

OFSTED Success at St Benet's Schools

Recent OFSTED inspections at the Trust have once again highlighted the hard work and commitment of our staff.

Following inspections in May 2026, both **Newton Flotman Primary Academy** and **Diss Infant Academy & Nursery** were found to be meeting the expected standard across all areas inspected. The outcome represent a substantial improvement since both schools were judged to Require Improvement at their previous inspections in 2023.

Acle Primary Academy was inspected in June and achieved the expected standard in 4 areas.

The inspections recognise the sustained work undertaken over the past three years by school leaders, staff and the Trust to strengthen teaching, improve pupils' experiences and raise standards across each school.

At Newton Flotman, inspectors highlighted the school's ambitious curriculum, calm and purposeful learning environment and the significant improvements made to behaviour, attendance and assessment. Pupils were described as feeling "safe and happy", while inspectors recognised the school's inclusive approach and the positive relationships between staff and pupils.

At Diss Infant Academy and Nursery, inspectors praised the school's caring and nurturing environment, well-sequenced curriculum and strong support for pupils' personal development. The report also recognised improvements in attendance, the quality of education and the school's commitment to ensuring every child can succeed.

Newton Flotman's Report: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/148232>

Diss Infant's Report: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/146692>

Acle's report had not been uploaded to the OFSTED portal at time of writing



Headteacher Adam Riley with pupils at
Newton Flotman Primary

Celebrating Success at Dickleburgh Primary

Pupils at Dickleburgh Primary have excelled themselves recently, with a fantastic school production of the musical *Oliver*, and the presentation of an Immeasurably More Champion of Change award from the Bishop of Thetford.

The school's production of *Oliver* –which is actually written for high school age students–was very challenging to stage and perform, but the children rose to the occasion.

School staff had prepared a wonderful stage for them to perform on, recreating Victorian London. The costumes and props were fantastic but the highlight was the acting, singing and dancing, which were all superb.



The performance on 7th July was attended by The Rt Revd Ian Bishop, Bishop of Thetford, who also presented a pupil with an Immeasurably More Award.

Hallie, from Year 3, was nominated as a Champion of Change as part of the Trust's Immeasurably More programme. Hallie's fundraising achievements included raising £550 for Children with Cancer UK and £760 for Rainbow Tree Bereavement Group. She has also been nominated for a Young Achiever Award at the South Norfolk Community Awards.



***Congratulation to the staff and pupils at Dickleburgh
for a truly inspiring end to the year!***

Farewell to Beacon Federation's Executive Headteacher

At the end of this term, St Benet's MAT says a fond farewell to Moira Croskell, Executive Headteacher at Beacon Federation (Dickleburgh and Garboldisham Primary Academies).

Moira has been part of St Benet's MAT from its inception in 2018, and was featured in the third issue of B-Comms, back in December 2020. She leaves teaching to enjoy a well-earned retirement with her husband, two daughters and much-loved granddaughter.



A proud Scot, Moira trained at Glasgow University to be a High School French and German teacher. Luckily for us, she pivoted into primary teaching and joined Dickleburgh Primary in 2004, becoming Headteacher in 2018.

A few years later she became Executive Headteacher when Garboldisham Primary joined the Beacon Federation and in this role she led both schools to fantastic OFSTED results; Outstanding across the board for Dickleburgh in 2024 and Outstanding in 4 out of 5 areas for Garboldisham in 2023.

Moira's warmth, humour and supportive leadership style mean she will be missed by all her colleagues at the Beacon Federation and the Trust. We wish her a long and happy retirement.



Moira with St Benet's CEO, Sam Nixon

Moira has asked B-Comms to share her thanks to the Trust and her fellow Headteachers for the lovely flowers and gift voucher presented to her on 2nd July.

The Future is Flourishing at Harleston Sancroft Academy

Last Thursday, the Harleston Sancroft Academy community came together for an unforgettable evening at our inaugural Flourishing Futures Awards.

With over 500 students, family members, staff, and distinguished guests in attendance, the energy was electric across two packed ceremonies. The events were a resounding success, dedicated to honouring the incredible hard work, dedication, and academic success of our students, with trophies awarded for excellence across all subject areas.

