

# CEO Newsletter

Dr Jamie Clarke, CEO



Welcome to this June edition of my 'thoughts for the term'.

June 2024

## Welcome

I can't quite believe that we are in the final half term of the year - time passes so quickly!

As always at this time of year, our primary schools have had their SATs and secondaries are in the midst of public exams, mostly with Years 11 and 13. These have all been going well, overwhelmingly as a result of your hard work - thank you. Year 11 attendance at exams has been very strong thankfully despite the challenges we all face in ensuring all pupils attend regularly. No doubt we all look forward to seeing the results from these tests and exams in the next few months.



## New attendance regulations

Regarding attendance, there is likely to be new regulations in place from next term although this may depend on the outcome of the election. We are helping to prepare you for what we are expecting to be 'firmed up' regulations and clearer guidance for schools. Training has already started with staff and will continue into the new term. Thank you for your work on challenging pupil attendance. Overall, there appears to be a decline nationally during the year and our schools are following this trend despite your best efforts.

Hopefully with a more joined up approach, we can help to reverse this and see more children attending frequently and regularly.

## Changes to headteachers/Principals

There are some changes at headship level in our schools as colleagues move on to new ventures. **James Thomas** was successful in gaining the substantive headteacher post at CE Academy; Paul Letch at Huxlow left us at half term and has been replaced by **Kim Isaksen**; Ben Baines at Rushden leaves us at the end of this month and **Jonathan Firth** has been appointed as the new principal; Iain Massey will be retiring at the end of this term after many years of loyal service - he will be replaced by **Graham Forbes** in September. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing everyone well and to thank colleagues for the great work.

 James Thomas - CE Academy

 Kim Isaksen - Huxlow Academy

 Jonathan Firth - Rushden Academy

 Graham Forbes - Sponne School

## Launching our new Cultivating Excellence Policy

We are planning on launching our Cultivating Excellence Policy in the autumn term. This is our replacement to appraisal and removes the link between pay and performance. We are very excited about this development and believe that the coaching approach for every member of staff will be very positive and motivational. Training will be provided for staff including those who will be coaches. We are currently consulting with unions.

## Thank you

Just remains for me to thank you all for your dedication in working with the children in our care. I do hope you enjoy the rest of this final term of 2023-24.

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