B-Comms

Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

Issue No: 107 - October 2026

First Aid, Food Banks & Fundraising at St Mary's Junior Academy



The whole school had CPR training delivered by the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Pupils learned how to assess emergencies, perform life-saving chest compressions, and build the confidence to use a defibrillator. Every single child engaged maturely whilst learning an important life skill.



Years 3 and 4 went to Norwich Castle to take part in some activities to support the learning for their History topic; the Romans. They got to handle some genuine Roman artefacts and took part in some drills like soldiers in the Roman army. After the sessions, they went up to the Castle battlements to see the views of Norwich. The children's behaviour was a credit to the school.



St Mary's raised enough food to produce 218 meals for the Waveney Food Bank. Mrs Dale and Miss Richardson dropped off the collection to Project Manager, Matt.



Phin joined St Mary's this year and he is a regular visitor to Great Ormond Street Hospital, where he has been treated since birth for a complex heart condition. Phin's condition will never be fully fixed and GOSH keeps a regular check on him as he grows. The school are fundraising for GOSH through the RBC Race for the Kids at School 2026 - you can support them here: **Fundraise for GOSH**

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EYFS Network



Kelly Stokes, the Trust's School Improvement Officer, will be leading an EYFS Network for staff on Wednesday 25th November at 1.30-3.30pm at Newton Flotman Primary Academy NR15 1PR.

Staff are welcome to drop in and out of the session as they feel relevant.

Kelly will also do a video recap of the afternoon to send to those who are unable to attend.

Agenda:

1.30-1.45pm Meet and network / wellbeing

1.45-2.00pm Ofsted update – CP focus on who is learning what and why

2.00-2.30pm Dictated sentences / writing / assessment and planning / sponge writing

2.30-3.30pm Modular planning together – overview for the year and then detailed rest of Autumn and Spring 1

3.30-4.00pm Anyone who wants to hang around and chat, or pick each other's brains, or finish detailed planning for the year

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Welcome to our New Chair of Trustees



We are delighted to welcome Alastair Smyth as the new Chair of St Benet's Board of Trustees.

Alastair is an experienced transformation and change professional, who has worked across a number of sectors and businesses of different sizes and scales over the past two decades, providing guidance and advice on successfully embedding a wide range of change initiatives.

Alastair has experience of leading school governance in Church of England schools within the maintained environment, a Trust Academy and a Federation structure. During this time, Alastair has provided support and guidance on managing change to school and Trust leaders, bringing a business-focused perspective to balance existing education expertise, alongside executing core governance responsibilities.

Outside of work, Alastair lives in a Norfolk village with his young family. He is actively involved in his local community, including helping to organise an annual charity beer festival, and having been keenly involved with hockey locally for many years, spends what's left of his spare time focusing on umpiring.

Alastair takes over from Paul Dunning, who served the Board for many years as a Trustee and then Chair. He will be known to many of our readers from his tenure as the Diocesan Director of Education. Paul is now enjoying a very well-earned retirement and has our sincere gratitude for his tireless support of St Benet's since its inception in 2018.

Diary Dates



WEEK COMMENCING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
02.11.26	Diocesan Collective Worship Network- online (15.30-17.00)			Headteacher Workshop at Orchard House, Focus on English (10.00-16.00)	
09.11.26			CUSP DT Session 1- online (15.45-16.45)	Leaders' Forum at Orchard House (10.00-15.00) DSL Network- online (15.45-16.45)	
16.11.26	CUSP Science Session 1-online (15.45-16.45)		Diocesan RE Network-online (15.30-17.00) CUSP French Session 1-online (15.45-16.45)	LA Data Support Session: IDSR Online (15.30-17.00)	
23.11.26	CUSP Music Session 1-online (15.45-16.45)		EYFS Network at Newton Flotman Primary (13.30-15.30)		

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New MIS Rollout

JUNIPER MIS - 2026-27 ROLLOUT PLANS

The next group of schools moving over to Juniper MIS will be as follows:

- w/c 9th November - Lighthouse Federation
- w/c 16th November - Diss & Scole Partnership
- w/c 23rd November - Acorn Partnership
- w/c 23rd February 27 - North Star Federation (pending conversion date)

Rosemary Ison, DoNESC Operations Manager, will make contact with each Headteacher in advance of their rolllout date to discuss the plan in detail, including staff training.

Any schools in the OFSTED window will have their MIS implementation immediately paused if we receive notification of an inspection.

Pupil Asset will continue to run alongside Juniper MIS until further notice.



Reminders

Helpdesk Updates

Helpdesk Updates from Wendy Allsop (wendy.allsop@donesc.org)

Following on from the DoNESC Services annual survey, a few suggestions were made about how we could improve the Helpdesk. I am pleased to let you know that the following upgrades will be made on Wednesday 28th October at around 5.00-7.00pm. You will not be able to access the Helpdesk during this time, but hopefully this will have little impact during half term.

