



# Hilltop & Forest View News

July 24



## Message from the Interim Headteacher

Dear parents, carers and friends of Hilltop School,

I am delighted to introduce myself and share my journey with you.

My teaching career began in secondary schools across South Yorkshire before I moved into special education, taking on various leadership roles in schools throughout Derbyshire and Sheffield.

My commitment to furthering my professional development led me to achieve a Master in Education of Children and Young People with Autism in 2005 and a National Professional Qualification in Headship in 2014. In 2013, I was appointed Headteacher of Becton School, where I developed

new provisions, including the Kenwood School, and reshaped the Sheffield Hospital

Outreach Service. Following this, I became Headteacher at Rowan Teaching School and then Executive Headteacher at Bents Green School in Sheffield.

Throughout my career, I have focused on school improvement, securing Outstanding judgments at both Becton and Rowan Schools. I was honoured to be awarded National Leader of Education status in 2017. On September 1, 2022, I joined Nexus MAT as an Executive Regional Director, responsible for Sheffield and Rotherham.

I am dedicated to continuing my support for Hilltop and ensuring that your children receive the best education possible. I look forward to working closely with the Hilltop community and contributing to our shared success.

As we reflect on the successes and progress made in this year, I wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to Rob Mulvey for his unwavering commitment to our school. One of the most significant accomplishments during Rob's time at Headteacher at Hilltop was securing the Yorkshire Children's Charity Big Build. This project, which will have a lasting impact on our school community and beyond, would not have been possible without his vision, determination, and hard work. His efforts have laid a strong foundation for future generations, and for this, we are immensely grateful. We wish him all the best in his new role at Fountaindale School.

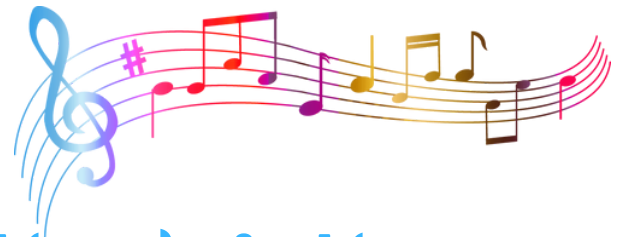
*Sacha Schofield*



# Nexus Olympic Games



Summer term saw the Nexus Primary and Secondary Olympic Games take place with all the schools within the Trust coming together to take part in fun and challenging games. Hilltop held their heads high and represented our school brilliantly, showing determination, resilience and most importantly, tackling everything with a massive smile on their faces. A massive well done to all who took part.



# Nexus Makaton Choir - Hands in Harmony

On 27th June, Hilltop's Makaton Choir attended the very first Trust Choir event at Doncaster's Eco Power Stadium. Students involved voted for the choir name - Hands in Harmony and proudly wore their t-shirts specially made for the event. Students from schools across Nexus Trust had all been practising hard during the year to learn to sing and sign a series of songs and on the day performed to an audience of very proud parents, carers and grandparents. There were lots of tears of pride from families and lots of fun had by all members of the choir.





# Lower Coates Farm Visit

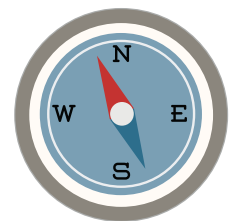


Earlier this month, Gold Class visited Lower Coates Farm in Barnsley for an amazing farm animal experience with Farmer Kelly and her team. This was part of an enrichment experience for the Careers and Preparing for Adulthood Curriculum. The children were invited to take part in guinea pig racing, rabbit petting, chicken herding and goat grooming. There was even some tortoise washing! Despite the rainy weather, the children had an amazing time and learned a lot about what life is like for the animals on the farm, and the jobs that the Farmer and her staff do to look after all of the different animals. They were all so calm, kind and gentle around the animals and Farmer Kelly commended them for their behaviour on the farm.

Well done Gold Class.



# KS4 & KS5 Residential Visit



KS4 & KS5 had a wonderful residential on the 9th and 10th July at Austerfield Study Centre. Our pupils engaged in some fantastic activities which included, den building, orienteering and team games. Each pupil throughout the two days demonstrated all of the skills required for them to complete their expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are all proud of how the pupils conducted themselves during their stay; the staff from Austerfield Study Centre mentioned how they have done Forest View and themselves proud.



## My Futures Event



30 families of pupils in key stages 3,4 and 5 joined the Careers' team at Forest View for this years' 'My Futures event'. We discussed students' social time, Post 16 & 19 transition options and local support. Three of our 2023 leavers families were invited to the event to share their experience of transitioning from Hilltop and navigating local services. Thank you to Steph for being one of our speakers and to Catherine and Michelle for sending in accounts of their experience. Families who attended found these first hand accounts really valuable together with the opportunity to discuss and share with other families. Please contact [Hilltopcareers@nexusmat.org](mailto:Hilltopcareers@nexusmat.org) for guidance with your child's 'careers journey'.



## Face Painting



Our children and young people absolutely loved Sue coming into school to paint their faces! The money raised through our Easter fundraiser raffle meant it was possible for our students to enjoy this end of year treat. There were beaming faces throughout school and it was such a pleasure to see the children respond so positively to this, whether that be from actually have their own face painted or seeing the variety of faces in their classes! One little boy was especially chuffed to bits with having his favourite animal in face paint! A BIG thank you to our parent group who helps every year organise such fabulous events and for our school community for making it possible!



# Forest View

This year was the launch of Hilltop School's 'Preparing for Adulthood Centre'; Forest View. Students can attend Forest View in Key stage 4 & 5; it is Hilltop's 14 - 19 years offer. We would like to thank our partners for supporting students to achieve so much in our first year:

Skills builder training - thank you DWP  
A two night Spring term residential - thank you Kingswood Outdoor Adventure experience,  
Community volunteering - thank you Rotherham libraries,  
Arts enrichment experience - thank you Artworks,  
Horse riding enrichment day - thank you High Hopes stables,  
Community action project - thank you HW Martin,  
A one night Summer term residential - thank you Austerfield Outdoor Education Centre,  
Work experience - thank you British Heart Foundation,  
Animal experience enrichment day - thank you Farmer Kelly at Lower Coates Farm,  
Social action Project - thank you Rotherham United Community Sports Trust.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort in Autumn 2024 and to our site developments including an outdoor gym and food technology room.

THANK  
you

## Thank yous and goodbyes in Summer 2024

We would like to wish all our families a happy summer holiday and thank you for all your support throughout the year.

We wish all our student leavers lots of luck and all our best wishes for the future.

We are also saying goodbye and good luck to teachers Amy, Sue and Declan and Spacie, our ICT technician. We wish them all well for the future and thank them for their services to the school.

GOOD  
LUCK!

## Looking forward to 2024-25

We have been given an additional training day to undertake all the necessary medical / moving and handling training. The Nexus Trust INSET date has also been changed.

Please note the INSET days for 2024-25 are:

2nd September 2024  
3rd September 2024  
4th September 2024  
6th December 2024  
28th February 2025  
29th July 2025  
30th July 2025

We will be arranging a meeting in the Autumn term to discuss ways we can improve our communication channels and to provide updates on the Yorkshire Big Build project. Your voice and input are incredibly valuable to us, and we believe that your insights and feedback will greatly contribute to the success of our initiatives. We look forward to greater collaboration and to making meaningful progress together. More details regarding the meeting will be shared soon. Thank you for your continued support.