



CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2019/20
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Seasons greetings one and all. Whether you woke up this morning feeling happy, unhappy or indifferent about the election result; at least it's now over with and we have a last week of uninterrupted festivities in our schools before we all break up for a much needed rest.



I've managed to attend a number of events in our schools over the past few weeks as part of our Christmas schedule, and it's been as wonderful as ever to see how welcoming our staff and pupils are. Thankfully (for my waistline), I've not had the opportunity this year to do a "Vicar of Dibley" and roll from one Christmas dinner to the next, though as I sit here typing I am very much looking forward to Christmas dinner at Hilltop today - my first one there in 2 years. I'm just hoping David Burdett has taken off his pantomime dame outfit by now...

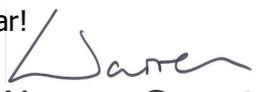
A couple of weeks ago, Directors of the Trust commissioned an external review of our MAT, to provide an independent view of whether our self-assessment is accurate. The review team spent time with some of our Headteachers and governors and visited a couple of our schools. The report has recently been returned to us and I'm really pleased to see that the strengths and weaknesses the review team fed back are the same ones we were already aware of. Improvement is a continual process and it was heartening to hear that the review team felt we are moving in the right direction.

I had a really positive meeting recently with some parents, where I was asked a lot of questions about how the Trust works and who takes decisions in schools around resourcing. There are a lot of horror stories out there about academy trust CEOs taking unilateral decisions about schools and not being held to account. I am proud to say that we have a very different model at Nexus. The Board of Directors (who are all unpaid volunteers!) are incredibly challenging of how I fulfil my role as CEO (as well being supportive, too!).



In our Trust, all funding comes directly to the schools (not to the Trust) and Headteachers make 100% of the decisions about how a school is staffed and structured in conjunction with their local governing body. Nationally we have seen education budgets squeezed as funding increases haven't kept pace with inflation, and we haven't been immune to that. However, we continue to fight every day for more funding for our children however we can get it, and I'm so proud of our Headteachers for continuing to make difficult decisions which keep children and families at the centre. In that sense, we continue to stay true to our values.

Have a wonderful Christmas, everyone: See you all in the New Year!


Warren Carratt

Learning together; to be the best we can be

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