The upgrades will include:

- Closed ticket default order along the bottom to be reversed in order so that the most recent is first
- Ability for more than one person to be able to access another individual's ticket, i.e. Headteacher and School Business Manager. It can be done by the person who raised the ticket
- HR Department will have a drop-down allowing tickets to be assigned more specifically. These will be:
  - Recruitment
  - Grievance
  - Performance Management
  - Contract
  - Other

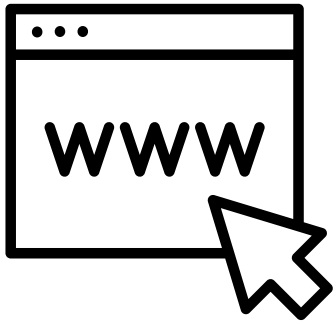
Safeguarding and Monitoring

IMPORTANT

Please note – it is essential that all devices are registered on the Network. If devices are being utilised by staff or pupils that are not on the Network, then they are not monitored by Senso or Smoothwall and are therefore a Safeguarding risk.

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WEBSITE UNBLOCKING



Can't access a website?

You need to contact Rydal

Call them on
0333 358 2338

Email them on
schools.support@rydal-group.co.uk

Updated Oct 2026

YMCA Norfolk

More than you think



Join fellow school leaders, SENDCOs and pastoral staff to discover how YMCA Norfolk can support wellbeing across your school and community.

Coffee & Connect

18th November-drop in anytime from 2-6pm

Explore YMCA Norfolk's wellbeing offer:

Wellbeing Matters-tailored support for CYP, families and school staff
E-Learning Service-low pressure, flexible, affordable, online AP
Youth Clubs-safe spaces for children and young people across Norfolk

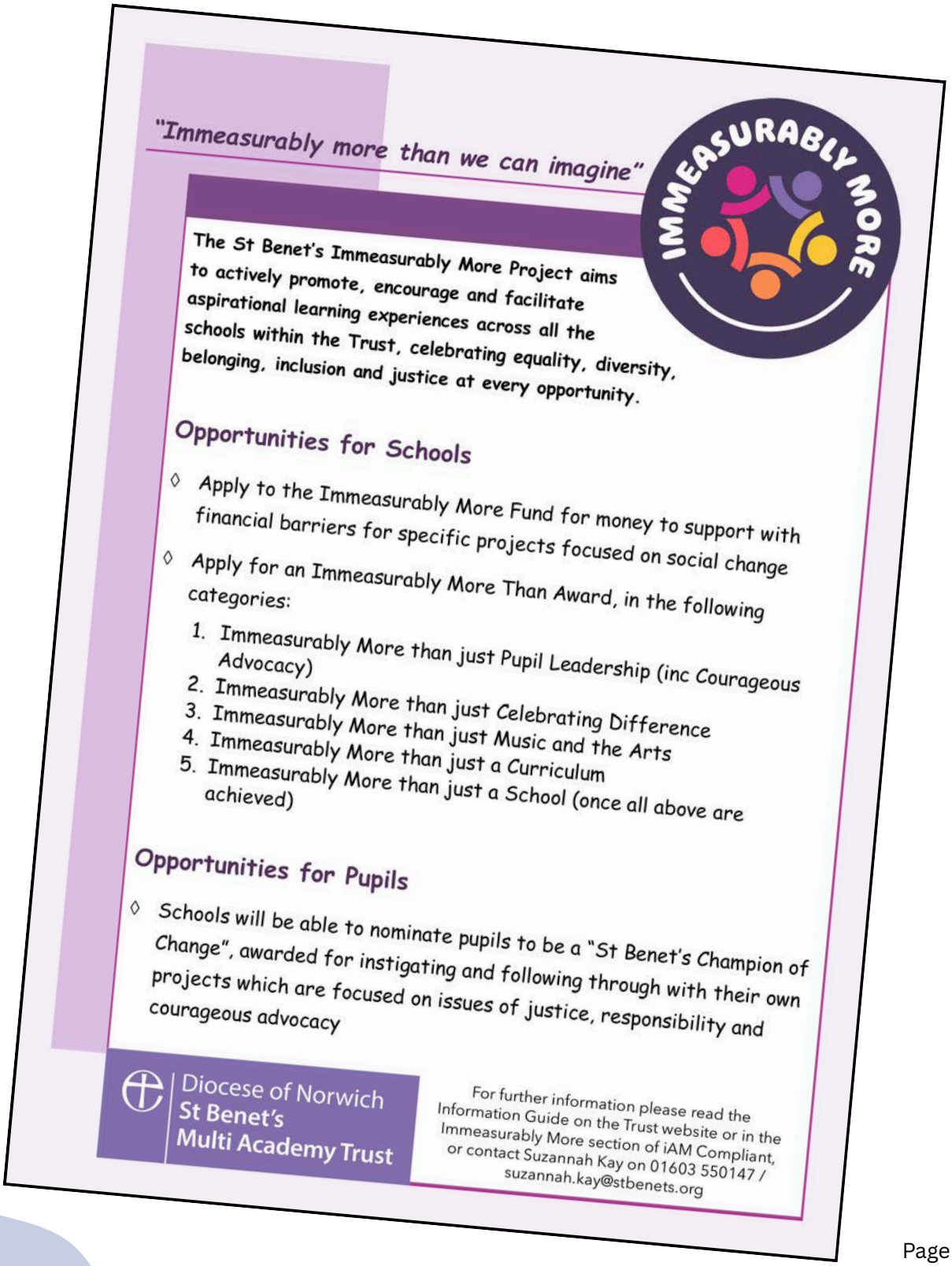
Presentations from 4pm

Book your free place on Evenbrite by scanning the QR code

Williams Kitchen
YMCA Norfolk
61A Aylsham Rd
Norwich NR32HF

IMMEASURABLY MORE

Don't forget, you can apply for funding from the Immeasurably More project or submit an entry for an Immeasurably More award or Champion of Change award.



