



## CHAIR'S SHARES

"As I write this article (on 11 June) the country is in the midst of General Election fever with parties of all persuasions stating their policies, promises and plans for the next government. All that I ask is that education remains central to the new government, that the education system receives the funding it actually requires to deliver high quality teaching and learning – something which every parent wants for their child.



When you read this article, the die will have been cast and as Charles Dickens wrote in his novel 'Hard Times', 'whatever will be will be'. However, I do know that Nexus' Board together with Warren and all staff will be focused on maximising any new opportunities following the early July election.

On the theme of looking to the future, the main Board itself is facing change with three directors (Steve Booth, Peter Castleton and myself), coming to the end of our terms of office on 31 August. I would like to thank Steve for his insight and forensic analysis of the Trust's finances and Peter for his unwavering focus on safeguarding and education standards.

I have led an outstanding and supportive team of past and present directors for the last eight years and it is their total commitment as volunteers which has enabled the Board to be as effective as it has been.

As Shakespeare so eloquently wrote 'I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks'."

**Best wishes, Andy.**



## CHIEF IN BRIEF

As we reach the end of another academic year, I want to pay tribute to each and every volunteer we have in governance roles across our Trust. Our schools are kept true and focused on meeting community needs because of the work you all do. Thank you all so much.

**CEO—Warren Carratt**

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For more information on the above visit [www.nexusmat.org](http://www.nexusmat.org)

## Departing Directors...

At the end of this academic year, the Trust Board will lose some of its founding Directors as they move on to new pastures. All three individuals have been instrumental in shaping the way Nexus MAT is governed and they have held oversight of operations since 2016. During their tenure as Directors, they have overseen the Trust's growth and ensured a commitment to the Trust's mission statement and values. The organisation will be forever grateful to Andy, Peter and Steve for their contributions to Nexus Multi Academy Trust and want to place on record its gratitude for all of their input and time over the last eight years.

### Andy Child MBE:

Since being appointed to the Trust Board of Directors in 2016 upon the incorporation of Nexus MAT, Andy has served as Chair. Andy has had an industrious career which has spanned over 40 years; working for a variety of UK government agencies and departments in this time. This saw him work on many initiatives within schools, Multi Academy Trusts and local authorities. His work sought to support and improve systems of governance and ensure appropriate scrutiny.

**"From being a member of the Abbey IEB in 2014, to the inception of Nexus MAT and through to our incorporation in 2016, Andy has led the Board of Directors through the rapid growth and evolution of our Trust. Without his voluntary contribution and leadership, the Trust would not be who and what it is today." - Warren Carratt**



### Peter Castleton:



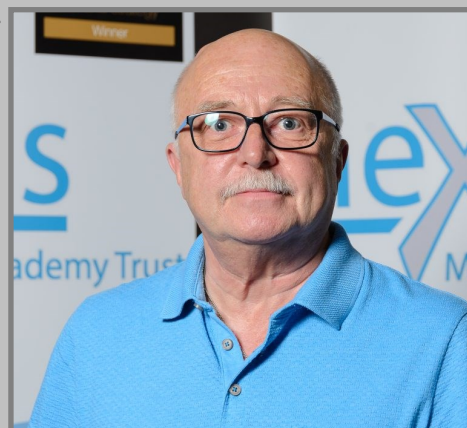
Peter has extensive experience of children's social work leadership and management advising on regional and national strategy. The former Director of Social Work Studies at the University of Sheffield has been Chair of the Standards committee during his tenure as a Director; directly impacting the way in which the Trust conducts itself.

**"Pete joined us in the first 6 months of the Trust's existence and has been a champion for safeguarding across our schools, bringing his extensive professional experience to the voluntary role of Director. He has been a fierce guardian of our ethos and values and led our Standards Committee for the past 2 years. Without him, the Trust would not be who and what it is today." - Warren Carratt**

### Steve Booth:

Steve worked for 32 years in banking. In 2005, he became CEO of Young Enterprise and worked with various schools and businesses across Yorkshire. After joining the Board, he has demonstrated invaluable expertise during his tenure on the Audit and Risk and Finance and Infrastructure committees. For a period of time, he even served as a governor and Chair of local governance at two Trust schools.

