

CE Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23
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nexus
Multi Academy Trust
Learning together to be the best we can be

WED 7 DECEMBER

Seasons' greetings, one and all!

It's that most wonderful time of the year, when all of our schools are buzzing with Christmas-themed activity and blood sugar levels sky rocket as children start the day with an infusion of advent calendar chocolatey joy (or is that just in our house?).

I'd like to start this briefing by offering a sincere and humongous **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who donated to our Just Giving initiative to sponsor a snowflake at the Sheffield Children's Hospital. We set a target of raising £600 through voluntary donations and exceeded that level *within 3 working days*, through the generosity of our Trust community. The Just Giving page will stay open until the 16 December 2022, should anyone else wish to donate, with all proceeds going to the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to this appeal, and to Lana Stoyles for coordinating it.

On another positive note, I'd like to welcome Sue O'Brien to the Nexus family as our newest Member. Member's are the most senior governance tier of an academy trust, and we have five positions which we must appoint to. The role of a Member - like all academy governance roles - is unpaid. Following Paul Girling's departure earlier this term, I'm delighted to welcome Sue to the team.

Sue is the Strategic lead for the South Yorkshire Futures Programme at Sheffield Hallam University which aims to work closely with schools and multi academy trusts across the region to support outcomes for all our young people. As a former teacher and experienced teacher educator at Hallam, Sue brings a wealth of experience, across a range of schools, to our Trust.

In November, I was informed that we have been selected as the sponsor for Holgate Meadows special school in Sheffield. As an inadequate school, Holgate Meadows will need significant support from our Trust to help it improve at pace. The school has had a challenging few years, but - like all schools - there are some amazing children and staff working hard there every day. We look forward to partnering with the school to help it rebuild over the coming months.

As reported in previous briefings, the Trust is actively exploring further growth at this moment in time, so I am hopeful of sharing more news with you in briefings throughout the year on our expanding partnerships. Having met with the Trust Pupil Cabinet in the last two weeks, it's wonderful to see how collaboration across our schools can make such a positive impact for our pupils.

Finally, I'd like to close this part of the briefing by commending Callum Trowill at Hilltop School for being a national finalist, finishing second in the Down Syndrome Society Workfit Awards. Nominated and championed by his colleague Vikki Kerry, Callum was celebrated at the national awards for being "utterly amazing throughout Covid and supporting our students with such care and empathy". As his older cousin, I've known Callum all of his life, so I am both personally and professionally proud to see his hard work recognised on a national stage. Well done, Call!

Merry Christmas one and all - have a fantastic last two weeks, without a lockdown in sight!


Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...



In this briefing, we're focusing on... our Headteacher at Pennine View School, **Sarah Mulhall**, and one of our new Executive Regional Directors, **Sacha Schofield**!



Sarah Mulhall is the Headteacher at Pennine View School based in Conisbrough, Doncaster. Pennine View is one of 5 Nexus Academies based within Doncaster, with planned places of 121 and serves pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties. Sarah has served as Headteacher for 5 years, beginning her Headship in September 2017. Prior to headship, she served as Deputy Headteacher at Kelford School.

Over the course of the last 5 years, Sarah - alongside her leaders - has created a community based vision which is supported by a clear set of values. Underpinning the school's values sits the school's L.E.A.R.N principles upon which school life and all improvement activity is centred around. Underpinned by the school's principles, systems and processes have been reviewed and overhauled to enable the workforce to focus their attentions on the core business of supporting children and young people to achieve their best outcomes.

Sacha Schofield graduated from the University of Central Lancashire in 1995 with a BSC (Hons) in Physiology and Pharmacology then completed her Post Graduate Certificate in Education in Science at Sheffield University. After teaching in secondary schools across South Yorkshire, Sacha moved into special education and worked in a number of leadership roles in schools across Derbyshire and Sheffield. As further professional development, Sacha achieved her Master in Education of Children and Young People with Autism in 2005 and her National Professional Qualification in Headship in 2014.



Sacha was appointed as Headteacher of Becton School in 2013 where she developed new provision in the form of the Kenwood School and consolidated and reshaped the Sheffield Hospital Outreach Service. Sacha subsequently became Headteacher at Rowan Teaching School and then moved to become Executive Headteacher at Bents Green School in Sheffield where she developed and expanded a new Bents Green site at Gleadless for Key Stage 4 and 5. Sacha has a successful record of school improvement, securing Outstanding judgements at both Becton and Rowan School, and was awarded National Leader of Education status in 2017.

Sacha joined Nexus MAT on 1 September 2022, as one of our new Executive Regional Directors. Sacha line manages a number of Headteachers and is the Trust thematic lead for Safeguarding.

