

CEO Briefing



Happy New Year, one and all. I hope you all felt that the lateness of when we broke up for Christmas was rewarded with that second week off after New Year's day. It certainly took me most of last week to get back into my work routine, after a very quiet and peaceful first week of 2024.

I'll start this New Year briefing by extending a warm welcome to some new colleagues who have or are joining us. Firstly, I'd like to welcome Becky Allard and Jonathan Sharp, who have joined our central Trust team as new Executive Assurance Partners. With the growth plans for our Trust and commitments we've made to work with new schools in the region, it's essential that we maintain our capacity to meet the needs of our existing academies whilst also having the resource to enable and facilitate growth, and Becky and Jonathan help secure that. I'm also pleased to welcome Adam Cloney, who will be joining us later this half term as our new Corporate Governance Manager, replacing Julie Westwood who left in December.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Lyndsey Proctor, who will be starting after Easter as the new Headteacher of Heatherwood School, taking the reigns from the amazing Lisa Suter. Lyndsey has previously been a successful Headteacher in mainstream secondary, and we're delighted with the skills and experience she'll bring to our school and Trust. Once Lyndsey starts, Lisa will transition full time to become an Executive Regional Director, working closely with our Doncaster schools.

Unfortunately, I am also starting this New Year by sharing some really sad news about some recent pupil deaths that our schools have experienced.

Firstly, one of our beautiful pupils at Heatherwood School, Milly Close, died on 6 December. Milly was 10 years old and a member of our ARC class.

We've also lost 3 pupils connected to Becton School. Damien-Lee Stewart passed away last week, having recurrently been on the Sheffield Children's Hospital oncology ward over the past few years. Evelyn Tuplin also passed away last week. Evelyn was 5 years old and, as she'd always been too poorly to attend school, Becton had been her only school experience.

Finally, ex-pupil Daisy Bull also passed away at home during the Christmas break. Daisy was 12 years old, and had been receiving palliative care at home for some time.

The loss of any child is heart-breaking, and I can only imagine what the families of our pupils have been through. However, I also see the joy and love that our children and their families feel when they work with our schools and our amazing staff, and I have no doubt that all of our learners lives were made better for the memories that our staff created with them and for them.

The loss of a loved one can also help remind us of the importance of living and loving life whilst we can, and I hope that those of you reading this can take inspiration from the differences we can and do make to the lives of others, as that's a truly special way to spend your working life.

Warren
Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... our **Headteacher at North Ridge Community School**, Sam MacDonald, and our **Headteacher at Pennine View School**, Leanne Camaish.



Sam MacDonald has worked in special education for over 15 years. He started his journey as a Pool Duty officer and swimming instructor at Heatherwood School at 18. Working with the amazing young people gave him the passion and drive to get into teaching. After 4 years of studying in Sheffield he returned to Heatherwood as a teacher in 2015. He took a secondment opportunity to North Ridge in 2018 to add leadership capacity and has not left since. He has had various roles at North Ridge from Assistant Head, Deputy Head to Head of School and he can now proudly say he has been the Headteacher since September 2023. He is excited to continue to support North Ridge on its continued journey of improvement.

Sam is passionate about ensuring that children and young people with SEND get the best possible offer whilst they are in education. He believes in using research and evidence informed practice to continually improve the educational offer for all the children, young people and families we serve. Sam loves working as part of the Nexus MAT family and has seen benefits this brings for our staff, pupils and families.

Outside of school Sam spends time with his family in particular his niece and two nephews, and suspects their parents use him as free child care. Sam enjoys spending time with friends and having days out to new places, eating out and loves binge watching a series on Netflix.

Leanne Camaish has worked in education for 24 years. 15 years in Secondary Mainstream schools and the last 8 years in Alternative Provision. Leanne has had a variety of roles in mainstream, from being young and spritely (haha) Head of Year, Head of Faculty to Assistant Head. Children who didn't quite fit the mainstream mould were the ones who Leanne was drawn to supporting, always wanting the best possible outcome for vulnerable children and families.



It was in 2014 when Leanne joined Aspire Pupil Referral Unit as Deputy Head and was made Head the year after. This was a place where she felt she could make the biggest difference through attachment friendly and trauma informed practice, loving the challenge that sits alongside a very busy alternative provision. With loads of support from an amazing team they re-shaped the PRU, Inclusion Panels and Outreach Teams across Rotherham always focusing on the SEMH graduated response. SEND will always be her passion whichever part of the world she is in.

Since joining Pennine View Leanne has been overwhelmed by the kindness that permeates the school and the community, it genuinely is a beautiful place to work. She's also been amazed by the support of everyone in the trust who all want one thing, the very best for children!

Outside of school Leanne loves to cook, makes a fab Sunday dinner and loves nothing more than to enjoy this with her family, a rhubarb crumble and a glass of white! This sometimes feels at odds with her want to go the gym regularly- which happens perhaps 50% of the time.

