

Jasper's Mountain Mission!

We are very proud to shine the spotlight on 5-year old Jasper this week, who is a Y1 pupil at Dickleburgh Church of England Primary Academy, part of the Beacon Federation.

EASTER SUNDAY



SCAFELL PIKE

TOP FACTS > Height 978m
> 5 miles hiked
> 10 hours

Over the course of April, May and July this year, Jasper and his father Peter climbed the Three Peaks of Scafell Pike in England....

MAY BANK HOLIDAY



SNOWDON

TOP FACTS > Height 1085m
> 10 miles hiked
> 12 hours

Snowdon in Wales....

SUMMER BREAK



BEN NEVIS

TOP FACTS > Height 1345m
> 7 miles hiked
> 16.5 hours

and Ben Nevis in Scotland. In total they walked more than 23 miles and climbed more than 3,000m.

Jasper was raising money for Prostate Cancer UK as his Grandfather was diagnosed earlier in the year.

Jasper's amazing achievement was reported on by the BBC and Scottish News. To read more about their story click [here](#).

To date, he has raised a total of **£7,046.25**.

We are all so proud of you, Jasper!



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, Happisburgh Primary, Harleston Sancroft Academy, Hickling Infant, Little Plumstead Primary, Morley Primary, Newton Flotman Primary, Scole Primary, St Mary's Junior, St Mary's Primary, Sutton Infant and Tacolneston Primary.

We also work with schools through the DfE's TSIO programme: Pulham Primary and Worstead Primary.

Beacon Federation Choir Raises the Cathedral Roof

On Sunday 22nd September, pupils from the Beacon Federation were invited to sing at the Diocesan Commissioning Service at Norwich Cathedral.

Executive Headteacher Moira Croskell has provided us with a report from the Service:

"We were delighted that 40 pupils from our Key Stage 2 choir and some of our parents were able to join us at the Cathedral on Sunday evening for the special Celebration and Commissioning Service."

"We sang a song called "We Are Unstoppable" which we felt linked perfectly with the theme of Journeys for this year's service. It was a new song for our pupils so we had to do some extra singing sessions to be ready for the day, but the children learnt it so quickly that we had time to split parts to add to the performance."



"The children loved the experience, and hearing the echo of their voices in the Cathedral encouraged them to put that extra bit of effort into their performance. Both the Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop of Thetford referred to the pupils throughout the service, which also made them feel very special. We even got to blow out the candles at the end!"

"I was extremely proud of all of the pupils and their focus and confidence singing in such a magnificent building but also in front of lots of adults they didn't know. I am hugely grateful to Mrs Delaine and Mr Sanders for the time they put in, at short notice, to ensure the pupils were performance ready. I think it was an evening that those pupils will not forget."

St Benet's CEO, Richard Cranmer, also attended the Commissioning Service and commented, *"The children's singing was jaw dropping, they sounded like opera singers in the stunning surroundings of the Cathedral. I congratulate the children and Mrs Delaine and Mr Sanders for their hard work in putting on such an amazing show."*





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.



Press & PR

From 31st May 2024 you should contact 01603 550147 or 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.



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.
Please email your vacancies to: hr@donesc.org.



Operational Updates from DoNESC-1

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

Operational Changes in DoNESC

Over the past few months there have been a number of operational changes predominantly in the Finance Service at DoNESC, which involve individuals that many schools and central teams would regularly interact with.

They have recently seen the departure of David Fannon, the Financial Controller, and have also seen the departure of Scott Buxton, the Finance Processing Team leader and two finance processing team members, Rebecca Bay and Paul Harris.

DoNESC have been fortunate to appoint Kirsty Vassallo, who was previously the DNEAT Executive Team PA into the Finance Manager - Processing Team role and Kirsty is actively recruiting to the Finance Administrator vacancies in her team.

DoNESC are not immediately replacing the Financial Controller role, and the responsibilities that sat with this role will move to Stephen Beeson who will provide direct management support to the Finance Team.

Recruitment Update

We are excited to announce the development of an Applicant Tracking System to modernise and streamline the recruitment process for all academies and ensure a positive experience for candidates.

We are working with Teacher Booker and Education Job Finder and are currently in the set-up stage of the programme, with a planned release, including training, to all academies in January 2025.

