

CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22
ISSUE 7

THURS 17 MARCH 2022



Colleagues - this briefing covers a lot of content and changes, so I'll get straight to it.

Firstly, as many of you will know already the Trust lost an irreplaceable family member on Friday 25 February when John Coleman, Director and former Member of Nexus MAT, died suddenly and unexpectedly at home.

John was one of the founding Members and Directors of the Trust and played a pivotal role as architect, champion, challenger and ambassador for all we do.

Personally, I will never forget John's impact on me and our schools. Collectively, our Trust would not be what it is today without him.



Thank you John for all you did throughout a career that touched and changed so many lives for the better.

After 4 years with us - three of those as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) - Catherine Sands is leaving Nexus MAT. Catherine has revolutionised the Trust's financial management infrastructure in her time as CFO and our Trust would not be the going concern it is (thankfully!) without her leadership and oversight. Catherine leaves at the end of April, with nothing less than an unpayable debt of gratitude for all she's done and our very best wishes for her future. I'll stop there, as Catherine can't compute "unpayable" debts...

It's also bittersweet to share the news that Anita Denman, Head of School at North Ridge, will be leaving at the end of this term. Anita is leaving to join Ofsted. In her 18 months with us, she has helped both stabilise and improve North Ridge School, and we wish her well in her career as an inspector.

As old friends and colleagues depart, the cycle of change means that new relationships are formed and I'm pleased to share the news that Karen Smith will become our new CFO, joining us in June. Karen is currently CFO at another Trust, and we are really pleased with the experience she will bring. At North Ridge, Sam MacDonald will be stepping up as interim Head of School after Easter, which will ensure we have consistency and continued capacity to see our school continue to thrive.

The Trust will be growing in the autumn, with Discovery Academy opening, and I'd like to welcome Danny Ross as our new Head of School. Danny joins us after Easter from Wellspring Academy Trust, and brings a wealth of experience and talent.

Also in September, our Trust will grow further with Harlow Academy, a special school in Nottinghamshire, joining us. The school has been spectacularly failed by the Trust it currently sits in, Evolve, which has led to changes in leadership of the school and Evolve Trust. The new Evolve Interim CEO, Wayne Norrie, and I have worked closely to secure the transition of Harlow (likely to be re-named Fountaindale School from September), under the transformational leadership of Luci Windle as Executive Head. The school has moved forward massively since we starting supporting it in January, after it was found inadequate by Ofsted.

Warren Carratt