



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 4 January 2021

Reminders for this coming week:

**AST/GEP JOINT
EXEC MEETING**
05.01.21
10:00 – 11:30

Forthcoming meetings:

**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

**ALL HEADS
MEETING**
09.02.21
08.00 - 12.00 TBC

**TRUSTEES & GLAC
CHAIRS**
01.03.21
16.30 – 18.30

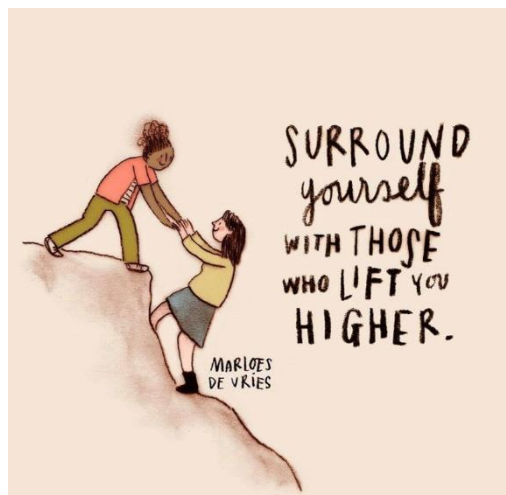
**AST/GEP JOINT
EXEC MEETING**
08.03.21
10:00 – 11:30

New year... same principles

Rarely have we started a year with such uncertainty, but also such collective resolve. At times of uncertainty we need to rely on our values and first principles. I am pleased to confirm that our desire to provide the best education we can to our young people remains as strong as ever. We continue to do all we can to ensure our children get the very best deal possible. We do this with all our staff. Alongside each other and together.

In meetings with trust headteachers and leaders yesterday there was a sense of calm and purpose in the face of the challenges ahead of us. Secondary schools are advanced in their preparation for testing arrangements in schools. We recognise as a trust that supporting this development is right for our children and staff. The volunteer response from our community in exploring testing arrangements has been positive. We all accept that the timing and communication of announcements and expectations could have been improved, however all of us recognise that for our staff and children doing all we can to support effective testing in schools is the right step to take. I thank all our colleagues for their work and commitment, often undertaken throughout the holidays. We will continue to support schools in arrangements and practical application as far as possible over this week and the coming term.

We continue to work hard in keeping our schools and workplaces as safe as possible. We accept colleagues may have concerns and will work with individuals and union representation to ensure all members of staff feel supported. I would like to thank our primary headteachers in particular for their calm responses to this developing situation. Our principles as a trust remain – to provide the very best education for our young people as possible.



I saw a simple graphic recently which struck a chord with me, and I hope with you. At times we all need other people... and they need us. Remember to lean on others to lift you higher... and be there for those who need you to do the same.

Whatever the changes that may face us during the course of this term let us keep our values of partnership, collaboration, integrity and excellence at the forefront. Always guided by our aims to support each other and provide the best for the children we serve.

Actions for Heads:

Please ensure your Covid19 risk assessments are updated and amended on your websites and email the link to Ali Larcombe Fish.

Actions for Governors and Trustees:

A special chairs and trustees meeting will be taking place for all trustees and GLAC chairs on Monday 18th January 2021 at 4pm via zoom. Gary Lelliott has circulated a zoom link. If chairs are unable to be present, we would be grateful if you could arrange for your vice-chair or another governor to attend in your place, so that updates can be provided to GLACs.

STEM Learning are providing remotely delivered training for governors to aid their important role supporting senior leaders to ensure students receive a high quality STEM education and to help raise the profile of STEM in schools.

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

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

Primary governors: Raising the profile of STEM in your school

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

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

16th February 2021 – 10.00 – 19.30 [Click here to sign up](#)

School Improvement Update:

Pedagogy session Thursday 7th January

This session will now be held remotely – further details will be circulated shortly to those who are signed up to attend.

