



GEP ACADEMIES WEEKLY BULLETIN WEEK COMMENCING 12 July 2021

Reminders for this coming week:

FOCUS GROUP 5

13.07.21
08.30 – 10.00

JOINT ATHENA- GEP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15.07.21
13.00 – 15.30

SHADOW BOARD MEETING

16.07.21
08.30 – 10.00

Forthcoming meetings:

GEP BOARD MEETING

19.07.21
13.00 – 15.30

Take the applause...

... as the final scene draws into view

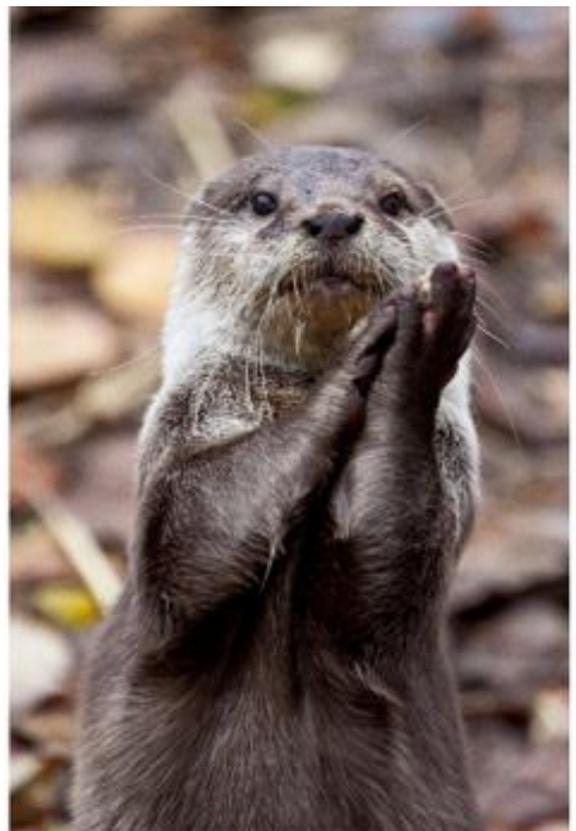
As we enter our last week of term I encourage all of us to reflect on what we have achieved, rather than collapse over the line in exhaustion.

We are all acutely aware that this academic year has been like no other, including last year. Even as the last few weeks of term have seen a rise in the isolations associated with Covid, we need to reflect on our triumphs this year. I do mean triumphs. Schools, like other areas of public service, have held us and our communities together over this academic year. We have provided meals, computers, an online learning revolution, socially distanced clubs, pupil events, and redesigned and implemented a national assessment system! These events are all worthy of significant praise and sense of achievement – but perhaps greatest praise of all needs to be given for how we have gone about our work. We have not once deviated from our goal of placing children first.

Sometimes much can be achieved in the short term by turning away from our values or principles. This we have not done. We have delivered a year to be proud of and kept the children as our focus. Colleagues have gone above and beyond more times than we care to note. Seeking to learn new skills and push ourselves once more – for the good of the children we serve.

Service is a confusing term. It has perceptions of class, or hierarchy or worth. Yet in our profession, in our role as public servants, we demonstrate a strength, energy and calling that has not been seen so clearly than in this last academic year.

Thank you.



As the last few days conclude. As we reach the end of term. Pause and feel the applause. You may see this in the small things, as opposed to the big. The simple card, the quiet smile of a child, the comment of a student who moves on. We need to remember, and acknowledge, these glimpses of appreciation. It is not a current trend amongst society to revel on appreciation. Indeed, I think school staff are particularly bashful in this regard. This year we need to holiday like champions. Look out for those glimpses of thanks. We often keep our colleagues and classes going, but perhaps miss those tell-tale signs that what we do matters. What we do makes a difference.

So as the final scene is played out, acknowledge the applause. It may not be shouted from the roof tops as your efforts deserve, but this year, you have been remarkable. Rest well and rest easy, you've done a great job in circumstances unforetold. Give yourself a break... a nice long one.

Actions for governors:

Athena-GEP calendar will be circulated shortly along with a list of dates for the different committee meetings. Instructions on how to subscribe to the Athena-GEP calendar from the website will also be provided.

Actions for heads:

Please [click here](#) for a list of dates for the headteachers' and other relevant meetings next academic year. Instructions on how to subscribe to the Athena-GEP calendar from the website will be circulated to all heads shortly.

