

Excellent SIAMS inspection result for Harleston Sancroft Academy



HARLESTON SANCROFT
ACADEMY



Following an inspection by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) on 8th and 9th October, we are delighted to report that Harleston Sancroft Academy, our all-through school, received a glowing report.

Amongst the comments in the report, the Inspectors stated that:

- *Driven by the vision and motivated by Christian love in action, expert leaders lead with compassion and service. This unites the school community, enabling pupils and adults to thrive.*
- *The robust all-through curriculum is broad and ambitious. It has been carefully devised to ensure that it is a reflection of the vision, enabling pupils to flourish.*
- *As a result of the deep desire for all to make a 'personalised journey towards excellence', leaders make bold choices to promote full inclusion. This means that those pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are nurtured and guided very effectively.*
- *The school has a strong sense of responsibility and proactively seeks to work to establish and develop meaningful partnerships with others. It is outward-facing, engaging with and serving families, the local community and other church schools.*
- *High-quality religious education (RE) is a feature of the school. This is because of the calibre and resourcing of the curriculum, along with the expertise of staff.*

Sancroft Chair of Governors, Revd Chris Hutton, commented, "As governors, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this outcome - pupils, parents, staff, the wider church community and St Benet's Trust as the schools' support team at the Diocese of Norwich. But above all, we want to thank Mr Connelly, Mrs Price and our senior leadership team for how they have created "a school community, founded on love, which enables pupils and adults to flourish."

Headteacher, Rob Connelly, commented, "I am absolutely delighted with the report and how it truly reflects the incredible work that goes on across our very special community and the role that everyone plays in this. None of this has been achieved by coincidence..."

We have spent so much time developing our culture and identity, what it means to be part of this community and the way in which we go about our work and daily interactions - the Harleston Way.

We have been deliberate and intentional in all aspects of our work, notably around curriculum development, pedagogy and practice and this is highlighted as a significant strength - the Sancroft Way."

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

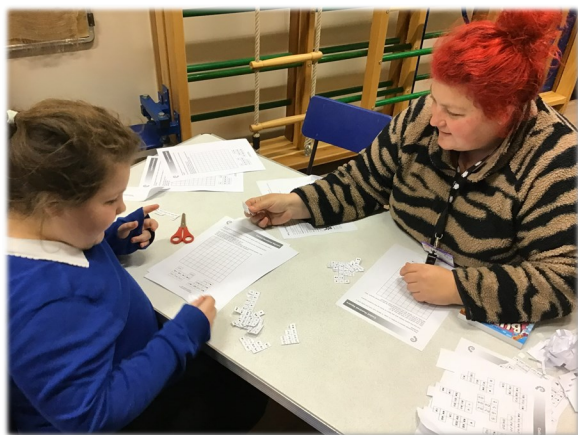
Pulham Primary hosts 'Bangers & Maths'

At Pulham C of E Primary we hosted a creative after-school event called 'Bangers & Maths' on Bonfire Night, designed to make maths fun and accessible for the whole family.

The session combined hands-on maths games and challenges with a relaxed, social atmosphere - complete with hot dogs and hot chocolate to keep everyone warm and happy!

Over 50 parents and children attended and worked side by side, exploring problem-solving activities that sparked curiosity and confidence in maths. The event was a great help in strengthening our home-school partnerships, particularly in promoting a positive attitude towards learning.

Harriet Beckett
Headteacher



New Trustees join St Benet's Board

We are delighted to welcome two new Trustees to the St Benet's Board; Alastair Smyth and Simon Morley. We thank them for their commitment and contribution to the strong governance of our Trust.



Alastair Smyth

Alastair is an experienced transformation and change professional, who has worked across a number of sectors and businesses of different sizes and scales over the past two decades, providing guidance and advice on successfully embedding a wide-range of change initiatives.

Alastair has experience of leading school governance in Church of England schools within the maintained environment, a Trust Academy and a Federation structure. During this time, Alastair has provided support and guidance on managing change to school and Trust leaders, bringing a business-focused perspective to balance existing education expertise, alongside executing core governance responsibilities.

Outside of work, Alastair lives in a Norfolk village with his young family, and having been keenly involved with hockey locally for many years, spends what's left of his spare time largely focusing on junior coaching and umpiring.



Simon Morley

Before his recent retirement, Simon was Deputy CEO of DNEAT (Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust), with particular responsibility for school improvement.

He has broad and extensive experience in education, working in contrasting inner city and rural contexts. He had the privilege of being a Headteacher of 7 schools.

As a senior adviser for Norfolk County Council, he was responsible for leadership and system development for six years, whilst also working with schools of concern as an intervention officer and school improvement partner.

Simon was an OFSTED inspector for five years and is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching.

Immediately following retirement, Simon relocated to a dilapidated bungalow by the sea which requires a lot of work. He enjoys spending more time with his wife, three sons, their partners and four grandchildren. Simon's passion for the education sector remains and he is exploring opportunities to balance his more flexible lifestyle with consultancy and voluntary work.

