



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

WEEK COMMENCING 19 April 2021

Reminders for this coming week:

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST COMMITTEE
20.04.21
09.30 – 11.00

SHADOW BOARD MEETING
22.04.21
08.30 – 10.30

Forthcoming meetings:

GEP/AST JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
28.04.21
08.00 – 10.00

TRUST ACTION COMMITTEE
29.04.21
Time tbc

AST/GEP JOINT HEADS MEETING
20.05.21
Time TBC

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
20.05.21
13.00 – 15.30

GEP/AST JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
09.06.21
08.00 – 10.00

GEP ALL HEADS
15.06.21
TIME TBC

An extra hour... for quality first teaching?

Welcome back from the Easter holidays – I do hope you and your loved ones managed a break of some sorts. It is fair to say the spring term was like no other, and I am sure the summer term holds challenges and opportunities ahead of us. The joy of seeing young people back in face-to-face school settings is still profound. While the uniforms might be a little more grown out of than usual at this time of year, the sight of these crisp morning on sunny spring days with the bright eyes and bushy tailed learners arriving for school is a pleasure like nothing else.

During the Easter break the clocks sprung forward to give us an extra hour of daylight and the clarity over funds for catch-up premium (2020-21), recovery premium (2021-22) and pupil premium (2020-23) all provide us with an opportunity to make a difference to the children who need it most. All those in our profession hold this as our guiding light. Education makes a difference. It should make the greatest difference to those who need this most.

While announcements regarding specific formats to account for these endeavours may chime with a little too much over regulation - our ability to consider new opportunities to support children learn are welcomed, as is the acknowledgement that EEF research is being utilised. The balance between whole school approaches and targeted support is a delicate balance that we need to get right. While I think there is much we could and should do regarding one-to-one tuition, small group work or intervention programmes after school, it is also imperative to not forget that it is quality first teaching that always makes the biggest difference.

Supporting great teaching through high quality assessment and feedback is vital as we support all our children in their learning over the next few months and years. Classroom teaching quality is where we need to continue to focus our efforts. As a trust we will continue to focus on supporting the work of schools in making teaching of the highest quality.

As we use our extra hour, let it be an extra hour of high-quality teaching. This makes the biggest difference to those who need it most. Let us welcome those bright eyes of learning enthusiasm with the same drive and optimism... quality teaching for all.

Actions for Governors and Trustees:

Governor training

Andrew Roach, Director of Education, will be giving the session: "Ensuring accurate assessment and trust wide consistency" on Monday 26 April, online, for all governors at both Athena Schools Trust and GEP. This will cover:

- Education monitoring
- School improvement planning and quality assurance
- How to monitor and triangulate data including how to ask the right questions

[Book your place here.](#)

School Improvement Update:

Ofsted Update

Good schools that have not been inspected for five years or more are to be included in the category of schools that could have an interim visit from Ofsted next term.

CPD

All schools have received details concerning the next CPD afternoon scheduled for Monday 10 May. Please can this information be circulated to staff so that they are able to sign up for these events in advance. Running them via Zoom/MS Teams does require advance booking. Please remember to use your school email address for booking. Any queries concerning this CPD offer to Jackie Blackwood.

School Operations:

Working with suppliers

To achieve the best for our children, it is essential that we work with and involve our suppliers.

On this note here are some pictures from World Book day where Aspens, the caterers at our primary schools worked with the schools to promote what is being done in the classroom and combining it with what the pupils eat at lunchtime.

The pupils really enjoyed the day which was made more exciting and memorable by the extra detail provided by the caterers. These opportunities, while they take time to organize, are a fantastic way of getting the most from our suppliers. Keeping suppliers involved will encourage them to go that extra mile.



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Jack's visits and meetings this week:

AST/GEP Joint exec meeting	19.04.21	10.00 – 11.30
Loseley Fields school visit	20.01.21	14.00 – 15.00
Shadow board meeting	22.04.21	08.30 – 10.30
Taylor Wimpey at Wisley Airfield	22.04.21	11.00 – 12.00
Boxgrove school visit	22.04.21	13.30 – 14.30
Meeting with Union representatives	23.04.21	08.25 – 09.25
Exec team meeting	23.04.21	10.00 – 12.00
Sandfield school visit	23.04.21	14.00 – 15.00