

December 2017



From everyone at the MSA, we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year for 2018.



## MSA Membership

There are now 142 schools and colleges signed up to the MSA which is **78%** of all schools in the city! Members benefit from full access to the FFT Dashboard (which alone costs £85 flat fee + 95p per pupil for primaries and £500 flat fee + 95p per pupil for secondaries to buy directly) as well as FREE and subsidised places at a number of events, conferences and groups facilitated by the MSA, all for just £1 per pupil.

There has been surprise from members around the amount of data the dashboard provides a school as well as lots of positive feedback. Elements of the dashboard that have been found particularly useful include the progress data from EYFS to KS1 and KS1 to KS2, instant access to historical data the day a new pupil arrives at school, the ability to evaluate progress and analyse gaps for disadvantaged pupils as well as the succinct summaries of attainment and progress for governors, QA and Ofsted. If you are a member and need support accessing your dashboard or if you are not yet a member and would like further information on the benefits of membership, please contact Lisa Jones at; [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk) or on 0161 248 1589.

## Working towards Excellence

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, the MSA in partnership with Manchester City Council ran a 'Working towards Excellence' conference attended by 50 senior leaders from across primary, secondary and special schools. The conference was led by Allan Torr who was a headteacher for 10 years and then a HMI for 11 years only recently stepping down in August this year. As a HMI, he was part of the national Ofsted training and QA team. The day was split in to four sessions; outcomes, teaching learning and assessment, leadership and management and excellent personal development for pupils. Each session enabled leaders to reflect on best practice, discuss with colleagues and look at what is required to move towards excellence in each of these areas.



Feedback from the session was excellent with everyone agreeing that Allan's presentation was thought-provoking and relevant and that the opportunity to share and discuss practice with colleagues was extremely valuable.

***"This was a very powerful day. All of the content was exactly what we need to drive our school improvement."***

***"Every aspect of the day was thought-provoking and provided great opportunities to reflect upon our school, vision & future aims"***

As Allan was so well received, we have asked him to come back to speak to governors at our 'Working towards Excellent Governance' session in March (details on page 3)



**Kingsway**  
Community Trust

## Outstanding EAL Practice

Following on from the success of the session back in March 2017, we again partnered up with Kingsway Community Trust to deliver 'Outstanding EAL Practice'. Kingsway Trust has 3 outstanding primary schools in the city. In each inspection report, the EAL practice has been praised. ***"Pupils who are new to English receive fantastic support and intervention and acquire English quickly and confidently"***

Trust EMA Lead, Rumana Asif, shared practice from across the 3 schools with other Manchester primaries. 31 heads, deputies and EAL leads attended to listen to the Trust's approach, look at case studies and view resources that the schools use. Feedback from the session was excellent including;

***"As a new EAL Lead, I was really overwhelmed but Rumana has helped me see it is all possible."***

Everyone that attended the session received a drop-box full of resources that can be adapted to their school and were also given the task-bags that the Trust use daily in the classroom.

## MSA AGM

The Manchester Schools' Alliance Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Irish Heritage Centre. Those in attendance had the opportunity to look through and comment on the Director's report for 2016/17. This summarised all of the activity that had been undertaken within that year and it was agreed it was a good reflection of the work being done and the value of the MSA to the city. There was also an opportunity to comment on the final accounts for the year. There were no nominations for the secondary school or special school Director vacancies but representatives from these phases agreed to continue to attend Board meetings until the vacancies are filled. A full list of current Directors is now available on the website; <http://manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk/about-us/our-governance/>



## FFT Refresh & Update

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, Stephen Turp (FFT Principal Education Adviser) returned to Manchester to provide an FFT refresh and update to 32 primary senior leaders at the Irish World Heritage Centre. At the session, he outlined the key features of new FFT Aspire as well as the replacement RAISE system, ASP, and provided a blended approach to self-evaluation to ensure schools can effectively evaluate their performance and measure progress. Senior leaders looked at the national performance trends, saw how their school compares and how their school has performed in year 2 of a scaled score world as well as looking at lessons learned from the national research.

Feedback from the session was very positive with those attending agreeing that the session was a good overview, useful and informative.



@McrSchools



## Resilient pupils...resilient parents...resilient schools

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, 9am-12.30pm, Hough End Centre

In partnership with Oxford School Improvement, Jean Gross CBE will be delivering 'Resilient pupils...resilient parents...resilient schools, at our spring conference. Jean's career was as a teacher, an educational psychologist, author and adviser to the government. Until 2005, Jean was Senior Director within the Government's Primary National Strategy, responsible for its work on overcoming barriers to achievement. More recently, Jean was England's Communication Champion for Children. During the session, she will look at what makes some of us able to overcome difficulties or disadvantage and succeed in school and life, explore the place of resilience in the Ofsted framework and make links to the hot topic of children's mental health. She will also consider what can be done in school to develop staff self efficacy and wellbeing in challenging times as well as focus on building parent's resilience and how to engage disadvantaged and other 'harder to reach' groups. Places are FREE to MSA members (2 places per school) There are a maximum 60 places. Although Jean's experience is within primary and so the session will be primary focussed, secondary staff are welcome to attend. To book a place on this session, please contact Lisa Jones on 0161 248 1589 or at; [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk)



## FFT for Governors

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018,  
6-8pm, Chancellors

The FFT Governor Dashboard helps governors hold their school to account, support and challenge the leadership team and make more informed strategic decisions. It provides governors with an analysis of the main school performance indicators including attainment, achievement and a summary of strengths and weaknesses, a simple chart showing the progress made by different pupil groups over 3 years including pupil premium pupils, a breakdown of school cohort by pupil groups and an analysis of attendance (by year group). Gary Limb, Education Adviser is coming to Manchester to provide an overview to governors giving them a chance to view the school governor dashboard, a look at how to analyse and interpret the data and give governors the opportunity to discover how the dashboard can support their role. Places are FREE to MSA members but **this session is now full**. However, there is a waiting list for this so if you would like to add your name, please contact Lisa Jones at; [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk) or on 0161 248 1589.



## Working towards Excellent Governance

### What governors need to know

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018,  
9.30am - 1pm, Chancellors

The aim of this Saturday morning session is to support governors in their role and help them to understand what they need to know when working towards excellent governance. Allan Torr, ex-headteacher and recent HMI will be starting the session off looking at what Ofsted expectations of governors are. The group will then break off into a series of workshops which are currently being developed but will be focussing on the effective running of governing bodies, holding headteachers to account, questions governors should ask, evidencing challenge and behaviour, safety and well-being.

This session is **FREE** to governors from MSA member schools and places are limited to 2 per school.

More details will follow in the New Year but as there are a limited number of places on this session, we are taking bookings now. If you would like to book a place on this session, please contact Lisa Jones at; [admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk) or on 0161 248 1589.