

A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Staff,

My name is John Clark and since September I've been the Chair of the Central Governing Board of the Primary Advantage Federation. Gwen Gutzmore has stepped down from her position as Chair but will remain a governor on the Central Board. She continues to chair the Local Advisory Board at Holy Trinity. Gwen will be a difficult act for me to follow, her work over the years is very much appreciated by fellow governors and all our staff.

Alongside a career in further and higher education I've been an active secondary school governor for many years. I've recently stepped down from chairing two secondary boards and as a National Leader of Governance continue to support a number of boards. A strong commitment to good state education has kept me motivated to volunteer as a school governor. Having lived in Hackney for many years, I was delighted to be asked to join the Federation Board. Staff and pupils have all made me feel very welcome on my visits to our schools and LABs. At my first Board meeting the considerable achievements of our schools were described in a thorough report from our School Improvement Partner with results that often surpassed national measures and set high benchmarks for the future.

Welcome to Rob Adediran who takes on the role of Chair at the LAB of St John the Baptist and also joins the CGB. Ralph Eliot will join the Central Board's Business and Finance Committee where his experience and skills in finance will be called on. As temporary Finance Manager, Glyn Marsh has done sterling work for the Central Board alongside many of our Finance and Admin managers. On my visits to the LABs I've met several new members attending their first meetings and would like to thank:

- Richard Carreau-Floume who joins Morningside's LAB
- Morgan Allen-Oliver who joins St John and St James' LAB
- Sam Hobbs and Jo Fowler who join Gainsborough's LAB

My focus for this year has been set out in a series of recommendations for developing Federation governance. I will be working closely with Sian Davies, the Executive Head, Gemma Mossakowska, the Governance Manager and Venessa Williams, the Admin and Data Officer. We want to ensure that the Central Board is working effectively, challenging and supporting senior staff. First steps have been made with the use of GovernorHub for our (considerable) meeting documentation that no longer appears in paper form, helping us to be sustainable. A further initiative has been the meetings with link governors from each LAB in key areas such as SEND and Equalities.

Professional development for governors will be a priority with the VA schools LABS receiving SIAMS training (the new inspection framework) on 4th December.

**If you want to get in contact email -
governors@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk**

Yours sincerely
Dr. John Clark

Autumn Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter to the local communities of the schools in the Primary Advantage Federation. Our schools have come together to share news of activities and events that have taken place this term.

Sian Davies
Executive Principal

John Clark
Chair of Governors

Who's Who

St John & St James Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

Jo Smith – Head of School

Holy Trinity Primary School

Yvonne Barnett – Headteacher

Springfield Primary School

Fiona Judge – Executive Headteacher

St Matthias Primary School

Orlene Badu – Headteacher

St John the Baptist Primary School

Toni Mason – Head of School

Morningside Primary School

Janet Taylor – Headteacher

Gainsborough Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

De Beauvoir Primary School

Rebecca Mackenzie – Headteacher

News from our schools and federation activities

Primary Advantage Schools Teacher Training

Train to Teach with Primary Advantage

Do you know we currently have over 25 trainee teachers in our schools, on either the School Direct Salaried or PGCE programmes? The Institute of Education, consistently ranked the world's number one for education, is our academic partner for all our teacher training and applications are now open for places starting September 2019. Many students who train with us go on to secure teaching jobs in our schools.

If you are interested in finding out more about the different training routes and how to apply we are holding 2 information sessions at Morningside School on Wednesday 12 December, at **2.45-3.30pm** and again at **3.45-4.30pm**. Come and chat to our staff informally at these sessions and find out more.

Please book your place on one of the sessions please book on eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/train-to-teach-with-primary-advantage-meet-the-team-tickets-52941259733>

Or email teachingschools@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk or telephone PA Teaching Schools on 020 7254 1010 (Option 5)

If you cannot make the event on 12th December do get in touch anyway at the contact details above and we would be happy to tell you more.



Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School named Apple Distinguished School 2018 -2021

Holy Trinity is pleased to announce that it has been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for 2018–2021 for its innovative use of Apple technology. Apple Distinguished Schools are centres of innovation, leadership and educational excellence that use Apple products to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching and the school environment, and have documented results of academic accomplishment.



Remembrance Service

On Friday 9th November, the Year 5 class from SJSJ were fortunate to have been invited to a Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral. They were asked to produce small prayers for the soldiers who lost their lives in WW1 and more recent conflicts across the world. All of the children's work was combined and poured from the ceiling of St Paul's as different songs and prayers were recited. It was a very moving service, which the children will definitely not forget! This was also a wonderful opportunity for Year 5 to reflect on their responsibilities as peace makers.



