

14 July 2023 (Issue 54)

**B-Comms is the fortnightly newsletter for Church of England schools who are Members or Associate Members of St Benet's Multi Academy Trust:** Alburgh with Denton Primary, Cringleford Primary (Associate Member), Dickleburgh Primary & Pre-school, Diss Junior Academy, Diss Infant Academy & Nursery, Garboldisham Primary, Harleston Sancroft Academy, Hethersett Primary (Associate Member), Morley Primary, Newton Flotman Primary, St Mary's Junior, Tacolneston Primary, Scole Primary.

**Schools working with us through the DfE's TSIO programme are:** Acle Primary; Catfield Primary/Hickling Infant/Sutton Infant (the Swallowtail Federation); Carleton Rode Primary; Happisburgh Primary and St Mary's Endowed Primary Roughton (the Lighthouse Federation); Little Plumstead Primary; Pulham Primary; Worstead Primary.

## End of Year Message from the Trust CEO

*These final weeks of the summer term are always heavily loaded with events, activities and trips and I thank my school colleagues for all that they have done to provide so many additional experiences this year. It is these opportunities that do so much to support our children in 'living life to the full' and are at the heart of what the curriculum aims to do.*

*Below you will see that two of our much-valued volunteers have been recognised as 'Community Champions' and I know that they would be the first to say that this is a recognition that reflects every one of the Trustees and Local Governors who give of their time, skills and experiences so willingly to support our schools.*

*I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer break.*

**Richard Cranmer**



## End of Year Message from the Chair of Trustees

*I would like to add my voice to Richard's warm thank you to all the staff in every part of our Trust for the amazing work you do for all our children. One can only pray that the Government's pay offer (made as I write this) will lead to an end to the disruption to children's education that has been a consequence of understandable frustration in the profession about fair pay for the invaluable job you all do.*

*But I also want to echo Richard's comments about the often unsung, and often misunderstood, work of those who volunteer their time in assisting schools to provide the highest possible quality of education for ALL. I want to thank the Trust's Members, the Trustees, School Governors and all those parents and carers who support our schools in Friends Associations or just helping out at events. The oft-quoted African saying that, 'it takes a whole village to raise a child', has never been a truer image of how it takes a whole community to work together to educate a child and make our schools places of excellence. A huge thank you to all.*

**Fred Corbett**



## Good News Stories

- \* On 1 September 2023 we will welcome **Acle St Edmund CE Primary** and **Little Plumstead CE Primary** into St Benet's MAT. Both schools are led by Interim Executive Headteacher Mrs Rebecca Clarke.
- \* Fred Corbett and Gill Hipwell (see photo right) were honoured as Community Champions at the Royal Norfolk Show on 28 June. They had been nominated by St Benet's CEO, Richard Cranmer, for their years of voluntary support for schools in Norfolk.
- \* We were delighted to see some St Benet's staff and pupils honoured at the Bishop of Norwich's School Champions event, held in the beautiful surroundings of the Bishop's Garden at Norwich Cathedral.
- \* We are pleased to announce that the DfE have approved the Lighthouse Federation (comprising Happisburgh and St Mary's Roughton Primaries) to join St Benet's MAT in 2024.



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## More Good News

As our schools enter the last few weeks before the summer break, they are full of amazing plays, musicals, sports days and talent shows. Here's a little snapshot of a few of the events that children have enjoyed. We offer a huge **'thank you'** to all the hard-working staff who have made them possible.

### Alburgh with Denton Primary Talent Show

Mrs Bentley, HLTA and Talent Show Organiser, reported on the school Talent Show: *"This week we welcomed parents, family and friends to watch three performances of our 'Talent Show 2023'. Every child took part in either individual or class acts. This year our wonderful acts included dance, gymnastics, comedy, Rubik cubes, martial arts with nunchucks, pianists and many more."*

*"Juniper (age 6) sang 'Naughty' from Matilda – an amazing performance from somebody so young."*

*"For the first time, we were also able to incorporate acts that we could not easily bring to the stage. Olivia Kerridge (age 9) filmed her talent 'Aerial Hoop' which we showcased on a big screen."*

*"Alburgh Village Hall was at full capacity each night. The feedback from the audience was amazing:"*

*"A lot of hard work from staff and children but very well worth it. We can't wait for the next one!"*



*"Thank you for a wonderful evening. I didn't want it to end!"*

*"Fabulous show, such confident children"*

*"Mind-blowing! Absolutely incredible, such talent and confidence"*

St Benet' CEO, Richard Cranmer, attended the Talent Show on Wednesday night and wrote to Headteacher Leigh Goodhew afterwards:

*"I was honestly bowled over by the incredible talent, courage, confidence and general 'let's enjoy ourselves' spirit that the children at your school showed me at the Talent Show."*

*Please convey my heartfelt appreciation to your wonderful colleagues, not least Michelle for all those hours she will have given in preparing the children. This was a truly memorable event and a great showcase for your super school."*

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## Prayer for the Day

The Church of England have an app called Time to Pray, which releases a new prayer twice a day as a short podcast for you to listen to. Today's prayer can be heard [here](#).



