

17 September 2021 (Issue 18)

WELCOME to the latest issue of B-Comms, for schools and academies in St Benet's MAT.

In this issue we include some fantastic good news stories from our academies; your usual operational news and updates; and stories from around the Trust.

The Focus On Our People section on the last page will be back in the next issue.

Welcome from Richard Cranmer, CEO

Welcome back! Although a distant memory now, I do hope that you managed to enjoy a good break during the school holidays.

A special welcome to St Mary's, who are now a full member of St Benet's and to Tacolneston and Morley Primary Schools who join as Associate Members.

Providing high quality CPD for staff in our schools is a key aspect of our work and I would like to recommend the suite of NPQ's that are now available locally for teachers in, or aspiring to, a range of positions - more information on page 5 of this edition. I wish you all the very best for the academic year ahead.



Change Is In The Air

There have been so many changes over the last few months in the Trust, that it is hard to know where to start!

Firstly, we welcome St Mary's Junior Academy in Long Stratton as Full Members of St Benet's MAT. We also welcome Tacolneston & Morley Federation and Alburgh-with-Denton Primary School as Associate Members of the MAT.

We are delighted that Moira Croskell has been appointed as Executive Headteacher of the Beacon Federation, the new name for Dickleburgh and Garboldisham Primary Academies.

We congratulate Rob Connelly on being appointed as Executive Headteacher of the Harleston Federation, with Mark Carlyle appointed as Head of School at Harleston Primary, along with Jane Price as Deputy Headteacher and Dan Stagg as Assistant Headteacher. Emma Johnson is now Executive School Business Manager across the Federation.

Along with all the other new starters within the Trust—too numerous to mention - we offer you a warm welcome to the St Benet's family.

Good News Stories

Archbishop Sancroft High School were delighted to welcome students from the Class of 2019 back to ASHS at the start of term to support the on-site Lateral Flow testing programme for their current students.

As outlined in the DfE guidance, all secondary schools were required to administer 2 lateral flow tests to support the safe return of students. It was wonderful to welcome the ex-students back, employing them for a week to run the test centre before they ventured off to University in locations across the country ranging from Durham, Leeds, Bristol and Nottingham. The students, who undertook specific training over the summer, worked alongside other members of the Harleston community and yet again demonstrated the values that we promote as part of the daily lived experiences of all. The level of maturity and responsibility on show reinforced the school community that we are incredibly proud of.



Last year at **St Mary's Junior Academy** in Long Stratton, Mr Miller set 4 King Junior Class (now 5 Mumbai) a challenge to participate in a sponsored '30 Miles in June Challenge'.

Not only did the children whole-heartedly embrace this challenge, they truly went above and beyond and raised the amazing sum of £775 - half of this will go into school funds to help further enrich the learning experiences of our children and half of it will be donated to Norfolk and Waveney MIND.

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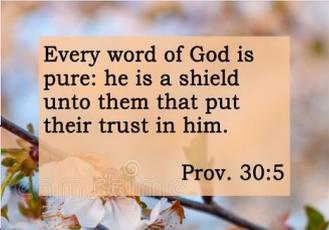
Current Vacancies (across both St Benet's & DNEAT MATs, DoNESC and DoN)

- ◇ Midday Supervisor—Harleston Federation
- ◇ Teaching Assistant—Harleston Federation
- ◇ SEND Teacher—Harleston Federation
- ◇ LSA—Harleston Federation
- ◇ HR Officer—DoNESC
- ◇ HR Administrator—DoNESC
- ◇ Midday Supervisor—St Michael's CE Academy
- ◇ Maternity Cover P/T Teaching Post—Dereham CE Junior Academy
- ◇ Teacher—Swaffham CE Primary Academy
- ◇ Administrator—DNEAT

Please email your vacancies to suzannah.kay@stbenets.org for uploading to both St Benet's and DNEAT websites.

Prayer for the Day

The Church of England have an app called Time to Pray, which releases a new prayer twice a day as a short podcast for you to listen to. Today's prayer can be heard [here](#).



Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Prov. 30:5

Reminders

Press & PR

Our PR Officer, Kate Morfoot, should be your first point of contact for any press/media enquiries or if you have any good news stories from your academy which you would like to publicise. Her contact details are: **07803 590 728** (inc out of hours) and press@stbenets.org.

Footprints

Footprints magazine is circulated to all Diocesan schools and is a wonderful tool for communicating good work done by your academy. The latest edition can be read [here](#). Future issues will cover the following themes: Oct-prayer, Jan-pastoral care and chaplaincy, Feb-pupil voice/race and ethnicity, Apr-churches and schools working together, Jun-vulnerable groups, Sep-life in all its fullness.

If you would like your school to be featured in Footprints, please contact Holly Davy, PA to the Diocesan Director of Education, at holly.davy@dioceseofnorwich.org.

Resources

The Church Support Hub has some resources available for any teachers who may find this link to "Supporting Young People Through Loss" useful: <https://churchsupporthub.org/article/supporting-young-people-through-loss/>.

The Bishop of Norwich has a number of resources available supporting "Our World: Our Planet" which can be used to enable schools to address this subject, available [here](#).



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Operational Updates

⇒ **FAO Headteachers and School Business Managers**

Asbestos Surveys

Darren Williams, DoNESC's new Building Surveyor & Estates Manager, has sent schools an Asbestos Survey—these should be returned to him at darren.williams@donesc.org by 30 September please.

