



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 2nd NOVEMBER 2020

Reminders for this coming week:

**GEP AUDIT
COMMITTEE**
05.11.20
13.00 - 15.30

**MATHS SCHOOL
WORKING GROUP**
06.11.20
15.30 - 16.30

Forthcoming meetings:

**GEP/AST JOINT
EXECUTIVE
MEETING**
09.11.20
10.00 - 11.30

**GLAC CHAIRS
MEETING**
10.11.20
16.30 - 18.00

PAY COMMITTEE
17.11.20
16.30 - 18.00

**GEP/AST ALL
HEADS MEETING**
19.11.20
08.00 - 11.30

**AST/GEP JOINT
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP MEETING**
20.11.20
08.30 - 10.00

In an uncertain world...

... cling onto the things that matter

Welcome back to the return to schools after the half term. I hope you and your teams enjoyed a well-earned rest and the chocolate provided by all at GEP by way of thanks and to prepare you all for the term ahead.

Returning to schools currently is in the shadow of uncertain times. It is possible that these times can be unnerving, disorienting and confusing for staff and students alike. We are unclear as to what may be asked of us as a profession when we enter this second period of lockdown. We do know that schools and education are going to be asked to continue provision. This is something we agree with. However, we do recognise that the concerns raised by headteacher's unions regarding funding, assessment arrangements, safety and support still require answers. It may be some time before we receive these. You can rely upon our trust to make this case to regional and political voices, those in education and beyond.

Despite this, our case for optimism and perseverance remains stronger than ever. As a set of leaders, staff and governors we set out a proud stall last half term, and previously, and we will do so again.

When faced with uncertainty it is beneficial to focus on the important aspects we can control. We must cling onto the things that matter, amidst the noise and distraction. Schools are people places. Continue to cherish, care and support each other – we will strive to do the same. Without people, we are nothing.

Furthermore, focus on the classroom. On pedagogy. On learning. Continue to set children challenging work. Learning, that inspires and takes risks. Hold hope for better. It could be easy in these uncertain times to play it safe. To expect less or just go through the motions. I know our leaders, schools, children and governors – that is not our way.

If we focus on the things that are important. Pour our energies into supporting one another and making the classroom (whether online or in school) the best place we can, all will be well. We are aware of further challenges along the road. We acknowledge that our endeavours will be questioned, however cling onto the things that matter:

- Education
- Learning
- Community
- Each other

Have a great half term. Together we will make it a great one.

Actions for Heads:

Offer for all school staff

The supermarket Morrisons are offering a 10% discount to all school staff from today 2nd November until Christmas. This is as a thank you for looking after the nation's children and supporting them through the pandemic. Click [here](#) to find your nearest Morrisons.

Details of the offer and terms and conditions are available [here](#).

Actions for Governors and Trustees:

The next course that AST and GEP are running for governors is **Premises and buildings: school estate management**. This is taking place on **Wednesday 11th November at 6.30pm** via zoom. You can sign up by [clicking here](#)

Other courses for governors that GEP and AST are running can be viewed via the [joint training programme](#)

STEM Learning are providing science related remotely delivered training for governors via the following two courses. There are three instances of each one.

Primary governors: Raising the profile of STEM in your school

30th November 2020 – 18.00 – 19.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

23rd January 2021 – 11.00 – 12.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

18th February 2021 – 18.00 – 19.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

Secondary governors: Raising the profile of STEM in your school

26th November 2020 – 18.00 – 19.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

23rd January 2021 – 13.00 – 14.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

16th February 2021 – 18.00 – 19.30. [Click here to sign up](#)

They are £75 to attend and below is a summary of the course and what outcomes to expect:

The role of governors in providing support and challenge to curriculum and senior leaders is more important now than it ever has been. Schools are currently facing a great deal of uncertainty and their success in navigating through this period depends on strong and informed leadership.

The course will equip school governors with the skills and understanding they need in order to provide appropriate challenge to middle and senior leaders around the intent, implementation and impact of their STEM curriculum. You will also look more widely at how, as a governor, you can support the development of positive attitudes towards STEM education and STEM employability skills through non-curriculum based approaches, such as science capital and STEM Ambassadors.

Outcomes

You will be able to:

- understand the key considerations around curriculum intent in STEM education and how it shapes pupils' experiences
- understand the main considerations around planning a STEM curriculum and the importance of building science capital
- gain confidence in approaching collaborative conversations and challenging middle and senior leaders

School Improvement Update:

A Message from our Director of Primary Education, Kathryn Krynicki

Welcome back to colleagues after what we thought was a tough half term, it looks like this half term is going to be just as much fun!

I hope you managed to get some rest over the half-term break and feel energized for the challenges ahead. Now it is more important than ever that we step up to the plate and serve our communities to the best of our abilities. Children only get one chance at education and whilst we might feel we are sailing in uncharted waters, fundamentally we are educators who know what we are doing. Our focus over this half term with primary colleagues will be supporting each other further by sharing strategies and good pedagogical practice.

Last half term I was astounded with the work that colleagues are undertaking in our primary schools. The shift to remote learning has been truly impressive and the sheer volume of work required when staffing capacity has been tight. It is no easy feat at all to try and find a full day's worth of online work for our very youngest children, yet children have spoken confidently about learning at-home experiences. My visits to school have shown happy, engaged learners along with staff who have adapted quickly to new working practices. Communication with parents of very young children has been an area requiring a lot of thought, again there has been some excellent practice which we will share with each other this half term.

Here's to continuing to make a positive difference to the children in our schools over the coming weeks and months.

School Operations:

Financial Year-End

The finance teams in schools and the centre have been working hard on completion of year-end audit preparation, which has included the production of over 700 audit schedules/submissions across the Trust.

BDO will be undertaking their audit virtually this year, taking place on the following dates:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
02-Nov-20	03-Nov-20	04-Nov-20	05-Nov-20	06-Nov-20
GEP	George Abbot	George Abbot	Fullbrook	Fullbrook
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09-Nov-20	10-Nov-20	11-Nov-20	12-Nov-20	13-Nov-20
Sandfield Primary School	MORNING - Sandfield School AFTERNOON - Guildford Grove Primary School	Guildford Grove	Boxgrove Primary School	Loseley Fields Primary School
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16-Nov-20	17-Nov-20	18-Nov-20	19-Nov-20	20-Nov-20
MORNING Boxgrove School AFTERNOON Loseley Fields	SCITT/Teaching School	Kings College	Kings College	back in BDO office

The Annual Report to 31 August 2020, including Financial Statements is planned to be finalised and approved by trustees in December.

Long-term Financial Planning

This year special consideration needs to be given to financial forward planning for all in the charity sector, education included. The exec will be preparing a number of scenarios covering revenue (lettings, donations, pupil-generated funding), expenses (increased costs of staffing, cleaning and PPE) and liquidity. Our trustees will then be discussing the plausibility of these scenarios and impact on our organisation, such that we can more effectively plan for the ongoing impact of coronavirus.

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Jack's visits and meetings this week:

Meeting with Union representatives	02.11.20	08:30 – 09:30
Kings College HTPM	03.11.20	09:30 – 11:00
Guildford Grove HTPM	04.11.20	08:30 – 11:30
Audit Committee	05.11.20	13:00 – 15:30
Sandfield HTPM	05.11.20	16:00 – 17:30
Executive team meeting	06.11.20	10:00 – 12:00
SuMS working group meeting	06.11.20	16:00 – 17:00