

Thursday, 27 July 2017

Dear parents and carers

Happy holidays!

I am writing at the end of what has been a highly successful year for Kelford School.

Over the past 12 months we've taken a significant step forward by appointing **Jacky Tattershall as the permanent Headteacher** of Kelford School - a role she was appointed to on a temporary basis when Nick Whittaker left in 2015.

Jacky has worked at Kelford for over 17 years and provides the school with the **excellent, stable and committed leadership** we need to be a constantly improving and developing school; ensuring that all of our children are on course to be the best they can be

In addition to this, Jacky has also played a central role in helping shape the developments of our Multi Academy Trust as she's been the Nexus Head of School Improvement over the last 12 months, placing Kelford at the heart of the work of the wider Trust. This has created opportunities for Kelford to contribute to improvements in the wider special school system, whilst at the same time enabling our staff to develop their skills and experience beyond the school setting. The best schools are those that constantly look outward: learning from others as well as sharing their own strengths for the betterment of our education system. Kelford has done a lot in this regard over 2016/17 which reflects just how good a school we are.

As we work towards the new school year, we know that we have some changes to manage from September. I'm thrilled that **Sarah Mulhall** is taking over as Headteacher of one of our sister academies (Pennine View), but Sarah will be **sorely missed at Kelford** and she's been a part of the team for such a long time.

Fortunately, **Viki Drew** has been appointed as Deputy Head for the next school year and will bring **energy and experience** to her leadership of the primary department alongside Catherine Bentley in secondary. We'll therefore start 2017/18 with a leadership team that knows the school well and understands the journey we're on.

The Local Governing Body has played an essential role in overseeing the effectiveness of the leadership of the school during this school year, whilst also supporting Jacky in her early days as Headteacher. I am very grateful for the **hundreds of hours** all our **volunteer governors** have put in, and I would like to pay special tribute to **Sue Shelley**, who is stepping down at the end of this school year as Chair and as a governor of the school.

Sue has made a **huge impact as Chair** of governors over recent years. Whilst she will continue as a Director of Nexus MAT, Sue leaves the Kelford Local Governing Body in a stronger, more informed position than when she came in as Chair. Thank you very much, Sue.

Learning together; to be the best we can be.

In addition to bringing stability and permanence to school leadership, I'm also thrilled to report that Nexus MAT has secured an unprecedented **£271,039** of government funding for the improvement of the Kelford School heating system over the summer. This will improve the quality of our school building infrastructure for the foreseeable future. I always want more (and we'll get more), but this is a great place to start!

In addition to this, **the Trust has also secured a contract with RMBC** to deliver summer school and extended services provision (after school clubs and holiday provision). We are working with the Council to scope their specific needs so that we can develop a high quality offer, though I'm sure you agree that this is an exciting development for the MAT and for the Kelford school community.

There have been many, many achievements made by our children this year and most recently Kelford has achieved the **GOLD SPORTSMARK**. This is a really challenging award to access and Sharron Herbert has made a huge contribution to our children's success. We've also had phenomenal successes at the recent Rotherham PE awards, where we won: the -100 attendance award at Level 2; an award for **Outstanding** Inclusive Practice; and 3 School Games: all of which are extraordinary achievements. What a way to end the school year!

I hope you all have a truly wonderful summer break and I know that more excitement and achievements beckon next year.

I am incredibly proud of the job Jacky and the leadership team have done this school year. Our pursuit of excellence has really stepped up a gear as the bar has been raised by Ofsted, and we enter 2017/18 (as the Ofsted window opens once more for the school) with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully,



Warren Carratt
Chief Executive Officer
Nexus Multi Academy Trust