## Reminders

### Central Team Location

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

The central phone number for St Benet's is **01603 550147**.



### Press & PR

Our PR Officer, **Kate Morfoot**, should be your first point of contact for any press/media enquiries or if you have any good news stories from your academy which you would like to publicise. Her contact details are: **07803 590 728** (inc out of hours) and [press@stbenets.org](mailto:press@stbenets.org).

### Footprints & Schools Flyer

Footprints magazine and the Schools Flyer are circulated to all Diocesan schools. The latest editions can be read [here](#).

If you would like your school to be featured in Footprints please contact Holly Davy, PA to the Diocesan Director of Education, at [holly.davy@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:holly.davy@dioceseofnorwich.org).

## Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: [www.stbenets.org](http://www.stbenets.org).

Please email your vacancies to: [robyn.redman@donesc.org](mailto:robyn.redman@donesc.org).

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## Safeguarding Update

From Louise Veeren, Head of Safeguarding



Louise can be contacted on:

Email: [louise.veeren@donesc.org](mailto:louise.veeren@donesc.org)

Tel: 01603 550151 (rings through to mobile)

### Safeguarding

- Never think you have done enough in creating a safer culture
- Always believe it could happen here
- Keep safeguarding high on everyone's agenda
- Never rely on one process to keep children safe

This week's communication will be via a YouTube video [here](#) with end of term updates for you all. Information on the KCSIE 2023 and a reflection on lessons learned this term from working across the schools. This is relevant to watch now and also at the start of term.

### Policies

The Safeguarding Policy will be with you by next Wednesday. The video above states by September but it will be with you next week so you can add your details ready for the start of term.

The whole school Local Authority safeguarding training for the start of term is now ready on My School.

### Other reminders:

As we move towards the end of term, there are several actions that you will need to consider:

- ⇒ Have you completed a check on your SCR this term? Have you recorded the actions and the SCR check? Your safeguarding governor may wish to carry out this check, if they feel suitably equipped to do so. However, remember it is not a directive that they do this. Their responsibility is to check that you are checking!
- ⇒ For your vulnerable students that are transferring out or into your school, have suitable arrangements been made? For example, have you had a conversation with the DSL at the transferring school so they are ready prepared to support the child transferring to them?
- ⇒ What summer holiday support plans are in place, for example, have you notified parents of nearest foodbanks etc that they can access? Have you notified parents of the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme that has free spaces for those on means tested free school meals? <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/big-norfolk-holiday-fun>

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## Governance Update

The following policies have recently been approved by the St Benet's Board and Executive Team, editable versions have been sent to academy heads and offices and are now available in the staff login area of the website.

Please ensure that these policies are personalised for the academy, noted at the next LGC meeting and uploaded to the Academy website (where required). Please also ensure that all staff are given a copy/made aware of the updated policies.

- HR08 Management of Sickness Absence
- HR17 Smoke Free Policy
- HR18 Shared Parental Leave Policy (Birth)
- NS01 Collective Worship Policy
- NS08 Offensive Weapons Policy
- S19 Administration of Medicines\*

\*This policy has been updated since it was last approved in May 2023, to correct an error and bring it in line with DfE guidance about administering non-prescription medicines.

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The Woodland Trust are offering schools FREE tree packs, including:

- ◇ Packs to suit every project, choose from 15, 30, 105 or 420 saplings
- ◇ Online advice to help you make the right choices for your setting
- ◇ Curriculum-linked resources to support your tree planting and outdoor learning

Order your free trees [here](#). More information is available at Tree Tools for Schools [website](#).





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## And finally...

### Alburgh with Denton Primary Awarded Gold School Games Award 2022-23

Alburgh with Denton Primary are delighted to announce that they have been awarded the 'Gold School Games Award 22/23'.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme to reward schools for their sporting achievements, and they are delighted to have been recognised for their success.

Mrs Wright, PE Co-ordinator, writes: *Our school prides itself in the fact that we invest time in our PE curriculum and extra curricular activities to be inclusive to all children and keep our children healthy and active.*

*Alongside structured curriculum PE lessons we also have play leaders who run sports-themed activities for the children. Our sports leaders organise and set up equipment. We have a wide variety of outdoor equipment for the children to play with at break and lunchtimes.*

*We have recently installed two new basketball posts which the children are thoroughly enjoying.*

*We offer after-school sports clubs run by Premier Sports and also sports activities within our after-school club provision run by staff.*

*Our sports days are a wonderful array of displays and activities, as well as races. These displays are also performed at the Village Fete.*

*Every child has had the opportunity to attend at least one sports festival run by the South Norfolk Schools Partnership – these have included Cross Country, Cricket, Girls Football, Hockey and Golf.*



*We had a fantastic response to Walk-to-School Week where we operated a walking bus from the Village Hall.*

*This year we have invested extra time and PE funding into additional swimming lessons for our weaker swimmers – they have come on in leaps and bounds!*

*And to finish off the year we have our (not too competitive!) Yr6 vs Staff sports night!*



**Well done to everyone  
at Alburgh with Denton!**