Within this we will also be updating various safer recruitment documents and contacting each academy around the creation of standardised advert wording, so please keep an eye out for these comms. I will also be scheduling a webinar for School Business Managers to attend, to hear more information around the positive changes this system will bring, the planned timeline, and give a forum for any questions. This is an exciting next step for the Trust, and we look forward to sharing more details in the coming months.

Chloe Humphrey, Recruitment & Apprenticeships Officer

Nourish Christmas Lunches

As we move towards the transition of catering suppliers for most schools over the next half term, there have been a few enquiries about Christmas lunch dates in the lead up to the end of term.

TUPE meeting are now in the process of being held, or have been diarised to be held by both your outgoing supplier and Nourish.

Nourish will then be engaging with the schools more actively as you approach the date that they take over and during these discussions they will be asking about your school's preferred dates for your school Christmas lunch so that you can get planning!



Diocese of Norwich
Education
Services Company



Operational Updates from DoNESC–2

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

Phishing - Reporting Suspicious Emails to Ergo



'Phishing' is when criminals use scam emails, text messages or phone calls to trick their victims. The aim is often to make you visit a website, which may download a virus onto your computer, or steal bank details or other personal information.

Scammers will try to gain your trust and look to pressurise you into thinking rashly and too quickly. Some examples are:

1. **Authority** - Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want. This could also be an email claiming to be someone from within your organisation, with an email address that is only slightly different from the correct one.
2. **Urgent** - Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.
3. **Emotion** - Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.
4. **Scarcity** - Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.
5. **Current Events** - Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times

Please always be ultra vigilant and take a moment to consider if the email looks to be suspicious.

If you are even slightly suspicious, please report to Ergo immediately via:
support@ergo.co.uk



Governance Update–1

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).



Data Protection Daily

All personal data must be protected but remember that data related to children is always afforded a higher level of protection. As we get settled into the new school year now, here are a few quick reminders:

1. If you are filling out a form with a child's details always start a fresh blank form. I understand it can be tempting to overtype if it is something you do a lot, but it might not be worth the risk for those few extra minutes.
2. Autofill in emails is not always our friend – take the time every time to double-check your recipients.
3. Only keep what you really need and only in as many places as absolutely necessary – avoid creating/saving extra electronic copies if you can.
4. If you are working on a computer – lock your screen every time you walk away.
5. When mistakes do happen, be open and report them either to your manager/Headteacher or straight onto the online form. We have developed a great culture of openness over the last year – let's keep that going.

Reminder - Mandatory Training

Training on Data Protection for **anyone** in an organisation handling personal data is a requirement of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR). For this reason, all school staff are being asked to complete three 15-minute modules on IAM Compliant:

1. GDPR Overview
2. Data Handling (Best Practices)
3. Data Breaches

Central Team members, Headteachers, School Business Managers and all DoNESC colleagues have already completed this training requirement.

The deadline for completion is the end of the term (31st December). Headteachers have been asked to arrange for this training to be made accessible on IAM Compliant for their own school teams. I know that some Headteachers have already included the training in the INSET days earlier this month, for which I am grateful. I understand that everyone is busy, but it is important that the Trust can demonstrate compliance with the law. There is already wide use of IAM Compliant in the Trust, so the training should be easy to access.

From now on, these will become annual requirements, and I will send reminders and monitor compliance as the Data Protection Officer for the Trust. If you have any questions about accessing the training on IAM Compliant please don't hesitate to contact Hannah Monk at governance@donesc.org.

Resources

[Subject Access Request Logging Form](#)

[Subject Access Request Guidance](#)

[Data Breach Reporting Form](#)

[GDPR 101 for School Leaders](#)

[Data Protection Resources on the Trust Website](#)

[Information Commissioner's Office Website](#)

Governance Update–2

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Welcome to a New Trustee



Sarah Brownsword

Sarah Brownsword is a lecturer in Primary education at the University of East Anglia; she teaches the English and Primary Languages components of the Primary PGCE course and is the course co-Director.

Sarah is interested in race and diversity in education, particularly in the context of children's literature and reading, and improving teachers' racial literacy. She is currently completing a Doctorate in Education (EdD), writing her thesis on representation in children's books used in primary schools.

