



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN

WEEK COMMENCING 14 June 2021

Reminders for this coming week:

TRUSTEES AND GLAC CHAIRS

14.06.21
16.30 – 18.30

Forthcoming meetings:

FOCUS GROUP 4

17.06.21
11.30 – 13.00

SHADOW BOARD MEETING

25.06.21
08.30 – 10.00

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

29.06.21
13.30 – 15.30

AUDIT COMMITTEE

08.07.21
13.00 – 15.30

FOCUS GROUP 5

12.07.21
08.30 – 10.00

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15.07.21
13.00 – 15.30

SHADOW BOARD MEETING

16.07.21
08.30 – 10.00

The right to play....

... the right to learn.

The combination of noise about catch up/educational recovery strategies and a summer of sport needs further unpicking. At best, the proposed recovery strategies for our young people are built upon sound EEF principles. Those rooted in a three-pronged approach of:

- **Whole-school approaches:** support the quality of teaching, such as staff professional development; pupil assessment and feedback and transition support.
- **Targeted approaches:** provide targeted academic support, such as tutoring; and other evidence-based intervention programmes.
- **Wider strategies:** tackle non-academic barriers to success in school, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/The_EEF_guide_to_supporting_school_planning_-_A_tiered_approach_to_2021.pdf

We support these principles and support our schools in developing these strategies for their contexts. At worst, however, our educational recovery is marred by the resignation of Kevan Collins, our education recovery commissioner, and centred around national tutoring programmes with private provider and not enough student focused resource.

I am not sure it has to be this way. Our tentative steps out of covid restrictions in schools has started to see less restrictions on children playing together. Both in formalised teams, bands, and productions – and in its truest forms of 'play' in the playground. At the mud kitchen, playing 'it' on the grassy open spaces or even outdoor learning in the forest school.

As we sit and watch cricket test matches, football games as part of Euro 2020, tennis, the Olympics and a whole host of activities rearranged and backed up against each other this summer we witness the right of play to the human spirit.



RIGHT TO PLAY
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Human beings learn through play. At EYFS we cultivate and extend small world play to assist our children in their development and growth. Playing assists our own mental and physical health, while also benefiting our social and moral interactions. We need to see a resurgence in learning play. The old fashioned distinction of education being rote learning, text book regurgitation is past (even though our outdated exam system seems predicated upon it).

Our children have missed the 'play' in our schools. The geography fieldtrips, the inter-school fixtures, the science experiments, the drama productions and ensemble music performances. They have also missed time in the sixth form common room, playing with the 'junk' in the primary playpods and interacting with each other across year group and class bubbles.

Let us keep play at the heart of our learning experiences for children in our schools. The charity 'right to play' supports learning and child development across the world. Let us support this and its vibrant presence in our schools.

Actions for heads

Thank you to all who completed the doodle poll to ascertain the date for the next heads meeting. This will take place on **Tuesday 29th June at 8am**. This will take place via zoom. The meetings scheduled for Thursday 15th June and Thursday 15th July are no longer taking place.

Actions for Governors and Trustees:

The final online training session, for all governors at both Athena and GEP trust schools, will be given by Jack Mayhew, CEO of GEP an AST: "Wider Educational Themes - curriculum leadership, current educational climate and landscape" on **Thursday 24th June 2021 at 6.30pm**. [Book your place here.](#)

School improvement:

Guildford Grove STEMfest

Congratulations to Guildford Grove who spent the whole of last week focusing on STEM. On Thursday 10th June, they had several guests arriving at the school to offer various workshops to the pupils. Many thanks to the Sussex and Surrey Science Learning Partnership, the RGS, the University of Surrey, WWF_UK, the National Physical Laboratory, Ben Griffin Smith from George Abbot and pupils from year 8 at Kings. A fantastic day was had by all, there was a great buzz within the school and it was a pleasure to see the pupils of Guildford Grove so engaged and excited by the events taking place. Topics such as water treatment, properties of water, habitats of penguins and polar bears, balance, centre of gravity and the properties of liquid, gas and solids were all covered in an interactive and exciting way. Even a few chicks hatched in time to take part! A great example of collaboration of schools within the trust and at the same time working with external partners. We are looking forward to Boxgrove's STEMfest this week on Thursday 17th June.



Upcoming CPD - Monday 28 June

All schools should have received details concerning the next CPD afternoon scheduled for **Monday 28th June**. Please can this information be circulated to staff so that they are able to sign up for these events in advance. Running them on Zoom does require advance booking. Please remember to use your school email address for booking. Any queries concerning this CPD offer to Lisa West. (lwest@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk).

Women in STEM network

There is a Women in STEM network taking place on Wednesday evening, **Wednesday 16th June at 7pm**. Click [here](#) to view the flyer or [here](#) to book. This is an informal online event offering the chance to hear from two inspiring female speakers and learn of their journey to a career inspired by STEM subjects. You will have the opportunity to discuss ways in which we can encourage more girls to pursue further and higher education courses in STEM subjects and to build careers within STEM industries. This is open to all colleagues in primary and secondary phases and is free to attend.

