

Harleston Sancroft Academy Students Play Starring Role in National Conference

We had the incredible privilege of taking 15 students to the FlourishED National Society of Education Conference in London on Thursday 22nd January. The conference was attended by over 350 delegates from across the UK, and international school and church leaders, with a theme of 'Children at the Centre'.

Our students performed a number of roles at the conference. They were the hosts on stage, hosted a panel discussion between professionals, shared their leadership stories with the delegates, welcomed guests, interviewed delegates, and supported the catering and registration team.

We are delighted to say that they performed these roles admirably and we were incredibly proud of their attitude, talent, professionalism and maturity. It is a real highlight in my leadership career - I am so proud of our students. Not just for their conduct and performances at the event, but also proud of the journey that each of them took to reach that destination. They shone on the national stage and this is something they can be very proud of and will serve to shape them for years to come.

Rob Connelly
Headteacher



Nigel Genders CBE, Harleston Sancroft Academy students & Rob Connelly, Headteacher



Roman Joseph and Daisy Gascoyne (Year 11 students) hosting a panel with Bishop Andy Emerton, Sonia Thompson, Headteacher of St Matthews School, Birmingham, and Dawn Haywood, CEO Windsor Academy Trust

Andy Wolfe, the Executive Director of Education for the Church of England, commented:

"I just wanted to write this morning to thank you both so much for bringing your incredible young leaders to our conference yesterday - as I said from the stage, they were an utter inspiration - from the way they hosted, shared about their own leadership journeys, and epitomised the culture of servant leadership we were trying to show our delegates throughout the day. They captured the audience right from the very first words spoken and this drew everyone towards the vision of the day."

Paul Dunning, Chair of Trustees, shared an email he received from Kathy Griffiths, CEO of the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust:

"From the moment delegates arrived, the pupils who greeted them at the door set such a warm and professional tone. Others supported the organisation throughout the event, and those who compered the key-note speakers from the stage did so with confidence, clarity, and real presence. Every one of them represented their school and the Trust with genuine pride. Their maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism were noticed and appreciated by everyone in attendance. They were fantastic ambassadors, and I felt incredibly proud watching them. I wanted you to know what a credit they were to St Benet's."

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

Beacon Federation Schools Lead the Way with Sustainability

Under the enthusiastic leadership of teacher Emma Parsons, pupils at Dickleburgh and Garboldisham Primary Academies are leading the way with sustainability and eco awareness at their schools.

The Dickleburgh Eco Council—which has a waiting list of children eager to join—meets weekly to plan their activities. They share their news on a board in the play-ground so the whole community can see what they are doing.

Last year they completed an environmental review, raised awareness of Cut Your Carbon, audited waste bins, collected natural waste to compost, organised Earth Day, planned their new school garden, ran surveys about laminating and signed up to an ink cartridge recycling programme. Wow!



Dickleburgh Eco Council



Garboldisham School Council

At Garboldisham they raised money for Banham Zoo and adopted a giraffe called Lulu, and also raised money for the World Wildlife Fund charity.

The schools have also signed up for the Anglian Water Eco Advocates Award and took part in the Great British Bird Count, the Big Butterfly Count and many other activities.

Their activities were presented by Executive Headteacher Moira Croskell at a recent Leaders' Forum meeting, highlighting the leading role that Beacon Federation are taking on sustainability issues.

If your school would like to share ideas and resources, please contact Emma at: eparsons@beacon.stbenets.org



A Message from the New Chair of Trustees

Having been involved with St Benet's when it was just an emerging idea, it is a great privilege to now serve as Chair of the Board. I have been a Trustee since the beginning and have witnessed the excellent work carried out by staff in schools, the central teams, Governors and Trustees to establish St Benet's as a vibrant and successful trust focused on achieving **'immeasurably more'** for our children and school communities. Thank you to everyone.



We have a dedicated and skilled group of Trustees, some of whom you will know through their engagement in the Academy Review Meetings (ARM) or other school activities. One task of the Chair and our governance professionals is to recruit new trustees and to consider succession planning. We have just recruited two new Trustees (Alastair Smyth and Simon Morley) and we have also produced a Trustee Recruitment Pack which can be viewed [here](#).

Having just said that I am privileged to serve as Chair, that is going to be for a relatively short time period as we demonstrate succession planning in action! Alastair, who has previously been Chair of the LGC at the Acorn Partnership, has been identified by the Board as the next potential Chair and he and I will be working closely together during this academic year with a plan that Alastair takes over the role in September 2026. He is keen to visit some of our schools before this and get to know St Benet's better.

