

CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2017/18
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Nexus MAT



@NexusMat

A big **welcome back** to you all after an eventful Easter break.

As many of you will already be aware, I am delighted that we have been approved by the Secretary of State to open two new, free special schools—one in Sheffield and one in Doncaster. This will bring an extra 160—200 (and much needed!) places to the special school system in South Yorkshire. The coming weeks and months will bring a lot of new work our way, though we have such talent across all our academies and in the central Trust team that I am 100% certain we will deliver the best schools we can!

All free school projects come with additional grant funding in pre-opening and there is an expectation that a **project manager** is appointed to oversee the building and development of the schools, **so I will be advertising soon** to ensure we can get up and running ASAP.

I'd like to thank **Richard Webster** and **Tracey Brooke** for their hard work on pulling the applications together with me. Additionally, **David McNaught** provided a lot of input to our Doncaster application and **Jacky Tattershall** was the architect of the first draft of the application we then adapted for both schools (you may recall we worked up a free school application for Rotherham last year which we're still waiting to submit!), so it really has been a team effort. **Thank you all!**

Clearly **parents, carers and children** from Sheffield and Doncaster will play a big part in co-producing the schools' offer with us and I'm looking forward to meeting with them in due course to ensure they're actively involved. When I think about the expertise and enthusiasm we have across our Trust and the new partners who want to work with us, I feel really confident that we can have two new schools that are shaped by a really wide range of stakeholders.

After a busy Easter "break", it was so inspiring to come back on Monday 9th April to open (and close) the **inaugural Nexus MAT Conference**, which was our first shared INSET across Abbey, Hilltop and Kelford schools. It was a big room at Magna that we filled to bursting and so far I've heard nothing but positive feedback about it. **Jill Walker** needs to take the credit for coordinating the event and making it the success it was, and **Wayne Askham, Jill Newbolt, Viki Drew, Carl Haag, David Burdett and Rob Mulvey** all brought what's great about their schools to workshops which were really well attended and which staff have feedback really positively about.

I can't wait for next year when Pennine View and Craggs' staff join us—we're definitely gonna need a bigger boat!



Warren Carratt

Learning together; to be the best we can be