**"From being a chair of governors at Hilltop in 2015, to the inception of Nexus MAT and through to our incorporation in 2016, Steve has been a committed Director throughout the rapid growth and evolution of our Trust. Without his voluntary contribution and keen interest in all things finance, the Trust would not be who and what it is today." - Warren Carratt**



## Do you know about the 'Nolan Principles'?

**The 'Nolan Principles' or seven principles of public life consist of seven themes that guide individuals engaged in public life, including governors and trustees.**

It's crucial to understand their significance and how they apply to you. Every individual involved in governance should acknowledge and uphold these principles, which are:

**Selflessness:** Those in public office should act with the sole aim of serving the public interest.

**Integrity:** Governors, Directors and Members and Staff must not allow themselves to be influenced by external obligations that could compromise their duties. They should refrain from actions aimed at personal gain or benefiting themselves, their family, or friends. Additionally, they must disclose any interests that could potentially affect their public responsibilities.

**Objectivity:** Decisions made should be impartial and based solely on merit.

**Accountability:** Public office holders are answerable to the public for their actions.

**Openness:** Strategic decision makers should conduct their decision-making processes transparently.

**Honesty:** Truthfulness is a fundamental expectation of those working in the public sector.

**Leadership:** Governors, Directors and Members and Senior Leadership within the Trust should lead by example and actively promote adherence to these principles.

It is essential for anyone, whether at the local or national level, to understand and embrace these principles to ensure ethical governance.

### FUN FACT:

The Scottish Executive took the Nolan Committee recommendations one step further and introduced a further two principles.

**Public Service:** Holders of public office have a duty to act in the interests of the public body of which they are a Board member and to act in accordance with the core tasks of the body.

**Respect:** Holders of public office must respect fellow members of their public body and employees of the body and the role they play, treating them with courtesy at all times.

***These two principles are not recognised in England and have no bearing on Nexus MAT***

## The Willows School: The Story So Far...



**The Willows, an age 7 to 19 special school in Rotherham, is proud to be a 'Can Do' school! Come for a visit and be amazed by our wonderful environment, facilities, special atmosphere and happy students. This has been achieved by our inspirational Head and strong leadership, alongside a dedicated, caring staff team and supportive governors.**

Working collaboratively alongside Nexus for some time before conversion, meant that in September 2023, The Willows became part of the Academy Trust. At that time the Governing Body took the unanimous decision to become an Academy Council.

Our governors are frequent visitors to school for special events, activities and celebrations, of which there are many, including Reading for Pleasure days, STEAM week, Spanish Day, restaurants and the termly parent/carer Chit Chat groups. This gives us the perfect opportunity to engage with staff, students and other stakeholders in seeing how the curriculum is delivered and embedded.

Important aspects of our curriculum are life and social skills and preparation for adulthood, providing innovative building blocks and interventions to overcome difficulties in learning and increase independence. We never fail to be amazed at how the most timid child on entry, blossoms into a confident adult able to go out into the wider community e.g. helping at the local old people's home, running a community coffee morning, or hosting a joint school sports tournament. We are proud that people regularly comment on the demeanor and behaviour of our students, which makes the hard work of our staff all worth it!

Our schools and staff are benefitting from the Professional Learning Communities they have formed. If any governors or Academy Councils would be interested in some kind of collaboration, please get in touch. Governing can be quite isolating and we would be more than happy to network or share good practice.

**By Ann Gyte, Chair of Willows Academy Council**

## SCHOOL IN FOCUS: KENWOOD ACADEMY

During this term, our Academy and Trust team have achieved much to support our current and future growth. Preserving our strong vision and values throughout this time has been paramount to building a sustainable future for the benefit of even more young people.

Kenwood Academy remains focused on creating a safe environment, built on trust where all young people feel a genuine sense of belonging. We remove barriers and equip every young person with the knowledge, skills and confidence to realise their unique identity; their independence; their experience of good health; their connection to and positive relationships within their local and global communities; their academic success and the significant value they will add through employment as a thriving adult who is happy. Expanding our provision to include Enterprise Works will enable Kenwood Academy to provide even more opportunities for young people to realise their potential.

