

March 2017

Dear Colleague,

This term has seen the involvement of many schools at the events and sessions we have ran. We have been encouraged by the numbers and through the positive feedback provided at each session, so thank you. We are currently working on our programme of events for 2017/18 and if there is any particular issue or topic you would like us to address, please let us know asap.

*Margaret Cunningham
Lead Headteacher*

MSA 2017/18

The MSA currently has 129 members in 2016/17 from nursery schools right up to sixth form. We have had very positive feedback around the FFT dashboard included as part of that membership and are pleased to be able to provide this as part of our Offer again for 2017/18. Elements of the dashboard schools have found most useful are the progress data from EYFS to KS1 and then KS1 to KS2, the ability to target set for all children Y1-Y6, the conversion of old curriculum levels to new age-related expectations so results can be compared, the succinct summary of attainment and progress for governors and Ofsted and the 2-page overview for every pupil which is particularly useful for new children and young people coming in to school. We are currently developing our offer for 2017/18 which will be shared with you in the summer term but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

fftaspire



**Oxford School
Improvement**

MSA Summer Conference 'Teaching writing: A pathway to success'

Wednesday 14th June 2017, 9am-3pm
Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre,
Wythenshawe, M22 1QW

Following the success of his session on reading last summer, we have invited James Clements back to Manchester to reflect on the teaching of writing and how we can help every child to learn to write well by the time they leave primary school.

During the session, James will be looking at how we can build a culture of writing in our schools, how to create a rich and motivating curriculum for writing, how to structure writing lessons across the primary phase so every child achieves well and will provide effective, practical strategies for teaching writing. This session, sponsored by Oxford School Improvement, is aimed at primary headteachers, members of SLT and Subject Leaders and places are FREE to MSA member schools. Numbers are limited (max. 2 delegates per school) so please book early by contacting Lisa Jones on the details below.



NLT Summer Network



Thursday 22nd June 2017
1.30-3.30pm

Irish Heritage Centre, Irish Town Way, M8 0RY

Following on from the success of both the autumn and spring network meetings, the summer network has been planned for June. This is open to all schools in Manchester. The focus of this network will be based on feedback from the last session and this will be shared nearer the time. To book a place on this network, please email Lisa at: admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk.

At the last meeting, 2 schools kindly volunteered to share practice with the rest of the group. If this is something you would be willing to do (whether it be through formal presentation or informal discussion) please let us know when you book your place.

Safeguarding Strategy Group

The Safeguarding Strategy Group continue to meet half termly. The group is made up of headteachers and safeguarding leads from across the city from primary, secondary and post 16 as well as representatives from the LA Safeguarding in Education team. To date, the group have been involved in the production of an annual safeguarding audit circulated to schools, the creation of an 'information sharing guidance' policy and have been consulted on a key contact document to be shared with schools. It was agreed that key points from each meeting will be shared with all MSA schools. We have also dedicated some space on our [website](#) to share safeguarding resources with all Manchester schools. If you have used an organisation or company to promote safeguarding at your school that were effective, can recommend a programme that you use to support your e-safety or have any resources that would be willing to share for other schools to use with their children and young people, you can contact Lisa Jones at: admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk.

Summer Governor Events

New Governors' 'Gov Meet'

Tuesday 25th April 2017, 6-8pm

Irish Heritage Centre, 1 Irish Town Way, M8 0RY

This session is aimed at governors who have been in position for 6-18 months. Governors will be able to share their experiences with each other and have the opportunity to raise questions and discuss challenges with other governors. Please note this session is not induction training. Details of providers of induction training can be found in the [Accredited Provider List](#) on the Council '[schoolshub](#)' website (please contact your head teacher or clerk for the password for this site).

High Needs Funding Changes

Wednesday 14th June 2017, 6-8pm

Chancellors, Chancellors Way, M14 6NN



This session will be led by the Manchester City Council Education Finance Team and SEND Lead. It will examine the changes and the new funding formula that the government is going to use to allocate High Needs Funding to Local Authorities. High Needs Funding is provided to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities with an Education and Care Plan/ SEN Statement who are in a mainstream or special school. Places are limited to 40.

To book on either session, please email Lisa at admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk.

