

## Fantastic Fundraising by Dickleburgh Primary Academy Pupils



Enterprising pupils from Dickleburgh Primary's School Council organised a sponsored 'Blindfolded Obstacle Course' to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The children had partners who guided them on the course and it helped them



to understand how difficult it is for blind and partially-sighted people, even with a guide.

The School Council then ran a stall after school selling books, plants, toys and cakes, raising an amazing **£200!**

*Well done Dickleburgh!*



**B-Comms is the fortnightly newsletter for Church of England schools who are Members of St Benet's Multi Academy Trust:**

Acle Primary, Alburgh with Denton Primary, Catfield Primary, Dickleburgh Primary & Pre-school, Diss Junior Academy, Diss Infant Academy & Nursery, Garboldisham Primary, Harleston Sanctroft Academy, Hickling Infant, Little Plumstead Primary, Morley Primary, Newton Flotman Primary, Scole Primary, St Mary's Junior, Sutton Infant and Tacolneston Primary.

**Schools working with us through the DfE's TSIO programme are:** Carleton Rode & Forngett Federation, Lighthouse Federation (Happisburgh Primary & St Mary's Endowed Primary), Pulham Primary and Worstead Primary.

## Harleston Sancroft Academy Support Town's D-Day 80 Celebrations

Pupils from Harleston Sancroft Academy played a central role in the town's D-Day ceremony on 6th June, marking the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings in 1944.



Students and Staff across the Primary and Secondary Phase at Harleston Sancroft joined together with members of the Harleston community to recognise the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings on Thursday 6th June.

A presentation and poem were read to all children, shared with the school by the Royal British Legion. In addition to this, Y10 students Rosie and Jedidah, accompanied by Mrs Rourke-Beasley (Head of Y11) and Mr Connelly (Headteacher) were invited to a service in Harleston

where, alongside members of the RBL, Town Council and St John's Church, they delivered readings to over 100 local residents and members of the community.

The following message was received from the Chair of Harleston Town Council:

*"...just a big thank you to you and your staff and of course the two pupils in your school that read their tributes. I really love it when we involve the school in any Town Council functions and I feel it really helps to pull the town together and maintain the fantastic spirit we have in this town."*

Another message was received from the Vice Chair of Harleston and District Royal British Legion:

*"Having Mrs R-B, Rosie and Jedidah as an integral part of the service was thoroughly appreciated and once again Harleston Sancroft's name and reputation were proudly maintained."*

As always, providing our students and staff with the opportunity to remember and recognise the importance and reflect on the experiences of 1944 as part of our wider taught curriculum is vital, enabling our school values to be understood and lived.



**Rob Connelly**  
Headteacher



## 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.**

### DoNESC Team Changes

There have been some changes over the last few months in the DoNESC Team and we are delighted to update you on the following:

#### Finance Team

- ◇ Welcome back to **Rufaro Jiri** from her maternity leave who is stepping across into the role of Management Accountant.
- ◇ Emma Aspinall decided to not return after her maternity leave and Mark Pearson's contract came to an end. We are therefore very pleased to welcome **Anna Bradley** and **Elena Webb** who are joining the Management Accountant team and **Chris Jarrold** who is joining the team as Finance Processor to replace Jessie Johnson.

#### HR Team

Sadly for us, Robyn Redman has left to explore new avenues, however :-

- ◇ We are very pleased to let you know that **Ben Unger** is joining the team once again in the role of Data, Pensions and Compliance Administrator.
- ◇ Also we are pleased to welcome **Claire Burrell** in the role of HR Administrator.

Both of these positions are part time.

- ◇ Emily Knights has moved across into the role of HR Officer that was previously held by Ben and therefore we are very happy to confirm that the new fulltime HR Administrator is **Pippa Saunders**.

We are excited to be welcoming everyone on board. There will be a period of training to get everyone up to speed so we thank you for supporting them and us during this transition period.

### Catering Contract Update

Many of you will be aware that a tender process was held earlier this year to award a new catering provider for all of our schools across both Trusts.



We have been involved in discussions to finalise some of the contractual elements involved in the move from one provider to another and we are pleased to be able to let you know that these have now been resolved, enabling us to start organising the offboarding of current providers and onboarding the new one.

We are really pleased to confirm that **Nourish** are the company who successfully bid for the contract. Their priorities include delivering healthy, wholesome and nutritional food that is locally sourced and environmentally friendly. See their sample menus [Nourish Primary Sample menu](#) and [Nourish Secondary Sample Menu](#). Their new menu cycle starts in October.

Once Nourish are 'in situ' they will be delighted to provide sample food for Open Days for prospective parents. However, they are not able to support this presently due to all of the catering provisions being held under contract to the current providers.

Over the coming weeks we are having meetings with them and the current suppliers to plan the mobilisation, which will be happening over the course of the Autumn term. The intention is for all of our schools to be using their service by the end of 2024.

I will be keeping you all updated with more information as these arrangements and the roll-out plans are finalised.

