



CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23
ISSUE 4

nexus
Multi Academy Trust
Learning together to be the best we can be

FRI 13 JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year, one and all! I hope you all managed to have a restful and festive Christmas break. The Carratt house was full of temperatures and sickness for 10 of the 14 days, so the New Year has brought some much needed relief and a return to normality for me.

As is always the case with these briefings, I'm sharing details of change - which continues to be a constant across our Trust family, and January is no different.

I'm really proud to share the news that, on 1 January 2023, Kenwood Academy officially opened, following its de-amalgamation from Becton School.

This brings our family of schools to 14 now, with The Willows and Holgate Meadows schools in the process of joining us, subject to due diligence. Whilst being a 16 school MAT is a 100% increase on our size 3 years ago, we still have a lot of interested partner schools wanting to explore conversion, and our aspiration is to grow the Trust further so that we can have long term certainty and security, whilst getting to work closely with more and more great people.

The spring term started with a bang for our children and staff at the Beech Academy, with Ofsted inspecting the school on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. I am incredibly proud of the effort the whole school community put into the inspection, and I'd like to single out Neil, Katie, Pete and Matt for the leadership team's relentless drive to showcase our school at its very best. Inspection is never an easy or comfortable process, and the school community should be really proud of the openness and honesty they provided Ofsted with.

I expect this will be the first of a number of inspections this term, as we are expecting visits at the majority of our schools. The hard work of being "Ofsted ready" is what we all do every day, by doing all we can to help our pupils and colleagues be the best they can be. I can't foresee a time when inspection doesn't breed heightened levels of anxiety, but I also strongly believe that - if we're at our very best more often than not - then Ofsted will recognise that when they visit our schools. The inspection framework is about recognising strengths, not trying to catch people out.

We're now in the run-up to our whole Trust conference on 20 February 2023, and I've been overwhelmed by the responses from our schools to select workshops. Within 48 hours of the online booking system going live, over 75% of our workforce had responded! This will be the biggest, most ambitious event we've planned as a Trust, and I'm grateful to Jacky Tattershall and Amanda Hobson for their hard work to get us to this point.

Our Staff Parliament met for the first time at the end of the Autumn Term, and there was a lot of discussion about our approach to recognition and reward. The Parliament voted to explore local recognition schemes at school level rather than having a Trust-based one (i.e. at the conference). Our colleagues in Human Resources will, at the suggestion of the Staff Parliament, be exploring the creation of social clubs across our MAT, which employees would have the option to join. More news on that in future briefings!



Warren
Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... our Chief Finance Officer (CFO) **Karen Smith**, and one of our Executive Headteachers, **Luci Windle**!



Karen joined Nexus MAT as CFO in May 2022, having previously been CFO at Sheffield South East Trust. She's been in Sheffield for 3 years, having moved up from London, where she spent most of her career in the Civil Service, as an analyst, and then Finance Business Partner. She worked in various departments (Home Office, Department for Education) before leaving the civil service to take a role as a school business

manager in 2017. Karen leads the central finance function, ensuring that senior leaders and directors have the information they need to make sound financial decisions. She also works closely with our auditors to support the production of our annual accounts, and submits various statutory returns to the DfE. The finance team get involved in every level of financial management across the trust, from managing the central bank account, to supporting schools with financial monitoring and budget setting. She loves a well-structured spreadsheet and correctly coded invoice almost as much as she loves hiking in the Peak District with her 2 children, and lives in Nether Edge.

Luci is Executive Headteacher at Abbey, Discovery and Fountaindale Schools. She has held senior leader positions for 18 years, initially starting as a newly qualified teacher in the exact place that she supported the design of Discovery Academy being built. Previously to starting her teaching career Luci was an Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Therapist a post that encouraged her teaching career in special education. Luci is currently a Headteacher Ambassador for Youth Sport Trust and has most recently supported the training and development of aspiring Headteachers through tutoring on the Learners First NPQH programme. Luci has a strong belief that ethical leadership is the route to improve any setting. Luci has always worked in schools who have been in challenging circumstances. A strong belief that it takes a village to raise a child is something that you will see in all Luci's schools. Luci is Vice Chair of Governors at an Outstanding local secondary school and away from her professional career Luci is a proud mum of 2 Disney loving teenagers and can be found most evenings and weekends sat on the side lines of a basketball court. Family time is important to Luci and this is why she encourages families to be central to schools she is responsible for.