We have achieved so much in recent weeks as we develop our sites and to set up the provision at Enterprise Works. Below are examples of just a few of the amazing things we have achieved in this time.



**Richard Hadfield – Executive Headteacher**

### The KAFTAS

We recently held the KAFTAS: Kenwood Academy's very own awards ceremony for film, television and all forms of creative media in our school (with no official link to the similarly-sounding BAFTAS). This special event is an opportunity to recognise achievement in Media and Performing Arts. Members of the Nexus Central Team also joined the event to celebrate the amazing talents of our young people.

### Art Exhibition:

An art exhibition has been created to celebrate the fantastic talents and creativity of our students studying GCSE Art. This event has attracted a range of visitors to Enterprise Works, including local artists and families, who came to view the amazing artwork on display and to interact with the pieces.



### ENTERPRISE WORKS WELCOME EVENT

The school recently welcomed a range of visitors to view the schools area's within the Enterprise Works building, including current members of the Kenwood Academy community, potential new students and their families and members of Barnsley and Sheffield council. There were lots of positive comments and excitement about what Enterprise Works will have to offer.

Quotes from families who attended the welcome event:

*"It's amazing to see what my son might achieve by coming to Kenwood Academy, the possibilities and opportunities are just amazing."*

*"Coming here today has made me find hope again and that there might be light at the end of the tunnel. Kenwood might actually be the place we have been looking for to change my child's life."*

## Enterprise Works Official Opening Event

On Monday 15th July, Enterprise Works building was officially opened. Young people from Kenwood Academy were on hand to welcome guests, including Dame Hillary Chapman (Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire), to officially open Enterprise Works and also launch the partnership with Chef's Counter. Kenwood Students worked with staff from Chef's Counter to prepare and serve refreshments and young entrepreneurs showcased some of their handmade products.

A Kenwood Academy staff member based at Enterprise Works spoke positively of the impact of the facility: *"The move to Enterprise Works creates a buzz of excitement from young people and staff. There are so many opportunities that this new building and location offers for the young people at Kenwood Academy."*



### Pupil Cabinet

School Parliament is a direct way of capturing pupil voice and ensuring they can shape the decision making within their schools. Each term representatives from each school's Pupil Parliament are invited to the Trust Pupil Cabinet. This term the Cabinet met on 27 June 2024. As well as discussing local school progress the Cabinet discussed:

**Nexus MAT/Blanket Fort Festival:** An Arts Project for schools. The programme will run for two years across six terms which includes art projects and digital work. It will initially include seven schools; The 4 Doncaster schools at The Bridge, Bents Green, Kelford, Kenwood Sheffield and Kenwood West Riding.

The pupils at Kelford and Pennine View shared their experience of recent Ofsted inspections with the Cabinet members.

Craggs cabinet member explained how the school has been able to raise £1000 for new equipment and school trips via a summer fayre.

Abbey highlighted that they have introduced a "playground leaders" scheme which helps pupils who are worried or concerned. The scheme is also helping develop friendships.

### Staff Parliament

Staff Parliament convened on 26 June 2024 and discussed:

**Employee Opinion Survey:** Developing on the previous update, the Parliament heard how the Trust is exploring working with Blue light Card although they are not currently available to school staff. The Trust can offer a corporate discount on Place Leisure, a nationwide chain of leisure facilities with an online class function. There was also a presentation of the progress made on career pathways which HR will share in due course.

**Flexible Working:** The Trust is appointed national provider for the Government's Flexible Working initiative. The Parliament were presented with the Nexus MAT approach to flexible working and the options available to staff.

**Future Plans:** The Parliament discussed the potential of a Whole Trust Conference in 2025 with the group offering feedback on what worked well in the 2023 version.

## Kelford Donation

**Kelford School has been given a donation of £1137.73 following the sad passing of a family member of a Kelford student, whose mum, Samantha is a Kelford Academy Council member and active part of the Kelford community.**

The family took the decision to ask mourners for donations to Kelford School instead of flowers. In discussion with the family, the school has put the money towards purchasing a new pool bed which will benefit many of the school's pupils. A plaque will be placed in the pool area as an acknowledgement of this thoughtful act of kindness.

