

CEO Briefing

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What a spring term 1 it's been. The most recent count is that we've had 450 confirmed COVID-19 cases across our staff and pupil cohorts since returning in January 2022. Whilst this reflects the impact of the Omicron variant nationally, it has created a lot of pressure for us to maintain a full offer of provision for pupils - as per our legal duty - whilst also having high absence rates of staff. I also know a number of colleagues and pupils have really suffered with COVID-19 and haven't been able to return by day 6 (with or without a negative LFT!). We couldn't have continued to meet pupil needs in the way we have across all our schools without the dedication and support of staff who have worked so hard in the absence of colleagues, so I want to start this briefing with yet another **THANK YOU** for everything our Heads and staff teams have done this half term to keep our show on the road. "Working together, to be the best we can be" has never been more visible in our schools.

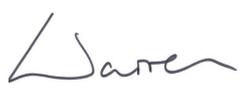
Since my last briefing, there have been a number of changes to our Trust that I want to share with you all. Firstly, I'm delighted that Michelle Hill will be joining the central team as our new Phonics and Reading Consultant. Michelle will be leaving her role as Assistant Head at Kelford to join us after Easter. The current Ofsted Education Inspection Framework places a high (the highest!) value on schools having absolute fidelity to a systematic synthetic phonics programmes (what a mouthful!), and Michelle will work with our schools' senior leaders and English leads to ensure there is the support and challenge in place from the Trust to give all of us the confidence we need heading into the next inspection.

Rob Mulvey will also be joining us after Easter as our Consultant Head for SEND. Rob is currently Headteacher at Stanton Vale special school in Derbyshire, and is a familiar face as he was Deputy Head at Hilltop until 2019. We're really happy to be bringing Rob back into the Nexus family, and we have exciting plans for the work he can and will do with our schools.

It's also been great to have Victoria Morris back in work, after she suffered a significant injury just before Christmas. Victoria works closely with our family support and pastoral staff in schools, and is both highly experienced and also an incredibly kind, compassionate and supportive human being. I'm so pleased we have her back in work now, as she was missed greatly.

There have been a few more changes to our Trust since the last briefing, and I am anticipating there will be more between now and the next one, so I'll provide more updates in the next 30 days. On a final note, I would like to welcome Gary Smith as the new Deputy Headteacher at Becton. Gary has been recruited as we add capacity to ensure we can develop the Becton post-16 offer so it can expand to meet increased need from September 2022.

For those who break up on Friday: have a great half term!
For our Rotherham schools: only 1 more week to go!


Warren Carratt