

Dear Colleague

I hope you find time to look through the pages of our Newsletter to see some of the activities we have been involved in during the autumn term and some of our plans for 2016. The MSA is very much a school's led organisation that responds to what members want. This term we have provided the administration for the Primary Strategy Group, managed the finances for the high schools and colleges Manchester Collaborative and been partners in the highly successful offer for governors; the MSA has continued to provide training and events in response to requests from schools and plans to continue this work in the New Year.



In addition to this snapshot of events and plans, you will find an advert on page 6 for a most interesting role! The MSA Board is looking for a new Lead Headteacher to steer and develop the organisation in 2016. If you would like to find out more, do contact Lisa or me at [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk).

Have a great Christmas break and a successful New Year.

**John McNerney**

## MSA Autumn Conference

The MSA Autumn Conference took place on the 30th September 2015 at Beswick library. Chris Beswick, a highly regarded education consultant, presented 'Ofsted Changes September 2015 – The Future of Inspection.' Chris' presentation looked at what the new framework is designed to do and how this will be achieved.

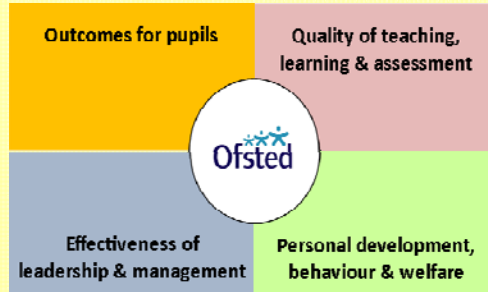
He gave an overview of short inspections, looked at changes around the grade descriptors as well as changes around safeguarding and self-evaluation summary documents (SESDs). The session ended with a group activity on the topic of the practical implications for schools and Chris then shared some useful documents with the group. Chris was well received by the range of headteachers, governors and deputies from primary, high and special schools that were in attendance, feedback from the group suggested that everyone had taken some valuable information away from the session. Comments from delegates included;



**"A clear, concise & incredibly useful overview of the new framework and its implications"**

**"Clear presentation flagging up the changes in the framework and information around self-review"**

**"I have lots to do, I need to write a SEF & prepare key documents"**



## New Headteacher Event

On the 18th of November, the MSA facilitated a welcome event for all new Headteachers in the city. Council Leader Sir Richard Leese and Councillor Rosa Battle shared information about their role within Manchester and provided a wider context for the headteachers work in their own schools. Amanda Corcoran talked about the role of the team within the Local Authority and shared some useful contacts and a calendar of events with the group. John talked about the role of MSA in the city. The event gave the new heads a chance to ask questions, share practice and discuss common issues such as difficulties around recruitment.



## Primary Strategy Group

The MSA continues to support the Primary Strategy Group which meets on the last Thursday of each month. The meetings are attended by a number of primary headteachers from around the city and are chaired by Lisa Vyas, Executive Headteacher at The Kingsway Trust. The agenda is decided by the members of the group and since September a great deal has taken place. The School Admissions team came along to the meeting in October to talk about new off-rolling guidance. It was agreed at the meeting that all headteachers that were in attendance would pilot this within their schools. The Local Authority SEF summary was presented at one of the meetings and the group identified 4 areas of this that can be supported through these meetings. Sub-groups have also been set-up at the meetings to look at Speech and Language Provision within the city and a Quality Assurance Pilot Project for primary headteachers. A summary of the minutes of these meetings is emailed out to all Primary Schools in the city.