Training/CPD events for the next half-term

| Week commencing | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|--------|--|---|--|--------|
| 17.11.25 | | Leaders' Forum at OH for Heads (09.00-14.00) | | DSL Network (online) (15.45-16.45) | |
| 24.11.25 | | CUSP Primary Computing Leads (online) (15.45-16.45) | EYFS Network: Visit to Cringleford Primary (09.00-16.00) | CUSP Primary RE Leads (online) (15.45-16.45) | |
| 01.12.25 | | LA Data Session: Understanding Your IDSR & ASP at OH (09.00-12.00) | | | |
| 08.12.25 | | | Optional Strategy Development Day for Heads at OH (09.00-16.00) | | |

Rollout of Juniper MIS across St Benet's

As the two Juniper Sonar training sessions have now taken place, we are moving our focus to the rollout of the MIS software across the Trust's schools.

Rosemary Ison (DoNESC Operations Manager) and Juniper are preparing a phased rollout implementation plan for the MIS software. This will involve in-person and online training sessions for admin staff members which will be scheduled a number of weeks ahead of your school's actual rollout date.

The MIS rollout programme started in October with Tacolneston & Morley Primaries and our remaining schools will follow on a phased basis.

Pupil Asset will continue to run alongside Juniper for a period of time as the new system beds in.

If you have difficulty logging into SONAR and the 'forgotten password' link is not working, please contact the Juniper support desk via: sonartrackerhelp@junipereducation.org or use the link: <https://help.junipereducation.org/>

DoNESC News

St Benet's Updated Policies

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

- NS10 Alternative Provision Policy
- S05 Health and Safety Policy (*updates to section 15. Keeping Livestock and School Dogs*)
- S11 Capability Policy

There has been a small correction for clarity in an appendix for the following policy. The approval date remains unchanged from when the previous version was circulated. Please use the updated version going forward:

- S10 Complaints Procedure

The following policy was updated and approved in March 2025. Thank you to the colleague who flagged that the policy was not included in the usual policy update notice in March:

- S12 Disciplinary Procedures for All Employees

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

Thank you for your assistance,

Tara Burrows
Governance Officer/Trust Clerk



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

Following the news that Paul Dunning will be retiring at the end of 2025, the Diocese of Norwich have announced the appointment of Chris Allen as his replacement. Chris will already be known to many of you from his role as Diocesan RE Advisor, and we wish him every success with his new role, which starts in January 2026.



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.



**Don't forget you can apply for funding from the Immeasurably More project
or submit an entry for an Immeasurably More award
or 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



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

For further information please visit the Immeasurably More section of the Trust's Resource Hub or contact Suzannah Kay on 01603 550147 or suzannah.kay@stbenets.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>

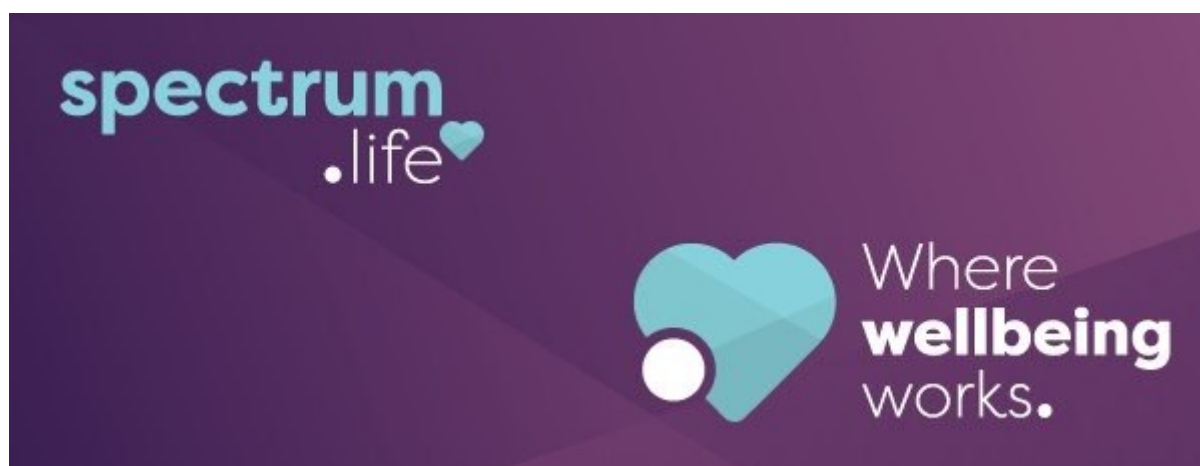
On the home page you will be asked to enter your name and email address, create a password and choose who you work for from a drop-down menu (you should choose St Benet's) and this will then take you through to the welcome page. If you download the app it will ask for your Organisation Code which is 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!





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