

December 2018

Working Towards Excellence

Wednesday 27th February 2019
9-12pm, Chancellors Hotel



Following on from the success of our sessions for both senior leaders and governors last year, we have invited Allan Torr back to deliver a session to both headteachers and chairs of governors together. The content is still under development but those attending should expect to receive an update on moving towards excellence in the key Ofsted areas and how this may look under the new framework including a look at moving towards an excellent curriculum. The aim of the morning is to enable headteachers and chairs to reflect on best practice and to provide an opportunity for this to be discussed together as well as discussed with colleagues from other schools.

This is an MSA member exclusive event and is aimed at both primary and secondary. places are **FREE** to MSA members but are initially limited to 2 per school. To book on to this session, please contact Lisa Jones on the details at the bottom of this page.



FREE 24-hr Counselling Service

We hope that by now you are aware that as part of your MSA membership ALL staff within your school can access a 24-hour telephone counselling service and online health portal for **FREE!** There are a number of areas that your staff can get support and advice for using this service including relationships, financial information, stress and anxiety, legal issues and housing. There is a poster attached to this newsletter which provides more detailed information.

Feedback from schools using this so far suggests that this is high quality support and has already had an impact. A number of schools have told us that they have now included this contact information on the return to work form so it can be raised with staff when a need is identified. You should already have posters, leaflets and login details which were sent out before the summer. However if not, or if you require more, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Jones on the details below.

This is a pilot and is available up to May 2019 at which point it will be reviewed. We are encouraging as many schools and staff as possible to utilise this service and we welcome feedback and comments from those that have.

Summer Term Events

We are currently developing our events for summer term for both senior leaders and for governors. Just a reminder that the MSA is responsive to member wants and needs so if there are any particular subjects and/ or issues that you would like us look in to focussing an event on, please do let us know by contacting Lisa Jones on the contact details below.

Working Together

On Wednesday the 7th of November, 51 senior leaders attended our 'Working Together' conference at Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre. HMI Anne Seneviratne led the session and talked about how curriculum will be at the heart of the new framework, the importance of curriculum, concepts that matter when discussing curriculum and what this all means for the new framework.

Schools were allocated to tables geographically where possible with a mix of primary and secondary on each and during the second session each table was given a set of questions to discuss. Questions included 'How is transition managed from a curricular perspective?', 'Does primary-secondary transition focus chiefly on pastoral matters?' and 'What is the curriculum coverage like for your SEN/D pupils or any pupils who need to catch up?'. Each table fed back what had been discussed and Anne gave her input on each question. Feedback from the morning was positive and some of the discussion that came from the event has given MSA food for thought in relation to future events around transition.



FFT for Governors



32 governors attended the 'FFT for Governors' evening session on the 28th of November at Chancellors. Sean Green, FFT Education Adviser, led the session and provided an overview giving governors a chance to view their school dashboard, a look at how to analyse and interpret the data and the opportunity to discover how the dashboard can support their role holding their school to account, supporting and challenging the leadership team and making more informed strategic decisions.

Feedback from the session was excellent and governors, as always, were very surprised by the wealth of detailed, easy to interpret information that is readily available to schools through the dashboard. When asked what they would be taking away from this event, most governors agreed that it is an ability to understand headteachers reports better and more confidence to ask challenging questions. A lot of governors also commented that they would be sharing how to access the report with the rest of the governing body.

MSA Annual General Meeting

The MSA Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 28th November at Whalley Range High School. The meeting gave members the opportunity to look at the Directors' Report and Final Accounts for 2017/18 and ask any questions before they were agreed. Two new Directors have been elected. Janet Doherty, Headteacher of Manchester Hospital School, has taken up the role of Special School Director and Jo MacKinnon, Headteacher at Levenshulme High School, the role of Secondary School Director. There is still one vacancy for a Secondary School Director so if you are interested in filling this role, please contact Lisa Jones on the details below. More information about the governance of the MSA, including a list of current Directors, can be found at; <http://manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk/about-us/our-governance/>





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