**Please contact Wendy Allsop if you have any questions: [wendy.allsop@donesc.org](mailto:wendy.allsop@donesc.org)**



## 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

From 31st May 2024 you should contact 01603 550147 or [info@stbenets.org](mailto:info@stbenets.org) with any press enquiries.

### 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 St Benet's, DNEAT 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: [hr@donesc.org](mailto:hr@donesc.org).



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

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17.06.24		Strategy Development Day for Heads at OH (09.00-16.00)		Headteachers' Workshop at OH: Focus on Ofsted Readiness (09.00-16.00); Online SEND Network via Teams (15.45-17.30)	
24.06.24			ESL Network at St Mary's Junior (09.00-16.00); MSL Network at Little Plumstead (09.00-16.00)		
01.07.24				Leaders' Forum for Heads at OH (09.00-14.00)	
08.07.24		Headteachers' Day at OH (focus on coaching in pm (09.00-16.00)		Trust Review Day for Central Team at OH (09.00-16.00)	
15.07.24			EYFS Network at Little Plumstead (09.00-16.00)		

\*OH = Orchard House, East Tuddenham NR20 3LR

## **Would you like to make a difference in a voluntary role supporting children and young people in our Church of England academies and their communities?**

If so, please click [here](#) to read more about the role of Chair of St Benet's Multi Academy Trust, which will be available later this year when our current Chair stands down at the end of two terms of office.

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### **The following article was written by our Chair of Trustees, Fred Corbett, and featured as part of a [Church Times](#) item on "Education: Who has ideas for our schools?" on 24th May:**



Fred Corbett,  
Chair of Trustees,  
St Benet's MAT

*Somewhat biblically, I have seven pleas to whoever forms the next government. These pleas are not to add fuel to the nonsense about education being broken, and the undermining that goes on about the many qualities of our young people and their teachers. But we know that we could achieve a great deal more for more children if we could have a national environment of trust, support, and properly resourced provision in a 21st-century working environment.*

*So, my first plea is for a new government to set out its education values, making a commitment to learning that is based on a balance between a broad, relevant curriculum, with essential skills, knowledge, and experiences given due weighting – and not just focus on those that can be easily measured.*

*Second, take early years seriously, and stop the political football about integrated services for children. The evidence is clear: if we get it right in those early years, the system and the children can thrive.*

*Third, we need a sensitive regulatory environment that accommodates children's variable growth and development. We need to stop being slaves to age and stage, but develop proper measures of progress. The regulatory environment needs to include the profession in its development and operation: we need to tackle things when they are not serving children well, but the measures need fairness and transparency, and not just to seek simplicity.*

*My next couple of pleas relate to the important part that multi-academy trusts (MATs) can play in a collaborative system that does not pitch schools against each other in an outdated competitive manner.*

*Number four is for government to stop the uncertainty about MATs and local authority schools and create a sensible interlocking system where the part played by both is clear, and all schools are within a well-led and governed MAT. This could be achieved by working with the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) to develop deeper collaborations and help build a strong environment of improvement.*

*This requires my fifth plea to be fulfilled: set agreed standards for MATs, to ensure that they are meeting their side of what the system delivers, tested by a trustworthy regulatory system.*

*The Nobel Prizewinner Pearl Buck, among others, is credited with stating the view that a civilisation is tested by the way in which it cares for its weakest members. A fundamental measure applied to any government is the success that it has in ensuring that public services have the resources that they need to ensure that all schools can support vulnerable children whose social, health, or economic environment creates barriers to education.*

*Linked to that is plea number six: the education of those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) must be properly resourced, to enable the children to fulfil their potential.*

*My seventh plea underpins all that goes before: the system's resources are in a mess. Children in this country are able and capable; their teachers are of a very high calibre and can create an excellent service; there are superb support services and knowledgeable people willing to work for the nation's children. But the system needs to be funded properly.*

*There must be realistic, transparent, and planned funding for the education system, based on a properly researched national formula that allocates enough funding per student, enables realistic high-quality support services, and pays teachers well, so that we can recruit the expertise a world-class system needs.*

*In the meantime, additional resources are needed in the first year of a new government to get the funding of all schools back in balance.*



## **National Thank a Teacher Day is fast approaching on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.**

As always, we will be celebrating all the amazing teaching and support staff in our schools - from the dinner helpers to the classroom assistants and librarians. They deserve the spotlight for everything they do to keep things running smoothly.

Why not show your appreciation with a free, personalised limited edition e-card? Simply visit the Thank a Teacher UK website to send one for free at [www.thankateacher.co.uk](http://www.thankateacher.co.uk).

Ready-to-use lesson plans and activities tailored to the curriculum are yours to download, designed for all key stage levels, encouraging students to appreciate everyone who contributes to their education.

With celebrations across the UK, get involved on social media using the hashtag #ThankATeacherDay. There will be plenty of exciting updates ahead of the day, so don't forget to follow @UKThankATeacher to hear the latest on competitions, giveaways and celebrity shout outs.