads are better than one' is true. It is also true that 14 heads are better than one. This week sees our first, formal, GEP & Athena headteachers' meeting of the academic year. Given the myriad and complexity of challenges facing schools currently, this mutual support, sharing of ideas and best practice discussions is vital.

Our current education climate presents many tests. Tests, which our schools and headteachers are meeting effectively. We are proud of the return to schools and our ability to adapt and adjust to provide high quality learning in challenging times. Sharing best practice between schools is a central plank to our response and support as a trust. Covid case management, effective budget spend and remote learning training and expectations are all areas, which our headteachers are in liaison between themselves – and areas of best practice that will be shared to raise our provision for the children. No school is an island of perfect ideas and responses. In a world where the national, and local, situation is changing so fast, our ability to collaborate and agree overarching principles and expectations is essential. Schools have been meeting and sharing best practice in many areas last week – not least, the expectations and management of blended learning between the physical classroom and the remote one.

This heads together approach is also vital in the sharing of ideas. We are formulating policy to new challenges. Not everything has been produced before or trialled in schools. Our schools have been very adept at considering new solutions and approaches to new problems. This sharing of ideas is important. It is often through the discussions and mutual reflection that new learning is born. As a group of headteachers, we often find ourselves with a clearer focus and an enhanced understanding following group discussion, or head-to-head conversation, than we had before.

Finally, mutual support. Every human being needs to feel understood and appreciated. We are hugely lucky to have such a talented and professional bunch of headteachers leading our schools. However, it can be lonely at times. The knowledge that there is someone else who is in your position and understands your stresses, strains, joys and triumphs is important. Mental health and 'head health' are vital and interconnected. Our headteachers are driven by the needs of their staff and students. Staff welfare is top of every agenda – without a healthy staff, mentally and physically, our children will not get the best deal we desire for them. Equally important is our support for our heads.

We come together as a group of headteachers to support, care, inspire each other. We also come to share the heavy load. Our meetings maybe virtual (at this time) but our endeavours never more vital.

We look forward to putting our heads together this week.

Actions for Heads:

- GEP/Athena headteachers meeting this week
- Please return you remote learning plan to AKR by the end of the week
- Headteachers as trust leaders proforma due back today
- Can you share your attendance returns to the DfE with Gaby this week to allow a trust oversight

Actions for Trustees:

Fergal Roche and Geoff Wyss have been re-elected as chair and vice-chair of the GEP trustee board respectively.

The following elections for chairs have also taken place amongst our GLACS. Welcome to our new chairs!

Boxgrove Primary School	Matthew Parris
Fullbrook School	Paul Ballard
George Abbot School	Nicola Mead
Guildford Grove Primary School	Heather Archer
Kings College	Mick Michell
Loseley Fields	Andrew Shovelton
Sandfield Primary School	Melanie Hancox

There is a training course taking place today at 6.30pm via zoom 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:

Curriculum Networks & CPD

A reminder that we require school nominations for Curriculum Learning Networks that are due to meet on Wednesday 30 September, so every school is represented. The first CPD afternoon is due to take place on Monday 28 September with a range of CPD session planned. Please can schools ensure that this information has been circulated to all staff. We will be sharing the details of those signed up with HTs at our meeting on Thursday.

The South East STEM Learning Hub has released a brochure listing all Primary and Secondary Science courses which are being delivered remotely this term. Please [click here](#) to view.

The Surrey Science Learning Partnership, led by George Abbot are running the Science network sessions for GEP and AST, to which all schools from across Surrey have been invited. Both Primary and Secondary sessions are being held on 30th September. Please ensure you enlist at least one representative from your school to attend. For staff to sign up to these sessions please click on the links below:

- [Primary Science Network](#)
- [Secondary Science Network](#)

Throughout the Autumn term, Ben Griffin Smith, Surrey SLP Science Lead from George Abbot will be delivering the following courses remotely:

- Chemistry Subject Knowledge Enhancement for KS3 ([click here for further information](#))
- Chemistry Subject Knowledge Enhancement for Triple Science ([click here for further information](#))

The SLP are also running two primary courses remotely this term:

- Back to school leading primary science ([click here for further information](#))
- Effective transition between yr 6 and yr7 in Science ([click here for further information](#))

School Operations:

Risk Management

Things are just starting to settle down to the new normal, all the hard work put into planning the risk assessments for COVID-19 return to work has paid off. George Abbot had a call from the HSE last Friday; we have asked Kate Carriett to share the discussion with all headteachers. We know that nationally the

Test and Trace system is under extreme strain – we have a voice and ongoing updates via our membership of Confederation of School Trusts.

Capital Funding

Over the summer, GEP was awarded £1.1m from the £560m of further capital funding that will be allocated to all schools. This money has come through as School Condition Allocation (SCA) and as such has the same constraints placed on this. As well as considering upcoming items from the condition survey, our GEP Estates Manager will be making contact with schools this week to understand local premises priorities, which are not condition related. As always, we will take a strategic approach in allocating funding, ensuring that our schools facilitate good teaching and learning.

Lettings

Schools at the moment are encouraged to recommence lettings, within the confines of current government guidance, but ensure the Head has signed off the hirers risk assessment and confirm that appropriate measures for COVID-19 are taking place and that any cleaning dovetails with existing school cleaning, so as not to increase the risk to our staff and pupils. Please also do note that new restrictions may come in at short notice.

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 gelliott@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 484837 01483 888007 01483 888047 01483 888188
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Jack's visits and meetings this week:

AST/GEP JOINT SENIOR TEAM MEETING	21.09.20	10.00 - 11.30
RSC MEETING	22.10.20	16.00 - 17.00
LOSELEY FIELDS SCHOOL VISIT	22.09.20	14.00 - 15.00
1:1 CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE	23.09.20	12.30 - 13.30
AST/GEP ALL HEADS MEETING	24.09.20	08.00 - 11.30
BOXGROVE SCHOOL VISIT	24.09.20	13.30 - 14.30
GEP EXEC TEAM MEETING	25.09.20	10.00 - 11.00
SANDFIELD SCHOOL VISIT	25.09.20	12.00 - 13.00