

This is the 100th issue of B-Comms since it was launched in November 2020!

To celebrate this milestone, this issue will focus entirely on our schools and the great work that goes on within them.

Back in 2020, as you can see on the right, St Benet's consisted of 6 schools. We have now grown to 19 schools, with 2 more (Worstead and The Belfry) due to join us very soon.

Our Central Team has changed too, with a new CEO and the addition of two Improvement Directors - Paul and Mark - and several part-time Trust Improvement Leads - Kelly, Nadine, Jane and Laura.

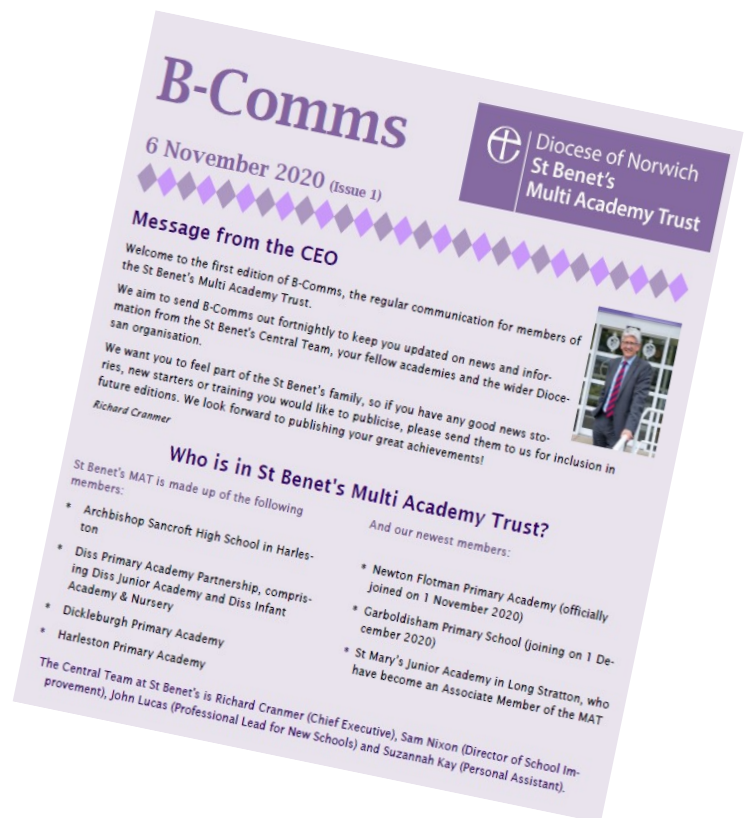
What hasn't changed, however, is the Trust's conviction that all children and young people in our academies can achieve their God-given potential, and our values of:

Honesty, Courage, Compassion and Hope.

St Benet's CEO, Sam Nixon, commented:

"Over these past 100 issues, we have shared so many inspiring stories that reflect the dedication, and care of those working in our schools. Each one is a testament to what is achieved each day across our family of schools.

I look forward to the next 100 issues, as we continue to celebrate the remarkable things happening every day across St Benet's."



Immeasurably more than we can imagine.

Ephesians 3:20

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

Scole Church of England Primary Academy Explore the Amazon!

The children at Scole Church of England Primary Academy took part in an exciting and immersive **Amazon Experience Day**, delivered by Ray from Back to Wilderness. The day provided pupils with a unique opportunity to explore life in the rainforest and develop their understanding of survival in one of the world's most challenging environments.



The experience began with an engaging introduction, where pupils were introduced to the Amazon through discussion and video content. This sparked curiosity and led to thoughtful questioning, as children shared their prior knowledge and developed a deeper understanding of the rainforest ecosystem.

Pupils then took part in a hands-on 'show and tell' session, where they explored a range of authentic equipment used in jungle environments. This included rucksacks, dry bags, tarps, hammocks and examples of appropriate clothing and footwear. Ray also demonstrated a selection of tools used in the rainforest, carefully explaining their purpose and ensuring all demonstrations were carried out safely.

