

# CEO Briefing



As I write this briefing, the snow is falling fast outside my window and the country is grinding to an obligatory halt. What do they do in Scandinavia, Canada and other countries where snowfall is a regular, routine occurrence? Here's hoping everyone manages to get home safe and well, without too much delay. The year-long month that is January is finally over, and we're now at the end of spring half term 1. It won't be long before the warmer weather is upon us, the nights draw out and the seasonal coughs and colds melt away.

I'd like to start this briefing by sharing an opportunity for any civic minded individual out there to put themselves forward to join the board of trustees at Age UK Barnsley. The charity has started a recruitment process for trustees, which is a totally voluntary position requiring attendance at four meetings a year (Jan, April, July and October) with some committee meetings, if available. If you are - or know anyone - interested in applying for this role, please contact [L.Noble@ageukbarnsley.org.uk](mailto:L.Noble@ageukbarnsley.org.uk). Age UK provide an essential service to our wider society, so it would be an incredibly rewarding experience to become one of their trustees.

It is with much sadness that I share the news of a recent pupil death at Becton. Whilst I can't share the details, I wanted to use this briefing to thank our team at the Becton Centre for their resilience and dedication. The difference their work makes to the lives of some of our society's most vulnerable children cannot be overstated, and the love and support of the whole Nexus MAT family is with them at this difficult time.

Whilst we experience challenges in our schools, they remain wonderful places where pupils continue to thrive. It was a pleasure to be invited to The Willows School Restaurant this week, where our pupils prepared and served a delicious Valentine's-themed meal. It was so lovely to spend time sitting with parents and grandparents to listen to their love of the school, and to enjoy what our pupils had prepared. It's definitely a five star review from me!

Our Trust cannot fulfil its legal duties without those volunteers who govern us, and I'm delighted to welcome Naomi Cooper and Phil Bradley to the governance team, who have been appointed as advisors to the Board of Directors. Naomi is a former Headteacher and now a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, training our next generation of teachers. Phil is a senior manager in children's social work, and has extensive experience of working within local government. Both Naomi and Phil will provide the Board of Directors with a lot of experience, as they work to help our organisation be the best it can be.

Our Trust continues to support Derrymount school (Nottinghamshire) and Holgate Meadows (Sheffield), as both schools improve, having been found inadequate by Ofsted. We are looking forward to Holgate Meadows formally joining the Trust between now and September, though the school will have a new name once it does - we're just waiting for the democratic process to tell us what that is! Have a wonderful half term break, one and all! See you on the other side!



*Warren*  
**Warren Carratt**

# Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... our two newest **Executive Assurance Partners: Becky Allard & Jonathan Sharp.**



**Becky Allard** has worked in education for 24 years, holding various roles in the primary schools in which she worked before moving into headship in 2010. In January 2020, Becky became Executive Headteacher over a second primary school before taking on a third school in September 2020. The schools Becky led were all Church of England schools working in partnership with the Diocese of Sheffield which has supported her to develop a core focus on relationships and a strong sense of community.

Throughout her career, Becky has been passionate about teaching and learning and ensuring that vulnerable learners in particular have access to a high-quality provision that closely matches their needs. Much of this work has been around developing curriculum and practices but also in ensuring staff have access to high quality, evidence-based professional development opportunities that enable them to flourish and understand how to deliver the best possible learning experience for the pupils and the communities they serve. Becky has led on assessment and data practices across her schools and beyond, acting as a consultant Headteacher for Rotherham LA and the MAT she previously worked for.

Becky lives in Rotherham with her husband and two daughters – Evie and Lucie. She enjoys being busy spending her time socialising and holidaying with friends and family and avoiding any house related projects or jobs she should be doing! She feels proud and privileged to have joined Nexus and has felt incredibly welcome in the short time she has been with the Trust.

**Jonathan Sharp** has worked in the education sector for over 25 years as a primary teacher, deputy Headteacher, Headteacher and Local Authority Senior Officer. He has gained a range of experience in school improvement locally and regionally and has been a constant advocate of inclusion and equity throughout his career. He has led an 'outstanding' school and has had the privilege of supporting schools requiring special measures.



His work as Director of Doncaster Research School involved collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders within and beyond the borough to develop and share effective and innovative ways of working, particularly the use of evidence informed practice. This was primarily focused on developing leadership and teaching practice for the benefit of all pupils, but particularly those facing vulnerability and educational disadvantage. Jonathan has particular expertise and understanding of evidence informed implementation and has worked closely with the Education Endowment Foundation to support school policy and practice.

As an experienced system collaborator, school governor and Trust Director in primary, secondary and special school settings, Jonathan has a good understanding of the expectations, challenges and opportunities which Trusts, schools and their leaders are afforded in the current educational climate. Jonathan has a very good working knowledge of the current Education Inspection Framework as a senior leader and as a trained Ofsted Inspector practising in the North East, Yorks and Humber region.

Jonathan lives in Wakefield with his wife and three daughters. He is a lifelong car, motorcycle and bicycle fanatic and can be found most weekends riding, driving or tinkering in the garage trying to fix or improve his own or someone else's car or bike.

