

Better Together

Athena Schools Trust (AST) and Guildford Education Partnership (GEP) are two local multi academy trusts, in Guildford Surrey, committed to local leadership and governance of schools. Both recognise that Governor training and development is essential if LGBs (local governing bodies) are to be as effective as possible.

This document outlines the Trusts’ plans for Governor Training and Development for 2020 - 2021 academic year.

Each session has been designed to be part of a pathway or track within the training programme. There are two tracks:

- Induction and Development, *introductory topics for new governors and governors who want to broaden their skills*
- Specialist interests *for governors who want to specialise in a particular field of governance, but always open to all*

*More information about the two training tracks can be found below ***

AST GEP training Courses for Governors

Note: COVID-19 restrictions – We continue to assume that, unfortunately, we cannot meet in person and so all sessions, for now, will be online exclusively. We will update you as soon as this might change. Feb 2021.

	Term	Session	Day / Date	Track	Session description	
2020-21	Autumn	HT1	Governors and governance compliance Book a place.	Monday 21.09.2020	Induction & Development	What is the role of the governor? What does a school visit look like? How can a governor ensure governance compliance? <i>Given by: Ruth Murton, Director LeadershipWise</i>
			Designing an educational and cost effective curriculum Book a place.	Wednesday 07.10.2020	Specialist (open to all)	Curriculum led financial planning <i>Given by: Patrick Overy Director of Operations and Finance, AST</i>
		HT2	Premises and buildings, school estate management Book a place.	Wednesday 11.11.2020	Specialist (open to all)	<i>Given by Richard Wiseman (GEP Estates Manager) and Patrick Overy (Director of Operations and Finance, AST)</i>
			Chairs & Clerks meeting (AST only) Book a place.	Monday 23.11.2020	<i>Chairs & Clerks Workshop</i>	<i>Topics might include:</i> The role of Chairs and Clerks in facilitating communications between LGBs, JGC and Trust Board
	Spring	HT1	Educational monitoring Book a place.	Tuesday 08.12.2020	Specialist (open to all)	a specialist’s presentation especially for governors <i>Given by Kathryn Krynicki (Headteacher at Pyrford C of E Primary School)</i>
			Ofsted framework Book a place.	Monday 18.1.2021	Specialist (open to all)	Briefing for governors on the new School Inspection Framework

						<i>Given by Graham Tuck, Director of Secondary Education at both Athena Schools Trust and at GEP</i>
			Safeguarding – an introduction <i>Postponed to 15/3/21</i>	Wednesday 03.02.2021	Induction & Development	An introduction to Safeguarding for governors and the governors' role to play in keeping children safe in education. <i>Given by: Ruth Murton, Director LeadershipWise</i>
		HT2	Budgeting Book a place.	Tuesday 02.03.2021	Specialist (open to all)	Preparing for the school budgets <i>Given by Patrick Overy (Director of Finance & Operations, Athena Schools Trust) and Sarah Allen (Finance Officer, Athena Schools Trust)</i>
			Safeguarding – an introduction Book a place.	Monday 15.03.2021 <i>NB: The Annual Governors' Conference, originally scheduled for 15/3/21, has been postponed to a date later in the academic year when we can all meet – date to be advised.</i>	Induction & Development	An introduction to Safeguarding for governors and the governors' role to play in keeping children safe in education. <i>Given by: Ruth Murton, Director LeadershipWise</i>
			Chairs & Clerks meeting (AST only) Book a place.	Wednesday 17.03.2021	<i>Chairs & Clerks Workshop</i>	<i>Topics to follow</i>
			Exclusions Book a place.	Tuesday 30.03.2021		Permanent exclusions – duties of the governing board <i>Given by Gary Elliott, Head of Governance GEP</i>
			Ensuring accurate assessment and trust wide consistency Book a place.	Monday 26.04.2021	Induction & Development	Education monitoring, school improvement planning and quality assurance. How to monitor and triangulate data, including how to ask the right questions. <i>Given by Andrew Roach, GEP: Director of Education</i>
	Summer	HT1	Chairs & Clerks meeting (AST only) Book a place.	Monday 17.05.2021	<i>Chairs & Clerks Workshop</i>	<i>Topics to follow</i>

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		School funding, financial efficiency and benchmarking Book a place.	Tuesday 25.05.2021	Specialist (open to all)	<i>Given by Patrick Overy (Director of Finance & Operations, Athena Schools Trust) and Sarah Allen (Finance Officer, Athena Schools Trust)</i>
	HT2	Wider educational themes Book a place.	Thursday 24.06.2021	Specialist (open to all)	curriculum leadership, current educational climate and landscape <i>Given by Jack Mayhew, CEO Athena Schools Trust & CEO GEP</i>
		Annual Governors' Conference *	In-person Conference, postponed from March 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Date to be announced later in the academic year. Start: 17:30 <i>We invite all governors to attend</i>	Induction & Development	17:30 Arrivals and networking 18:00 Introductions – Jack Mayhew, CEO AST and GEP Trusts 18:15 Keynote speech 18:45 - 19:30 Parallel sessions: 1. Financial management, financial monitoring 2. Safeguarding link governors 3. The Chair and Vice Chair 4. Mental health and wellbeing in the school communities <i>Governors may choose to attend, as they wish.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governance for Pupil Premium (primarily for the PP Leads) ○ Governance for Safeguarding (primarily for the Safeguarding Leads) ○ Governance for Health and Safety (primarily for the H&S Leads) ○ Headteachers' Performance Management, appraisals and PRP

