



CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2019/20
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A big welcome back to all of our children, families and staff after the half term break. With the battering we took from Storms Ciara and Dennis, here's hoping we get a more settled climate in the run-up to Easter. I'd like to open this briefing by congratulating our Deputy Headteacher at Coppice, Natalie Swearman, on the birth of baby Joshua, who arrived on 20 January weighing in at 7lb 14oz. I hear mum, dad and Joshua are all doing well. **Big congratulations** to the whole family.

Sticking with the Coppice theme, I was so proud to read feedback - shared with me by Headteacher Linda Allison - from a colleague at Gosforth East Middle School, who spoke so highly about the conduct of our two pupils (N & J) and staff - Debbie & Gill - who accompanied them on a recent Battlefields trip to Belgium & France. Pupils and staff from Gosforth forged some genuine friendships with our Coppice pupils. There's real power in this trip both creating an experience where young people can remember and honour those lives lost through war over the last 100 years, whilst also breaking down societal barriers in the here-and-now. Fantastic! Thanks for sharing, Linda!

On 3 February, **Carla Bickell** of Kelford School attended an event at Rotherham College having been nominated for the award of 'Rising Star of the Year' as part of the National Apprenticeship Week. What we didn't know at the time was that Nexus MAT was also nominated - and awarded - the **2020 National Apprenticeship Award: Large Employer of the Year**. We couldn't have won this accolade without the hard work of all our apprentices, mentors and the wider workforce who support all our apprentices. A huge "thank you" and "well done".



We have launched our recruitment campaign for Bader Academy ahead of the planned opening of September 2020. We have a dedicated microsite now, with links on the Nexus and Bader websites. Our plan is to open the school with KS1-KS2 pupils, as well as a small cohort in year 7. Myself, Karl O'Reilly and the team continue to work closely with Doncaster Council and the Department for Education and will continue to share news as and when it emerges.

I'd also like to welcome **Kari Anson** to Kelford School, who accepted my offer to become the new Headteacher from September 2020, after a two day selection process involving a wide range of stakeholders. Kari was the strongest candidate over the two days, and all parties involved were really impressed with her enthusiasm, drive and values. It was a really tough selection process, so I'm really excited we have a candidate for Kelford who can continue the excellent work of Jacky Tattershall.



Finally, it is with much sadness that I share the news of Tracey Cupitt's death, who sadly passed away on 10 February after an all-too-short battle with cancer. Tracey had worked at Kelford for a number of years and was a much loved member of our team. Our prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

Warren Carratt

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