

CEO Briefing

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With the timing of the Easter holidays being different across our Trust and our schools, this briefing needs to start with both “Have a great last day of term and a wonderful Easter break” and also “Welcome back after the Easter holidays, I hope you had a great break” depending on who is reading it and when!

Either way, I have lots of news to share (as always), and I'll start with our consultation to undertake a de-amalgamation process at Becton School. In short, this means we have made an application to the Department for Education (DfE) to make the Kenwood offer its own special school, separate to Becton. Trust and school leaders believe this is the right thing to do for both the provision and for public accountability, as the Kenwood offer has now grown to the point where this alone is a standard sized special school, before one factors in the hospital education and the offer at Chapel House, which are also part of Becton. The current timeline suggests that the de-amalgamation process will likely conclude by early 2023. Very little will change for the pupils and staff already in the Kenwood provision, other than the school name will probably be Kenwood Academy rather than Becton School. The same leadership team will remain in place, under James Gibson's Executive Headship.

On 15 March I received official notification that Abbey had been reaccredited with Rotherham Charter Gold status, following a visit from the Genuine Partnerships Team. The feedback was so very positive, and whilst it wasn't a surprise it was definitely lovely to read. Well done #TeamAbbey! It also was great to see our pupils at Coppice School in the local news for their participation in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at the Leeds White Rose Shopping Centre. The hard work of our pupils was on full display, with teachers and staff being applauded for going the extra mile to help our pupils showcase their entrepreneurial skills. Just fantastic to see!

It was my privilege to be part of a Nexus MAT delegation at the Palace of Westminster on 29 March at the annual UK Parliament Awards, where we were winners for the launch of our Trust Parliament model in the autumn. The Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsey Hoyle MP, presented the award to Kieran, one of our pupils from Pennine View, which he was delighted to accept on behalf of our schools. My deepest thanks to Joanne Pedelty for leading our Trust Parliament work, and to all our pupils for so enthusiastically embracing our new model of pupil democracy.

Finally, a big well done to the girls at Crag for becoming the Rotherham Schools Under 11 Girls Champions, a tournament arranged by the Youth Sport Trust. Football has finally come home at long last. Well done to our little Lionesses.

Before I sign off, I want to share that the new “Levelling Up” White Paper makes it clear that the Government want to see all schools as part of a Multi Academy Trust by 2030. For Nexus, this means that we could be entering a period of further growth and development, as many MATs will.

What we must do is keep our existing family of schools, pupils and staff as our number 1 priority, and continue to ensure growth is driven by our shared values and principles.


Warren Carratt