



BARNSELY
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION

November 2020
BARNSELY GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
Working for Barnsley Governors

BGA Newsletter

Although we are going back into lockdown, pupils and staff are returning to school this week, and school governance continues.

Please join us at our next BGA training session

Governance Leadership Forged in Crisis

This session is an online interactive review of where governance is now, how we arrived here and where next for governance in a post Covid-19 world.

Dates:

- Tuesday 10th November – 2pm (Zoom)
- Tuesday 10th November – 6.30pm – (Zoom)
- Wednesday 11th November – 10am (Zoom)

Trainer: Alan Richards, National Leader of Governance

More information and booking here:- [**Governance Leadership Forged in Crisis**](#)

On **December 3rd** we will be holding our **virtual Autumn Forum** – bring your own mince pie and Prosecco!

The theme is resilience and recovery; the opportunity to examine these two concepts and what they mean for school governors has never been more important.

You can book [here](#) for this free event.

News

The Barnsley Alliance Board has been meeting weekly, involving primary headteachers from each cluster in the borough, representatives of secondary headteachers, council officers, including from local Public Health, and others. Feedback is given to the group on the challenges facing schools at the moment and support and collaboration is offered. It has been a really difficult half term for everyone, but members of the Alliance Board have been positive, innovative and thoughtful in their actions and decisions.

The Alliance Board has also approved six key principles for remote learning:

- Safeguarding pupils from harm remains the key priority
- Pupils will continue to be taught a well-sequenced curriculum
- Teachers will continue to set work that scaffolds pupils' practice and helps them apply their new knowledge and skills
- Pupils will continue to receive feedback that helps them to make progress
- No child should be disadvantaged by a lack of technology at home
- Remote education plans should not place unreasonable demands on parents to help or support

Ofsted inspections have resumed, but not as we know them. Their aim this autumn was to visit a range of schools, including all inadequate schools, with the focus being on how schools are ensuring that pupils resume learning the full curriculum and how specific health and wellbeing issues are being addressed (including arrangements for safeguarding) and what support might be needed, .
Has your school been inspected? We'd love to hear your feedback.

Virtual Governing Body meetings: the recommendation is that trusts and governing bodies hold their meetings virtually at the moment. Do you have a virtual meeting protocol? If you are visiting your school, do you have a Covid-19 addendum to your Visitors Policy? Here are some of the questions you may want to ask your headteacher and senior leaders:

- Is our risk assessment working well?
- What does staff and student wellbeing look like and what are the data on attendance and absence?
- Is blended learning ready? Schools have a duty to deliver remote learning from this term.
- How are we assessing pupils' needs and progress?
- Are we able to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum at the moment?

Not GME,
CME – although I
haven't seen Gavin for ages!



Our Vision and Purpose

A major part of our work plan this autumn will be to re-define our vision and purpose. So much has changed since our inaugural AGM in 2011, and we need to reframe our offer to schools, academies and trusts in Barnsley for the next five years.

Please let us know what you think, and what we can do for you and your governing body. In the past we've delivered training, peer reviews, research, networking events, conferences with national speakers, newsletters, as well as representing governors on the Schools Forum, Alliance Board and the Children's Trust Executive Group. We also have a website that is regularly updated with information and where governors can pose difficult questions.

We hope to see you at our training sessions and Autumn Forum.



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