ESPO Stationery—Discount

Our stationery suppliers, ESPO, have announced a 6-week discount window from 6 September to 17 October, during which time all orders placed by our schools will benefit from a 7.5% discount which will be automatically applied.

Risk Protection Arrangement for Schools Newsletter

If you would like to read the RPAs latest Newsletter, please click [here](#).

PPE etc Available

DoNESC still have the following stock of PPE and other items available on a first come, first served basis:

- Vinyl gloves, nitrile gloves, face protection shields, thermometers, white gaffer tape, disposable aprons.

If you would like any of the above, please email fiona.garner@donesc.org.

Apprenticeships

When paperwork for new apprentices is sent through to the HR Department at DoNESC Central Office to be added to the apprenticeship portal, it is essential that the email address of the apprentice is also included.

Without this information, the record will not be able to be saved and funding cannot be allocated.

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Training & CPD

2 Day Mental Health First Aid Course - 28 and 29 September 2021

DoNESC are hosting a 2-day Mental Health First Aid Course led by Scott Lyons of the NEU. The course will run on 28 and 29 September 2021, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Our aim is to ensure that every Academy/Federation has at least one Mental Health First Aider on their staff team.

The cost of this training is £29 per person and we have 20 places available for St Benet's and DNEAT academies. If this is of interest to you, please contact Wendy Allsop (wendy.allsop@donesc.org) via your Office, SBM or Headteacher.

We will be looking to book these places as equably as possible so priority will be given to staff from Academies without anyone currently qualified, but there will be a number of additional places available for those academies who currently have qualified Mental Health First Aiders.

We are hoping that we can hold this face to face, but this will be confirmed nearer the time. If you think your academy may have a suitable room for us to hold this please contact [Wendy Allsop](#).

The Julian School Teaching Hub

The Julian Teaching School Hub, Unity Teaching School Hub and the St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan MAT are proud to be delivery partners for the brand-new Church of England NPQs. Working collaboratively they provide access to the full suite of NPQs for schools across Norfolk and Suffolk. All NPQs are being facilitated by leaders from faith schools, including colleagues from DNEAT, St Benet's and St John the Baptist Catholic MAT.

These reformed specialist and leadership NPQs provide exciting opportunities for professional learning and are outlined [HERE](#).

[NPQ Leading Teacher Development \(NPQLTD\)](#): facilitated by Unity Teaching School Hub

[NPQ Leading Behaviour and Culture \(NPQLBC\)](#): facilitated by Unity Teaching School Hub

[NPQ Leading Teaching \(NPQLT\)](#): facilitated by St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan MAT

[NPQ Senior Leadership \(NPQSL\)](#): facilitated by The Julian Teaching School Hub

[NPQ Headship \(NPQH\)](#): facilitated by The Julian Teaching School Hub

[Additional Support Offer for New Headteachers \(ASO\)](#): facilitated by The Julian Teaching School Hub

Applications for programmes starting in November need to be completed by 8th October (except ASO, 22nd Oct).

Guidance and next steps [HERE](#).

You may well receive information about NPQs from the central CoE Education team in the near future, however we wanted to make contact directly and invite your comment on this opportunity (with some CoE schools eligible for full scholarship funding, and all maintained schools eligible for certain scholarships) and how we encourage schools to consider it.

Should you require any further information please contact these programme-specific contacts:

Helen Main (hmain@unitysp.co.uk) for NPQLTD and NPQLBC

Susi Waters (julian-tsh@ndhs.org.uk) for NPQSL, NPQH and ASO

Heather Hann (heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org) for NPQLT

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HR Update by Jo Leach, HR Manager, DoNESC

Welcome back and I hope you have all had a great summer.

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how the internal HR Team is progressing.

We will be moving completely away from EPM by Easter 2022 for their HR services, and we will only be retaining their payroll function.

I am now in the process of recruiting our first new HR Team members. We are recruiting for an HR Administrator who will also be undertaking administration of our Pension Scheme. We are also recruiting three HR Officers with the plan for Norfolk and the area in Suffolk we have schools in to be split into three distinct areas. The three HR Officers will each have a third of the areas we have schools in, and they will provide a dedicated HR function to these schools. These roles will be advertised internally as well as externally.

At present, and as we move away from EPM to a centralised HR service, please note that all new HR issues will need to come to me in the first instance. Any old HR issues that EPM is currently working with can stay with EPM so that they follow the work through with the school in question. However please rest assured that if you have any queries regarding such issues, I am more than happy to give you guidance.

Therefore, as we start our new term, any new HR issues, queries, or questions, please contact me via my email or mobile number to discuss (jo.leach@donesc.org or 07395 323 354).

I look forward to working with you all!

Jo Leach



Governance Update by Hannah Monk, Head of Governance, DoNESC

It is my pleasure to introduce the new Governance Team.

On 1 September I stepped into the role of Head of Governance in preparation for Jill Wakefield's retirement later in the autumn term. Jill will continue to provide her expert advice and guidance for us all.

Tara Burrows is joining us as Governance Officer and will take on the role of Trust Clerk for St Benet's MAT. Tara has come to us from the DNEAT central team, and we couldn't be happier.

Janine Birt will continue to support the administration for local governance in both the MATs and the Church schools and her experience with the complexities of both will be as valuable as ever as we build this new look Governance Team.

We are currently recruiting for a second Governance Officer, and you can see the advert for the role here: <https://uk.indeed.com/job/governance-officer-73b22f6eb29719bc>.

You can contact the Governance Team anytime on governance@donesc.org or by telephone on 01603 881 741.

Hannah Monk

