

July 2016 – Issue 8

Dear Colleague

I feel certain that once upon a time the summer term was sunny and less demanding than it appears to be now. As we hurtle towards the end of the school year I am sharply aware of the increased stress caused in many primary schools by the Key Stage 2 SATs results and in many high schools by the uncertainty around GCSE outcomes. Nevertheless we press on with a multitude of other tasks and all the preparations for the next school year.

My planning for next year has taken a different direction as I retire from my headship position this summer. I led on the setting up of St Peter's in 1999 and have been here ever since. As I retire from headship I am also retiring from the post of lead headteacher for the Manchester Schools' Alliance. I am, however, leaving the MSA in safe hands: Margaret Cunningham, whom many of you will know through her executive headteacher role in Manchester primary schools, is taking over as lead headteacher for the MSA and the talented Lisa Jones continues in her role as Business Manager. Behind them both is the MSA Board of the not for profit company that ensures the work of the MSA continues to respond to the needs of Manchester schools. I hope to continue some involvement with the MSA as a governor Board member.

The MSA has continued to evolve and we are always keen to improve our offer. With that in mind, before the end of term, Margaret, Lisa and I will be visiting Birmingham to see if there is anything we can learn from the way they operate. If there is something you would like to see the MSA offering, please let Lisa know.

Thank you and Farewell

John McNerney



MSA Offer 16/17

For those of you that have not yet joined, we have finalised the MSA Offer for 2016/17. In addition to access to the FFT Aspire data, your school will also get access to 3 Senior Leader conferences (we are currently developing a session on writing and an update on assessment). Your school will also be able to access a full programme of governor events as well as receive 2 funded places at the Annual Governors Conference (worth £300). You will also receive representation at MSA facilitated groups such as the Primary Strategy Group and Strategic Education Partnership Board as well as access to forums for debate around current education issues including the White Paper and Academisation. All this for just £1 per pupil! For further information on the new MSA Offer, please see further information attached with this newsletter or contact Lisa on the details below.

Events 2016/17

Based on feedback from events over the last 10 months, we are currently in the process of developing our conferences for 16/17. We are looking to hold a session on data during the autumn term as well as our AGM and a Numicon taster session. Following on from the success of the 'Assessment Beyond Levels' session in January 16, we are hoping to secure Stephen Anywill to give an update during the year as well as a separate session on writing. The programme for governors is also developing with sessions on data analysis, pupil premium, safeguarding, high needs funding and a session for new governors planned as well as another conference in February 17. If there is any particular topic or issue that you would like us to run a session on, please let Lisa know via the contact details below.



RSC Primary Event:

'The Road Ahead and the School Led System'

The MSA was asked by members of the Primary Strategy Group to organise an event at which Vicky Beer, Regional Schools Commissioner would come to talk to Manchester primary headteachers. 54 headteachers, senior leaders and governors attended the Irish World Heritage Centre on the 10th of June to hear Vicky present 'The Road Ahead: Academies and the School-Led System' followed by MCC Director of Education & Skills, John Edwards, discussing what the content of the RSC's presentation may mean for Manchester. Each presentation was followed by time for table discussion and Q&A. Questions were asked around the role of the CEO, how the RSC plans to strategically manage bringing schools together, what the 'Annual Healthcheck' will look like and whether other structures such as federations can be considered.

Feedback from the event was positive with one delegate commenting that the session was 'an insight into the national/ regional picture and the implications this has for our school' and another commenting that the opportunity of table discussion was just as useful as the presentations themselves. Delegates were asked what future events they would like to see in relation to this topic and suggestions included existing local MATs sharing their experiences, looking at innovative MAT structures from around the country, looking at the role of the CEO and requirements of a trustee and a similar session but for heads and Chairs together.



