

Congratulations to St Mary's Junior Academy for their Brilliant OFSTED Result!



Following a 2-day inspection on 3rd and 4th June, **St Mary's Junior Academy** in Long Stratton received their final report this week, which shows that the school was graded Outstanding in two OFSTED categories (Behaviour & Attitudes and Personal Development) and Good in the remaining two (Quality of Education and Leadership & Management). You can read the full report [here](#).

In January 2023, when the school was last inspected, they were graded as Requires Improvement. The very impressive improvement in a short period of time is a reflection of the amazing work done by Headteacher Laura Richardson and her team of dedicated staff, supported by Improvement Director Mark Carlyle.

Here are some quotes from the report:

Pupils love coming to this school. Pupils engage with positivity in lessons because they are interesting and enjoyable.

The school is a calm, quiet environment where pupils are happy and exceptionally well cared for.



Staff at St Mary's Junior

Pupils take pride in their work and concentrate well in lessons.

Staff are well trained to teach the curriculum.

There is highly effective support for pupils with SEND...The school has set up an effective and inclusive provision for pupils with SEND that need more support.

Leaders have turned this school around since the last inspection.



Headteacher Laura Richardson (centre)
with St Mary's staff

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, Pulham Primary, Scole Primary, St Mary's Junior, St Mary's Primary, Sutton Infant and Tacolneston Primary.

St Benet's Welcomes Pulham Primary Academy Into the Trust



On 1st July we were delighted to welcome **Pulham Church of England Primary Academy** as full members of St Benet's MAT.

Following conversion, the school will now be able to access the full range of St Benet's school improvement support and will benefit from DoNESC's support services.

Harriet commented, *"We are delighted that our school has officially joined St Benet's Multi Academy Trust—a momentous step in our journey, and one we are very proud of!"*

To mark this exciting occasion, the whole school came together for a day of celebration. The festivities began with a whole school photograph, capturing this milestone in our shared story. Pupils, staff, and local families also enjoyed a look back through the archives. This included the old school logbooks from the 1800s, newspaper clippings and many old class photos where generations of families could be spotted.



The day concluded with a special collective worship led by Reverend Carl and Gill, where we were honoured to receive a special blessing. It was a meaningful moment that brought our community together in faith and thanksgiving.

We look forward to all that lies ahead as part of the St Benet's family."



St Benet's CEO, Sam Nixon, added, *"We have been looking forward to Pulham joining St Benet's for a long time and I am delighted to now formally welcome them into the Trust. We are all looking forward to working with the staff, children and the community."*

St Benet's Cup Tournament Report



We would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who took part in this year's St Benet's Cup tournament on 30th June. We had a lovely, fun-filled day of football and we hope that you all enjoyed the event.

We want to say a huge congratulations to **Diss Junior Academy** for winning the St Benet's Cup 2025 with a total of 22 goals and 7 matches won. You were all fantastic sports and you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Results:

1st - Diss Junior Academy

2nd - St Mary's Junior Academy

3rd - Dickleburgh Primary Academy



Well done and thank you to all of the schools that attended the event. It was very warm and sunny but you were all so brilliantly behaved and well mannered. You each wore big smiles on your faces throughout the day and competed with great sporting conduct.

Thank you to all school staff for attending the event and being hands on, keeping track of scores and managing your teams - without you we wouldn't have been able to run the event, you are all amazing.

Finally, thank you to Long Stratton Hight School and their Year 9 sports leaders who refereed every game and helped to keep us on track of time and on top of the running scores, it is greatly appreciated.

We hope to see you all again next year for another awesome day of football and another shot at winning the St Benet's Cup.

Miss Whiting
PE Coordinator
St Mary's Junior Academy



St Benet's Pupils Visit the Norfolk Show

The annual Royal Norfolk Show provided an opportunity for some of our pupils to experience farming and science up close.

Pupils from **Diss Infant Academy** and **Scole Primary Academy** enjoyed looking at traction engines and learning about science in the Discovery Zone.



Years 3, 4 and 5 from **St Mary's Junior Academy** enjoyed meeting members of the emergency services and getting close to farm animals. Headteacher Miss Richardson reported that the children behaved extremely well.



Catfield Primary Academy pupils also made the most of their day at the Show.



Happisburgh Pupils Success in STEAM Competition

On Monday 23rd June, Mrs Watts was pleased to accompany Jessica and Ellena from **Happisburgh CE Primary Academy** to the final of the Gresham's Science, Engineering, Technology, Arts and Maths (STEAM) outreach competition.



