



## GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

### WEEK COMMENCING 22 February 2021

#### Reminders for this coming week:

##### **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

23.02.21  
11.00 – 13.00

#### Forthcoming meetings:

##### **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

##### **TRUST ACTION COMMITTEE**

29.04.21  
Time tbc

##### **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

20.05.21  
13.00 – 15.30

#### **Spring?**

Welcome back after the spring half term. We hope that our staff, children and parents had a chance to rest and recuperate after a 'remote' half term. While awaiting announcements, it seems clear that we are likely to be welcoming back all our children into schools in the foreseeable future. This is very welcome and encouraged by all. Clearly, we will continue to keep the safety of our children and staff central in our plans and the diligence of school efforts in recent months leave me in no doubt that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead.

As with educational changes, the year always seems to feel like it is turning in the spring time. The weather has been improving, is warmer, lighter and the prospect of sitting outside now becomes inviting.

Change is a strange phenomenon. It feels as though we are on the brink of change. Change in the weather, change in welcoming children back to school – and hopefully, with increased vaccine roll out and testing, change in our response to the global pandemic.



Change can be unsettling however. It is here that learning and education can assist us. Supporting the children in the classroom reminds us of the power of education for positive personal change and society improvements. Learning from historic events, mathematical puzzles, or even philosophising about our own personal circumstances can assist us in dealing with change. It can also help us support others through change.

Spring time is a sign of hope for change. The dark days of winter have passed and new life and new growth await. I have been inspired by our efforts as a trust in our remote education. In how we have pulled together as a trust, as schools, as year groups and departments to show resolve and resilience in maintaining our high standards and expectations of ourselves and the children.

However, we are entering a period of change. A time we can embrace and revel in. Not to forget the trials and victories of the last few months, but to build upon and consolidate our learning to continue to provide the best for our children. Someone once said that 'change is the only constant'. Let us welcome this change and not fear it. Remember where we have come from and what we have achieved... and also hope for a better tomorrow; one which we will help our children make.

### **Actions for Heads:**

The minutes and actions to the all heads meeting are available to view [here](#).

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

#### **Safeguarding training**

The safeguarding training that was scheduled for 3 February 2021 and being run by Ruth Murton of [Leadershipwise](#) has been moved to **15 March 2021**. Don't forget to [book your place](#).

The governors' conference that was planned for 15 March 2021 has been postponed. Governors will be notified when a new date has been set.

### **School Improvement Update:**

#### **Free teacher webinar**



[Elevate Education](#) are running a free teacher webinar on how to improve students' metacognition skills before assessments on **Thursday 4th March**, 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

During this seminar, they will be drawing upon research with 3000 students in December and their work with over 900 schools and multi-academy trusts in the UK to cover the biggest mistakes students make in the lead up to assessments and how teachers can help.

If you are interested in attending please [click here](#) to register.

#### **NCCE(National Centre for Computing Education)**



In a bid to encourage more schools to teach Computer Science at GCSE and to strengthen the Computing offer in the primary curriculum, [the National Centre for Computing Education \(NCCE\)](#) has established a Surrey Hub based at Woking High School.

The hub would like to invite all primary headteachers and teachers to a remote gathering on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** from 16:00 via MS Teams. They are keen to understand how they can help with the computing curriculum at primary level and are at present in a position to offer bursaries of £220 per day for one teacher per school to attend courses. Contact Gaby Sutton for the meeting link.

Bursary funded secondary cpd is also available for a wide range of courses.

Please click [here](#) to view a flyer with further information or email Ahmed Afana on: [teachcomputing@wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:teachcomputing@wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk)

## School Operations:

### Network Team Update

Since the start of our recent lockdown we have supported Staff, Pupils and Parents with accessing Home Learning. This has been incredibly successful and we thank everyone for your co-operation to make this go so smoothly.

We have now been planning for a possible phased return back to school. This is being accomplished by upgrading and configuring computers in school ready for blended lessons, with some pupils in school and some home learning. This has been done by auditing our current computers and performing any upgrades required.

In our primary schools I am pleased to see Zoom being a great success and is enabling our teachers to keep in touch with pupils and provide home learning activities.

Secondary schools have now fully embraced MS Teams, feedback has been amazing and we are so pleased it has been such a success. Our automated system is keeping the 2656 Teams classes updated with pupils and ensures any timetable changes are automatically replicated. We have recently created drop-in accounts for SLT, pastoral team and learning support in some of our secondary schools, allowing different staff to attend lessons and assist with home learning.

Our new MS Teams home learning report created by the Network Team is being used to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to engage with home learning and ensures SLT know which pupils may need additional support.

It has been busy but equally, it has been an incredibly rewarding and successful start to the term.

Regards  
Ben Sayers

### Cyber Security Update

We have a new Cyber Security update, this time about memory sticks and OneDrive, please click [HERE](#).

### Helpdesk Report

The network team have continued to provide great quality service through our helpdesk this half term. In the last network team bulletin, we mentioned we received over 1000 tickets in the first 2 weeks. We now finished the half term with a total of 2603 tickets created over the 6 week period and we have managed to close 2300 of these tickets. Some of the work can be split into the following categories:

- Password Resets - 27% of all tickets. With everything once again moving to remote learning pupils, staff and parents needed assistance accessing a range of online services. This is lower than we thought due to the launch of Teams in the secondary schools, it meant pupils only needed to know one password. The team aimed to provide a password reset to everyone within 4 hours of being logged, aiming for a minimum disruption to teaching and learning.
- Staff Software Device Issues - 20% of all tickets. The team made sure all staff issues were resolved as quickly as possible. This meant the installation of programs like Teams, rebuilding devices for new staff members or continuing to roll out Windows 10 devices.
- Training Requests - 10% of all tickets. With Microsoft Teams launching in our schools the Network Team have been here to aid and provide training for anyone who needed help navigating around the software. We provided support via telephone, remote connection support or assist with class permissions. We especially focused on assisting teachers, who often wanted to ask general questions to become more comfortable using MS Teams as their main teaching and learning platform.

Reminder: As always please log all issues or queries in helpdesk by emailing:  
[networkhelpdesk@gepacademies.com](mailto:networkhelpdesk@gepacademies.com)

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**Jack's visits and meetings this week:**

<b>AST/GEP joint exec meeting</b>	<b>22.02.21</b>	<b>10.00 – 12.00</b>
<b>Special board meeting</b>	<b>23.02.21</b>	<b>11.00 – 12.30</b>
<b>Loseley Fields school visit (virtual)</b>	<b>23.02.21</b>	<b>14.00 – 15.00</b>
<b>George Abbot school visit (virtual)</b>	<b>24.02.21</b>	<b>09.00 – 10.00</b>
<b>Merger focus group meeting 1</b>	<b>24.02.21</b>	<b>12.00 – 14.00</b>
<b>Meeting with Shaun Brown (The Difference)</b>	<b>25.02.21</b>	<b>09.00 – 10.00</b>
<b>Curriculum audit meeting</b>	<b>25.02.21</b>	<b>11.00 – 12.30</b>
<b>Boxgrove school visit (virtual)</b>	<b>25.02.21</b>	<b>13.30 – 14.30</b>
<b>Joint Development group</b>	<b>26.02.21</b>	<b>08.30 – 10.00</b>
<b>Executive team</b>	<b>26.02.21</b>	<b>10.00 – 12.00</b>
<b>Sandfield school visit (virtual)</b>	<b>26.02.21</b>	<b>14.00 – 15.00</b>