

St Mary's Junior Academy Steps Back in Time to Celebrate VE Day



The air above St Mary's Junior Academy buzzed with a different kind of excitement last week as the school and local community joined together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. The grounds echoed with the tunes of the 1940s and the roar of vintage aircraft overhead. It was a day where generations connected, to honour the sacrifices and hard-won peace of 1945.

The heart of the celebration lay in the community event held on the school grounds. Classrooms were transformed into mini-museums, showcasing a fascinating collection of memorabilia from the 1940s. Ration books, gas masks, and yellowed photographs offered tangible links to a bygone era, sparking conversations between young and old. Children listened intently as local residents shared personal anecdotes of wartime life, bringing history vividly to life.



(Photos include a newspaper from the start of the war, a gas mask and a Civil Defence Corps badge worn by the great grandparent of a St Mary's pupil)



Adding to the nostalgic atmosphere were performances from Years 3 and 5 that transported attendees straight to the dance halls and air raid shelters of the 1940s. A beautiful duet was performed by Martha (Yr 3) and Violet (Yr 5) evoking memories from some of visitors from the local care home. Pupils, dressed in period attire, sang wartime classics with gusto.

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However, the undisputed highlight of the day was the spectacular air show orchestrated in partnership with nearby Tibenham Airfield.

As the afternoon went on, the unmistakable drone of vintage engines filled the air. A magnificent array of World War II aircraft soared gracefully above the school. A Lancaster Bomber made several passes; a poignant reminder of the strategic air campaigns that helped secure victory. The collective gasp of awe from the crowd, young and old alike, spoke volumes about the enduring fascination and respect for these historic machines.



The event was more than just a commemoration; it was a powerful educational experience. By immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and stories of the 1940s, the children gained a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made and the profound significance of VE Day. The presence of local veterans, sharing their firsthand experiences, added an invaluable personal dimension to the learning.

The success of the day was a testament to the strong community spirit surrounding St Mary's Junior Academy.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to transform the school grounds, local residents generously loaned their treasured wartime artifacts, and Tibenham Airfield went above and beyond to deliver a truly unforgettable airshow. The event served as a beautiful reminder of the importance of remembering the past, celebrating peace, and fostering connections between generations.



As the last of the vintage aircraft disappeared into the horizon, the smiles on the faces of the St Mary's community spoke of a day well spent, honouring the past and celebrating a brighter future.

Wartime Memories at Harleston Sancroft Academy

On 8th May, Harleston Sancroft Academy Primary Phase welcomed Pat Ballenger, a 99-year old member of our community, to share her WW2 lived experiences with us.

Pat was actually underneath the balcony, listening to Winston Churchill give his most famous speech, *'We shall fight them on the beaches...'*

She was also at Buckingham Palace, in the crowds at the same time as the then-Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, on VE Day itself in 1945. She remembers dancing the day away, with soldiers and sailors swinging from lampposts and everyone linking arms in jubilation.



Today, we celebrated those who fought for our freedom and remembered those who didn't come home. The Primary Choir, along with Lucy from the secondary phase, honoured Pat - a wartime nurse - with her favourite wartime song, *The White Cliffs of Dover*.

Our Town Crier, Norman Steer, lit the Peace Candle, a symbol that is being recognised all over the country, and led a 2-minute silence.

We followed this with the wonderful voices of Janine and Shannon who led us in song, whilst the children enjoyed a picnic lunch.



We closed our celebration with the whole school singing *'The Pipes of Peace'*. A truly wonderful day at HSA!



VE Day Street Parties at Beacon Federation Schools



VE Day Street Parties took place at both Beacon Federation schools (Dickleburgh and Garboldisham) including Dickleburgh Pre-School, who made their own bunting for the occasion.

The children had a wonderful time listening to some of the music from the 1940s as they ate. The playgrounds were decorated with bunting.



The work carried out by the pupils at Garboldisham was then used by the village to decorate the Village Hall for their celebrations last weekend—placing the school firmly at the heart of its local community.

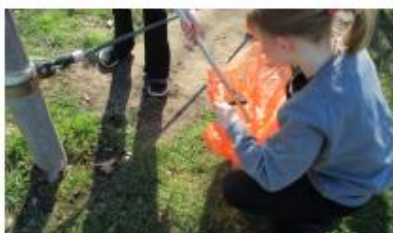


Moira Croskell
Executive Headteacher

Harleston Sancroft Academy Pupils Help To 'Keep Harleston Tidy'

Litter Picking at Harleston Sancroft Academy Primary Phase

This year we were approached by members of the school community about litter picking and we were pleased to support them by loaning our litter pickers and hoops. The school got in touch with us and shared the following:



'Each year, we take part in the Great British Spring Clean and this year, each class will take part in a litter pick either on the school ground, down school lane or in the town.'