Data Analysis Governor Session



The 'Data Analysis' governor session at Levenshulme High School on Thursday 19th May was attended by 22 governors despite heavy downpours of rain! This session was led by Fischer Family Trust and explored in detail how the FFT Governor Dashboard can assist governors to 'know their school' and hold senior leaders to account more effectively. It also explored how the dashboard is being adapted for 'life without levels'. Feedback from the governors was that it was useful to get a physical copy of the data and that the session gave a good explanation of what the data is showing governors and with a better understanding of attainment and progress, this will help them to challenge.

Quality Assurance Best Practice 'Gov Meet'

On Thursday 29th June, the Quality Assurance Best Practice 'Gov Meet' took place at Chorlton High School. The session started with Angela Ager (Chair of St Margaret Mary's Primary and NLG) and Ariana Yakas (Chair of Kingsway Community Trust and NLG) sharing their learning and experience from external reviews of governance. This then led into group discussions and sharing of practices which was then fed back to the group as a whole. Feedback from the event was very positive with everyone agreeing that a lot of was covered in the session and that the sharing of information and good practice with



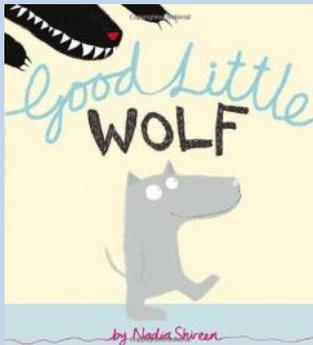
other governors was really valuable.

MSA Summer 2016 Conference: 'Building an Outstanding Reading School'



45 senior leaders and subject leaders attended the MSA Summer Conference on the 22nd of June at The Irish World Heritage Centre. Working in partnership with Oxford University Press, James Clements presented 'Building an Outstanding Reading School: Meeting the Challenges of the 2014 National Curriculum.' During the session he looked at what Outstanding Reading Schools are and why it matters to schools, supporting staff to develop the skills to help every child become a lifelong reader, effective approaches to teaching comprehension, opportunities for teaching across the curriculum, engaging parents in their children's reading, developing a rich reading environment and targeting resources to motivate young readers. Feedback during and following the session was excellent.

James shared a number of strategies that outstanding reading schools across the country use as well as suggesting some great books to use in the classroom. He also signposted the group to a wealth of resources, some of which we have shared



below:

<http://www.outstandingreading.org/>

<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/book-sorter>

<http://www.patronofreading.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAC9B5F3A93E48F12>

<http://www.shakespeareandmore.com/>

Keeping children safe

At the last Safeguarding Strategy Group meeting in June, the group was informed that the DfE has just published an updated version of the statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in Education (2016)' which revises and replaces the 2015 guidance. This will come to force on 5th September 2016. A useful guide published by the NSPCC was also shared. This document outlines the changes to the guidance. Links to both documents can be found below.

[Keeping Children Safe
in Education](#)

[NSPCC Briefing](#)

Primary Strategy Group

The MSA facilitated Primary Strategy Group continue to meet on the last Thursday of the month. As well as regular updates from John Edwards and other LA Officers, the group has been involved in a number of projects over the last 10 months. A number of schools represented at the PSG became part of the 'Off-Rolling' Pilot which will give schools the power to remove pupils from roll. The group was consulted on the new 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activity' strategy and was also consulted on the 'Read Manchester' campaign in its early stages. A Social, Emotional and Mental Health Sub-group was formed from the meeting to look at alternative provision options for primary schools. There is now a commitment from the new Director of Children's Services, Paul Marshall, to attend bi-monthly to work strategically with the heads to improve the relationships and systems between schools and Children's Services. The headteachers of the existing MATs within the group have shared their experiences of conversion, structures and governance with the other heads. Group membership was discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed that an invite to attend the meetings from September onwards should be sent to all MSA primary headteachers.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lisa Jones at; admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk.



@MCRSchools

For the first time we have a Mathematics Enhancement Course operating in Manchester. Forty teachers have applied for the course which is going to run at Loreto Sixth Form College next year with the induction meeting on Monday 11th July. This is funded nationally and is free to teachers. The intention is to provide non-specialists – possibly technology or ICT teachers – to have the skills to teach maths at Key Stage 3. There is, as you will be aware, a shortage of qualified maths teachers in many of our high schools.

