

Heatherwood School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Sam MacDonald



Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Heatherwood School, and I am truly excited to embark on this journey with you, your children, and the entire school community. It is an absolute privilege to take on this role, and I am committed to ensuring that Heatherwood School remains the best it can be for every pupil who attends.

My passion for education, particularly in supporting children with additional needs, has shaped my career from the very beginning. Returning to Heatherwood is a full circle moment for me. I started as a teacher at Heatherwood School. There, I developed a deep appreciation for the impact of a nurturing, tailored approach to learning that values every child's unique abilities and potential.

From there, I moved into a leadership role at North Ridge Community School, which provides education for children with severe learning needs. I held various roles, including assistant head, deputy head, head of school, and headteacher. I have recently led the school through a successful Ofsted inspection in October of 2024. From February 2025, I became executive headteacher at Hilltop School in Rotherham, a school for children with severe/profound medical and learning needs. These experiences further strengthened my commitment to creating environments where all children can thrive, be valued, and achieve their fullest potential. The lessons I have learned throughout my career will guide me as I lead Heatherwood School forward, ensuring that every child receives the best possible education, support, and opportunities.

I firmly believe that a strong school is built on positive relationships, and I am eager to work closely with students, staff, and you - our parents and carers. Your partnership is invaluable in creating a school community that nurtures and inspires our children, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks.

Together, we will continue to build on the school's strengths, celebrate successes, and strive for even greater achievements. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to working with you all to make Heatherwood School an even more exceptional place for our children to learn and grow.

With warm regards,

Sam MacDonald
Executive Headteacher