## MSA Directors

**The MSA is governed by a Forum of Directors. The Forum includes two secondary school headteachers, two primary school headteachers, one special school headteacher and two school governor representatives. We currently have vacancies on our forum and are looking for headteachers and Governor representatives who would like to get involved in the MSA as a Director. Commitment is one meeting every half term and you will be involved in shaping the organisation and decision making. If you are interested in becoming a director, please contact Lisa at: [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk)**



## Post-16 GCSE maths meeting

At September's Strategic Education Partnership the pressures of resits on sixth forms and colleges was raised as an issue. In October, the MSA facilitated a meeting to consider issues around post-16 GCSE maths. The meeting was attended by representatives from Xaverian, Loreto and The Manchester College as well as John in his role of Headteacher and a maths SLE from St Peter's. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss what the issues are and identify ways in which high schools can support their students moving up to sixth forms and colleges. They raised now only receiving the grade and no longer being able to access the marks is unhelpful as it can no longer be gauged where a pupil sits within that grade. John confirmed that schools do still receive these marks and it was agreed one action could be for high schools to provide these to the colleges for each individual student. John took this to a Manchester Secondary Collaborative meeting in November where all schools in attendance agreed to provide this from September 2016. They have also agreed to provide the same information for GCSE English. Sixth forms and colleges who want to be included in this are now looking at producing a policy that students sign up to, to allow this data to be shared.



## Autumn Governor Events

The 'Vulnerable Learners' governors session took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October and 25 governors attended. The session ran by Jane Johnson, Virtual School Head and Julie Hicklin, MCC SEND Lead, explored governors' responsibilities for looked after children and pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. Feedback from governors was the session was very relevant and most were leaving with more knowledge of their responsibilities as a governor.



### Special Educational Needs & Disability

The 'Prevent Duty & Safeguarding' session on the 25th November took place at The Barlow RC High School. 64 governors attended. Jenny Patterson, Safeguarding Lead for Schools, talked about safeguarding in general. Jane Murphy then took the governors through the national context of The Prevent Duty before looking in more detail at the role of schools, the new Ofsted framework and building resilience in children. Feedback from the session was that it offered a good overview summarising the role of the governor. Many governors commented on how useful they found the signposting to the other sources of information and other training opportunities.

20 governors attended the 'Finance for Governors' session which took place on Monday 7th December at Newall Green High School. Adel White, Senior MCC Finance Officer and Ruth Bradbury, School Governance Lead looked at how school funding is allocated in Manchester and examined the Manchester Schools Financial Regulations for Maintained Schools. Feedback suggested governors left the session with a stronger knowledge of schools financial terminology/ different funding streams and more confident to ask questions and challenge decisions.



Education  
Funding  
Agency

The first special school governor meeting also took place on 3rd December 2016 at The Birches.



## MSA Spring Conference: 'Assessment Beyond Levels & Whole School Accountability'

Tuesday 26th January 2016, 9 - 12.30pm, Irish World Heritage Centre

In partnership with Oxford University Press, we have secured Stephen Anwyll to present 'Assessment Beyond Levels and Whole School Accountability' at our Spring Conference in January 2016. Stephen is an independent consultant who was also once a primary teacher, Director of the National Literacy Strategy and Head of the National Assessment Team at Ofqual. During the session he will be looking at the implications of accountability measures, how new test and teacher assessments will work, how data can be used to raise attainment, recommendations for whole school action, necessary knowledge & skills, how leadership can develop a robust system, reporting to parents and transition to and from the primary phase.



**Oxford School  
Improvement**

**This conference is for MSA members only**

To book a place, please email Lisa Jones at: [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk)



## Annual Governors' Conference

**6th February 2016**

**9.30am - 2pm**

**Irish World Heritage Centre, 1 Irish Town Way, M8 0AE**

The MSA works in partnership with the Manchester Governors' Association and the Manchester City Council School Governance Unit to put together a programme of events for Manchester Governors. One event from the 15/16 programme is the Annual Governors' Conference in February 2016.

Keynote speakers:

**Julie Yarwood, HMI, Ofsted**

**&**

**John Edwards, Director of Education, Manchester City Council**

There will be workshops around 'Multi-Academy Trusts,' 'Self-Review' and 'Succession Planning .' Places are limited to a maximum of two for each governing body to enable representation from as many GBs as possible, places will be free to members of the MSA and/ or MGA. A booking form and detailed programme will be provided nearer the time.