The final part of the session focused on practical survival skills. Pupils observed a range of fire-lighting techniques, including flint and steel, fire steel and a bow drill friction method. This provided a valuable insight into both traditional and modern bushcraft approaches. For those willing to take on an additional challenge, there was also the opportunity to try edible insects, offering a memorable and authentic glimpse into life in the jungle. Notably, a number of adults also embraced the experience, including staff members and Improvement Director, Paul Seeman! The children even asked for more critters at lunch time!



Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent engagement, enthusiasm and curiosity. The experience supported learning beyond the classroom, enabling children to develop resilience, independence and a greater appreciation for the natural world.

Scole would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ray for delivering such an informative and inspiring experience. The school is also extremely grateful to FOSS for generously funding the day, making this valuable opportunity possible for all pupils.

Ben Aylmer
Senior Teacher

Newton Flotman Church of England Primary Academy Learn About Livestock

As part of the 2026 Learn about Livestock programme, pupils at Newton Flotman Primary Academy cared for two lambs and a ewe for a week in March.

The children had the chance to feed and care for the animals and learn important information about livestock and the farming industry.

Isla (Year 6 pupil) said, *"I have enjoyed looking at them throughout the day and would love it if this happened every year."*

Headteacher Mr Riley added, *"This has been an invaluable experience for the children. They have cared for the animals in such an empathetic way and the lambs and ewe have captured the hearts of pupils and adults alike. During the week, the children have learnt about farming and its importance to our locality. I would encourage any school considering doing this next year, to take a leap (pun intended!)."*

Adam Riley
Headteacher



Swallowtail Federation Embrace Forest Schools

At the Swallowtail Federation, we are proud to offer Forest School sessions to all the children.

We are blessed with the most beautiful school grounds on all 3 sites, which lend themselves naturally to this provision. Forest School is a firm favourite with our pupils and is often the thing they look forward to most at school.

Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners. Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves.

Natalie Butcher
Executive Headteacher



Harleston Sancroft Academy Supports Trainee Teacher



Over the last term, Harleston Sancroft Academy has been supporting a trainee teacher. At the end of his placement he reflected on his time with us, and I would like to share some of his comments with you.

We are so proud that he has witnessed the special environment that we work so hard to nurture.

Rob Connelly Headteacher

"As I reach the end of my second placement, I am surprised by the speed at which the journey has taken place and at the profound way this experience has shaped my developing identity as a teacher. Entering a faith school, I carried with me a number of preconceptions that I hoped would be challenged, and they have been, in the most meaningful ways. What I have encountered is a community grounded in values that are lived rather than simply written: love, kindness, dignity, and mutual respect between adults and pupils. It is a school with a distinctive ethos, led by an inspiring headteacher whose vision permeates daily practice. I feel fortunate to have learned in such a setting, and I know the lessons I take from this placement will continue to shape my career long after training.

Behaviour here is shaped through the Secure Base Model and restorative conversations and this approach has shown me how safety, belonging, and emotional attunement can underpin strong behaviour.

My classroom practice has continued to evolve... Here, I have refined my ability to create calm, purposeful learning environments where pupils feel safe to think, question, and take intellectual risks. The school's ethos, grounded in compassion and mutual respect, has encouraged me to consider not only how pupils learn, but how they feel while learning.

I have continued to use explicit instruction, modelling, and structured practice, but with a greater emphasis on relational warmth and emotional safety. Observing colleagues who seamlessly blend high expectations with deep care has helped me refine my own presence in the classroom. I have also strengthened my ability to anticipate misconceptions, pace lessons responsively, and use questioning to stretch and support learners.

This placement has helped me see that effective learning is not only cognitive but also relational; pupils learn best when they feel valued, respected, and understood."



London Trips and Science Fairs for Pupils at Harleston Sancroft Academy Primary Phase

In October, we took a group of Year 6s on an exciting residential trip to London, staying at the YHA in Cheshunt and visiting a number of our capital's sights and cultural icons.

