

CEO Briefing



The purpose of this briefing is provide a very short means of communicating cross-cutting news and information that may be of interest to governors and staff across our family of schools, about things happening across our Trust. Whilst it's natural that not everybody will be interested in what I have to share, I also know that we try to leave as much time and space as possible for our schools to focus on school-specific business, as that's what matters most. As such, I do hope that these monthly briefings are striking the right balance for those of you kind enough to read them.

Along the lines of things being kept as simple as possible, and no simpler: the Board of Directors has published our Annual Report for 2021-2022 and also our Annual Workforce Engagement Statement for the same period. Both documents were circulated to all staff via email in late October, and can also be found on the Trust website www.nexusmat.org. I'm incredibly proud of the collective effort of all our leaders and governors to make our schools and our Trust the best we can be. It's natural that some days that will be better than others, but the collective value placed on public service and the unfaltering focus on the needs of children and families are core principles that unite us all. This is reflected clearly in both of these documents, and that should be a point of supreme pride for all of us.

I know these principles are one reason why the Governing Board of the Willows School, a special school in Rotherham, has submitted an application to join Nexus MAT. Our Rotherham special schools have worked closely with Rachael Booth (Headteacher) and the Willows School community for years, and we are delighted that they are now seeking to become part of our family. The first thing to change - for the better - when a school joins our Trust is the Trust itself, and I am therefore looking forward to our developing partnership as we work through the pre-conversion process.

At the same time, we have a number of other special schools, alternative provision schools and mainstream primary schools across the Yorkshire and East Midlands regions who want to explore partnership with our Trust. Having more schools with the same ethics and values in our family will only strengthen what we can do together, and will also ensure we have long-term security as a MAT. I'm really excited to see what 2023 will bring for our partnership working.

As has been communicated in briefings over the last few weeks, we have now received confirmation on the inflationary pay awards for teaching and non-teaching staff, and these uplifts - along with associated back pay - will be paid in the November pay run. What we know is that employees in receipt of benefits may find that the back pay lump sum disrupts their eligibility for benefit payments. This is a frustrating and unavoidable issue that the Government's benefit system has created, and staff are encouraged to talk to the school leadership or office team if this creates unexpected difficulty for them.

We have 5 weeks left of the autumn term with some amazing plans in our schools for Christmas. I'll see you all soon!


Warren Carratt



Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... our Headteacher at Beech Academy, **Neil Davies**, and our Trust Procurement Lead, **Lana Stoyles**!

Neil is a proud Welshman who originates from the South West corner of Wales (Welsh being his first language). He studied for his degree in London (1994-1998) and began his teaching career as a PE Teacher at the London Nautical School (Waterloo) in 1998, later becoming Head of PE at Archbishop Tensions School (Kennington Oval) in 2001.



Neil relocated to the East Midlands and began teaching at The Brunts Academy, Mansfield, as Head of PE in 2005, a school where he also held the roles of; Head of Year, Head of House and Assistant Headteacher. Neil was given an opportunity to undertake a secondment into special education and began his role at Beech Academy as Deputy Head in September 2019, became Head of School from January 2020 and Headteacher from September 2021. Neil describes the move from mainstream to working in SEND as the best decision of his career! When not at work, Neil is most likely to be found passionately supporting Welsh rugby, fly fishing (with J.R. Hartley), playing the occasional game of golf or tending his lawn!



Lana joined as Procurement Lead for the Central Trust in June 2022. Initially starting her career in banking and studying AAT during the evenings, Lana became intrigued by the role of 'school business manager' in 2012. Initially volunteering at Stone Hill Special School to explore if this was the career for her, she fell in love and never looked back! Securing her first role in 2012 as finance officer in a Doncaster LA maintained primary school.

The school later became a founding member of Rose Learning Trust, allowing Lana the opportunity to learn and grow further. Continuing her studies, Lana achieved CMI chartered management status in 2019. During Lana's career with Rose Learning Trust she has worked in office management, finance management and business management, developing a wide range of strategic and operational knowledge in academy finance, procurement and business operations - both at trust and school level.

Lana has three children aged 13, 10 and 3 who are her proudest achievement. During Lana's spare time, she loves family time, holidays and reading (preferably a murder mystery and not Peppa Pig).