New further education and sixth form science network

Sussex and Surrey Science Learning Partnership are forming a science network for post KS4 studies. The first network session will be taking place online on **Wednesday 23rd June at 4pm**. During this session, the focus will be on three areas:

- ❖ Recruitment progress
- ❖ Addressing the gap between GCSE and A-Level – pre and post KS5 commencement
- ❖ CPD needs and new course offer from the Science Learning Partnership

Please click [here](#) to sign up to this event.

School Operations:

Network Team update

The summer term for the Network team is very much about working on projects to improve certain aspects of our schools and assist with teaching and learning in the classroom. Many of the larger projects are in the planning stages, ready for the majority of the work to be accomplished during the summer holidays.

I thought it would be helpful to provide a list of just some of the projects we are currently working on in our schools:

GEP Wide

- ❖ Cyber security audit and resolving issues raised from the audit
- ❖ Reviewing Antivirus across the trust to ensure our data is kept safe
- ❖ Secondary Schools - Upgrading Securus to the cloud-based version, allowing monitoring through the Network central team and installation on all devices. Ensuring student safeguarding when using school devices.

George Abbot

- ❖ WiFi upgrade, providing 100% coverage within the school
- ❖ Mac Server and storage upgrade
- ❖ Projector wiring loom upgrades from VGA to HDMI
- ❖ UCAS system using SharePoint
- ❖ Assistance with CPOMs technical setup and configuration for the school safeguarding team

Fullbrook

- ❖ Purchase of new server hosts, configuration and installation
- ❖ Transition from VMWare to Hyper-V
- ❖ New Switch replacements within the server room to provide a faster and more reliable connection
- ❖ Preparing for new ceiling installations across the school, moving computer, taking down projectors etc.
- ❖ Projector wiring loom upgrades from VGA to HDMI

Kings College

- ❖ Complete revamp of Library computers, laptops, laptop trolley (refurbished by the team), new whiteboard installation and audio system
- ❖ Audio & projector upgrades across the school

- ❖ Laptop trolley refurbishments
- ❖ Installation of new Macintosh computers and PCs for music and school productions

Loseley Fields

- ❖ WiFi upgrade
- ❖ Mobile device purchasing & configuration ready for the classroom
- ❖ Staff & visitor signing in/out system

Boxgrove

- ❖ Site audit ready for new ICT development plan and joining the GEP ICT Managed Service
- ❖ Project planning for required server replacement

Guildford Grove

- ❖ Site audit ready for new ICT development plan and joining the GEP ICT Managed Service

Sandfield

- ❖ New Mobile Device Management system
- ❖ New laptops purchase and installation
- ❖ Docking station installation to enhance mobile working

I am also pleased to say that we have been assisting an Athena school with an audit of their current ICT provision and have worked with staff to create a 5 year ICT development plan.

This is of course in addition to the main role of the Network team, which is to support all members of the GEP community on the different ICT issues and queries you ask for help with.

Regards
Ben Sayers
GEP Head of IT

Contacts:

Jack Mayhew: CEO	jmayhew@gepacademies.com	01483 888188
Ali Larcombe-Fish: COO	alfish@gepacademies.com	01483 888022
Andrew Roach: Education Director	aroach@gepacademies.com	01483 888047
Lisa Wilde: Financial Controller	Lwilde@gepacademies.com	01483 888022
Lyndsay Cameron: SCITT Director	Lcameron@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk	01483 888070
Jo Coles: HR Manager	jcoles@gepacademies.com	01483 888074
Richard Wiseman: Estates Manager	rwiseman@gepacademies.com	01483 888007
Ben Sayers: Head of IT	bsayers@gepacademies.com	01483 484837
Gary Lelliott: Head of Governance	gelliott@gepacademies.com	01483 888007
Jackie Blackwood: Teaching School Manager	jblackwood@gepacademies.com	01483 888047
Graham Tuck: Director of Secondary Education (school improvement)	gtuck@gepacademies.com	
Kathryn Krynicki: Director of Primary Education (school improvement)	kkrynicki@gepacademies.com	
Carol Pearce: Primary SIP	Cpearce@athenaschools.co.uk	
Jane Abbott: Secondary SIP	jane@ascentia.org.uk	
Gaby Sutton: Senior Administrator/PA to CEO	gsutton@gepacademies.com	01483 888188

Jack's visits and meetings this week:

AST team meeting	14.06.21	10.00 – 11.00
AST executive leads meeting	16.06.21	10.00 – 11.00
Meeting with Arbor education	16.06.21	12.00 – 13.00
Guildford County school visit	16.06.21	14.00 – 15.00
Focus group 4	17.06.21	11.30 – 13.00
Guildford Grove school visit	17.06.21	14.00 – 15.00
Fullbrook school visit	18.06.21	08.00 – 09.00
GEP Exec meeting	18.06.21	10.00 – 12.00