



CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2016/17
ISSUE 2

FRIDAY 14TH OCT 2016



Well, it's been an unbelievably quick half-term (or is that just me?); the nights are drawing in and it won't be much longer before Meadowhall is decked with boughs of holly... We've had the joys of celebrating Eid, Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night are almost upon us!

Life at all our schools has been jam-packed with excitement and celebration since we came back together at the start of September, and we've welcomed 3 new Directors to the Nexus MAT Board (Catherine Hall, Alan Meloy and Peter Castleton—see www.NexusMAT.org for more info!) who have agreed to commit their time and efforts on a volunteer basis to ensure that our Trust is well run and that our schools are supported to be the best they can be. Too many Academies have been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons and I think it's absolutely essential that we have a Trust Board and Local Governing Bodies who ensure we can demonstrate excellent propriety; regularity; and value for money at all times! **Every. single. child.** is at the heart of all we do, and they always should be. Directors are the moral guardians for this.

In terms of our shared successes: it's my pleasure to report that Luci Windle (Headteacher at Abbey School) was nominated for and has been named as **Headteacher of the Year** in the "Sheffield Best in Education Awards". This is Luci's second award for excellence in the last 4 months and is deserved recognition of the leader and manager Luci is. Well done Luci!

Friday 7th October saw the grand opening of the new learning house at Abbey School: **Lane End Retreat**. The vision of the school has been realised thanks to the generosity of Willmott-Dixon (who renovated the old caretaker house **free of charge**) and parents and friends of Abbey (who donated furniture) which has made it a house that all of our children and young people can learn and develop in. The possibilities this creates for the Trust are soooooo exciting!!!

We had a lovely Primary Harvest Festival at Kelford with lots of parents and carers in attendance. In upper school, 2 of our sixth-form students had excellent interviews recently and have successfully secured work placements at the British Heart Foundation: this was a really rigorous process and their placements are utterly deserved. It's amazing to see how much our young people can accomplish because of the abilities and confidence they develop at our schools. We've also welcomed Diane Hyner to the Kelford Governing Body, who brings new skills and a fresh perspective to the work of governors.

We've had a really positive start to the new school year at Hilltop after a really difficult situation where building works over the summer left the school in a less-than-ready state in early September. David and his team worked really hard to get the school to a state of normality and it's thanks to the work of all staff at Hilltop that the school was ready for children on the first day of term. I have the Harvest Festival in my diary (today!) which I'm really looking forward to, and we have a "thank you" assembly on Friday 21st October for Mary Beck, who has recently stepped down having been a Governor at Hilltop School for over 20 years! Thank you Mary!

That's it for now. Have a great half term one and all: I'll write again in 30!



Warren Carratt, Nexus MAT Chief Executive Officer

"Learning together; to be the best we can be."