To book a place, please email Lisa Jones at: [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk)

To book on any of the upcoming sessions, or if you require any further information, please contact Lisa Jones at [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk) or call 0161 248 1589.



## 'Working Successfully with your Governing body'

**13th January 2016,  
2 - 4pm, Beswick Library**

**You are invited to a session on 'working successfully with your governing body'.  
Colleagues will be attending to share their experiences and answer questions.**

2:00 - 2:05 - **Welcome**

2:05 - 2.35 - **Ariana Yakas**

*Chair of Governors, Kingsway Community Trust  
& NLG*

2.35 - 3.05 - **Sam Offord**

*Headteacher at Birchfield's Primary School*

3.05- 3.30 - **John McNerney**

*Headteacher at St Peter's RC High School*

3.30- 4.00 - **Ruth Bradbury**

*School Governance Unit, MCC*

**This event will be particularly useful for new headteachers but will be valuable for all MSA members.**



## Safeguarding Strategy Group

We recently met with Jenny Patterson and Jane Duncan from the LA Safeguarding team to look at what the team is currently offering to schools. One of the things that came from the meeting was the idea of setting up a small group of Headteachers/Designated Persons to work together with the MSCB to promote safeguarding in education. Jenny talked about a safeguarding self-review and audit tool for schools to be completed annually and it was agreed that this could be the focus of the first meeting to ensure the audit is relevant and fit for purpose. The agenda for these meetings would be set by the members of the group but other topics suggested included FGM, Early Help and Social Media. The first meeting is planned for **Monday 18th January 2016**, 4pm at St Peter's RC High School. **If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Lisa Jones on the details above.**

### Other spring events.....

**'New Curriculum & Life Without Levels' Governor Event**, Wednesday 2nd March, 6 - 8pm, St Peter's RC High School

**'Special Schools Governors' Meeting'** Thursday 24th March, 6-8pm, The Birches

**'Getting to Outstanding' Governor Event**  
Venue & date to be confirmed

## MSA Lead Headteacher

The term of the current Lead Headteacher is finishing at the end of April 2016. The MSA is seeking to appoint a serving Manchester headteacher, or previous Manchester headteacher who has retired within the last 3 years, to initially shadow the current Lead.

### **Role**

- To steer MSA's development, responding to the needs of and views of MSA members and the local, regional and national context.
- To lead the process of formulating MSA's strategic objectives, offer to members, and business plan.
- To be responsible for promoting MSA's work and securing delivery of MSA's offer, including conferences, networking events, and the partnership in Governance programme.
- To support the Chairs of MSA's reference groups in developing effective consultation and feedback to MSA and to contribute to these groups as appropriate.
- To represent MSA and its members externally, acting as an advocate for the work of MSA and the contribution made by schools to the City, and enabling schools to make productive links with external partners.
- To represent MSA and the interests of schools in the city's Strategic Education Partnership, the Leader's Forum and the Manchester School Improvement Partnership and other relevant city and sub-regional initiatives as they arise.
- To work with the City Council, advising lead officers and representing the perspective of MSA members to the Council, DfE and Ofsted.
- To have oversight of the budget and financial planning and work to secure resources
- To prepare reports on the work of the MSA.
- To line manage the Business Manager & any other staff employed by/ working for the MSA.

### **Benefits of the role**

- ◆ The opportunity to influence school improvement across the city at all levels.
- ◆ A wealth of contacts and an overview of different practices across the city
- ◆ Financial benefit of 40 days at the current recommended rate for National Leaders of Education. This will be reimbursed to the school for serving headteachers. (There is no requirement for the LH to be an NLE)
- ◆ If a serving Headteacher then the LH will continue to be based at her/his school. (It is expected that the Business Manager of MSA will also be based at this school)

**For more information about the role or if you would like to arrange an informal chat with the current Lead Headteacher, please contact Lisa Jones at:  
[admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk)**