



## Christmas Across St Benet's

**This time of year sees our schools pulling out all the stops to celebrate the festive season, and share the magic of Christmas with their pupils and the wider community. We are delighted to showcase a selection of your events.**

### Beacon Federation



Pupils from Dickleburgh Primary Academy will hold their annual Nativity Service at All Saints Church on Friday.

This wonderful event showcases beautiful singing from the children, lead by Assistant Headteachers– and musical stars–Pippa Delaine and Alec Sanders, and a traditional telling of the Christmas story.

Pupils at Garboldisham Primary Academy also prepared for Christmas with a beautiful nativity scene in their village school.



**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





## Harleston Sancroft Academy

At Sancroft this week we hosted a lunch for over 120 Senior citizens... all local residents who were invited to join us for a full Christmas lunch (with all the trimmings), Christmas Carols sung by all of Year 7 and a compilation of nativity songs sung by our Reception children.

We also held a raffle, with every visitor leaving with a prize kindly donated by staff and members of the wider community.

This was such a wonderful event. We witnessed grandchildren serving and singing to their family members and former Sancroft students reflecting on their time at school back in the 1960s and 1970s.

The whole event was planned and organised by our brilliant support staff who were ably assisted by our student leaders in serving lunch, providing entertainment and creating a huge sense of joy across the school.

Today was a true reflection of our school values and mission in action - serving our community through love and kindness.





## Alburgh with Denton Primary Academy

On Monday 8th December, Alburgh with Denton Primary Academy school choir, led by the incredible Laura Wright, visited The Moorings Care Home in Bungay to spread festive cheer.

The residents were treated to a heart-warming performance of beautifully sung Christmas carols, filling the home with music, smiles, and true Christmas spirit.

It was a joyful and unforgettable experience for everyone involved!



On Wednesday 3rd December, families, and children from our after-school club attended the village Christingle service at Alburgh Church.

The church was filled with warmth and community spirit as everyone gathered to celebrate this special Christmas tradition.

The children took part with great enthusiasm, enjoying the festive atmosphere and learning about the meaning behind the Christingle.

It was a lovely occasion that brought everyone together at this magical time of year.

## Lighthouse Federation

St Mary's Primary Academy in Roughton sang at the Cromer Lights Switch-on on Saturday 6th December.

The children sang their hearts out and received many lovely comments from the audience







## Tacolneston & Morley Federation

Tacolneston Primary Academy celebrated the festive season with a Christmas lunch and a performance from the school's handbell ringers...



...followed by a traditional Nativity service.



Morley Primary Academy celebrated Christmas with a production of 'The Angel Who Lost Her Wings'.





## Message from the CEO...

**As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I want to offer my sincere thanks to every member of staff across our Trust.**

Your dedication, resilience and unwavering commitment to our pupils is inspirational. Each of you plays a vital role in shaping futures and the impact of your work is felt far beyond the classroom.

Christmas is a moment to pause, reflect and appreciate the communities we serve and the values that guide us.

Whether you celebrate the Christmas tradition or simply enjoy the change to reconnect with family and friends, this time of year reminds us of the importance of compassion, hope and generosity; qualities that underpin our Trust's ethos.

I am deeply grateful for your hard work and the kindness you show to one another and to our young people every day. I hope the holiday brings you rest, joy and the opportunity to recharge.

This Christmas we also say farewell to Paul Dunning, the Diocesan Director of Education, who retires after a long career at the Diocese of Norwich.

Paul has been a tireless supporter of St Benet's, and his wisdom, guidance and integrity will be much missed. I am pleased that he is staying on as Vice-Chair of Trustees so we will continue to benefit from his experience at Board level. I welcome his successor, Chris Allen, and wish Paul a long and happy retirement.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

**Sam Nixon**







## News from DoNESC

### Reminder - Pupil Christmas Cards and GDPR

A reminder that the school cannot provide a list of names (including first names) to parents for Christmas cards without parental consent for each child included. Giving out a class list is disclosing personal data. The task is not essential to the running of the school and so parental consent is required for this.

The GDPR does not apply to individuals, only organisations, so there is nothing to stop a pupil or a parent jotting down the names of everyone in the class, but the school as an organisation cannot provide a list without informed consent from every parent.

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

Kind regards,

**Tara Burrows**  
**Governance Officer/Trust Clerk**





## 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 after the January census.

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](mailto:sonartrackerhelp@junipereducation.org) or use the link: <https://help.junipereducation.org/>

**Juniper**  
Education



## 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](#).

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## 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).



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## Press & PR

Please contact 01603 550147 or [info@stbenets.org](mailto:info@stbenets.org) with any press/media enquiries.

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## 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](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](#).

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## Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: [www.stbenets.org](http://www.stbenets.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





## 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>

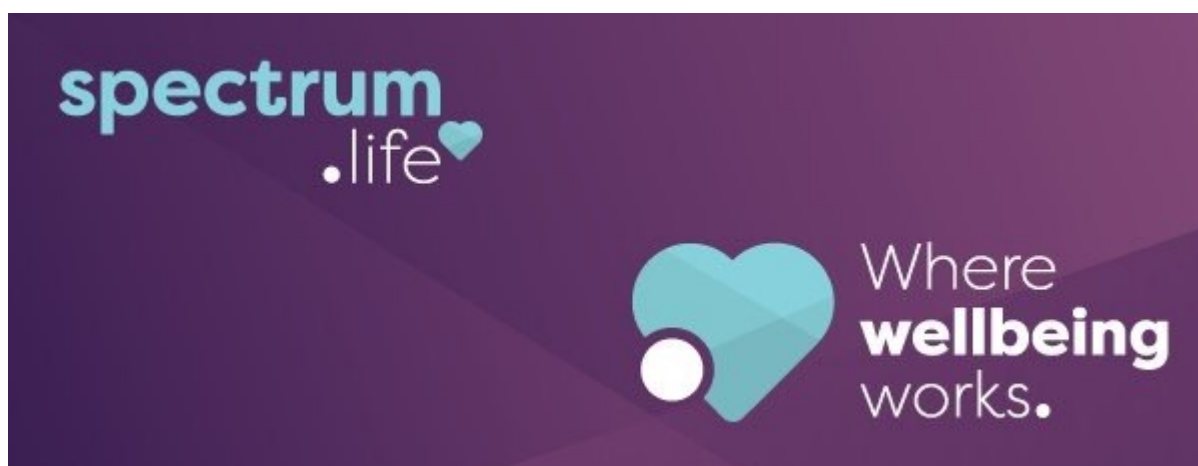
On the home page you will be asked to enter your name and email address, create a password and choose who you work for from a drop-down menu (you should choose St Benet's) and this will then take you through to the welcome page. If you download the app it will ask for your Organisation Code which is DoNESC. If you have any problems registering, please contact [wendy.allsop@donesc.org](mailto: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