Annual Governors' Conference *

We hope that we can hold the annual Governors' Conference later in the academic year, when we can all meet in person. This will be mandatory for all governors to attend, across both AST and GEP Trust schools (AST and GEP). It will start at 5:30pm for arrivals, networking, food and a drink. At 6pm, Jack Mayhew, CEO of AST and GEP Trusts, will give an introductory talk about the objectives of the Trusts and the essential roles of the governors play within them and give insight 'What does the Trust do for you as a Governor?'. This will be followed by a keynote speech given by an external specialist in education and governance. Finally, four parallel sessions will be offered for governors to attend as they wish:

1. Financial management, financial monitoring
2. Safeguarding link governors
3. The Chair and Vice Chair
4. Mental health and wellbeing in the school communities

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Alternatively, parallel sessions may include (to be discussed and confirmed in-year)

- Governance for Pupil Premium (primarily for the PP Leads)
- Governance for Safeguarding (primarily for the Safeguarding Leads)
- Governance for Health and Safety (primarily for the H&S Leads)
- Headteachers' Performance Management, appraisals and PRP

Governors' training tracks **

There will be two tracks within the training programme:

- Induction and Development, *introductory topics for new governors and those who want to broaden their skills*
 - ✓ *the role of the governor and governor compliance, what does a governor's school visit look like?*
 - ✓ *introduction to safeguarding for governors,*
 - ✓ *education monitoring school improvement planning and quality assurance*
 - ✓ *Financial management & financial monitoring*
 - ✓ *Chair and Vice Chair (to include the Chairs & Clerks workshops)*
 - ✓ *Safeguarding link governors*
 - ✓ *Wellness and mental health*
- Specialist interests *for governors who want to specialise in a particular field of governance but always open to all*
 - ✓ *Premises and buildings, school estate management*
 - ✓ *Designing an educational and cost effective curriculum*
 - ✓ *Ofsted framework*
 - ✓ *School funding, budgeting, financial efficiency and benchmarking*
 - ✓ *Educational monitoring (a specialist's presentation especially for governors)*
 - ✓ *Wider educational themes Eg: curriculum leadership, current educational climate and landscape (an external person talking about the backdrop of what's happening in the field of education)*

For all sessions, please use the Eventbrite booking link from the entries in the [Athena website calendar](#).

Ruth Murton “Headlines” webinars

Ruth is a National Leader in Governance who has presented AST training sessions in the past. Ruth occasionally runs online webinars which are offered exclusively to governors from multi-academy trusts that she works with. Recorded highlights of the sessions are available to governors who have registered to participate in the live webinar.

A link will be circulated for governors to REGISTER online to participate when Ruth announces any new webinars.

NGA's e-learning platform for AST Governors

The Athena Schools Trust has bought membership to the [NGA's e-learning platform](#) for its Trust Schools and the Trust Board.

School governors can [register here](#) and fill out the form, searching for your school by using your school's postcode. You will be sent a confirmatory email which will give you an opportunity to login, choose a password and gain access.

Trust board members can [register here](#) and fill out the form, searching for 'Trust Board' and then selecting: Athena Schools Trust - Trust Board - GU2 4LU. You will be sent a confirmatory email which will give you a chance to login, choose a password and gain access.

If anyone has any difficulties with the registration process, or if they come across any problems whilst using the system, please get in touch directly with the NGA LearningLink@nga.org.uk **0121 237 4600**

Additional free online resources

Athena Schools Trust has identified the following online resources that may be of interest to Governors. They are all available free of charge to the individual or school:

Governor Space (governorspace.co.uk):

Governor Space is a Department for Education (DFE) funded programme, offering resources, self-evaluation tools, peer-to-peer and mentor support, and professional development programmes. The costs of the programme are currently met by the DFE.

Better Governor (bettergovernor.co.uk):

Free of charge for individuals, the Better Governor site (provided by Strictly Education) provides a range of information and written articles for school governors.

Governors for Schools (governorsforschools.org.uk):

Governors for Schools is another online portal offering various resources for Governors. Of particular interest is the 'e-Learning' section (governorsforschools.org.uk/e-learning), which has a variety of e-learning modules, including:

- Governor Induction
- Driving School Improvement
- Performance Data for New Governors
- Finance for New Governors

School Governors UK (Facebook Group)

This facebook group is a useful source of advice and information for school governors:

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/821981841151894/>

It is important to note that while the above providers offer effective resources, they are not bespoke to AST or GEP and therefore Governors will need to be alert to potential differences between AST's and GEP's approach and generic advice offered in in these portals. The AST GEP training programme is intended to detail each trust's approach to key issues, so that Governors are clear about how important matters are addressed within AST or GEP respectively.