

Dear Colleague

September 2015

The MSA continues to grow and develop. We now have over half the schools in Manchester as signed-up members of the MSA. If you are not yet a member, please do contact us and join our schools led alliance of Manchester schools. We now administer and fund the Primary Strategy Group's monthly meetings, support the High School Heads Manchester Collaborative and work with the MGA and the Council to provide a wide range of governor activities. In addition we provide a number of conferences, workshops and other activities throughout the year. If you are in the MSA and you want to see a particular event drop us an email. I hope you had a good summer, in spite of the weather, and that you are enjoying the challenges of the new school year.

*John McNerney*

## **MSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Our first AGM is for all MSA members and is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. It will take place at Beswick Library. The meeting will commence at 2pm with a presentation from the popular education consultant, Chris Beswick, who will lead a session on the implications of the new inspection framework for Manchester schools. At 4pm the AGM will then commence and an agenda will be communicated in due course. If you would like to attend the AGM conference meeting, please email: [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk).

## **MSA/MGA/MCC Partnership for Governance**

The Manchester Schools' Alliance (MSA), Manchester Governors' Association (MGA) and the Manchester City Council School Governance Unit (MCC/SGU) formed a partnership in July 2014 to support effective governance in Manchester and provide governors with a forum to network and share best practice. The Partnership delivered a successful programme of events in 2014-2015 including sessions around head teacher performance management, performance related pay, financial efficiencies, new curriculum and assessment, the Ofsted Framework run by HMI, data analysis using the Fischer Family Trust Governor Dashboard, SEN reforms and Pupil Premium. In addition, termly special school governor meetings, a conference exploring the challenges of effective governance in the self-improving school system and the national clerks' development programme was brokered into the City and run in a Manchester location. Based on feedback from governors at the events, it is proposed to run half-termly evening sessions 6-8pm at school across the City including the following topics:

- New Curriculum and 'Life Without Levels'
- Vulnerable Learners (SEN and LAC)
- Data Analysis
- The Prevent Duty and Safeguarding
- Finance for Governors
- Quality Assurance
- Ofsted 'Getting to Outstanding' – delivered by HMI, targeted at 'good' schools

The Partnership Programme of Events for Manchester Governors 2015-2016 will be communicated early in the autumn term and will detail all the times and venues of these events. If you would like to register, please email: [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk).

# MSA Summer Conference 2015, Loreto Sixth Form College

Theme: Improving Mathematics Teaching and Outcomes

Our summer conference was in collaboration with Teach Manchester, the MSA Teaching School, and was held at Loreto Sixth Form College. HMI Julie Yarwood, presented Manchester schools' data and then followed this with an outline of the new Ofsted Framework which will apply to all schools from 1 September 2015. This was well received by an audience of about 170.



Julie was followed by HMI Jane Jones, the National Lead HMI for mathematics. Jane's lively, knowledgeable and engaging presentation was particularly well received by all the maths leads and headteachers in the audience. The final session of the morning was from maths SLE, Andy Eadie, and primary head, Jenny McGarry. Andy posed some maths challenges while Jenny gave something of the vision for the work of the maths core group that has been meeting to foster greater understanding of maths learning and challenges across the key stages.



After a good lunch, the final session switched to the sports hall for a practical session led by primary and secondary SLE's on the use of the Bar method to solve maths problems. The collaborative approach of primary, secondary and tertiary institutions working together was a definite success. Sixth form students supported as maths ambassadors to assist the teachers.

## **A few comments from delegates;**

"Great to collaborate with colleagues from wide range of setting and phases—useful to understand new inspection framework and particularly putting new maths curriculum into context"

"Wonderful conference—lots to think about, thank you"

"Good introduction to the bar model and how this links to the mastery curriculum"



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