

CEO Briefing



I hope you all had a restful Easter break: the summer term is already a week in, and we have some interesting times ahead over the coming weeks, with a coronation; strike days; hotly anticipated Ofsted inspections; SATs week; and exams all in the pipeline.

I'd like to start this briefing by welcoming some new starters to key roles across our Trust.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Ryan Taff, who has been appointed as the new Deputy Headteacher at Bader Academy. Ryan will join us after the spring bank holidays, and will bring additional strength and experience to the existing school leadership team. Speaking of Bader Academy, Emma Parker will be leaving the school to join the central Trust team as our new Maths Consultant, which is a key post that will strengthen quality assurance and improvement across our Trust.

We have also strengthened our Trust school improvement capacity, with the appointment of Emma Bellamy as an Executive Assurance Partner. Emma will join the Trust in September, and comes with a wealth of school leadership experience. We are also hopeful of a further appointment in this area, though the final details of this are just being confirmed at the time of writing.

Kevin Oxborough will also be joining us soon as our new Asset & Facilities Manager, which is a new post that will work with site managers and Headteachers to ensure we are having a more coordinated approach to the management of our school estates, in line with our asset improvement plans.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Colin Bradley, who will be joining the Nexus MAT Board of Directors. Colin works in Derbyshire and has a long association with state education, leading the creation of a free school in Nottingham over a decade ago. We're delighted he has put himself forward to join our team of governance volunteers, and we look forward to his starting on 1 June 2023.

With each year I am fortunate enough to remain in this role, it feels like the pace at which time moves by increases as we blitz through school terms. As we plan for September 2023, we already know there will be more changes across our schools as we grow and develop our provision to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve. At the same time, the shape of our Trust will change and we'll have to evolve our model further to ensure we can meet those changing needs.

The rejection of the Government's pay offer by the education unions in March means that we will likely see increased strike action over the coming term. For the first time in its history, the Association of School & College Leaders (ASCL) will ballot its members on strike action, and I anticipate all the teaching unions will do the same.

This will inevitably lead to more avoidable disruption of education for children and families, and my sincere hope is that the Government can secure an agreement that allows schools to have certainty and security over budgets for the medium term, whilst also responding to the other concerns raised by the sector.

Warren
Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... our Corporate Governance and Policy Manager, **Julie Westwood**, and our Headteacher of Bader Academy, **Viki Drew**...

Julie joined the Central Trust Team in August 2022, after working at The Bridge and Bader Academy. She has over 32 years experience of working in local authorities in a variety of roles ranging from front line service delivery to development of strategies and systems at the highest level.



She was a key player in initiating and developing children's trust arrangements in Rotherham which included creating, establishing and monitoring governance arrangements, strategy and policy development, human and financial resource management, commissioning and performance management. She has worked with multi-disciplinary teams and in partnership with schools, internal and external organisations including Ofsted. She took early retirement in 2011 and has lived abroad and travelled extensively, particularly in South East Asia. She returned to South Yorkshire in 2020 to support her family and her passion for the pursuit of excellence in services for children and young people was re-awakened. Julie enjoys reading, loves cooking (and eating it afterwards) and of course, travel.



Viki has worked within specialist settings for 19 years, serving the most amazing families of young people with complex needs. Viki began her career on a work experience placement at Kelford School, soon realising a passion for supporting young people. She spent many years working as a member of support staff at Kelford School. Whilst working in school she began to consider a teaching role, gaining a degree qualification. She was

fortunate to be supported on this route. Viki qualified as a teacher in 2013, and quickly progressed into leadership roles; leaving Kelford as Deputy Headteacher, on a secondment to Bader Academy in 2020 as Interim Head of School.

Viki was made permanent Head of School in March 2021 and became Headteacher in September 2022. Viki's passion is helping young people to communicate their wishes and feelings, putting their needs at the heart of everything she does, including working with families to support each individual pupil alongside an amazing team. She couldn't be prouder of the community she serves.

A little-known fact about Viki is that she was once the Under 16 European Irish dancing champion! A talent staff rarely see, and only at Christmas parties if at all!

