

Thursday, 27 July 2017

Dear parents and carers

Happy holidays!

I am writing at the end of what has been a highly successful year for Abbey School.

The Abbey journey continues to exceed expectations as we write new pages in the book of excellent school leadership. We started the school year with a 50% increase in pupil numbers and as we move to the next school year, we're dealing with further growth as more parents and carers want their children to join the Abbey roll!

Such is the strength of our school that we were able to appoint Mrs Windle as Interim Executive Headteacher over Pennine View School too for the majority of this school year, which has led to a significant improvement in our Conisbrough academy. Mrs Windle continues to be one of the **best and brightest of a new generation of Headteachers** and her capacity to oversee the improvements of an inadequate school whilst also keeping momentum at Abbey is testament to her hard work and boundless energy!

At the same time, the arrival of **Mrs Newbolt** and the hard work of **Mr Askham, Mrs Yorke** and **Mrs Shimwell** means that the Abbey School leadership team has continued to improve the quality of the Abbey offer without a full time Headteacher. This has been a big change for the school and is testament to the calibre of leadership we have.

Nexus has secured further growth of Abbey next year, with the addition of key stage 1 and sixth form to our school offer. Whilst expanding the school offer was a challenging legal process, I know that this is absolutely in synch with the aspirations of our staff and our families and I'm delighted we can now offer educational provision for children and young people aged 5 – 19.

In addition to this, **the Trust has also secured a contract with RMBC** to deliver summer school and extended services provision (after school clubs and holiday provision). We are working with the Council to scope their specific needs so that we can develop a high quality offer, though I'm sure you agree that this is an exciting development for the MAT and for the Abbey school community.

The Local Governing Body has played an essential role in overseeing the effectiveness of leadership of the school during this period. I am very grateful for the **hundreds of hours** all our **volunteer governors** put in, and I would like to pay special tribute to **Steve Booth**, who is stepping down at the end of this school year as Chair and as a governor.

Steve has made a **huge impact as Chair** of governors since taking on the role in April. Whilst he will continue as a Director of Nexus MAT, Steve leaves the Abbey Local Governing Body in a stronger, more informed position than when he came in as Chair. Thank you, Steve.

Learning together; to be the best we can be.

There isn't a week goes by where Abbey isn't making headlines for all the right reasons, and it's great to finish the school year celebrating that **we have achieved GOLD SPORTSMARK** this year.

Our young leaders have been amazing, volunteering at the South Yorkshire School Games where we had more successes: Abbey finished a respectable 6th in the cricket and 4th in the golf; we were **gold** medallists in the primary adventure challenge alongside Meadowview School; and we won **bronze** in the secondary competition alongside Wales.

I hope you all have a truly wonderful summer break and I know that more excitement and achievements beckon next year.

I am incredibly proud of the job Luci and the leadership team have done this school year. Our pursuit of excellence has really stepped up a gear as the bar has been raised by Ofsted, and we enter 2017/18 (as the Ofsted window opens once more for the school) with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully,



Warren Carratt
Chief Executive Officer
Nexus Multi Academy Trust