



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 25 January 2021

Reminders for this coming week:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

28.01.21
13.00 - 15.30

Forthcoming meetings:

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

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11.03.21
13.00 - 15.30

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

18.03.21
13.00 - 15.30

BOARD MEETING

22.03.21
13.00 - 15.30

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST COMMITTEE

20.04.21
09.30 - 11.00

Deep and crisp and even...

During the course of Sunday morning, right across swathes of the south east, we were covered with a significant fall of snow. While I fully appreciate that snow can present a hazard, inconvenience and even cause hardship – the flurry of snow did possess a magical quality.



Snowfall resets the landscape. Makes us look at things afresh and anew. Seemingly mundane landmarks take on a different quality. Trees, fields, garden sheds and even front garden bins all look different. Given our current winter experiences, it felt more significant. For many of us the chance to be outside, with our family was very welcome. We did not have a screen in sight.

This resetting of our environment has echoes in our work this week. I am delighted with our innovative work on delivering our remote education. All schools are fully into our stride and we are now seeing much needed sustenance in our ability to share best practice, useful tools and curriculum approaches.

Our secondary school colleagues have met 3 times as a team to consider remote education and best learning approaches. Staff are undertaking a mammoth task, and I know children and parents are very appreciative of our efforts. It is also important that we seek to maintain our own motivation and explore new strategies. To witness leaders

TRUST ACTION COMMITTEE29.04.21
Time tbc

of learning sharing best practice and use these ideas to save on staff workload, inspire students and keep us moving forward encapsulates our trust ethos. Our primary colleagues are also doing the same. Building up learning banks of resources and reviewing provision together.

JOINT GEP/AST HEADS MEETING20.05.21
Time tbc

The coming weeks will also see a peer review programme set up to explore our remote learning. Facilitated by our school improvement team, but run by headteachers, we seek to explore our work and look at how we can improve provision, manage staff workload and ensure all children continue to receive high quality learning, whether at home, in school, or in a combination of both.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE20.05.21
13.00 – 15.30

Our snowy landscape forces us to look afresh. Provides a new viewpoint. Assists us in looking again, from a different perspective. Our headteachers and leaders of learning are also looking afresh at our provision. Seeing qualities, we may have missed first time and identifying new opportunities to provide our children with the best education we can.

ALL HEADS MEETING15.06.21
Time tbc

Welcome to our winter wonderland.

Actions for Heads:

The minutes and actions from the Joint AST/GEP heads meeting have been published and can be viewed in the GEP Shared Documents system [here](#).

The next GEP heads meeting is being held via zoom on Tuesday February 9th, times to be confirmed.

Actions for Governors and Trustees:

There are various policy updates that academies and GLACs need to be aware of:

- The GEP Audit Committee on 7 December 2020 agreed an updated Data Protection and Information Policy and an updated Risk Management and Control Policy. These will be distributed in due course.
- The GEP Education Committee on 28 January 2021 is due to consider academies' admissions policies. Revised policies will be distributed with a schedule of changes after the meeting.
- The trust's annual report has been signed off by the board of trustees and reviewed by the members at the AGM on 18 January 2021. It will be published on the trust's website.

School Improvement Update:**A message from Kathryn Krynicki, our Director of Primary Education**

Yet another full-on week for our schools! This week the school improvement team met to see how schools were progressing during lockdown 3. We wholeheartedly agreed that teachers and leaders are pulling out all the stops to provide children who are on-site as well as those at home learning, with the very best educational experiences that they can. Each school has been working to upskill staff, motivate students and juggle the differing demands of parents. This is no easy feat!

All of our schools have been developing their remote working plans which will be published on individual websites by Monday. The school improvement team have been coming up with ideas on how best to support our schools during this period and remind colleagues to get in touch directly with us if you have any questions or pleas for help. We are starting to see the real benefits of being part of a MAT during this lockdown period and I am pleased to see leaders attempting to reduce workload by encouraging staff to share online lessons on the different learning platforms which our schools are choosing to use.

Whilst I know that each day at the moment may seem a challenge, we must take comfort that there is still light. Having listened to the young poet Amanda Gorman who stole the show at the US presidential inauguration this week, I share the first and last sentences of her speech which I think resonates with us all:

'When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?' and to conclude 'For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.'

We are all doing our best during these times. It is our duty to be the light for our children and our communities.

Reminder: Administrative and Office-Based Colleagues - CPD Planning

Thank you to all those who responded to our surveys so far. Responses are on the low side so we would love to hear from more of you to help our planning! Please pass these links on to any colleagues in Admin or Office roles who may wish to complete the survey.

We have extended the deadline for responses until **close of play Wednesday 3rd February** to give more time for people to complete the survey. The links are below, please complete either the **Primary** survey or the **Secondary** survey as appropriate.

Primary

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PrimCPDAdmin>

Secondary

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SecCPDAdmin>

If you have any questions or difficulty accessing the survey, please contact Lisa West (Teaching School Administrator) lwest@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk. Thank you for your time.

School Operations:

HR update

Schools within GEP Academies have undertaken an exercise to ensure parity of pay of support staff roles across the trust. Headteachers will therefore be sending out letters to all of their respective support staff this week to confirm the outcome of this process.

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Jack's visits and meetings this week:

Councillor Joss Bigmore	25.01.21	14:00 – 15:00
Union representatives	26.01.21	08:30 – 09:30
Boxgrove school visit (virtual)	26.01.21	11:30 – 12:30
Loseley Fields school visit (virtual)	26.01.21	14:00 – 15:00
Kings GLAC	26.01.21	16:00 – 17:30
1:1 with Director of Secondary Education	27.01.21	11:30 – 12:30
Maths school update with University	28.01.21	10:00 – 11:00
GEP/AST Education committee	28.01.21	13:00 – 15:30
Sandfield school visit (virtual)	29.01.21	14:00 – 15:00