A similar enhancement course is to run at Loreto for physics and for this all fifteen places have been taken. Physics is often seen as the more challenging of the sciences and many science teachers have not got a degree level background in the subject having graduated with biology and chemistry as their main subjects .

Work on School Direct continues to be successful. This year 42 trainees completed the PGCE course and 41 have confirmed teaching posts for September 16. Of this 41, 34 are in Manchester schools and 6 are in GM schools. So far 46 graduates have signed up as School Direct trainees for 2016/17.

Martenscroft Nursery School has a tradition of working with MMU researchers and this year there have been presentations at the European Early Childhood Research Association conference on developing provision for 2 year olds and on the impact of different types of CPD for different types of staff.

‘Teach Manchester’ has had 16 penultimate year students on internship programmes at Manchester schools to give them a taste of teaching maths or physics. It is to be hoped that they will be enthused by what they experience and will want to teach in Manchester.

‘Teach Manchester’ has recently interviewed for Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) to support Manchester schools. Ten have been successful and after training in September will be available to provide support from early years to high school.

Loreto Sixth Form College has created and led a Maths Ambassador programme where talented sixth form mathematicians are trained and then support primary and KS3 pupils.

A mathematics Core Group has been established to generate new and interesting ways to establish ways of working between primary, secondary and special schools. A highly successful maths conference was organised last summer at Loreto Sixth Form College and this year we were working with MMU to share a maths conference but it was cancelled as it was planned for the day of the NUT strike The group is already planning for next year.

An English Core Group has also been established this year across primary, secondary and special schools. Like the maths group, the intention for English is to work together, to learn from each other and to improve transition. With the Key Stage 2 test results now out it will be an interesting piece of work to see what areas of English the core group can work on in the coming year to support transition. The present year 10 students are now following the demanding new GCSE English curriculum.

For more information about Teach Manchester visit www.teachmanchester.com or email rachel.eppy@teachmanchester.com.

Annual Conference

Our second school led conference, 'Building World Class School Leaders', held at the AJ Bell stadium, proved to be another resounding success. This was our biggest event of the year and was well attended by leaders from all sectors from Manchester and beyond. Our aim was to promote understanding of the changing nature of leadership for the 21st century School and its learners. We heard from several experts delivering different perspectives on this subject from around the country. Rob Carpenter, Executive Head of two primary schools in London, gave a fascinating insight into leading the future in a climate of change. Mr Carpenter has the accolade of being one of a very few Headteachers who have transformed a school from Ofsted 'Special Measures' to 'Outstanding' in four terms. He was well placed to give focus to the practical tools that can be utilised to strengthen the system of leadership of teaching and learning. The impact of the conference was evidenced by 100% evaluation feedback when delegates were asked if they would make different strategic decisions in their schools as a result of the conference input. Our conference continues to be a forum for embracing change, thus giving clarity to how best to move forward to engage in the most effective teaching and learning that we can.

Maths

Maths, as a core subject, has remained a key focus for our alliance partner schools. Throughout the year, schools in the alliance, such as Brookburn Primary have held 'Open the Doors' days, sharing their learning with regards to the introduction of the Singapore Maths approach. We have also showcased 'Solving the Problem of Problem Solving' at Chorlton CE School and trained all staff across the alliance in the Bar method. MTSA is working closely with the NW Maths hubs and St Mary's CE School in Moss Side to develop a 'Mastery approach', demonstrated by Chorlton Park 'Opening the Doors' on this instructional strategy. The Maths journey continues; all feedback, without exception, has been positive and next steps sought by schools are focused around seeking more information and opportunities to share the new approaches. All our pupils have very much enjoyed the introduction of the termly MTSA Mega Maths challenge, with tense, advanced rounds of Maths quizzing.

