

CEO Briefing



You know that the Glastonbury Festival season is upon us when we get torrential rain showers in June. It feels like, after a glorious week of sunshine, we've been teased with the prospect of heat and blue skies in the weather forecasts, only to be left with cloud and rain. Here's hoping we get better weather for our school celebrations across the rest of June and July.

With only 4-5 weeks left of the 2022-23 school year, there is still lots and lots of positive new news to share from across our Trust family.

Firstly, I feel really privileged to share the news that the Governing Board of **Bents Green Special School** in Sheffield has approached us to explore academisation. The school is in the very early stages of consulting with the wider community on this change, but we're really privileged to have been asked to explore this with them. We already have a strong presence in Sheffield and we've worked really hard over the past few years to help the local offer improve and enhance: to better meet family and pupil needs; to grow jobs; and to create new career progression pathways for our staff. We would love to work with the Bents Green community to do more of the same, if the school governors and our Board of Directors feel that submitting an application to join our family of schools is the right thing for Bents Green School and for our Trust.

We are very much looking forward to **The Willows** joining our Trust on 1 September, and lots of hard work has continued in the background to manage that transition. At the same time, we are continuing to provide support to **Holgate Meadows School**, and I'm so proud of the impact our Headteacher - **Sarah Storer** - has had since being seconded to lead the school in January. The most recent Ofsted inspection has recognised the impact Sarah and our Trust has had in improving the school in a short space of time. Importantly, safeguarding at the school is now effective, which is a direct consequence of Sarah's leadership. We look forward to the school joining us next year.

It was wonderful to chair the **Pupil Cabinet** this week, which includes a representative from each of our school parliaments. We spent time discussing the Trust Secondary Olympics; planning for the Trust Primary Olympics; and talking about other ways in which our schools can collaborate over the next school year. We also talked about how our schools celebrate **PRIDE** month, and a number of our Cabinet Members wanted to take this discussion back to their school parliaments, to plan things for next year! It was fab.

Before I finish this briefing, I want to pay tribute to Grace O'Malley-Kumar, Barnaby Webber and Ian Coates: who tragically lost their lives in a senseless attack in Nottingham on 13 June. Our Trust is part of the Nottinghamshire family, given we have two schools in Mansfield, and this tragedy has left so many of us - especially our pupils - feeling a range of emotions: anger, sadness, confusion. In the days and weeks ahead, it's our duty to see this attack for what it was: a crime by an individual who must live with the consequences for the rest of their lives. Emma Webber, Barnaby's mum, said "Please hold no hate that relates to any colour, sex or religion". The heart-breaking loss of life is tragedy enough, without hate winning the day.

Warren
Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...



In this briefing, we're focusing on... our Headteacher of Craggs Community School, **Liz Normington**, our HR Manager, **Michelle Smith**, and one of our Executive Primary Leads, **Darren Dickinson**...



Liz Normington is the Headteacher of Craggs Community School in Maltby. She has a degree in Social and Economic History from the University of Liverpool and worked for the NHS equipment services whilst volunteering at Rawmarsh Children's Centre until she trained as a teacher, where she qualified with a PGCE and Early Years specialism at the University of Hull. She has worked at Craggs for 15 years and started out as a newly qualified teacher in 2007 working through to Early Years Leader, Deputy Headteacher and becoming eventual

Headteacher in September 2018.

Michelle Smith started her career many years ago in customer services (I know, right!!) but took the opportunity to move into HR & Payroll to cover a maternity leave and it went from there. Without any formal HR qualifications, Michelle gained experience and knowledge which she was then able to call on whilst studying for CIPD Level 7 HR Management before becoming a Chartered Member of CIPD. She worked in a team covering several directorates within Rotherham Council before being asked to work directly in the Schools Team.



After 8 years in the Schools Team, Michelle moved to a private HR company and, 5 years later, she moved to Nexus MAT. A keen follower of all sports, but in particular rugby union and darts (yes you read that right), Michelle likes to travel to see games. So far, the furthest she has been is Gibraltar but she is hoping to persuade her other half to go a bit further afield in future.



Darren Dickinson has worked in education for over 25 years and has experience of working in both mainstream and specialist settings. Darren has held positions such as: Lead Standards and Effectiveness Officer for SEND for Doncaster Council, Headteacher of a primary school with a communication and interaction resource; School Improvement Partner with Doncaster Research School; and School Improvement Partner with a number of multi academy trusts.

Through his work with the Research School Network, Darren has developed a real passion for evidence-based practice and he has co-designed and delivered a number of evidence-based professional development programmes around the provision for disadvantaged pupils. Recently he has worked with a trust in West Yorkshire to support the development of an evidence-based approach to writing from EYFS to KS4 and has written and delivered an evidence-based apprenticeship programme for teaching assistants. Darren supports Jacky Tattershall and colleagues with the work around Trust curriculum networks and has a passion to further develop our practice around disadvantaged pupils.

