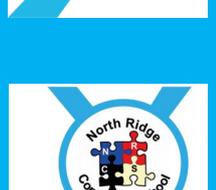
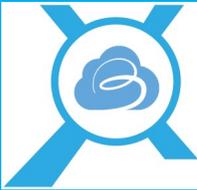


CEO Briefing



Spring is here, and if anyone doubts it, just cast your mind back to Friday when we had several inches of snow across the region! God bless the Great British weather. Due to the widespread disruption, we saw all our schools close on Friday 10 March, with some lovely pictures on social media of our pupils enjoying the snow day. My own children had their first experience of *shock and horror* when they saw their snowman disappear before their eyes within 24 hours. It's a sign of my age that all I could focus on was the collection of pebbles left on the grass (our snowman seemed to have an excess of buttons, eyes and teeth). Middle age: I embrace thee!

Whilst the snow may have chilled our bones, it did nothing to dampen our achievements. Abbey School continues to extend its trophy cabinet (we're nearing the Wakefield border, now!), as they've won the **international schools award**. At the same time, Abbey's partnership with **Fountaindale School** has been celebrated by the Youth Sport Trust, as **both schools won the inclusion award** at the annual awards ceremony - the second time Abbey has won this. A huge congratulations to **our pupils, Luci Windle, Jill Newbolt** and all the staff involved in making this happen.

Success can come in many shapes and sizes, and I'd like to congratulate the **Bader Academy community** for getting through the school's first ever Ofsted inspection. I am proud to share that the inspectors agreed with the self-evaluation of school leaders and the Trust, and this provides a clear baseline on which the school can continue to build. I was also so, so proud to hear the feedback about the school from families. Well done to **Viki Drew** and the whole team at our new school, and thank you to all those who have supported us along the way, especially **Jacky Tattershall**.

Congratulations also to **Natalie Swearman** for being appointed as our new, permanent Headteacher at Coppice School. Natalie has been interim Headteacher since we returned in January, and will take on the role full time when Karl O'Reilly leaves at Easter. I'd like to thank Karl for his service to our Trust since 2019, and for his service to the Coppice School community before then. I am also really grateful that Natalie has put herself forward to take on the responsibilities of headship, and I am certain she will take the school from strength to strength over the coming weeks, months and years.

On this year's **International Women's Day**, I was proud to be able to say that I work in an organisation where **women account for 72% of our most senior staff and 84% of all upper middle earners**. These statistics are from our latest Gender Pay Gap report, which can be found on our website at www.nexusmat.org/about/our-workforce.

Whilst we do still have a gender pay gap, this is generated by the disproportionate number of female employees we have in the lower and middle lower pay groups. In successive Employee Opinion Surveys, we have tested out our career progression pathways and we are assured that nobody feels gender is a barrier to progression in our Trust. I believe in judging people by the content of their character and their competence, and I believe that's a principle we all share.

Warren
Warren Carratt

Spotlight on the Trust Team...

In this briefing, we're focusing on... one of our Executive Headteachers, **Lisa Suter**, and one of our Extended Schools Service Manager, **Amanda Hobson**!

Lisa Suter is the Executive Headteacher of Heatherwood and North Ridge Schools, she has some management responsibility for The Bridge and also does some work centrally. The latter has included the compilation of a Skills Directory and development of the Early Career Network Groups for Early Career Teachers joining Nexus MAT.



Lisa has worked in education for almost 30 years. She started out as a Teaching Assistant, in mainstream education, supporting pupils with additional needs. Lisa went on to teach in mainstream for 10 years before joining Heatherwood, as a class teacher, in 2008. Lisa intended to stay at Heatherwood for two years with the aim of enhancing her theoretical knowledge of Special Educational Needs, whilst improving her practical application. However, things do not always go to plan and Lisa was delighted to become Headteacher at Heatherwood in 2013. It's fair to say the rest is history! Lisa is a huge advocate for wellbeing and this has been a driver at Heatherwood for many years, and more recently at North Ridge. As an aside Lisa is also a Complementary Therapist, specialising in Reflexology and Reiki, a Well Being Coach and Ambassador for Tropic Skincare; but most of all - a Teacher by heart!

Amanda Hobson is the Extended Schools Service Manager for the Trust. Amanda started with the Central Team full time in January 2022.



Amanda has been an employee of the Trust since it was created, and spent 16 years at Kelford School as their School Business Manager before moving to the Central Team. Prior to this Amanda worked with the Rotherham Council School Improvement Team as an Administrator for the Healthy Schools Team.

Starting at Kelford School ignited Amanda's passion for working with and advocating for children and young people with SEND and their families. The Extended Schools Team focuses on providing Short Breaks for families by means of After School and Holiday Clubs; the vision for this work is that every child or young person across the Trust has access to an Extended School provision, whether it is before or after school or during the holidays.

Amanda has lived in Rotherham all of her life and enjoys spending time with her family and friends, holidaying, either abroad or in her tourer caravan (warm months only!), reading, baking and growing edible things in the garden!