Music at Springfield



Children in Y3 and Y4 have loved working with Armonico Consort academy this term. Armonico Consort works with schools to raise the profile of music and to develop choirs in school. They also work with staff to develop their confidence leading a choir. The children are loving their workshops and are now singing beautifully together as a choir.

Springfield also had a one day peer review their term. This is a Primary Advantage initiative where senior leaders observe practice in each other's schools, supported by a School Improvement Advisor from Hackney Learning Trust. We identify areas that we want to develop further or may feel we want to develop further or may feel we want to explore in more depth. At Springfield we looked at the quality of teaching in non-core subjects, e.g. history, geography and art. We spent the day looking at lessons, exploring progress in books and talking to the children about their learning. We identified lots of strengths and our children were able to talk passionately about their learning in different subjects. We also identified areas that we want to improve further, e.g. teaching computing and we will now be ensuring that we look at this in more depth in school. Having an opportunity to observe in other schools and having support from other senior leaders is one of the strengths of working together as a federation. We are able to challenge and learn from each other.

News from our schools and federation activities



Black History Month

St Matthias had a wonderful celebration to mark all that the children had learnt for Black History Month 2018. Each class made a Powerpoint presentation of the Black British figure they researched, the African stories they focused on and the historical figure that they chose to focus on. It all culminated in a BHM celebration day in which the children made food from a culture of African descent, read stories of African descent and did a number of drama activities throughout the day, all children wore clothes that represented their own culture and they played African games in the afternoon. The evening was a celebration of all of the work that the children and staff had done over the month of October and was a wonderful display of the community at St Matthias.



Autograph ABP



"This half-term, Year 4 and Year 6 classes attended workshops at Autograph ABP, Shoreditch. The workshops focused on protests and Black figures in European History. Year 4 participated in a workshop with the spoken word poet Adisa. Dilliann in Maple said "Adisa taught me that you can write poems on anything". They looked at the amazing exhibition of the work by Senegalese artist Omar Victor Diop. His images are a take on the black resistance movement throughout history. Both classes had to compose their own poems about what they could see in his pictures. Year 6 learnt about protests with photographer, Ali Eisa. They dressed up in costumes and portrayed themselves as protest figures. They also took part in team challenges and discussed the importance of making your voice heard. "



World Chess Championships

Pupils from the Morningside Chess Club were very lucky last week. They won tickets to see the World Chess Championships in central London. The children had a tour of the building, watched the previous game with an expert and then got to see the chess masters in action. They thoroughly enjoyed their day out and are now looking forward to the London Chess Classic at Olympia that they will be taking part in during December. All of the pupils at Morningside have a weekly chess lesson in year 5 and there is also a very popular after school club.





Campaign Curriculum—Gainsborough Keeps

We have launched the Gainsborough Keeps which represent the areas in life which we are encouraging our children to continually show Excellence in, in order to support them as life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Keep Safe
Keep Healthy
Keep Connected
Keep Giving
Keep Green
Keep Kind

Our activities have included:

Keep Giving! Year 2 collected food for their food harvest collection for Hackney Food Bank.

Keep Green! Year 3 held a bikers' breakfast on Tuesday 16th October where a mechanic gave free bike checks.

Keep Healthy! Year 5 had a sugar Awareness performance and stall on Thursday 18th October in the playground.

Edible Playground Project at De Beauvoir Primary School

De Beauvoir recently placed a successful bid with 'Edible Playgrounds', meaning that an Edible Playground will be provided to us at a vastly reduced cost to the school. The organisation design, project manage and build each 'playground' in collaboration with the school, providing a range of plants and sustainable growing spaces where children can cultivate fruit, vegetables and trees. Edible Playgrounds have been proven to help children develop their understanding and enjoyment of horticulture (the science / art of growing), healthy eating, food education and enterprise. We have been developing our curriculum this year and, alongside our newly established Art Room and Music Room, this outdoor learning resource will be a further learning space which will help us to deliver a broad, balanced and exciting wider curriculum. Plants are being chosen that will help us to improve air quality at the school and the pupils will benefit from access to the Edible Playground during play and lunch times.

Enjoy the Christmas holidays!

From all the staff, the Governors LAB members and Associate Members of Primary Advantage, we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas! We as a federation have achieved so much and we are proud of our members of staff as well as our pupils. We hope you all have a lovely break and we will be providing more fantastic stories in the new year!