MSA Spring Conference: 'Assessment & School Accountability'

Stephen Anwyll was invited back to Manchester to give an update on assessment at our spring conference back in February. 42 heads and senior leaders attended to hear Stephen address the issue of assessment and school accountability, make recommendations for whole school action, explore ideas for recognising, evidencing and monitoring pupil progress and consider issues such as reporting to parents at the start and end of the primary phase. Feedback from the session was very positive. Particular areas that Stephen covered such as key aspects to measure progress, information around moderation and measuring prior attainment were highlighted as particularly useful. Most also agreed that the session gave the opportunity to reflect on current practice and ways in which this can be improved.

Outstanding EAL Practice

Kingsway Trust has 3 outstanding primary schools in Manchester (Ladybarn, Green End & Cringle Brook) During each Ofsted inspection, the effective EAL strategies and practices within the Trust have been commented on. In partnership, we ran a session in March at which the Trust EMA Lead, Rumana Asif, shared practice from across the 3 schools with other Manchester primaries. 33 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; *"Thank you so much for everything - really appreciated and has definitely given me a lot of clarity re. how I can structure my lessons!"* and *"I am so inspired by it all and it has given me the motivation to change things at my school, so thank you!"*

Everyone that attended the session received a drop-box full of resources that can be adapted to their school and were also given the opportunity to purchase task-bags that are used within the Trust. Numbers were limited for this session and so if there is interest, we may look at repeating this session later in 2017.



[@McrSchools](https://twitter.com/McrSchools)



National Literacy Trust M/cr Network

The spring Manchester network meeting took place in February and was again well attended with 23 schools represented. Abraham Moss and Manchester Secondary PRU started the session off by sharing practice that they adopt within school. Schools then took part in a 'learning carousel' discussing key issues including strategies for EAL learners, parental engagement and encouraging reading at home, ways to embed reading for pleasure and boys. Everyone that attended the network feedback that they found the session useful and the opportunity to talk to other schools and cross phase was valuable and informative.



FFT for secondary

Following on from the success of the session for primaries, Stephen Turp came to Manchester on the 6th of February to provide an FFT overview for secondaries. 25 senior leaders from 20 schools attended the session and feedback was very encouraging. Previously not used often in many of the schools, the delegates were surprised by what info the dashboard actually provides and how useful this could be for their school. Particular areas of interest were student explorer, collaborate and the target setting. One delegate commented the session had "inspired me to go back to school and use it asap."



Perfect for
SATs
Preparation

www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/sats

Free advice and support for the SATs

Oxford University Press recently hosted a 30 minute webinar full of practical advice to help teachers prepare for the SATs. You can watch a recording of the webinar, and access additional free support (listed below) on their website: www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/sats

- A free Key Stage 2 Reading Test Toolkit for staff meetings
- Free practice tests for grammar and maths
- Advice for parents
- Blog posts covering comprehension, spag and maths



BBC TERRIFIC SCIENTIFIC

Free support and resources for Year 5 and 6 primary science teachers from BBC Terrific Scientific

Aimed at 9–11 year olds, there are free resources, lesson plans, classroom investigations and an online map to share your results with other schools around the UK. Terrific Scientific will run until summer 2018 and you can sign up and take part at any time before then.

More than 4,500 primary schools have registered already and they've enjoyed it so far:

"lovely resources"

"We were really inspired and think that science is fun"

"It makes science really exciting for everyone"

"our class absolutely LOVED this experiment"

Investigation 3 – Time is coming up next (22 March – 13 April). Pupils will discover whether the clock change on 26 March affects their alertness and reactions.

Want to get involved? Register your classes at:

www.bbc.co.uk/terrificscientific



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families



Schools in mind

Schools in Mind is a **free** network for school staff and allied professionals hosted by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. The network aims to share mental health knowledge and expertise, improving the link between research and practice. We provide a trusted source of accessible information and resources that teachers and school leaders can use to support the mental health and wellbeing of their whole school community, supporting children, young people and families.

We would like to invite Manchester schools to [sign up](#) to the network. We will be holding a free event at the University of Manchester on 5th July 2017 and invite school staff from in and around the City to attend. Sign up ensures that you will be sent further details once confirmed, as well as invitations to free termly events, newsletters and access to resources and research opportunities.

If interested in the network or the event on 5th July, please [sign up](#) or email schoolsinmind@annafreud.org

Schools in Mind: Manchester Hub Event

When:

16:00 - 18:30 Wednesday 5th July 2017

Where:

Room AG3/4, Ellen Wilkinson Building,
University of Manchester, Oxford Road,
Manchester, M13 9PL

To register your interest please sign up to our mailing list or:

Contact

schoolsinmind@annafreud.org

