

## St Mary's Junior Academy Pupils Visit Local Care Homes



St Mary's CE Junior Academy in Long Stratton has set up regular visits to The Mayfields Care Home and Harker House Residential Home in Long Stratton.

Headteacher, Miss Laura Richardson, said: *"At St Mary's we feel it is import to build relationships with our local community and it's fantastic for our children to meet the residents of these two wonderful local care homes. The smiles on the resident's faces and the joy the children bring to each other is beautiful."*

She explained: *"We were approach by Harker House as part of an intergenerational workshop. The children learn about the wider world and the interdependence of communities within it and how they can take part more fully in school and community activities. It is important for us to be active citizens in Long Stratton and give back to the local community. This has enabled our pupils to communicate with people within our community and actively participate in the community."*

In turn these visits develop good relationships and teach pupils to respect the differences between people, preparing them for playing an active role as citizens and developing their confidence and responsibility.

Suzanna Welstead, Wellbeing Coordinator at Harker House said: *"I would like to say a massive thank you to the staff and children who visited Harker House this morning. It was an absolute pleasure to have them with us. Such lovely and respectful young people, who are a credit to their school. Our staff and residents were overjoyed with the friendliness and care they showed. To say they have brightened up their day is an understatement. Thank you once again, for making this possible. We are looking forward to the next visit."*

Some of the Year 4 children were invited along to Harker House Residential Home to enjoy Easter Crafts and refreshments with the residents. They all had a lovely time, making crafts, talking to the residents and finished off singing a song for them.

Over the Easter holidays a new federation of schools will join St Benet's MAT.

Swallowtail Federation is made up of Catfield Primary, Hickling Infant and Sutton Infant Academies, all based in the north of the county. Their Executive Headteacher is Natalie Butcher.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming these new schools and all their staff and pupils into the St Benet's family.





## 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. Today's prayer can be heard [here](#).

## Trust Information



### 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](mailto:info@stbenets.org).



## 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).

## Diocesan Communications



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).

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 DNEAT, St Benet's and LA maintained schools. The DBE has just published its next Strategic Plan covering the period 2024-2030. We encourage you to have a look [here](#).

## 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).



## Operational Updates from DoNESC

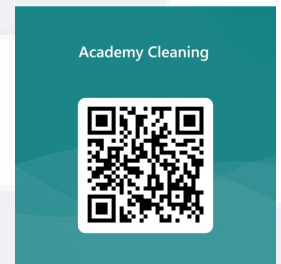
**DoNESC (Diocese of Norwich Education Services Company) provide St Benet's with back office services including HR, Finance, Payroll, Governance and Estates.**

### Cleaning Contract Survey

The DoNESC Estates Team are currently collating information regarding the Cleaning Contracts in all St Benet's academies.

They would be grateful if Headteachers/SBMs would complete this short survey to provide them with the information they require. This should take no longer than 3 minutes to complete.

The survey can be accessed using either this link [Academy Cleaning Survey](#) or the QR Code and are required back by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 please.



### Broadband Speed Queries

Over the last couple of weeks there have been problems with the broadband speed in some schools. Rydal have discovered the route of the problem and it has generally now returned to a 'service as usual' situation this week.

### Website Filtering (Blocking and Unblocking Sites)

If you come across a site that is blocked by the Smoothwall filtering system which needs to be unblocked, the school Headteacher or someone designated by the Headteacher must refer this to the Rydal support desk who can action changes.

There are some instances where Smoothwall Filtering does not differentiate between Staff and Student and this is being actively worked on now with a view to resolving asap.

If you encounter the above issues please contact Rydal on [schools.support@rydal-group.co.uk](mailto:schools.support@rydal-group.co.uk)

If your query is in respect of filtering you will need to stipulate if the site needs to be unblocked for staff, pupils or both when you contact them and on occasion they may need to come back to you to discuss further information, or may they need to speak to Louise Veeren (Head of Safeguarding) to seek further approval.

Please can we ask that these queries do not come to Louise or I in the first instance as we are not able to action these ourselves but please escalate to me if necessary.

Thank you,  
Wendy ([wendy.allsop@donesc.org](mailto:wendy.allsop@donesc.org))

## Safeguarding Update–1

From Louise Veeren, Head of Safeguarding



### 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

### Online Sexual Abuse

The Internet Watch Foundation have produced a series of podcasts looking at the work of the Internet Watch Foundation. **It is not an easy listen but needs to be heard.**

*Pixels from a Crime Scene* starts a difficult and sometimes uncomfortable conversation. One that no one wants to have, but that empowers listeners and protects children from abuse and exploitation. [Pixels from a Crime Scene - A Podcast \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.iwf.org.uk)

It talks about 'self generated images' where victims are tricked, coerced and exploited into performing sexual acts online, often at home and in their bedrooms with webcams. This counts for a third of the content that was removed last year. The most recent podcast talks of the crimes of David Wilson from Kings Lynn who posed as a girl online in order to abuse boys online.

