

MSA Newsletter

COMPANY NUMBER: 8998596

Upcoming Events

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| Strategic Education Partnership Board | 13 Jan |
| New Headteachers Event | 19 Jan |
| MSA & MGA Annual Conference | 7 Feb |
| MSA Conference | TBC |
| New Headteachers Event | 16 Mar |
| Lorraine Petersen: SEN In Your School | 18 Mar |
| Special School Governors Event | 19 Mar |

Dear Colleague

18th December 2014

As schools rush towards Christmas after a long and demanding autumn term, there is much to reflect on. It was, for example, inspiring to see some of our young people helping the university academics consider the impact of poor health in the 'Our Health, Our Future' conference and it was impressive to see primary school governors giving up a Saturday to work with HMI on school improvement in the 'Through the Lens of Inspection' conference. Thank you to all who responded to the Early Help survey; this has provided very useful information to support improvement of the service that is available to Manchester children.

There are a number of events planned for next term, but one event has had to be changed: the North of England Conference will not go ahead as originally planned, as explained on page 2, but a new format is being developed.

I hope you enjoy the Christmas break, have a well-deserved rest, and return refreshed for the New Year.

Regards

John McNerney

'Through the Lens of Inspection' – HMI led training for Governors

On the 6th December, twenty four governors from twelve schools gave up their Saturday to gain the inspector's insight into the inspection process. HMI Drew Crawshaw led the training.

This one day training is designed to help school leaders improve their schools by providing an insight into how Ofsted inspects and how inspectors develop their lines of inquiry and investigation. The course has been designed to demystify inspection and at the same time help schools evaluate themselves objectively 'through the lens of inspection'. The day involved participation in practical activities designed to 'walk you through' inspection processes. Governors had the opportunity to speak with other colleagues, HMI and share best practice.

As part of the day governors used the evidence base from an inspection of a primary school. First they looked at how initial information is collected and collated to begin to form an initial impression of the school. Then they used the information provided to begin to form judgements about the key aspects of inspection. During the day governors also evaluated a school improvement plan and explored how they could use their plan to hold leaders to account.

Governors' evaluation was entirely positive:

'Thank you. It was great!' 'Very good training', 'Very stimulating', 'Enjoyed the whole day. Found it very helpful and stimulating – food and IT assistance exceptional', 'Excellent. Very good speaker – approachable and knowledgeable', The event was so well received, the MSA plan to run a similar event later in the year. Email Megan Drillsma if you want your school on the waiting list.

Safeguarding Survey – Early Help

Thank you to colleagues who completed the survey with its focus on Early Help. It is clear from the responses received that schools do an enormous amount to support the children and young people in our care and that a great variety of strategies and approaches are used. Early Help was seen to be important for keeping children safe, for building trust with families, for improving attendance and for raising achievement. It was not surprising that a significant number of responses judged that Early Help would be strengthened if there was additional funding.

More worryingly, half the schools responding felt that they did not have a clear understanding of the Early Help services available to support schools and many were not aware of the Family Service Directory. Most respondents found multi-agency working positive, but some schools expressed concerns about structure of the MCAF and high thresholds for social care.

There is clearly plenty of work to be done and clarification to be sought in a number of areas. This important feedback from schools is informing the way the Children's Services Improvement Board develops its strategy for the City. There is urgency about the process of responding to the City's Ofsted Report, but there is also a commitment to do what is best for Manchester children. It is anticipated that there will be announcements in the New Year about how we are to move forward at a City wide level to respond to the comments of all the partners responsible for looking after the children and young people of Manchester.

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre "Our health, our future"

The MSA joined up with the Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre – a network of hospitals and universities in Manchester which carries out health research - to promote their free health research conference which took place on the 17th November.

A selection of years 8 and 9 science students from four high schools, St Matthew's RC High School, Manchester Communication Academy, Burnage Academy for Boys, St Peter's RC High School, joined together at The Nowgen Centre, Manchester to have their say about public health issues in Manchester such as smoking, alcohol and obesity.

Pupils listened to researchers, experienced a performance by members of Loreto 6th Form College, participated in hands-on activities, and worked in small groups to tackle the challenge of improving public health in their community.

Following the school conference, a selection of pupils from each school were tasked to develop their ideas further and present their ideas and challenges at the MAHSC inaugural conference "Our impact on Health" on 15th December 2014 at University Place, University of Manchester.

North of England Education Conference

It is with regret that we have to inform you that the decision has been made to cancel the North of England Education Conference in Manchester in January.