Our itinerary included a Thames river cruise, a visit to the Tower of London and seats at the stunning production of the musical *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria. In addition, they enjoyed a morning at the Science Museum where they experienced science being brought to life and time to explore the amazing Wonderlab. For many, this was the first time they had been to London and stayed away from family, and for most, it was the highlight of their year.



Each year we host a Science Fair in Science Week and the investigations and experiments get better and better. The children host their own stalls and share their knowledge with pupils and parents throughout the day. All the investigations and experiments are interactive and hands on.



The children really engage and learn from their peers. Each child gets the chance to vote for the experiment or investigation that really piques their interest or sparks their curiosity.

In January, we took our Primary Phase Choir to the iconic O2 Arena to take part in Young Voices. This spectacular annual event brings together thousands of primary school children, forming the largest choir in the world for an unforgettable performance.

The choir had the exciting opportunity to perform alongside Ruti Olajugbagbe, from 'The Voice', adding to the energy and inspiration of the evening. In the lead-up to the concert, the choir spent months learning a shared repertoire of songs, including a range of lively and uplifting songs such as *Power in Me*, a *Wicked* medley, and a selection of sea shanties.



Many children described it as "an amazing experience" and "one of my favourite days ever." The experience was truly memorable for all involved.



Jane Price
Head of School

Amazing Experiences for Pupils at Lighthouse Federation

As part of Science week, the children at Happisburgh CE Primary Academy enjoyed a visit from Sandra at Happisburgh Owls.

She told us all about these magnificent birds and gave the children the opportunity to hold them. It was an amazing visit which we hope we can repeat soon.



Happisburgh children have also been taking part in an archaeological survey led by Wessex Archaeology to log and record artefacts in the grounds of St Mary's Church.

This was a fascinating experience where the children learnt about their own community and how to preserve this knowledge for future generations.



At St Mary's Primary, the Eco Council have been encouraging children to think about sustainability and how to recycle and reuse.

As part of this we were joined by a local artist who helped us to make an amazing recycled mural using plastic bottles. It was great fun and good for the environment too!



Laura Watts
Executive Headteacher

Pulham Primary Pupils Reach for the Stars at the National Space Centre

Sainfoin Class (Years 5 and 6) enjoyed an unforgettable adventure this half term when they travelled to the National Space Centre in Leicester to support their science unit on Space. With an early 6.45am departure, the day began with bleary-eyed anticipation, and excitement was sky-high as pupils boarded the coach.



Throughout the day, the children explored the Space Centre's impressive galleries, discovering rockets, satellites, space suits, and hands-on exhibits that brought their classroom learning vividly to life. They had the chance to investigate how astronauts live and work (including a space station toilet and discovering if they would get space sickness), consider what makes planets unique, and experience the wonders of space from a whole new perspective.

The undisputed highlight of the trip was the planetarium show, where Sainfoin Class were treated to a breathtaking, fully immersive journey through our solar system. The giant domed screen and surround sound created the sensation of travelling across planets, weaving through asteroid belts, and soaring beyond the familiar skies of Earth. Many pupils described the experience as "*amazing*" and "*like really being in space!*"

After a full, busy day of exploration, the class returned to school at 7.30pm, tired but full of enthusiasm. It was, without question, a great day—one that deepened scientific understanding, sparked new curiosities, and left everyone inspired by the vastness and beauty of the universe.

Jen Lincoln
Class Teacher

Sporting & Literary Success at Tacolneston & Morley Federation

It has been a great Spring Term for Tacolneston and Morley Academies.

Earlier in the term, both schools took part in the county Panathlon sporting competition. The children had a fantastic time completing a multitude of activities related to balance, throwing, catching, aiming and sportsmanship skills.

As well as being praised for representing their schools in a polite and respectful way, the Tacolneston Team came in First Place to bring home the Panathlon trophy.