"Immeasurably more than we can imagine"

IMMEASURABLY MORE

The St Benet's Immeasurably More Project aims to actively promote, encourage and facilitate aspirational learning experiences across all the schools within the Trust, celebrating equality, diversity, belonging, inclusion and justice at every opportunity.

Opportunities for Schools

- Apply to the Immeasurably More Fund for money to support with financial barriers for specific projects focused on social change
- Apply for an Immeasurably More Than Award, in the following categories:
  1. Immeasurably More than just Pupil Leadership (inc Courageous Advocacy)
  2. Immeasurably More than just Celebrating Difference
  3. Immeasurably More than just Music and the Arts
  4. Immeasurably More than just a Curriculum
  5. Immeasurably More than just a School (once all above are achieved)

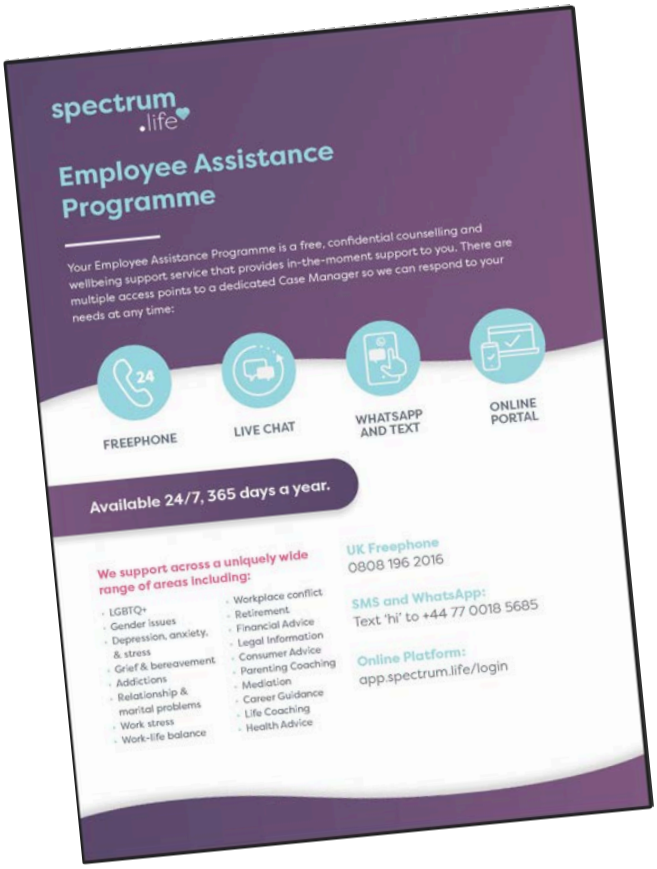
Opportunities for Pupils

- Schools will be able to nominate pupils to be a "St Benet's Champion of Change", awarded for instigating and following through with their own projects which are focused on issues of justice, responsibility and courageous advocacy

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For further information please read the Information Guide on the Trust website or in the Immeasurably More section of iAM Compliant, or contact Suzannah Kay on 01603 550147 / suzannah.kay@stbenets.org





Did you know that St Benet's pays for all its employees to have free access to the Spectrum Life employee wellbeing service?

The online platform is accessible from this link: https://donesc.spectrum.life/login?org=DoNESC

On the home page you will be asked to enter your name and email address, create a password and choose who you work for from a drop-down menu (you should choose St Benet's) and this will then take you through to the welcome page. If you download the app it will ask for your Organisation Code which is DoNESC. If you have any problems registering, please contact wendy.allsop@donesc.org

The Spectrum Life service also includes access to 6 free counselling sessions (virtual or face-to-face) via the Employee Assistance Programme, access to a Discount Marketplace, advice on fitness, nutrition and many articles, videos and audios around wellbeing.

There are weekly running guides, advice on stress, diabetes, sleep, menopause, heart health, exercise videos and much more.

We encourage you to sign up and make use of Spectrum Life - it's there for your benefit!

Our Values

Honesty (*n.* Being honest; truthfulness)

I have chosen the way of truth.
Psalms 119:30

Courage (*n.* Bravery, boldness)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Compassion (*n.* A response to other people's suffering which goes beyond sympathy and is expressed in taking action to help)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
Matthew 9:36

Hope (*n.* Expectation and desire combined; feeling of trust)

But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
Romans 8:25