

MSA Newsletter

COMPANY NUMBER: 8998596

Dear Colleague

April 2015

Welcome to the MSA Newsletter. You will find brief accounts of a number of high profile events that took place during the spring term and diary dates for the summer term. Do sign up for the link to the Virtual North of England Education Conference (VNEEC); I think heads and chairs of governors could well find extracts from the Emma Knights speech useful for governors' meetings.

In addition to the Newsletter, please see 'The Offer' which sets out the MSA aspirations for the coming year. I hope 'The Offer', which is broader than last year, will appeal to all school leaders in the city. The cost of membership is much lower than last year at only £1.00 per pupil and the hope is that every school will sign up for Manchester's school led partnership, the MSA.

Regards

John McNerney

Virtual North of England Education Conference (VNEEC)

Manchester is the host for this year's North of England Education Conference (NEEC) which has been running since 1903. The NEEC has for the first time been taken into the 21st century by launching a virtual online conference.

As a result the Virtual NEEC, or VNEEC, provides reach to a much larger audience, showcasing videos and presentations for access via an interactive website, completely free of charge.

The talks, panel discussions and keynote speeches are available on demand and includes topics such as 'Meeting the needs of the Community', 'Developing skills, reducing Dependency' and the 'Self Improving School System'.

A selection of just some of the video downloads that can be accessed include: Effective Governors & Future Challenges by Emma Knights; Lessons from a City Challenge by Mel Ainscow CBE; Whole School Improvement by Baroness Sue Campbell; Skills for Growth - Education into Employment by Angela Harrington; and Manchester Communication Academy - a community asset by Lynne Heath and Patsy Hodson.

To register for the VNEEC please visit: <https://registration.livegroup.co.uk/vneec2015/>



The 'Self Improving School System' panel: Gary Handforth, John McNerney (Chair), Dave Watson, Linda Jones, Ann Clynych

Manchester Annual Governors Conference

The Manchester Annual Governors Conference was held on Saturday 7th February at Chancellors Conference centre with 90 delegates attending.

The day commenced with an opening introduction from John McNerney, Manchester Schools' Alliance, who introduced the other partners that have worked collectively in producing the governors' annual programme, Colin Collinson, Manchester Governors' Association and Ruth Bradbury, Manchester City Council, School Governance Unit.

The first guest speaker John Edwards, Director of Education and Skills, Manchester City Council presented 'Governance in Manchester and the Self-Improving School System', followed by Emma Knights, Chief Executive, National Governors' Association who presented 'Effective Governance in the Changing Education Landscape'. Emma's presentation delivered some very helpful challenges to governors, allowing them to consider things from a national perspective and start to debate the challenges that lie ahead in Governance. Emma Knight's speech was filmed and is available on the VNEEC website. You may find the slides useful to use at governors' meetings.

Following on from the presentations, the group tables were then given specific discussion topics which were then fed back to the panel of guest speakers along with a question and answer session. The conference closed with a brief update on The Manchester Partnership Programme for Governors which highlighted a brief outline for the upcoming year and a networking lunch.

Feedback from the day included:

"Thank you. Very stimulating and I feel will make a difference to provision for children in Manchester. Well done!"

"The presentations and speakers were excellent. I've found the day really enjoyable and interesting. I've learnt a lot!"

"Overall it was very interesting and useful to see the commitment of governors towards the outcomes for children".



MSA Spring Conference 2015

On The 5th March, the MSA in Partnership with Teaching Leaders provided a free morning conference with the theme of 'What makes a great middle leader?' 30 middle leaders and headteachers attended the event at Friends Meeting House.

The morning began with an introductory presentation from John McNerney, followed by an excellent keynote presentation from Andy Buck Dean of the TL Leadership Faculty and a workshop led by James Toop, CEO, Teaching Leaders. The afternoon session involved presentations from both a primary and secondary middle leaders reviewing on their experiences.

If you would like more information on becoming involved in the Teaching Leaders programme, please visit the website: www.teachingleaders.org.uk

MSA in partnership with Oxford University Press - Professional Development Training event

On Wednesday 18th March, the MSA held a second free professional development event in sponsorship with Oxford University Press at the Manchester Town Hall.

