

CE Briefing

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

SCHOOL YEAR 2023 - 24
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Half term is almost upon us, and the weather has finally started to feel autumnal. Naturally.

I'd like to start this briefing by paying tribute to one of our pupils, Jude Mellon-Jameson, who sadly passed away at the end of September. Jude was a pupil at Becton School, and he worked closely with Gail Beaumont and Laura Sturt during his stays in the hospital. The loss of a child is something that families carry with them for the rest of their lives, and we send our collective thoughts and prayers to Jude's loved ones at this difficult time. I'd like to thank Gail, Laura and our Becton family for making Jude's life a better, happier place by their being in it.

All of our schools work hard to make the lives of children and families the best they can be, but we cannot stop the need for children to require acute medical care. Whilst Becton is our hospital school, too many children and families across our whole Trust community will, sadly, need the support and intervention of the Sheffield Children's Hospital at some point. That's why, for the second successive year, we've launched our fundraising initiative to sponsor a Sheffield Children's Hospital snowflake on behalf of the Nexus MAT family. Please help us share this worthy cause, and please - if you can - donate. Our Just Giving page can be found at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/NexusSnowflake2023. The link has also been shared on the Trust Twitter and Facebook pages.

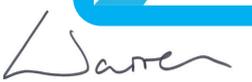
Autumn half term 1 has been as lively as usual. As our pupils have all been settling back into new classes and routines, the central Trust team has also been through a big change. The Trust has moved into 300 Meadowhall Way, Sheffield (the building previously called The Source, next to Meadowhall shopping centre). This site is the new Nexus MAT Headquarters, though the majority of the building itself will be re-developed to become the new home for sixth form provision for some of our existing and new Sheffield schools. We are now working closely with our local authority partners to co-create this amazing new offer for our young adult learners. Watch this space for more info.

The beginning of October saw the Trust Board of Directors hold their annual strategic planning day, as they review the last 12 months and agree our priorities for the next, within the overarching framework that is our 5 Year Strategic Plan. We already have 3 more schools in the process of joining our family of schools (Bents Green, The Levett School and Holgate Meadows), and we have recently started supporting Derrymount School in Nottinghamshire, following a request for help from Nottinghamshire County Council. At the same time, we have applied to open 6 new schools and we are also in dialogue with some local primary schools. All of this means that things continue to be evolving for our MAT, as we broaden our reach and do more, for more schools, across the regions we operate in.

As I reflect on the events over the past 10 days in the Middle East, it is hard to not feel despondent about our chances as a species of tearing down man-made boundaries and collaborating to ensure the survival of our planet.

However...

I then visit our schools and feel the love and enthusiasm our pupils have, and I see how the adults that support them make their world a better place. Nelson Mandela said that "education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world". It can destroy barriers and obliterate ignorance. Thank goodness that's our core business. We can make a better tomorrow!


Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... and one of our **Executive Assurance Partners**, Emma Bellamy, our **Deputy Chief Finance Officer**, Ann D'Arcy, and our **Headteacher at Coppice School**, Natalie Swearman..



Emma Bellamy joined Nexus MAT on 1 September 2023 as an Executive Assurance Partner. Prior to this, she has spent the past 8 years as Executive Headteacher across an Infant and a Junior School in Sheffield. She has spent her teaching career working in Sheffield and is passionate about working with multi agencies to support children with SEND and those at risk of exclusion.

Emma is enthusiastic about school improvement and empowering staff to give children the best education and start to life. Her strengths lie in curriculum development, assessment and personal development.

Emma lives in Thurlstone, Barnsley with her husband and two children (Oscar aged 7 and Evelyn aged 3). Her spare time is mainly spent ferrying her children to extra-curricular clubs and birthday parties! She does, however, enjoy drinking wine and going on holidays!

Ann D'Arcy is the Deputy CFO for the Trust. Since leaving University, Ann gained her ACA qualification with Deloitte and then worked at the Asda Head Office in Leeds as a commercial analyst and later as a manager in trading accounts. She took a 3 ½ year career break during which period she relocated with her family to Waterloo in Belgium, a short drive from Brussels, allowing her a great opportunity to explore the country and surrounding areas and practise her French speaking.



Ann began working in the education sector in 2015 following her return to the UK, and worked within the finance team at Ossett Academy. When the academy joined the newly formed Accord MAT, Ann was appointed Chief Finance Officer for the Trust and held this position until 2019 when she then worked on a consulting basis before joining Nexus in 2022.

Ann lives in Wakefield with her husband, 15-year-old twins, and George the miniature labradoodle. She spends most weekends either at the side of a netball court or football pitch, cheering on at her children's matches, and loves to go walking through the woods with George.



Natalie Swearman is the Headteacher at Coppice, a special School for children and young people with severe learning disabilities and autism. She has a degree in Criminology, and whilst studying worked as a Teaching Assistant from the age of 18 at Coppice. After University, she worked as an au-pair in Italy, and then returned to the UK, completed her teacher training at Coppice School and began her career there as a Newly Qualified Teacher in 2012. She has a Masters Degree in Autism Spectrum. During her time at Coppice, she has been a TA, Class Teacher, English Lead, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Head of School, becoming the permanent Headteacher in April 2023.

Natalie is extremely passionate about ensuring that all learners access education that is meaningful to them, offers them extraordinary opportunities and builds on their strengths and interests.

In her spare time, she is kept on her toes by her 3 year old son, and her Bearded Collie dog, Herbert who is also the school's resident dog! She has been renovating her house for the past ten years, but prefers to spend her free time avoiding all kinds of DIY, prioritising holidays and travel instead.