At the Wymondham cluster Reading Quiz, again both schools took part - with teams of avid readers testing their knowledge of books, authors, illustrators, themes, storylines and characters.

Both teams were excellent competitors and, scoring just 4 points behind the winning school, Morley came in Third Place in the end, taking home certificates and a sense of pride in their teamwork and achievement.



Andrew Phoenix
Executive Headteacher

Extra Curricular Fun at Beacon Federation Schools

This half term the pupils at Beacon have had many extra-curricular opportunities; here are just a few of them!

After allowing the Palgrave Players to use our playground as a car park one weekend, they paid us back by coming into Garboldisham Primary and carrying out a singing workshop using songs from The Lion King. The pupils made instruments, learnt the songs and acted out some scenes and animal movements. It was then all brought together for a whole school final performance. The Players were so impressed with our pupils' singing and performance ability.



We held an inter-Beacon football match with Years 5 and 6. Dickleburgh children travelled to Garboldisham to meet their year group friends. One team was more skilled than the other and easily won the first match. The children then took the initiative and decided they should mix the school teams to make sure everyone was on a winning side. We were so proud of their thoughtfulness, friendship and team spirit; truly encompassing the Beacon values.



We couldn't think of a better way to end this Spring Term than with a Boogie and a Bounce! Lots of fun for the children (and some brave teachers) over 2 days this week when Boogie Bounce visited both our schools.



Moira Croskell
Executive Headteacher



FREE Training!

Developing a Trauma Responsive School, April 21st and April 28th Face-to-Face Training

Launching in Spring 2026, a brand new 2-day course from Norfolk Virtual School developed in partnership with teams across Children's Services. Building on the foundation of theory, research and approaches shared in our whole school staff training 'Becoming a trauma and attachment aware practitioner', we are launching our enhanced training offer of 'Developing a Trauma Responsive School'.

The course is designed to deepen delegates' understanding of how to recognise and respond to the individual needs of pupils who have experienced trauma or attachment issues. It will support participants to use this knowledge to foster a culture of inclusion and belonging, and to provide meaningful guidance to staff as they embed trauma-responsive practice across the whole school or setting.

Please note - Where your school has not accessed the 'Becoming a trauma and attachment aware practitioner' whole school inset offer from the Virtual School please be aware a requirement of attending this course will be to arrange a future date for this to be delivered.

Tickets are available from www.eventbrite.co.uk, search for 'Developing a Trauma Responsive School'.

Exclusive Specialist CPD offer to St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust Staff



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

SENDCos and staff working with pupils with SEND are invited to attend a FREE one-day specialist event at:

Horizon School, Saturn Close, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4TD.

Friday 1st May 2026, 9.30am - 4:00pm

The day will include:

- A tour of the school
- Briefing with the Headteacher, Diane Chester, and Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo, Tina Stagg, to provide contextual information, school structure, and vision and values.
- Time to speak with different members of school staff throughout the day to find out how they support pupils with SEMH needs.
- Opportunity for Q&A.
- Training sessions will explore:
 - SEMH interventions used at Horizon School
 - Hamish & Milo Programme
 - How the 7 Cs are used at Horizon School
 - Regulation Support Plans & Risk Assessments

Please note: No pupils will be present on site on this day.

To book, please follow the link to complete a simple booking form by **Friday 24th April 2026**. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis (initially to no more than two per school):

<https://forms.gle/gYCxb4NXRr7NKNc7>

(Refreshments will be provided however please bring own lunch).

A collaborative project to support pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs (SEMH) across St Benet's MAT



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust



HORIZON

SCHOOL Lowestoft



Horizon School, Lowestoft, is a Pupil Referral Unit for students experiencing difficulties in their mainstream school which include being at risk of permanent exclusion. The school offers a range of short-term placements to identify barriers to learning, deliver interventions and educate children who need additional provision to support their Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) so that they can successfully move back into their mainstream school or in some cases onto an appropriate long-term specialist provision.

