

September 2016

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to be able to work with you all as the Lead Headteacher for the Manchester Schools' Alliance. I worked as a headteacher in Manchester for 10 years and over that time was delighted to see the progress being made by our pupils across the city.

I commit one day a week as the Lead Headteacher and over the next academic year I hope to work with you in our focus on school priorities and self-improvement. The MSA is keen to build on and develop the existing groups that are already established as well as respond to key issues and the needs of it's members. I am very aware of the excellent practice that already exists in our schools and I look forward to hearing from you about how we can all work together for the benefit of all of our children and young people. My email address is [m.cunningham@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:m.cunningham@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk) if you need to contact me.

With my best wishes for a successful year for each and every one of you.

Margaret Cunningham  
MSA Lead Headteacher



## MSA Membership

For those of you that have not yet joined, we have finalised the MSA Offer for 16/17. From April 16, the MSA agreed to manage and fund the FFT Aspire access for Manchester schools. To join the MSA, it costs just £1 per pupil. For this, your school gets full access to the FFT Dashboard (which costs £325 to non-MSA members). Your school will also be able to access a number of FREE places at conferences, events and sessions throughout the year, including those mentioned in this newsletter. You will also receive representation at MSA facilitated groups such as the Primary Strategy Group, Safeguarding Strategy Group and Strategic Education Partnership Board as well as access to forums for debate around current education issues including the White Paper and Academisation. For further information on the new MSA Offer or if you would like to join, please contact Lisa Jones on the details below.

## Primary Strategy Group

The Primary Strategy Group are looking for new MSA primary member headteachers to join the group (particularly from the North District). The group, consisting of around 25 primary headteachers from across the city, meet on the final Thursday of each month at Beswick Library. As well as receiving regular updates from John Edwards and other LA Officers, the group was involved in a number of projects last year. These included a number of schools represented at the PSG becoming part of the 'Off-Rolling' Pilot which gives schools the power to remove pupils from roll. A Social, Emotional and Mental Health Sub-group was formed from the meeting to look at alternative provision options for primary children and the new Director of Children's Services, Paul Marshall, has committed to attend bi-monthly to work strategically with the heads to improve the relationships and systems between schools and Children's Services. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lisa Jones on the details below.





## National Literacy Trust Manchester Network



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
1.30-3.30pm, Irish World Heritage Centre

The Read Manchester campaign is underway in the city with a full programme of events planned for the year. As part of the campaign, the National Literacy Trust are holding a series of network meetings in Manchester. The MSA is supporting the NLT with this by facilitating the first meeting in October. The meeting is aimed at Literacy Co-ordinators, Deputies and Headteachers and will focus on the 'Read on, Get on' paper, the outcomes of the recent NLT survey in Manchester with a overall picture of what reading looks like in Manchester. There will also be an opportunity for schools to sign up for a book bench which can be decorated by the children at your school. For more information, visit

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools\\_teaching/own\\_a\\_bookbench](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_teaching/own_a_bookbench)



If you would like to attend this event or would like any further information about 'Read Manchester' please contact Lisa at [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance)



**MANCHESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL

## Assessment & School Accountability- Adapting to the New Landscape

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
9-1pm, Irish World Heritage Centre

As we enter the second year under the new assessments, we are hopefully in a better position to understanding how they work. Stephen Anywill who delivered 'Assessment Beyond Levels' in Manchester in January 2016 is coming back to give us an update. He will be looking at the impact of the new assessment & accountability arrangements from 2016 and recognising, evidencing and monitoring pupil progress. More details will follow later in the term but if you would like to secure your place early (as places will be limited) please contact Lisa at [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk).



**Oxford School  
Improvement**

## Teaching Writing - A Pathway to Success

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
9-4pm, Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre

Following the success of his session on reading in June 2016, we have invited James Clements back to Manchester to run a session on writing. During the day, James will be looking at developing a writing culture, creating a curriculum for writing and effective strategies for teaching writing. More details will follow later in the year but if you would like to secure your place early (as places will be limited) please contact Lisa at [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk).



# Mastery: what does it mean and how can we achieve it?

With research-based resources and rigorous teaching support from nursery to Year 6, the **Numicon** whole-school approach enables all teachers to teach the higher expectations of the 2014 National Curriculum with confidence.

The **Numicon** approach, centred around three guiding principles: communicating mathematically; generalizing; and making connections, allows children to understand, confidently explore and master abstract mathematical concepts and ensures consistency in teaching and learning across the primary phase.

In this FREE half-day workshop we will:

- Demonstrate how to track children's mastery of key mathematical concepts and progress throughout the year
- Exemplify how this approach enables you to formatively assess mathematical knowledge and understanding accurately
- Clarify how **Numicon** meets all National Curriculum aims and objectives for every key stage
- Illustrate how **Numicon** embodies the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach through low-threshold/ high-ceiling activities
- Show you how **Numicon** can help all your pupils achieve in mathematics



**Date and time:** Monday 28th November, 13:30-16:30 (registration from 13:00)

**Venue:** Irish World Heritage Centre, 1 Irish Town Way, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, M8 0RY

**Link to book your place:** <https://numiconmanchester28november2016.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Further details

**Who should attend:** Head Teachers, Senior Leaders, Maths Subject Leaders.

**How many places are available:** One place per school.

**Refreshments:** Tea and coffee will be provided free of charge.

“  
Numicon has transformed the way I teach maths.

”  
Mary Jalland, Teacher,  
Westquarter  
Primary School

**Numicon is...**  
maths mastery for every child