Trustees remain committed to enabling two-way communication between the Board and schools. ARMs are a vital part of that, and we have recently introduced a twice-yearly forum with Trustees and Chairs of LGCs. On top of this we are introducing a short summary of pertinent matters covered in Board meetings to share with our Local Governance Committees. B-Comms is another way all staff can get involved and share their good news stories; I for one love reading all that is going on! The Board is always open to hearing suggestions you might have to help with communication across the Trust.

We are well aware of the significant challenges in the school sector. However, I always remain hopeful because I see our Christian ethos lived out day by day as staff and volunteers put the needs of children and young people first. Our four values of **honesty, courage, compassion and hope** are real guiding principles. Thank you for all you contribute, and I pray that 2026 will be a year of encouragement and blessing for you all.

Paul Dunning

DoNESC Updates

Catering

Trust caterers, Nourish, recently held a Winnie the Pooh theme day across our schools.



Governance

The latest Governance Bulletin is available here: [St Benet's MAT Governance Bulletin - 27 January 26](#)

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 or use the link here: <https://help.junipereducation.org/>

Training/CPD Events for the Next Half-term

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
02.02.26	Acorn P'ship ARM (09.30-11.30); Pulham ARM (14.00-15.30)	Diocesan Collective Worship Network-online (15.30-17.00); CUSP Primary Writing Leads-online (15.45-16.45)	Sancroft Primary ARM (09.30-11.00); Sancroft Secondary ARM (11.30-13.00)	Christianity as a Global World Faith– Diocesan online training (16.00-17.00)	
23.02.26				DSL Network– online (15.45-16.45)	
02.03.26			Headteachers Workshop at OH (09.00-16.00)	RSL Network (15.40-16.40)	
09.03.26	CUSP Primary Science Leads	Leaders' Forum at OH (10.00-15.00)		CUSP Primary History Leads	
16.03.26		CUSP Primary Art Leads		CUSP Primary DT Leads	Diocesan Headteachers Conference at Norwich Cathedral (08.45-15.30)
23.03.26	CUSP Primary Geography Leads	Strategy Development Day at OH (09.00-16.00); CUSP Primary Music Leads			

Note: All CUSP events run from 15.45-16.45 online



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



**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>

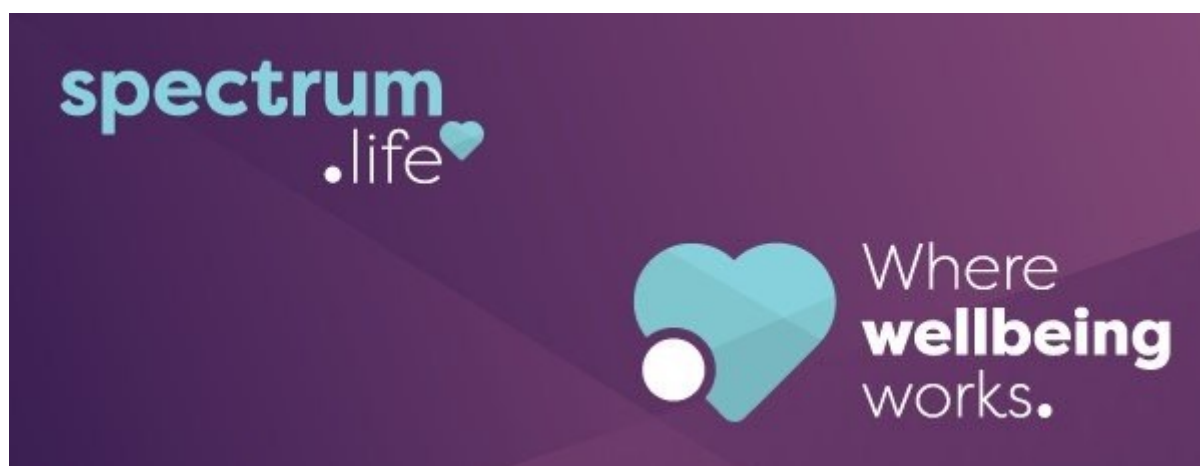
On the home page you will be asked to enter your name and email address, create a password and choose who you work for from a drop-down menu (you should choose St Benet's) and this will then take you through to the welcome page. If you download the app it will ask for your Organisation Code which is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

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