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Nexus MAT



@NexusMat

Season's greetings, one and all! The mega-autumn term is now heading into its final two weeks and all our academies are getting into the Christmas spirit as we have school calendars choc-full with carols, concerts, plays and nativities.

I'd like to kick this briefing off by saying a huge **congratulations** to Liz **Shimwell**, Assistant Headteacher at Abbey School, who was named **Hallam FM Teacher of the Year** at their annual awards on 25th October 2018. Those of you who know Liz will not be surprised she's been recognised with this accolade and it couldn't have been awarded to a more humble, strength based practitioner. Well done Liz!

We're continuing to work with our council partners on the development of the two new schools we're opening. We're now aiming for 2020 for our Doncaster school, which will be based in Edenthorpe, and 2021 for our Sheffield school which is currently planned to be built near Norfolk Park, Sheffield. At the same time, we'll continue to seek funding to improve our existing academies and I've signed off on two applications this week to try and secure funding to widen Little Common Lane (leading to Abbey) and create an exit to the rear of Hilltop school.

Steve Barton (Kelford School) attended the most recent Board meeting to talk to Directors about his work on leading a shared Arts initiative across Nexus. It was a really engaging discussion that stimulated a lot of questions and interest from Directors and I can't wait to see what Steve and our academies arts leads develop in the spring.

As our Trust continues to grow and develop, it's natural that we see changes happening as new people join us and long-time friends move on to take on new challenges. With this in mind, Clare Southwell will be leaving Nexus at the end of December. Clare has been associated with our schools for over 18 years. She has been a Business Manager; a Clerk to Governors; and most recently Executive Assistant to the Trust Board. Clare has been by my side throughout the whole academy journey—we actually both started at Hilltop school at the same time 18 years ago!

"Thank you" doesn't quite cover the scope of appreciation for Clare's huge contribution to our schools and our Trust, though it's a good place to start. We all wish Clare the very best as she enters (early!) retirement.

That's all for this briefing, colleagues. I hope all our beautiful children and their families; our amazing staff; and our fantastic volunteer governors have a truly peaceful, relaxing Christmas break. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warren Carratt

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