We were confident that working with the City Council we had put together a wide, varied and interesting programme covering all phases within the education sector, dealing with the current educational issues and sharing innovative practice. Delegate numbers have, however, remained low and, we have determined, too low to guarantee sufficiently large audiences for all of the planned sessions. From the feedback received, the reasons for the low level of interest are a combination of several factors: time of year, costs, the length of the conference, number of conferences generally, the availability of information on line and the amount of change in general within the education sector.

We know that a great deal of interesting and topical information would have been made available through the conference and we are exploring the possibility of pulling this together in the form of a Virtual Conference including papers, perhaps in the form of short 'Think Pieces' and podcasts. In this manner, education leaders and schools as a whole will still have the opportunity of benefitting from the work that has been prepared and developed. While there will be some disappointment that the conference will not proceed as planned, it will be interesting to see if a new way of working can develop as a result.

Advertisements



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Manchester Governors' Annual Conference

Saturday 7th February 2015

9.00am – 1.30pm

Venue: Chancellors, 77 Chancellors Way, Fallowfield, M14 6ZT

This conference focuses on 3 key areas:

- **Effective Governance in the Changing Education Landscape**
- **Governance in Manchester and the Self-Improving School System**
- **The Manchester Partnership Programme for Governors 2015-2016**

Keynote speakers:

- **Emma Knights, Chief Executive, National Governors' Association;**
- **John Edwards, Director of Education and Skills, Manchester City Council**

If you would like to attend this conference, or would like to request a full programme agenda, please email Megan Drillsma: admin@manchesterschoolsalliance.co.uk

Exclusive offer for Manchester Schools!

Oxford University Press is offering 12.5% discount on *Oxford Owl* for School membership to Manchester schools.

Contact Gina Thompson on 07786 662270 – but don't delay, as the offer expires on the 31st January 2015.

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Wednesday 18th March 2015, 9.15 – 3.30pm

Manchester Schools' Alliance,

Conference Hall, 1st floor, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, M60

Primary Headteachers, Members of SLT and SENCO's are invited to attend FREE PD with

Lorraine Petersen, OBE

SEND Current Context – The changing landscape for schools:

I would like to invite you to join me from 9.15 on Wednesday 18th March 2015 to reflect on SEND– The new landscape for schools, where you are on the journey of change and what the implications for your own school are.

The session, sponsored by **Oxford University Press** and organised by **Manchester Schools Alliance** offers the opportunity to attend a **free** full day of professional development for HTs, members of SLT and SENCO's

- ❖ Session 1: The new landscape for schools
- ❖ Session 2: Ofsted framework and SEND
- ❖ Session 3: Quality First Teaching – What does this look like in your school?

Numbers will be limited to 80 delegates (max 2 delegates per school) so please book early – please register by emailing drillsmam@stpetershigh.com by 23rd February 2015.

Thank you, I will forward to meeting you.

With Best Wishes

Lorraine Petersen OBE

Lorraine Petersen OBE (*Chief Executive Officer NASEN*)

From 2004 – 2013 Lorraine was the CEO of nasen. During that time she was involved with several projects with other agencies including the Department for Education (DfE). Lorraine has been a chair, keynote speaker and workshop facilitator at numerous national and international conferences as well as a consultant for a number of national organisations.

Lorraine has many years' experience of working with an array of special and additional needs within mainstream settings and hands-on experience of the issues relating to caring for and educating these children.

During her 25 teaching career Lorraine held a number of posts within mainstream schools and was head teacher of two very diverse primary schools.

In June 2009 Lorraine was awarded the OBE for Services to Education, the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Education Research AWARDS IN 2010, and in 2013 the Outstanding Achievement Award at BETT.

Since November 2013 Lorraine has worked as an Independent Consultant supporting schools, local authorities and academy chains to successfully implement the proposed SEND legislative changes.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2015

On 27 January, the world marks Holocaust Memorial Day and the theme for 2015, set by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, is *Keep the Memory Alive*.

This day gives us the opportunity to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides.

Manchester City Council marks Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 by once again working with **UK Jewish Film** on screening a Holocaust related film for an invited audience of representatives from Manchester high schools and community groups.

Manchester Secondary schools please contact Jacqueline.ould@manchester.ac.uk if you would like further information and a booking form. We are in the process of organising an activities offer for Manchester Primaries and will provide further information soon.



Would you like to be involved in arranging an exchange programme between a school in Manchester and a school in Kosovo?

If you're interested, please contact
Mr Osman Caka on
077 7613 4804
or email
osmancaka@live.co.uk



Be the Best you can Be! is an holistic educational Programme, raising aspirations and self-confidence in the nation's young people, and is unique in that it is:

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