Beyond subject-specific triumphs, the evening highlighted the very heart of our school culture with the presentation of five special Sancroft Values Awards. We were privileged to welcome several esteemed community members and award sponsors to present these awards, including Richard Cranmer and Fred Corbett, former CEO and Chair of St Benet's board.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the local companies and individuals whose generous sponsorship made this spectacular evening possible. The investment in our young people is truly empowering them on their flourishing futures journey!



Headteacher Rob Connolly

On Monday 29th June, Harleston Sancroft came alive with music as we celebrated our annual Arts Festival. Inspired by the theme of 'Across the decades', our primary phase choir and every year group performed a song from a different decade, taking the audience on a musical journey through the years.



Alongside the performances, the hall was transformed into an art gallery, showcasing a wonderful selection of artwork created by pupils from every year group.

Families enjoyed exploring the displays and celebrating the children's creativity across a wide range of artistic styles and techniques. Videos of our peripatetic performers were shown to showcase their wonderful learning this year, with performances on piano, guitar, flute, recorder and drums.

The children sang with confidence, enthusiasm and great enjoyment, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they put into both their performances and artwork.

Thank you to all the families and friends who joined us to support this special celebration of music and the arts.

On the penultimate week of term, 90 talented Key Stage 2 pupils from Harleston Sancroft took to the stage to perform School of Pop, and what a fantastic show it was!

After months of rehearsals, learning lines, mastering songs and perfecting choreography, the children delivered three outstanding performances that entertained audiences from beginning to end.

Set in a lively school where music takes centre stage, *School of Pop* was packed with humour, memorable characters and an energetic 90s-inspired soundtrack. Every child played an important part, whether performing on stage, singing in the chorus or helping to bring each scene to life. Their confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork shone throughout the production and were a real credit to themselves. It was wonderful to see every pupil rise to the challenge and enjoy the experience of performing in front of a live audience.



A huge thank you goes to all the staff volunteers who supported rehearsals, costumes, props, staging and the many behind-the-scenes jobs that made the performances possible. We would also like to thank our families for their continued encouragement and for joining us to celebrate the children's achievements. Congratulations to every member of our KS2 cast. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves—you truly were POPTASTIC!

Fun at Diss Infant Academy

Our Reception children had a visit from Year 10 Childcare students from Diss High School, who ran a themed afternoon based on the story of The Tiger Who Came To Tea.

The students organised a tiger tea party, tiger themed outdoor games, pin the tail on the tiger and a Duck, Duck, Tiger game. The children made tiger masks and decorated tiger biscuits.

It was a lovely afternoon, forging links with our community and we are keen to continue these links in the Autumn term.

Liz Budgen

Rowan Class Teacher



Message from the Chair of Trustees

The end of term is always manic, with sports days, trips, residentials and productions, alongside learning in the classroom. Thank you for all that everyone has contributed, not just in the final weeks of term but also throughout the year.

I wonder which of the four St Benet's values resonates with you and has helped sustain and guide you through the year?

Honesty? Compassion? Courage? Hope?

They are all important, but for me I think **hope** and **courage** have been noticeable as I've interacted with schools across the Trust. The Bible verse that we link to **hope** leans into **courage** with its acknowledgement of the importance of perseverance:

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

We need a '**hopeful courage**' with the challenges we face – schools are great at this as they put children at the centre of all they do and seek the best for them whatever the circumstances they are facing.

You might be 'eagerly waiting with perseverance' for the summer break! I hope that we can all enjoy time with family and friends and find time to do what brings us joy.

Finally, this will be my last message as St Benet's Chair. I took on the role for a year with the plan that Alastair Smyth would pick up the reins in September.

I am delighted to say that he is happy to do so! I will remain as a Trustee for a while; a role I am privileged to hold and one I love doing in this wonderful academy Trust that we have all created.