School Operations:

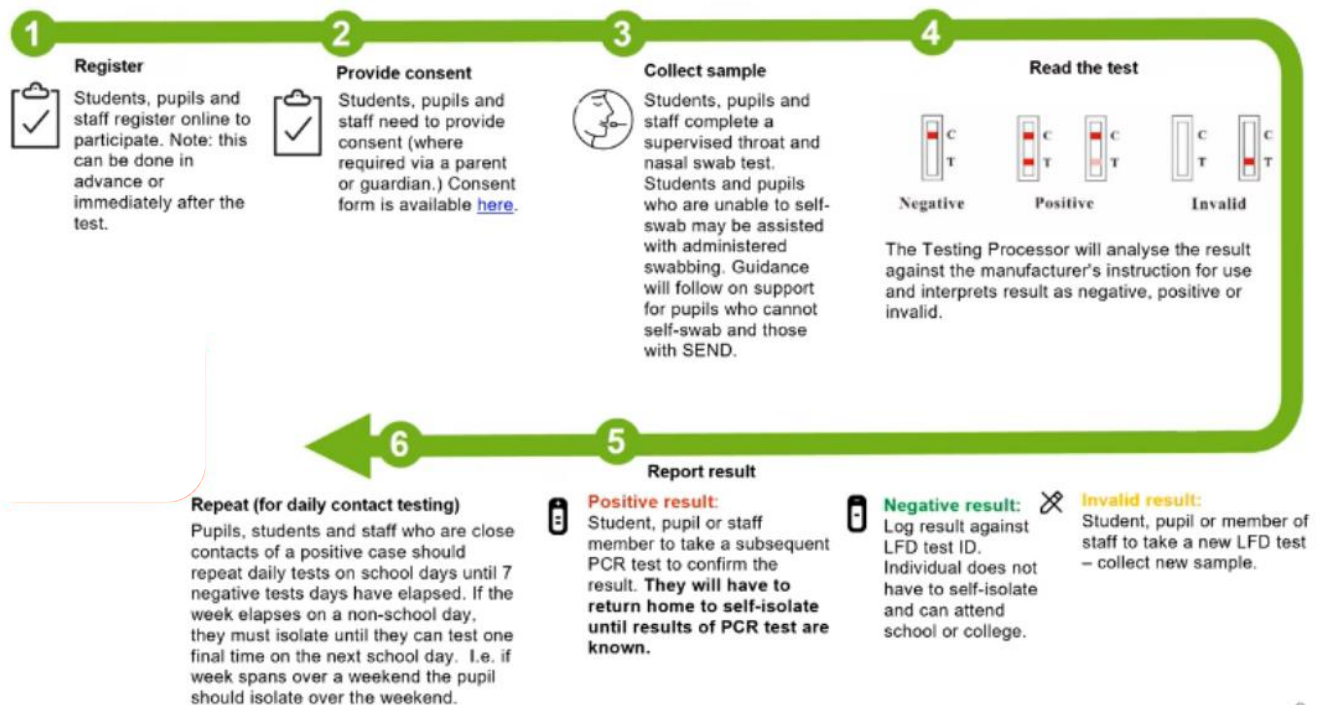
Testing procedures

Our secondary schools are busy preparing for mass testing this week, which will start once teams are assembled, sites are prepared and the testing equipment is received. This adds a further layer of risk mitigating strategies in the plight against coronavirus.

There are three forms of testing that we are trying to support:

- (1) Test as many secondary students on their return to school as possible, to help identify asymptomatic students. Pupils will be offered two lateral flow device tests 3 to 5 days apart.
 - i. If the test is positive with the LFD test, pupils will be sent home and are requested to take a further confirmatory PCR test, which if positive will require the full self-isolation period.
 - ii. If negative, they can return to school.
- (2) Carry out weekly testing for secondary staff, to help reduce the spread of infection, especially asymptomatic.
 - i. If the test is positive with the LFD test, staff will need to leave site and are requested to take a further confirmatory PCR test, which, if positive, will require the full self-isolation period.
 - ii. If negative, they can return to school.
- (3) Serial 7-day contact testing to reduce the number of individuals having to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of a positive case.

The testing journey



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 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 kkrynicky@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 exec team meeting	05.01.21	10:00 – 11:30
Loseley Fields school visit (virtual)	05.01.21	14:00 – 15:00
CST Trust Leaders meeting	06.01.21	09:00 – 10:00
Surrey Short Stay School visit (virtual)	07.01.21	08:30 – 11:00
Boxgrove school visit (virtual)	07.01.21	13:30 – 14:30
GEP exec team meeting	08.01.21	10:00 – 12:00
Sandfield school visit (virtual)	08.01.21	14:00 – 15:00