Over 50 Primary Headteachers, members of SLT and SENCO's were invited to attend the event which was presented by Lorraine Petersen, OBE. The topic of the event was SEND Current Context – The changing landscape for schools. The day consisted of 3 sessions which included: The new landscape for schools, Ofsted framework and SEND and Quality First Teaching – What does this look like in your school?

Feedback from the day included:

“Lorraine is a breath of fresh air! A no-nonsense update on what is happening with SEND nationally”.

“I can really see how things can be done at school to improve SEND now, thank you”



Primary Strategy Group (PSG)

In January 2015, the first meeting of the Primary Strategy Group met which comprises of a group of 25 Primary Headteachers from across the city. The PSG will meet on a monthly basis at Beswick Library.

The group is managed, chaired and led by the heads with MSA support for meeting organisation and communications. The agenda and minutes for all meetings are circulated to all primary schools within the city for comment or contribution.

John Edwards, Director of Education and Skills, Manchester City Council has a standing invitation providing a council update with invitations to other senior LA officers and guest speakers dependent on the meeting agenda. So far the group has had presentations from guest Speakers Edwina Grant, Independent Chair of the Children's Services Improvement Board, Manchester City Council, Jane Booth, Independent Chair (Interim) Manchester Children Safeguarding Board and Gladys Rhodes White, Interim Strategic Director of Children's Services.

MSA Summer Conference 2015: Tuesday 23 June, Loreto Sixth Form College, 9.00am - 3.00pm

Theme: Improving Mathematics Teaching and Outcomes

This summer's MSA conference will be led by the Maths Core Group with representation from both Manchester Teaching School Alliances. The focus will be an examination of how we can improve the mathematical learning of our children and young people from primary school through secondary school. The Keynote Speaker will be HMI Jo Morgan, Ofsted National Director, Initial Teacher Education, and Regional Director, North west. More information to follow.

Manchester Teaching School Alliances:



The Manchester Teaching School Alliance led by Chorlton Park and Brookburn Primary Teaching Schools along with other Manchester schools and partners hopes to 'develop world-class teachers and leaders, provide support to schools and ensure better outcomes for pupils'.

Chorlton Park Primary School became a designated teaching school in 2013, with Brookburn Primary School being designated in spring 2014. The alliance was formed to 'deliver high quality training and professional development for teachers and leaders at all stages of their careers, as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support'. (www.manchestertsa.com)

If you wish to find out more information, please find the contact information below:

Email: learn@manchestertsa.com

Website: <http://www.manchestertsa.com/>



The Manchester Schools' Alliance Teaching School is now headed under the new name of "Teach Manchester". Since its designation in April 2014 Teach Manchester has developed new and existing partnerships to adopt the shared vision of 'working together to improve outcomes for Manchester children'.

In recent months, 2 further schools have joined the alliance; St Mary's CE Primary and Martenscroft Nursery and Children's Centre. 'By joining the core partner team of Piper Hill High School, St Peter's High School and Loreto Sixth Form College, the new Teaching Schools will represent and include the interests of schools and children from every phase and sector across the city at the heart Teach Manchester'. (www.teachmanchester.com)

If you wish to find out more information, please find the contact information below:

Email: schooldirect@teachmanchester.com

Website: <http://teachmanchester.com/>



Dates for the Diary...

SEN Reform Gov Training	27 April
Primary Strategy Group	30 April
Heads Reference Group	13 May
Governor Reference Group	13 May
MSA Board	20 May
Primary Strategy Group	21 May
MSA Board	3 June
Pupil Premium Gov Training	10 June
MSA Conference	23 June

Manchester Leaders of Governance

We have appointed three Manchester Leaders of Governance: Eve Holt, Manley Park Primary School; Mary Powell, Parrs Wood High School, and Kathleen O'Kelly, St Peter's RC Primary, Wythenshawe. Their role will mainly be to support vice-chairs, committee chairs and lead governors in developing their roles and effectiveness, or to provide other focussed coaching, complementing the work of the National Leaders of Governance in Manchester. We expect arrangements for their deployment to be made through Teach Manchester and we'll publish details soon. Meanwhile, if you think we might be able to help, please contact MSA.