

## Football Success for St Mary's Junior Girls Football Team

Congratulations to the girl's football team at St Mary's Junior Academy in Long Stratton, who came third in the Premier League Primary Stars Under 11s Girls Cup, run by Women's Norwich City Football Club.



All of the girls played really well and were polite all day. They showed brilliant sporting spirit, shaking hands with opponents and congratulating them after matches.

The girls were resilient, after losing 4-0 in one of the games they were determined to win the next game and they went out and won 1-0! They were a fabulous group to take and we all had a really fun day. They even managed to watch 20 minutes of Norwich U23's playing against Watford at the end of the day!

**Miss Laura Richardson**  
Headteacher



**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 Sanctroft 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.**

## Sancroft Pupils Join Young Voices at the O2 Arena

**On 5th February, a group of 70 pupils from the Primary and Secondary Phase of Harleston Sancroft Academy returned to the O2 Arena in London for this year's Young Voices event.**



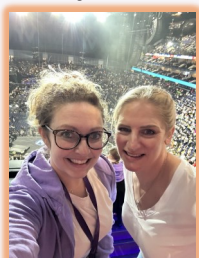
The event, which brings over 60,000 children to the O2 each year, believes that every child should be given the chance to find their love of music and, with a strong focus on accessibility, ensures that any child can attend.

The pupils, who have been practising the song and dance routines since July, had the opportunity to perform a range of classics, including pop and dance medleys and songs from Bob Marley, Shakira and the musical Hairspray.



In addition to their own performances, the children were able to sit back and enjoy performances from MC Grammar, Urban Strides, Strictly's Tommy Blaize, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Souparnika Nair.

It was an inspirational and unforgettable experience, enjoyed by staff, pupils and parents alike. We hope to return again next year!



**(L-R) Mrs Sarah Ablett, Primary Music Lead, Y5 Teacher & Middle Leader Y4-6**

**Mrs Jane Price, Head of Primary Phase**





## Dickleburgh Primary Pupils Explore Science at Norwich Cathedral

Year 4 and Year 5 from Dickleburgh CofE Primary Academy took part in Norwich Cathedral's Sacred Science morning last week, part of the Norwich Science Festival 2025.

They learned about how science was used in the design of the building and that when the Cathedral was built 900 years ago there was no electric light and that candles and windows were the only source of light.

They learned that the stained-glass windows are translucent, depicting stories from the Bible and how the colours are produced by the glass absorbing light.

They used a compass to work out where the sunlight was coming from in the crossing and learned that when the Normans built the Cathedral, they used arches everywhere because the arch shape distributes the forces along the arch and down the pillars; lying on their backs they studied the amazing vaulted ceiling.

*Did you know that when the Cathedral caught fire hundreds of years ago, the limestone turned pink and you can still see that today? These are just some of the amazing science facts they discovered during their visit.*

The children's behaviour was exemplary and was commented on by the members of the public who were visiting the Cathedral at the same time.

**Mrs Moira Croskell**  
Executive Headteacher



## Pupils at Diss Junior Academy Become Young Interpreters

We are delighted to announce that seven of our pupils have successfully completed their Young Interpreters training!

The Young Interpreters scheme equips children with valuable skills to support new classmates, particularly those who are learning English as an additional language.

Our trained Young Interpreters use a range of strategies to help new pupils feel welcome, settle into school life, and overcome language barriers.

Young Interpreters can be speakers of English only or speakers of other languages, but what they all share is empathy, kindness, and a willingness to help others. We are incredibly proud of our new Young Interpreters and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our school community!

These were awarded on Friday 31st January,

**Miss Nikkie Jack**  
School Administrator





## 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).



## St Benet's Updated Policies

### S17 Finance Policy - in year update and approval

The Trust Finance Policy has been updated with the changes noted below. This version of the policy should be used going forward, please ensure that staff are aware.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of
18	6.6	Additional clarification on procurement requirements and ability to waive	Jan 25
50	App 1	Addition of approves for centralised utility costs and operational Heads of	Jan 25

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

- HR10 Ex-Offenders Statement
- HR12 Lone Working Policy
- HR14 Maternity Policy
- HR21 Menopause Policy
- HR25 Secure handling of information provided by the DBS

These policies have been uploaded to the St Benet's website (<https://stbenets.org/about-us/model-policies/>) and shared with Headteachers and Office Teams.

**All staff should be aware that these policies have been updated and are now in circulation.**

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

## 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](mailto:suzannah.kay@stbenets.org)

Week commencing	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
24.02.25				Online SEND Network (15.45-17.30)	
03.03.25		Headteacher Workshop at Orchard House: Focus on Attendance (09.00-16.00)			
10.03.25	CUSP Science—online (15.45-16.45)	Leaders' Forum at Orchard House (09.00-14.00)	CUSP Art—online (15.45-16.45)	CUSP History—online (15.45-16.45); ESL Network at St Mary's Junior (09.00-16.00)	
17.03.25	CUSP Geography—online (15.45-16.45)		CUSP DT—online (15.45-16.45)	CPD Webinar (17.00-18.00)	
24.03.25		Strategy Development Day at Orchard House (09.00-16.00); CUSP Music—online (15.45-16.45)		Diocesan Headteachers' Conference at Norwich Cathedral (08.45-15.30)	
31.03.25	MSL Network (09.00-16.00)				
EASTER					



## 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](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 Jodie Ballard, PA to the Diocesan Director of Education, at: [jodie.ballard@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto: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 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!**



spectrum  
.life



Where  
**wellbeing**  
works.





# 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