

# CEO Briefing

SCHOOL YEAR 2018/19  
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Nexus MAT



@NexusMat

We're now into the third week of spring half term two and - as usual - there is a boat load of good news to fit into this month's briefing.

To start, I take great pride in sharing the news that **Abbey School** has collected yet another award for excellence, as it was named **Outstanding SEND School 2019** by the **Youth Sport Trust** at their annual awards ceremony in Coventry on Thursday 28 February. Our fantastic Assistant Headteacher Jill Newbolt and teacher Niall Horstead do so much to coordinate a wide range of inclusive sport initiatives across the region. Their efforts are reflected in all our academies by the many staff who also work tirelessly to ensure our children are included. In receiving the accolade, Luci was clear with me that this is an award for Abbey on behalf of the whole Trust community (and beyond). A huge **"well done and thank you"** to everyone involved!

The design for our new Doncaster special school was finalised last week, with the architects taking on all of our suggestions and requested adaptations. A big **thanks** to Emma Heyes and David McNaught for all their efforts to advocate for the changes we wanted. It will be tight, but we're still aiming to get the school completed and open by September 2020. Given that's only 18 months away now, expect more updates in future briefings as the pace really starts to ramp up.

I also had a really positive visit to the site where our new Sheffield special school will be built, when the DfE held a contractors open day last week. It was great to meet the prospective building firms who may be bidding to design and develop our new school and I was really impressed by the Norfolk Park site. It was even mentioned that the school could be completed and ready to open before the September 2021 deadline. Very exciting!

Finally, I was very fortunate to be invited recently - alongside our Trust Chair Andy Child MBE - to meet with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education, **Lord Agnew** to talk about the good practice in our MAT and raise some of the issues and pressures our academies are dealing with. It was a select meeting where a handful of MATs from across the East Midlands and Humber were asked to meet with Lord Agnew, and I'm really proud that Nexus was chosen to represent South Yorkshire. That's a huge compliment for our Trust and is a clear reflection of the high profile our academies have with the DfE.

Despite some sleet and snow yesterday, the sun is shining brightly as I type. Here's hoping that the spring is here to stay!

  
Warren Carratt

**Learning together; to be the best we can be**