Sarah is a member of the British Educational Research Association (BERA) and is on the National Council for the UK Literacy Association (UKLA).

We are delighted to welcome Sarah to the Board of St Benet's MAT.

Update to Trust Safeguarding Policy

The Trust Safeguarding Policy has been amended since it was circulated on 9th July 2024. The changes were emailed to Headteachers and Offices to be actioned in the academy policies on 24th September 2024.

If you have any queries or didn't receive the amendments, please contact the Governance Team via the DoNESC Helpdesk.

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

Open the Book

There has been some recent discussion around the checks that are made in terms of Open the Book. Further information on Open the Book can be found here:

https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwr9m3BhDHARIsANut04aJmclD9Mg6w7KQHe136fuACLVkWRA_9TfJz4C_MEYcV7DD1HgAaXoaAhyXEALw_wcB

Open the Book are classed as visitors to the school. They are not in regulated activity and must not be left alone with children and must be fully escorted whilst on site.

They will have an Enhanced DBS without Barred List carried out by the church they are linked to but you do not need to see this.

They do not need to be recorded on the SCR.

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!

spectrum
.life



Where
wellbeing
works.

Upcoming CPD & Events

Trust CPD events over the next half-term are listed here. If you have any questions please contact suzannah.kay@stbenets.org

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30.09.24	ESL Network at NF (09.00-16.00); CUSP History—online (15.45-16.45)	Leaders' Forum at OH (09.00-14.00)	CUSP Geography—online (15.45-16.45)	PiXL National Conference, London	
07.10.24		CPD Materials Completed; St Benet's CUSP Champions Day at Acle Primary (09.00-15.30); CUSP Art—online (15.45-16.45)		RSL Group (15.40-16.40); CUSP DT—online (15.45-16.45)	
14.10.24	LA Data Support Session for HTs at OH (13.30-16.30)	CUSP Music—online (15.45-16.45)	EYFS Network (09.00-16.00)		
21.10.24					School INSET Day

Key:

OH - Orchard House NR20 3LR

NF—Newton Flotman Primary NR15 1PR

Curriculum and Assessment Review Launches Call for Evidence

The Curriculum and Assessment Review, chaired by Professor Becky Francis CBE, has [launched a call for evidence](#) today. Young people, parents, employers and education staff, leaders and experts are being invited to take part in a national conversation about how the curriculum and assessment system can better prepare young people for life and work.

[Read more about the review and the call for evidence](#)

[Respond to the call for evidence](#)

The call for evidence is open until November 22 and aims to bring everyone into the conversation about what's working well and what could work better in the curriculum, marking the next step in the government's independent review.

For more information about the review please contact : curriculum-assessment.review@education.gov.uk

And finally...



A New Director of Mission and Ministry for the Diocese of Norwich

The Revd Canon Richard Lamey has been announced as the Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of Norwich. In this role, he will be supporting parishes, clergy and lay leaders in the local church, as well as encouraging discipleship and vocations.

The new post is funded from external sources including grants from the Church Commissioners and the Anne French Memorial Trust. Richard will start in September 2024 subject to the usual legalities.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher said: *"We are very pleased to welcome Richard to the Diocese at this exciting time. He brings a wealth of experience of mission and ministry in a parish setting and at a diocesan level, which will give him great foundations for his work with us. I look forward to seeing all that God will do through him in this next season."*

Richard said: *"I am really excited to be moving to Norwich for so many different reasons, getting to know the area and the churches of the Diocese, joining a team of such commitment and vibrancy, finding out what God is already blessing and inspiring and encouraging others to join in with where God is at work."*

"It is also exciting that this is a new role and I am looking forward to helping to lead those working in Mission and Ministry as we support and encourage the local church to be more Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic, and as we listen together to local experience, local longings and learning from the things that are already working well in parishes, chaplaincies and new congregations across the Diocese."

Richard is currently Rector of the three Churches of the Parish of St Paul in Wokingham in the Diocese of Oxford. He is also the Area Dean of Sonning, a member of Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod, and Young Vocations Champion for the Archdeaconry of Berkshire.

Richard is married to Becca, a Secondary Maths Teacher and has three children who are 20, 19 and 18 and an elderly Border Collie called Bramble.