School improvement:

Athena-GEP and Kings will be running leadership cpd sessions next academic year. Please see the details below and click on the images to signup. Click on the following links for the original flyers [Aspiring SLT – Middle Leadership](#)

Athena GEP KINGS COLLEGE

Free to attend

AIM HIGH

Only 10 places available

ASPIRING SLT
FOR ATHENA-GEP SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
Kings is offering a programme of CPD sessions aimed at teachers who aspire to be SLT in the next 12-18 months. The course was devised and will be partly delivered by Alastair McKenzie, Principal at Kings

27.09.21 Leading change in schools
22.11.21 Using data for school improvement
24.01.22 School finances
14.03.22 Tbc
4pm - 6pm
@ Kings, Southway, Guildford, GU2 8DU

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

Email Alastair McKenzie for further information
a.mckenzie@kingscollegeguildford.com

Athena GEP

George Abbot School,
Woodruff Avenue,
GU11 1XX

Click here to book

Middle Leadership Training
Sept 2021 - May 2022
Free to attend

for existing and newly appointed primary and secondary leaders

27.09.21
Leadership, management and the leadership transition

22.11.21
Change & my style - exploring effective models of change and impact of leadership style

24.01.22
Observation & feedback - school improvement and evaluation cycle, gathering robust evidence and reflecting on evaluation activities. Responding to the Ofsted framework

14.03.22
Managing underperformance

09.05.22
Challenges of leadership - positive impact on children's learning, planning for difficult conversations

Please contact Andrew Roach for further information
a.roach@gepacademies.com

School Operations:

Network Team Update

This month the Network Team, among many other things, have been busy supporting the exams department to provide the right environment for exams in our schools. Many exams are now held electronically and so working with each school exams department we have designed environments to ensure we meet all of the examination board requirements whilst providing the best setup to help our students achieve the results they have worked so hard for.

This month also puts a shining light on Cyber Security as we were targeted by a phishing email attack. Fortunately, we spotted the attack within 15 minutes, quarantined the offending emails and informed all those that had been sent the email within 30 minutes.

A phishing email is an online scam where criminals impersonate legitimate organisations or people via email, text message or advertisement in order to steal our information. The main way they do this is by emailing with a link that will appear to be from a person you know of or have worked with before. Their attempts are clever, but can be spotted if you are vigilant, so I have provided a list of things to help:

- Be **vigilant** of emails requesting your information.
- **Hover over any links in emails** to ensure they are going where they say they are going and not to some other unknown website.
- **Trust your gut, if an email feels off, it probably is.** Is it from a colleague but it doesn't read like an email they would usually send? Ask them in a separate email or over the phone.
- **Use unique passwords and change them regularly.** I am asking every single staff member to please change your password before the end of term.

Finally, please see the below link that was sent in November's bulletin giving more examples of how to spot fake emails:

<https://www.gepacademies.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GEP-Cyber-Security.pdf>

The GEP community can prevent malicious attacks on our systems and data by working together, thank you for your continued vigilance and effort.

Regards

Ben Sayers

GEP Head of IT

Helpdesk update

In June, the team received a total of 749 tickets created, and closed 729. Our two largest ticket categories this month have been printers and staff software, accounting to ¼ of all tickets raised this month. We were able to notice a trend early on with the increased number of support tickets raised regarding those categories and put in work-arounds or permanent fixes for the staff having software or printers issues. As we reach the end of the school term, we continue to ask everything is raised through our helpdesk especially moving into the new academic year. If you could use this time to think of anything the network team would need to be aware of for September and can let us know this ahead of time this would allow us to better plan and support the teaching and learning in the new academic year.

Remember if it's not on the list, you don't get an assist so please log all issues or queries on the helpdesk by emailing: networkhelpdesk@gepacademies.com

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Gaby Sutton: Senior Administrator/PA to CEO	gsutton@gepacademies.com	01483 888188

Jack's visits and meetings this week:

Stoughton school visit	12.07.21	08.00 – 09.00
Northmead school visit	12.07.21	14.00 – 15.00
Guildford County LGB	12.07.21	17.30 – 20.00
Focus Group 5	13.07.21	08.30 – 10.00
David Blake/Safeguarding	13.07.21	12.00 – 13.30
Pirbright school visit	13.07.21	14.00 – 14.30
Athena-GEP central team end of year celeb.	13.07.21	15.00 – 16.30
Athena-GEP heads end of year celebration	13.07.21	16.30 – 18.00
George Abbot school visit	14.07.21	10.35 – 11.35
Shalford school visit	14.07.21	14.00 – 15.00
Athena extraordinary board meeting	14.07.21	18.00 – 19.00
Athena-GEP education committee	15.07.21	13.00 – 15.30
Athena-GEP shadow board meeting	16.07.21	08.30 – 10.00
Athena-GEP executive meeting	16.07.21	10.00 – 12.00
Angela Richardson	16.07.21	15.00 – 16.00