Through our litter picks, our aim is to encourage our children at Harleston Sancroft Academy, primary phase, to become Litter Heroes by engaging in litter-picking activities and helping to 'Keep Britain Tidy.' Today's young people are the key to eliminating litter and ending waste for now and for future generations.

We as a school want to develop passionate environmentalists who aim to eradicate litter. To this effort, they were also running a sponsored litter pick and tidy up at home over the Easter holidays and have set a competition to design 'Don't Drop Litter' posters which will be displayed on school lane and Redenhall road.'

If you run a community group and would like to conduct a litter pick in the local area please do get in contact about borrowing our litter pickers and hoops—we have a few available and we are happy to help where we can.



Acle Primary Awarded CUSP Lead School Status

We were both delighted and honored to welcome Alex Bedford, author and creator of CUSP, to carry out a Lead School Review earlier this month.



Whilst he was here, he was able to officially present the school with 'CUSP Lead School' status – a significant achievement as one of only 12 schools nationwide!

Congratulations to all staff involved in embedding and delivering the CUSP curriculum, especially Mrs Tovell who has led this curriculum work.

Nadine Avenal
Head of School & Trust Improvement Lead for SEND

Can you help?

Jessie Montagu (a clinical psychology trainee at UEA) is conducting a feasibility study on a brief online training package focused on childhood anxiety for primary school staff (both teaching and non-teaching staff). This is a follow-on from a previous study (which was received well by school staff), to extend the research further.

The study involves primary school staff to take part at two timepoints. The first timepoint will ask staff to complete three brief questionnaires before and after completing the training. The second time point, completed four weeks later, will ask staff to only complete three similar brief questionnaires. As the study is completed online, this should allow school staff to complete this at a time that is suitable for them.

They are looking to recruit any education staff working directly with children aged 4-11 years old. This may include teachers, teaching/learning support assistants, pastoral staff, and any other member of school staff who work directly with children aged 4-11 years.

They are trying to recruit participants from a range of demographic backgrounds so sharing the study with colleagues from all parts of the country will be important to do this. Further information is available below.

Online Training on Childhood Anxiety for School Staff



What is the current study?

We are looking to extend the evaluation of a newly-developed online training on childhood anxiety for school staff.

Who can get involved?

If you are a member of staff in an education setting who works directly with children aged between 4-11 years-old then you may be eligible to participate!

You may be a teacher, teaching / learning support assistant, a member of the pastoral support team, or in another role. We welcome anyone from any role as long as you fulfil the criteria described above.



What is involved?

There will be two timepoints to the study and your participation in both is strongly encouraged. The study will be completed online via a secure link.

The first timepoint will involve you completing an online training focused on childhood anxiety and answering three questionnaires before and immediately after the training. This is estimated to take around 75 minutes but may be shorter / longer depending on how long you take to answer the questions.



The second timepoint will be completed four weeks after you have completed the first timepoint. You will only be asked to complete questionnaires and you will not be asked to complete the training again at this timepoint. You will be sent the follow-up study link via email should you choose to provide this to contact you with.

What will I gain by taking part?

It is hoped the training will provide you with an overview of childhood anxiety, the signs to look out for in children you work with, and learn some strategies to help children manage their anxiety in a school setting.

You can also opt in to be entered in a randomized prize draw to win one of 5 x £20 voucher for completing both timepoints of the study.



How can I get involved?

If you are interested in taking part in the study, to find out more information and to take part, please click the online link or QR code

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/uea/thesis-1>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Montague (Primary Researcher) on: jca23rpu@uea.ac.uk



Updates from DoNESC

IT Hardware Recycling Process for Schools

If you have IT hardware that you no longer need that needs to be recycled, please contact: [Cambridge IT Hardware Recycling](#) who will come and collect it when they are in your area. They are fully licensed and have the correct insurance to collect this equipment and to dispose of any data and information in an appropriate and confidential manner.

Please note - some manufacturers will provide cashback against new items so it is worth keeping some kit to use for this purpose when you are looking to buy new kit. The kit will need to be less than 8 years old to qualify for the trade-in/cashback deal.

As a guide example on an item OfficeXpress standardise for St Benet's, please see below.

Lenovo 100e Chromebook has a £50 trade-in value per device:

- Unit price approx £185–£50 trade-in value per device – after trade-in calculation £135
- On a half class set of 16, the trade-in value is £800

This is claimed by filling in the Lenovo trade in form once the items have been delivered and invoice received: <https://lenovoconnected.com/submit-claim/>

If you have any queries in respect of the trade-in options, please contact Daniel Molineux at dmolineux@officexpress.co.uk

Safeguarding Update

From Louise Veeren, Head of Safeguarding

Sharing of Nude and Semi-nude Images

This briefing sheet provides an overview of how all staff should respond to incidents where they become aware that nude or semi-nude images of students have been shared.

All incidents should be reported to a DSL and reported on CPOMS as a safeguarding concern.

Further information is on this sheet so please take a few minutes to read this. If you have any queries or questions around this then please speak to a DSL in your school.

