



## GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

### WEEK COMMENCING 23rd NOVEMBER 2020

#### Reminders for this coming

##### week:

#### **AST/GEP JOINT SENIOR TEAM**

23.11.20  
10.00 – 11.30

#### **TRUSTEES & GLAC CHAIRS**

23.11.20  
16.30 - 18.30

#### Forthcoming meetings:

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

07.12.20  
16.00 – 18.30

#### **BOARD MEETING**

14.12.20  
13.00 – 15.30

#### **GEP/AST ALL HEADS MEETING PLUS TRAINING**

14.01.21  
TIME TBC

#### **AGM**

18.01.21  
13.00 - 15.30

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

28.01.21  
13.00 - 15.30

#### **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

04.02.21  
13.00 - 15.30

#### **It's good to talk**

In the mid-1990s Bob Hoskins ran a series of simple, but memorable adverts extolling the virtues of conversation. Telephone conversation, rather than zoom calls, on this occasion. At GEP, conversations are vital to our way of working. Our way of learning and improving.

Last week saw our joint headteachers meeting benefiting from talking to each other. We discussed a range of approaches and issues, ranging from coronavirus responses, school improvement approaches to training, assessment and development, and even managing school finances. Our forums for school business managers, staff network groups (meeting this week) and even our school improvement partner visits (SiPs) all rely on the power of conversation.



There is no doubt, as the term draws on, and possibly the challenges of our current situations lengthen we need to continue talking. It is possible, as the pressures and stresses may rise, that we become less inclined to talk. We feel called to action, decision, solution. While, of course, this is admirable and leaders need to set this direction, sometimes talking and conversation assist us greater. An often necessary first step is to pause. To talk. To discuss with a variety of individuals. Indeed, talking is a vital step to supporting colleagues and taking them with you.

Currently we are seeing our staff go well above the usual requirements to, well... 'go above and beyond'. We also need to recognise the need to talk to them and acknowledge their efforts. I am looking forward this week to meeting with chairs of governors and trustees, discussing our challenges and how we can collectively better support our schools and the children we serve. Without conversation, new learning is

sometimes hard to distil. Our preconceived thoughts fail to be shaped, refined or developed. I know from previous experience that conversations really do matter.

Enjoy your week. Find some conversations to sustain and develop you. After all it is good to talk... and to listen.

### **Actions for Heads:**

#### **Governor and stakeholder newsletter**

Please remember to send your good news stories to [gl Elliott@gepacademies.com](mailto:gl Elliott@gepacademies.com) for inclusion in the termly governor and stakeholder newsletter by Friday 4 December 2020.

### **Actions for Governors and Trustees:**

You can view GEP/AST upcoming training sessions for governors by [clicking here](#).

### **School Improvement Update:**

**School Improvement Partner Visit Reports:** All GLAC Chairs should have received copies of the School Improvement Partner's recent reports following SiP visits to schools. Andrew will ensure that new reports are circulated to Chairs in the future.

**Safeguarding Reviews:** Due to the second period of lockdown, the external safeguarding reviews have been postponed until the Spring term. Prior to lockdown, a review was undertaken at Boxgrove School who have reported that the visit of the review team was very helpful in providing feedback to school leaders on practice, procedures and protocols to ensure our pupils are safe.

**OECD Impact of COVID:** Here is a link to a recently published OECD report on the impact of COVID which you might find interesting.

<https://www.oecd.org/education/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-insights-education-at-a-glance-2020.pdf>

### **School Operations:**

#### **Pay progression data**

Further to this year's performance management cycle, School Business Managers will shortly be asked to provide GEP HR with information regarding pay progression for teaching staff to feed into the collation of trust wide performance related pay progression data.

#### **Visitor Track and Trace forms**

The GEP Visitor Track and Trace forms can be shredded rather than archived once the time rule has lapsed which is end of month of the visit plus one month as long as there is a record of the visit in accordance with your normal safeguarding procedures.

#### **Impact Food Group at our secondary schools**

Impact Food Group, previously known as Innovate have donated over £160,000 in our secondary school's kitchen and dining facilities. Most of these makeover works were finally completed over the October half term offering new modern clean lines and clear branding throughout.



**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: Director of Secondary Education (school improvement)  
 Kathryn Krynicki: Director of Primary Education (school improvement)  
 Carol Pearce: Primary SIP  
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**Jack's visits and meetings this week:**

<b>AST/GEP Joint executive meeting</b>	<b>23.11.20</b>	<b>08.30 - 10.00</b>
<b>Audit Outcome walkthrough</b>	<b>23.11.20</b>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b>
<b>Trustees and GLACs</b>	<b>23.11.20</b>	<b>16.30 - 18.00</b>
<b>Meeting with ESFA</b>	<b>24.11.20</b>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b>
<b>CST Trust Leaders meeting</b>	<b>25.11.20</b>	<b>09.00 - 10.00</b>
<b>Exec team meeting</b>	<b>27.11.20</b>	<b>10.00 - 12.00</b>
<b>George Abbot school visit</b>	<b>27.11.20</b>	<b>12.25 - 13.25</b>
<b>Director of Education appraisal</b>	<b>27.11.20</b>	<b>14.00 - 15.30</b>