[David Wilson: The King's Lynn roofer who lured sex victims by posing as a girl - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-58111111)

**There is advice for parents online too including a short video about the subject.**

[Advice for parents of children who are being 'sexorted' online \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.iwf.org.uk)

### Prevent Training- date for the diary: 6<sup>th</sup> June

As you are aware from the DSL network meetings we have been working on the Prevent Risk Assessment.

A very productive meeting was had between Louise and Russell Cole, The Preventing Radicalisation Co-ordinator for Norfolk in working on our Trust Risk Assessment.

He has offered to provide a bespoke session for our Trust so DSLs can hear first hand about what is happening locally and nationally. With the training that is already happening online and our risk assessment this will support our training and practice.

As the summer term is very busy we have decided to give the final date of the DSL meeting to this training so book on the DSL network meeting in your normal way and Russell Cole will be joining us.

### As we go into the final week of term....

If you haven't yet completed a single central record check this half term, please do this!

Consider Easter holiday support plans for vulnerable children.

Send out details of the local food bank.

### As we go into the new term....

A reminder to staff of the signs of abuse: [Definitions and signs of child abuse \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

For those schools that are now using CPOMS there are refresher videos on how to log a concern: [CPOMS Video Library \(site.com\)](https://www.cpoms.com)

## Governance Update

Governance support both centrally and across all Trust schools is provided by DoNESC's Governance Team, led by Head of Governance Hannah Monk (centre) and with support from Tara Burrows, St Benet's Governance Officer (right) and Dawn Knights, DNEAT Governance Officer and Training Facilitator (left).



The latest [Governance Bulletin - 19 March 2024](#) is now available on GovernorHub.

### Trust Updated Policies

The following policies have recently been reviewed, updated and approved:

- HR23 Volunteer Policy - *significant changes to the policy, please apply it to volunteers from this point forward.*
- S18 Business Continuity Plan
- S20 Risk Management Policy
- S23 Code of Conduct Staff and Volunteers
- S24 Staff Grievance Procedure
- S27 Early Career Teacher (ECT) Induction Policy - *new policy*
- S28 Speak Up Policy - *replaces HR07 Whistleblowing Policy, please remove HR07 Whistleblowing Policy from your website/files etc.*

### Other policy changes:

HR25 Secure handling of information provided by the DBS - *this has been updated to include "Appendix 1 - Confirmation that original DBS certificate has been seen". November approval date unchanged.*

The policies have been uploaded to the St Benet's website (<https://stbenets.org/about-us/model-policies/>) editable versions have been sent to academy Heads and offices and are now available on the staff area of the Trust website.

Please ensure that these policies are personalised for the academy, uploaded to the Academy website (where required), and noted at the next LGC meeting. Please ensure that all staff are aware that these policies have been updated and are now in circulation.

### Policy no longer required - please remove:

S22 Financial Probity Policy - *now included in S17 Finance Policy, separate Financial Probity Policy no longer required, please remove S22 Financial Probity Policy from your website/files etc.*

If you have any queries, please contact the Governance Team via the DoNESC Helpdesk.

## Focus on: S28 Speak Up Policy



The Trust Speak Up Policy was launched earlier this week and is available [here on the Trust web-site](#).

This policy replaces HR07 Whistleblowing Policy. **All staff and volunteers should read this 6-page policy and be aware of its existence.**

### Why do we have this policy?

All staff and volunteers are entitled to speak up if they have a concern about suspected wrongdoing.

The policy is in place to outline the procedure for how such concerns are managed. Speak up concerns raised through this policy will be taken seriously and investigated, confidentiality of individuals will be respected.

Protection is available for individuals who raise a concern and staff will not be victimised for raising a concern through the steps set out in the policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken (though vexatious or malicious concerns may be considered a disciplinary issue).

### When would I use this policy to speak up?

The policy should be used by staff and volunteers to speak up if they have a concern about incidents of wrongdoing in the Trust or Trust's academies which is "in the public interest".

The policy outlines examples of speaking up and also signposts to further guidance available from Protect (formerly Public Concern at Work), which outlines the difference between a speak up (whistleblowing) concern and grievance, as well as the Protect advice line which is free and confidential.

### Who should I report a concern to and how?

All Trust staff should report their concern to the Head of Governance on [governance@donesc.org](mailto:governance@donesc.org). If the concern is about the Head of Governance, or it is believed they may be involved in the wrongdoing in some way, the staff member should report their concern to the Speaking Up Trustee, Fred Corbett, on [info@stbenets.org](mailto:info@stbenets.org). Concerns should be raised in writing wherever possible.