[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident \(overview\) \(updated March 2024\) - GOV.UK](#)

New Survey on Smartphones - South West Grid for Learning

The SWGFL launched a new survey this month. It seeks to understand the concerns, expectations and experiences that parents expect to face after giving a child their first smart phone.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/take-our-survey-share-your-experience-on-your-childs-first-smartphone/>

Open, Closed and No Further Action on CPOMS

If you are logging an incident on CPOMS and you wish for this incident to be investigated, then leave the incident open. If you are logging something that you have dealt with and there is no further action, then please change the 'open' to 'no further action'. The DSL will still receive this as an alert but will know they need not take any action.

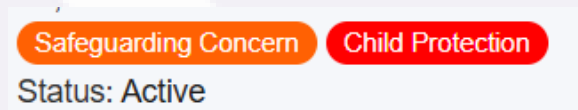
For DSLs that have dealt with incidents then please 'close' these incidents.

It makes the system much tidier and then DSLs can see which incidents they need to work with.

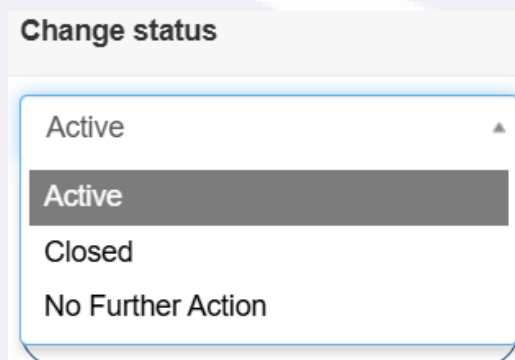
For DSLs - you can check on the incidents being open or closed during your DSL meetings.

For those schools that have many incidents open and need to bulk close, this can be done by someone with Headteacher permissions.

See below for the screen shot:



To change status:



A short animated video that can be shown to children and young people about working together to safeguard children, which you may find useful:

[An animated guide to Working Together to Safeguard Children for children and young people](#)

St Benet's is delighted to launch the Immeasurably More project across all our schools.

Applications for the Immeasurably More Fund are now open and we encourage all our schools to think about applying for one or more of the Awards and to start nominating pupils for the Champion of Change award.

"Immeasurably more than we can imagine"



The St Benet's Immeasurably More Project aims to actively promote, encourage and facilitate aspirational learning experiences across all the schools within the Trust, celebrating equality, diversity, belonging, inclusion and justice at every opportunity.

Opportunities for Schools

- ◇ Apply to the Immeasurably More Fund for money to support with financial barriers for specific projects focused on social change
- ◇ Apply for an Immeasurably More Than Award, in the following categories:
 1. Immeasurably More than just Pupil Leadership (inc Courageous Advocacy)
 2. Immeasurably More than just Celebrating Difference
 3. Immeasurably More than just Music and the Arts
 4. Immeasurably More than just a Curriculum
 5. Immeasurably More than just a School (once all above are achieved)

Opportunities for Pupils

- ◇ Schools will be able to nominate pupils to be a "St Benet's Champion of Change", awarded for instigating and following through with their own projects which are focused on issues of justice, responsibility and courageous advocacy



Upcoming CPD & Events

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

Week commencing	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
19.05.25	Y1/Y2 PiXL Assessment Window				
26.05.25	HALF TERM				
02.06.25			SEND CPD Day at The Parkside School NR2 3JA (09.30-14.30)	Headteacher's Workshop at OH (09.00-16.00)	
09.06.25	Beacon Fed KIT Visit (09.30-10.30); Diss & Scole PAP KIT Visit (11.30-12.30)	NF KIT Visit (09.30-10.30); AwD KIT Visit (11.30-12.30)	MSL Network (09.00-16.00); Acorn Partnership KIT Visit (09.30-10.30)		DSL Network—online (15.45-16.45); PiXL National Conference
16.06.25		Strategy Development Day at OH (09.00-16.00)	Swallowtail Fed KIT Visit (09.30-10.30); Lighthouse Fed KIT Visit (11.30-12.30)	SEND Network—online (15.45-17.30)	
23.06.25		CPD Webinar (17.00-18.00)	ESL Network at Acle Primary (09.00-16.00)		
30.06.25				Leaders' Forum at OH (09.00-14.00)	

KEY:

OH—Orchard House NR20 3LR
ARM—Academy Review Meeting
RSL—Raising Standards Leads
KIT—Keep In Touch

DSL—Designated Safeguarding Lead
SEND—Special Education Needs and Disabilities
NF—Newton Flotman Primary NR15 1PR
CPD—Continuing Professional Development

AwD—Alburgh with Denton IP20 0BW
T&M—Tacolneston & Morley Fed
EYFS—Early Years Foundation Stage



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.



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 Jodie Ballard, PA to the Diocesan Director of Education, at: 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.
Please email your vacancies to: 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.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.



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