The school's aim is to fully meet the needs of each student and enable them to access an inclusive education; this at the heart of their curriculum design. The principles the curriculum is based on are: high expectations of behaviour and achievement, and the development of emotional regulation skills and learning skills to enable each student to successfully return to their mainstream school/specialist setting or achieve the qualifications to move on to a post -16 provision of their choice. The school underwent extensive refurbishment and moved into their current buildings in 2023 providing three services: Lower School, Upper School and Dragonfly (An NHS adolescent psychiatric unit).

For more information see: <https://horizonschool.org.uk/>

Thank You...



Nadine Avenal, our Trust Improvement Lead for SEND, would like to share a massive thank you to Mile Cross Primary School, and in particular Cathy Mann (SRB Outreach Teacher), Andrew Hardman (SRB Lead Teacher) and Stuart Allen (Headteacher) for welcoming members of St Benet's to visit the school last week, to spend time in their Learning and Cognition Specialist Resource Base (SRB), talking to children and staff and exploring the environment.

We came away thoroughly inspired with lots of new ideas to take back to school! We are very grateful for opportunities such as these to work closely with other local schools and specialist providers, something that the SEND Reform White Paper will be encouraging more of in the future.

From the moment we walked into the school, the passion and commitment to children's learning was evident with prominent celebration boards highlighting a range of achievements, a wide variety of children's work on display throughout the school, consistent visuals, embedded adaptive teaching practices and well-established routines.

Staff and pupils spoke with great pride about their school and all that it has to offer, and rightly so! Further information about the school and the SRB, including a Welcome Video, can be found here: <https://milecrossprimary.com/srb-specialist-resource-base>

Message from the Chair of Trustees



As I reflect on the fact that B-Comms has now been produced 100 times, it is a joy to remember so many highlights over the last six years. As a school trust set up by the Diocese of Norwich, our Christian vision, ethos and values have always been central and important to us as we welcome and value those of all faiths and none. The belief that we can achieve 'Immeasurably More' working together and trusting in the grace and love of God is a tangible reality in our schools.

Our fundamental mission is to enable pupils in our schools to truly flourish, and we have seen this demonstrated in many ways. Perhaps the most important are enabling all to reach their academic potential and to grow in character as they prepare for adult life. Our Ofsted outcomes and increase in results in national tests demonstrate the former and the stories we read in B-Comms plus our Immeasurably More awards demonstrate the latter (alongside splendid Ofsted grades for Personal Development).

We have grown from the four founding schools in 2018 to our current 19 schools, adapting along the way through challenging times. This is only possible through our dedicated staff in schools and the central team - you are all our greatest asset and blessing.

Thank you for all you do to contribute to our collective success. Keep the good news stories coming so we have plenty of content for our next 100 issues!

Warmest regards,
Paul Dunning

Training/CPD Events for the Next Half-term

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20.04.26		St Mary's Jnr ARM (09.30-11.00); NF ARM (11.30-13.00)	Acorn P'ship ARM (11.00-13.00)	North Star Fed ARM (tbc); Lighthouse Fed ARM (14.00-16.00)	Pulham ARM (11.00-12.30)
27.04.26	Sancroft Primary ARM (09.30-11.00); Sancroft Secondary ARM (11.30-13.00)	Diss & Scole ARM (09.30-11.30); Beacon Fed ARM (14.00-16.00)	Leaders' Forum at OH (10.00-15.00); CUSP Primary French Leads	TacMor Fed ARM (09.30-11.30)	AwD ARM (09.30-11.00); SEND Visit to the Horizon School
04.05.26	BANK HOLIDAY	Swallowtail Fed ARM (09.30-11.30); CUSP Primary RE Leads		DSL Network—online (15.45-16.45); CUSP Primary Computing Leads	
11.05.26	Diocesan Training: Collective Worship Network—online (15.30-17.00)			RSL Network (15.40-16.40)	

Note: All CUSP events run from 15.45-16.45 online OH = Orchard House