



Chief in brief

Our Trust is continuing to develop, with both the growth of our existing schools and the conversion of other schools joining our MAT. Boards of governors take the key decision for a school to join a Trust, and I'm really excited by some of the talented governors who will be joining us soon.



Chair's Shares

It has been a busy time since I last wrote, so let's start with people. Visiting The Willows was a real joy with the staff and pupils eager to talk about their school and their learning. The restaurant run by pupils was a credit to the staff overseeing this regular initiative.

Turning to purpose and the governance of the trust, I am really pleased that the board has recently recruited two new directors (Colin Bradley and Tina Havenhand). I know that their educational and accountancy skills will further strengthen the team of directors which I lead.

Finally place, and for me that is enjoying the colours and scent in my garden with a cup of tea now that Spring has arrived.

Enjoy the warm weather after such a cold wet winter.

Andy

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Governance Underpinnings

Academy Trust Handbook Scheme of Delegation Annual Accounts and Governance Statement

For more information on the above visit www.nexusmat.org

Craggs' Academy Council take a pro-active approach to local governance to ensure that stakeholders are fully involved at Team Craggs. A yearly action plan is co-produced and links to priorities from the school development plan. Head and Chair meetings are used to plan the termly "Governor Development Days" enabling purposeful engagement with pupils, parents and staff and giving a first-hand insight into the impact of growth and successes across the school. Governors also use the plan to ensure that they are able to take opportunities across the year to observe, support and enjoy a wide variety of school events from Fundraising to Fayres and Feasts!

In the next Issue — North Ridge Community School

Pupil Parliament at Craggs—Written by Sophie - Year 6 Class Lord

Over the last year, the Pupil Parliament have been raising money towards improving our playground. To raise money a few things we have done are: selling Halloween treats, we had a Christmas film night and on that night, we had popcorn and hot chocolate and we watched the movie Home Alone. At Christmas time, we also asked families to send in donations and with all the money we raised, we were able to pack over 20 shoe boxes which were later sent to Ukraine. Also, we have arranged discos for all year groups and helped run them; we have done a bun sale for Valentines. As well as that, on Valentines, we had a non-uniform day of wearing red and pink for spreading the love. All of that raised around £500. During the time of us doing all that, we elected new MP's, gave our Pupil Voice for PSHE and had a meeting with all the other MPs from the Trust and together we discussed the Trust Olympics. We sent out a questionnaire to classes to see what we want to spend our money on and we have taken suggestions on what to spend our money on to the Headteacher to see if our plans are possible. This half term, we will order some new equipment with the money we have raised!



Focus on...

At the next round of governance meetings we will be discussing the update of the **Register of Business and Pecuniary Interests.**

It is essential that you keep your information up to date throughout the year, so please inform us if there are any changes. We also carry out an annual review so we will be contacting you all soon to do this. As a reminder, you need to declare any business and personal relationships or financial transactions that involve you and the organisation/school. We have put a guidance note on the next page and will circulate it again when we contact you, so that you are clear about things that need to be included.

Please complete and return the form when you are contacted so that we can keep our records up to date and meet our legal and financial requirements. If there is anything you are unsure of, you can ask the clerk at the meeting or contact us in the Governance & Policy Team by emailing us at:

clerkingservices@nexusmat.org

Activity & Events

Thank you to everyone who completed the skills audit questionnaire. We have analysed the findings and the results will be reported to the Trust Board in June. We will now be planning activities and events to address the learning & development needs that were identified.

The events will take place in the Autumn Term

* Check out the Nexus Website for Governor Vacancies and an Expression of Interest Form *

Corporate Governance & Policy Team

We are here to support you and answer your governance queries

Contact us at: clerkingservices@nexusmat.org



Julie Westwood

Corporate
Governance & Policy
Manager



Maria Simpson

Governance & HR
Officer



Welcome to:

Lyndsay Foster

Governance Clerk



Vicky Hawksley

Governance Clerk



Victoria Cooling

Governance & Policy
Apprentice



Register of Interests - Guidance Note

The Legal Bit

As a Multi Academy Trust we have a legal obligation, detailed in the Academy Trust Handbook to keep a register of interests for Members, Trustees, Governors and senior employees. This is to make sure that the Trust is being open and transparent in the way it conducts its business and to ensure that we continue to comply with our funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

What We Do

We update this register throughout the year as people notify us of their interests changing, but we also carry out an annual review in the Summer Term.

Those of you that have been involved in the Trust for a while will be familiar with this, but we have quite a few new Directors and Governors as well as staff changes, so we have put this guidance note together so that everyone is clear about what is expected.

What Counts As An Interest?

- * Directorships, partnerships and employments with businesses
- * Trusteeships and governorships at other educational institutions or charities
- * Interests arising from relationships with other members, trustees or local governors
- * Interests arising from relationships with trust employees

For each of these interests, you're required to declare:

- * The name and nature of the business
- * The nature of the interest
- * The date your interest began

Related Party Transactions

This deals with goods and services and we must record relationships and transactions between related parties in our accounts. To avoid conflicts of interest we must not accept gifts from third parties, we must declare any interest in proposed transactions, not offer preferential rates and not use your position for personal gain. Any payments exchanged must be "at cost".

Anything Else?

You can decide what else to declare and if you are unsure you should err on the side of caution. As a general rule, interests are things that would affect your ability to act impartially and influence your decisions. It would be best to declare things like:

- * Membership of any professional bodies
- * Contracts held by trustees or local governors that involve the school

You will also have the opportunity to declare interests of this sort at the start of all governance meetings so you can withdraw from the discussion of relevant items of business if it would cause you to have a conflict of interest.

Gifts and Hospitality

Are recorded in a separate register which is governed by the Academy Trust Handbook and a register is kept in each school and the Central Trust. In all cases where gifts or hospitality are offered or received the Trust must ensure they are recorded, including the value.

If you any have any queries please contact the Governance & Policy Team at clerkingservices@nexusmat.org or on 01709 257277 extension 202 or 204