God bless,

Paul Dunning



Training/CPD Events for the Next Half-term

AUTUMN 1						
KEY EVENTS	W/C	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	31.08.26	Bank Holiday	INSET Day	INSET Day		
CPD Reading Release	07.09.26				Monitoring of school recycling bins	
Y6 Sept Assessment Window	14.09.26	Swallowtail Fed ARM (09.30-11.30)	Beacon Fed ARM (09.30-11.30) T&M Fed ARM (14.00-16.00)	Diss & Scole PAP ARM (09.30-11.30)	DSL Network – online (15.45-16.45)	Alburgh with Denton ARM (11.00-12.30)
	21.09.26	Sancroft Primary ARM (09.30-11.00); Secondary ARM (11.30-13.00)	CUSP Reading Session 1	Pulham ARM (14.00-15.30) Collective Worship Network – online (15.30-17.00) CUSP KS3 English Session 1	Lighthouse Fed ARM (09.30-11.30); North Star Fed ARM (14.00-16.00)	CUSP PSHE Session 1
	28.09.26	Acorn Partnership ARM (09.30-11.30)	CUSP Writing Session 1	Newton Flotman ARM (09.30-11.00) St Mary's Junior ARM (11.30-13.00)	CUSP Early Foundations Session 1	Leaders' Forum at OH (10.00-15.00)
	05.10.26	CUSP Geography Session 1	EYFS RE Network – online (15.45-16.45)	LA Data Support: KS2 QLA Session-online (15.00-17.00) CUSP Maths Session 1		
Y2/Y3-5 Autumn Assessment Window	12.10.26	CUSP History Session 1	SEND Network (09.15-16.00)	CUSP Art Session 1		
	19.10.26		RSL Network (15.40-16.40)	iAMCompliant Check		INSET Day
	26.10.26	HALF-TERM				

N.B. All CUSP events run 15.45-16.45 online

New Starter Email Addresses: Early Set-up Required

If you have new starters joining in September, please ensure you request their email address set-up from OfficeXpress as early as possible. This will help guarantee everything is ready for the start of term.

OfficeXpress operates with a 5 day turnaround for non-urgent tickets such as new starter accounts. While they often manage quicker responses, their engineers will be on site completing the final Cloud migration projects at the end of the summer holiday, so they will not be able to guarantee faster turnaround times.

Submitting requests early will help avoid delays and ensure new staff can access their accounts from day one.

Thank you.

Wendy Allsop (wendy.allsop@donesc.org)

Executive Assistant to CEO / Operations & Contract Manager, DoNESC



The newsletter for schools in St Benet's MAT



Diocesan Prayer Diary

The Diocese of Norwich have a Prayer Diary, which can be accessed [here](#).

The Church of England have a Time to Pray website [here](#).

Central Team Contact Details

The Diocese of Norwich Education Team (St Benet's, DNEAT, DoNESC) are based at Orchard House, Hall Lane, East Tuddenham, Norfolk NR20 3LR. This is also the registered address for St Benet's MAT.

The central phone number for St Benet's is 01603 550147 or you can email the Central Team via info@stbenets.org.



Press & PR

Please contact 01603 550147 or info@stbenets.org with any press/media enquiries.

Diocesan Communications

Footprints magazine and Flourishing Together are circulated to all Diocesan schools. The latest editions can be read [here](#). If you would like your school to be featured in either please contact Jodie Ballard, PA to the Diocesan Director of Education, at: jodie.ballard@dioceseofnorwich.org.



It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Board of Education to oversee the strategic direction for all schools and academies within the Diocese of Norwich. That's 107 schools in total across St Benet's, DNEAT and LA-maintained schools. The DBE's Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2030 is published [here](#).

Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: www.stbenets.org



The newsletter for schools in St Benet's MAT

**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"



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



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

For further information please visit the Immeasurably More section of the Trust's Resource Hub or contact Suzannah Kay on 01603 550147 or suzannah.kay@stbenets.org

The newsletter for schools in St Benet's MAT

Did you know...

St Benet's pays for all its employees to have free access to the Spectrum.Life employee wellbeing service. If you haven't registered yet, follow the simple instructions below to sign up online.



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.

B-Comms will focus on some of these specific areas in future issues and your Headteachers will be receiving some promotional material to share with you.

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