Other Activity

MTSA continues its work in all other teaching school areas. These include Schools Direct, allowing both primary and secondary trainees, within our network to access final employments across the alliance. Chorlton Park has been identified as our hub school in Leadership and talent management. They deliver our Leadership toolkit, followed by NPQML & NPQSL, thus ensuring we have a route from trainee teacher to senior leadership. In research, Manley Park Primary working alongside Chorlton High has led the way with whole school research initiatives throughout this academic year. Barlow Hall Primary has continued to use its expertise to deliver reading recovery learning techniques. Jayne Kennedy, Headteacher was recently awarded 'Inspirational Manager of the Year' from the IoE. Her vision and innovative leadership over the last ten years to promote, and use, the Reading Recovery training programme across schools in the North West is inspirational. We embrace the individual skill sets in our alliance and share these knowledge bases to learn from each other.

Professional Learning Communities and Networks

A new MTSA initiative for this year has been launched with the introduction of PLCS in the areas of Maths and English. Staff members across the alliance have tailored the sessions to collectively address priorities agreed by the members themselves. These communities have provided deeper learning for our staff and complimented the existing networks of information exchange in the areas of Assessment, Yr 6, Yr 2, SENCO, EYFS, Literacy, School Business Management & Singapore Maths. All of our MTSA members can access all the groups on offer and these networks have provided a valuable resource to staff.

MTSA Training Facility

Finally we would like to introduce our new training facility at Brookburn Primary Teaching School. This is a self contained, dedicated space for up to 40 people, complete with Wi-Fi and all facilities. It is proving a popular meeting place for away day SLT meetings. Please contact 0161 881 8880 for more info.

We welcome partners from all sectors and all regions. If you would like to know more about how to get involved with MTSA please email: learn@manchestertsa.com or visit our website www.manchestertsa.com



The Heritage Schools Programme

Historic England's (formally English Heritage) **Heritage Schools Programme** is a national programme, funded by the Department for Education, to support primary & secondary schools in using local heritage resources and the built historic environment to deliver and enhance the curriculum. It is completely free to join.

What are the aims of the Programme?

- To inspire learners with the story of where they live.
- To provide a local context to national historical events
- To support teachers in meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum for History by embedding local history into the school's curriculum.
- To empower teachers through CPD and access to online, downloadable resources
- To strengthen local heritage partnerships

How does the Programme support teachers and schools?

- **FREE CPD** sessions in the local area.
- **Tailored, one to one support** to embed local history into the curriculum.
- **Bespoke Archive Map and Image Pack**
- Regular newsletters and updates by email
- Full membership of the **Heritage Schools Learning Platform** where teachers will gain access to **FREE resources** including downloadable schemes of work, lesson plans and classroom resources, teacher tool-kits and case-studies.

"There hasn't been one bit of CPD I've done that I thought I'd be better off in my classroom ..."

Heritage Schools Lead Teacher

What does a school have to do to become a Heritage School?

- There must be a designated **Heritage Schools Lead Teacher** in place in school, as well as an SLT Link.
- At least one member of staff must aim to attend at least two **Heritage Schools CPD Events** over the course of the school year.
- Local Heritage must be embedded into the curriculum.
- (It is entirely up to each school to decide on the nature and content of the Heritage Schools Project. Projects in the past have included schemes of work, lessons on local heritage which support the existing school's curriculum, and "local heritage weeks". Some schools have involved the whole school. Others have worked more closely with one year group or class.)
- The school must contribute to the wider **Heritage School's Network**
- (For example by providing a case study, sharing resources or taking part in evaluations)

In recognition of participation in the Heritage Schools Programme, all schools, who meet the requirements above, will be awarded a **Heritage Schools Plaque**.

For more information visit www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/heritage-schools or contact daisy.horsley@HistoricEngland.org.uk

"Particularly with the changes to the curriculum...our involvement with Heritage Schools has been fabulous. It has done wonders for our staff, our school, even the wider community of parents. Without this, we would not have had knowledge of the local area to teach it the way we have done"

Heritage Schools Lead Teacher