The girls had qualified during our heat with Happisburgh and St Mary's Primary and headed to the final to take on teams from another 14 schools.

As part of the final they had to build a balloon-powered car, fire a pneumatic rocket with precision, and help a spherobot navigate its way through a course.

The girls were marked for each challenge on design, performance and, most importantly, teamwork. They performed brilliantly and were awarded **first place!**

We were so proud of their behaviour and achievements and we look forward to trying to retain our title next year!

Mrs Laura Watts
Executive Headteacher



New MIS Across St Benet's in September

We are pleased to announce that a new Trust-wide primary Management Information System will be rolled out to all St Benet's schools from September 2025.

The Trust Central Team and a group of our Headteachers, supported by Rosemary Ison from DoNESC, have gone through a lengthy appraisal process to identify the best system to replace Pupil Asset and Scholar Pack.

After much testing, we have identified [Juniper Education](#) as the providers of our new MIS. They will start the roll-out and training process from September, and have agreed that Pupil Asset will run concurrently with Juniper MIS for a number of months whilst the new software is embedded in our schools.

Your Headteacher will share full details of the training and implementation rollout in due course.



Updates from DoNESC

Message from Payroll

Lock and Approve Period - Summer Holidays 2025

If you are on summer holiday during the lock and approve period in August 2025, could academies please ensure that all August queries/variances/timesheets/absences/terminations/end of contracts/extension of contracts etc, are input in Edupay and approved on or before your summer holiday commences.

If you need assistance with the approval of your August 2025 payroll, please raise a ticket on the Helpdesk.

Debbie Kemp
Payroll & Pensions Officer

Message from Head of Safeguarding

KCSIE 2025

The very long awaited and delayed KCSIE 2025 has just arrived and the changes are very minimal and technical. There are no changes to Part One.

[Keeping children safe in education 2025](#)

As we use the Local Authority safeguarding policy for this, we will now wait for them to make their changes, I will add in Trust-specific sections (so you don't have to) and it will go to the Trust Board (who are aware of the delay) and ready for the policy.

I aim to get this to you before the end of term.

Louise Veeren
Head of Safeguarding

Updates from DoNESC

Message from the Governance Team

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

- **HR18 Shared Parental Leave Policy**
- **HR19 Redundancy and Restructure Policy** (*replaces HR19 Staffing Adjustment Policy*)
- **HR22 Domestic Abuse Policy**
- **HR33 Sexual Harassment Policy** (*New Policy written to encompass legal changes*)
- **S08 Charging and Remissions Policy**
- **S25 Staff Grievance Procedure**

These policies have been uploaded to the St Benet's website (<https://stbenets.org/about-us/model-policies/>) and circulated to academy Headteachers and offices earlier this week. **Please ensure that all staff are aware that these policies have been updated and are now in circulation.**

Circulation of policies by iAM Compliant from September 2025

Please be aware that from September 2025, new and updated Trust policies will be circulated via iAM Compliant. This will support a reduction in email traffic and reduce duplication across different platforms.

Editable versions of Trust policies can be downloaded from the **Documents > Policies & Procedures > DNEAT Policies / Documents > Policies & Procedures > St Benet's Documents**. Policies are then organised via their category e.g. NS02 Online Policy can be found in **DNEAT Non-Statutory Policies / St Benet's Non-Statutory Policies** and then numerically by their serial number.

We are aware that some academies already access editable versions of Trust policies in this way as the policies available on this area of iAM Compliant are currently 'live'.

From September 2025, the bank of editable versions of Trust policies will no longer be available on the Resources Hub of the Trust website.

PDF versions of Trust policies will continue to be published on the public-facing Trust website: <https://www.dneat.org/about-us/policies-procedures/> / <https://stbenets.org/about-us/model-policies/>.

If you have any questions or comments on policy circulation, please do contact the Governance Team via the DoNESC Helpdesk.

A reminder of this change will be circulated via eComms and B-Comms in the new academic year.

Thank you for your engagement with the policies process.

Tara Burrows
Governance Officer/Trust Clerk

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





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

Please contact 01603 550147 or info@stbenets.org with any press/media enquiries.

Diocesan Communications



Footprints magazine and Flourishing Together are circulated to all Diocesan schools. The latest editions can be read [here](#).

If you would like your school to be featured in either 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

St Benet's thanks all our staff for their hard work over the last year, and wishes you a very happy and relaxing summer break.