If you have any queries about the policy, please contact the Governance Team on [governance@donesc.org](mailto:governance@donesc.org) or via the DoNESC Helpdesk.

## 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.allso@donesc.org](mailto:wendy.allso@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!**



## Upcoming Events

Future events arranged by the Trust will be listed here. Events just for St Benet's North are listed in purple.

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25.03.24	Coaching Training at Diss Junior - am is for HTs only, pm is for HTs and Coaches (09.00-16.00)	Coaching Workshop at Diss Junior for HTs and Coaches (09.00-16.00)		EASTER	
15.04.24	AwD Primary CARD	Sancroft Secondary CARD;  Tacolneston Primary CARD	Scole Primary CARD	St Mary's Junior CARD	
22.04.24	CUSP Early Foundations-online (15.45-17.15)	Diss Junior CARD; AwD Primary ARM	Newton Flotman Primary CARD & ARM	Diocesan Headteachers' Conference at Norwich Cathedral (08.45-17.00);  CUSP French-online (15.45-17.15)	Diss Infant CARD; Diss PAP ARM
29.04.24	Sancroft Primary CARD & ARM;  CUSP RE-online (15.45-17.15)	Dickleburgh Primary CARD;  CUSP Computing-online (15.45-17.15)	Garboldisham Primary CARD;  Beacon Federation ARM	Morley Primary CARD;  Tacolneston & Morley Fed ARM;  Sancroft Secondary ARM	Acle Primary CARD
06.05.24	BANK HOLIDAY	Little Plumstead CARD;  Acle & Little Plumstead ARM	Leaders' Forum (for HTs) at Orchard House (09.00-14.00)	St Mary's Junior ARM;  SEND Network at Little Plumstead (09.00-16.00)	
13.05.24		ESL-Network CANCELLED		Trust Review Meeting for Central Team Only at OH (09.00-12.30)	
20.05.24		HT Workshop at OH-Focus on SEF (09.00-16.00)	SEND Network at Diss Infants (09.00-16.00)	MSL Network at Worstead (09.00-16.00)	



## London Marathon Fundraising

On April 21st one of St Benet's Improvement Directors, Mark Carlyle, will take part in the London Marathon. Mark is running in aid of the charity Guide Dogs for the Blind. Here he explains his reasons for choosing this charity:

*"I am in the hugely fortunate position of working in a leadership role in education. As a result, I meet lots of amazing children and have the privilege of getting to know them and their stories. This is Evie's story.*

*Evie is 10yrs old and is registered severely sight impaired. She has a rare condition called optic nerve atrophy whereby her optic nerves are both severing and her sight is deteriorating as she is growing.*

*She has a beautiful buddy dog from the Guide Dogs called Fletcher. He has been her lifesaver and the family will be forever grateful to the Guide Dogs for giving her the opportunity to have a best friend, who not only helps her with her independence but also supports her with her anxieties and social needs. Evie adores horses and riding is her greatest passion; having Fletch has given her the confidence to give things a go and be happy knowing he is there for a cuddle at the end!*



*Evie and her family are now in the process of applying for a fully fledged guide dog for Evie's journey into high school and her teenage years, where her independence will need to be stronger than ever.*

*Fundraising, however big or small, for this fantastic charity is so important as it helps so many get their lives back after sight loss. The least I can do is to raise as much money as possible to support this brilliant charity and all the amazing work that they do."*



**If you would like to support Mark, please visit his Just Giving page here:**

**<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mark-carlyle-evieandfletch>**

## Inspiring Footballers Visit St Mary's Junior Academy

**Norwich City Women's players Katie Knights and Sarah Quantrill hosted a school assembly on Wednesday afternoon at St Mary's CE Junior Academy in Long Stratton.**

The pair were visiting their former school to deliver a presentation to 170 pupils about their journey into football and life growing up at St Mary's.

Knights and Quantrill also discussed playing at Carrow Road and the upcoming match against QPR Women.



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## Circus Pazaz Comes To Dickleburgh!

Tickets to this fundraising event are available from [www.pta-events.co.uk/dickleburgh](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/dickleburgh) or via the QR code in the poster.

**CIRCUS PAZAZ**

SO MUCH FUN!

**SUNDAY 19TH MAY**  
**DICKLEBURGH PARK**

**3 SHOWS - 12PM, 2PM & 4PM**

TOMBOLA/GAMES/LICENSED BAR/RAFFLE/  
FOOD FROM: LOADED FRIES & MARG & RITA'S PIZZA

EARLY BIRD OFFER £8 ADULTS/£7 CHILDREN  
FAMILY OF 4 DISCOUNT AVAILABLE (CODE: FAMILY)

Book tickets via [www.pta-events.co.uk/dickleburgh](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/dickleburgh)  
or scan QR code

UNDER 2S ON LAPS FREE!

FODS

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHILDREN OF DICKLEBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL