

26 November 2021 (Issue 22)

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 updates, and a central calendar for training events across the Trust.

Don't forget to send in any news that you want to share, to the Editor at: suzannah.kay@stbenets.org.

Good News Stories



On Monday 15 November, five students from **Archbishop Sancroft High School** visited the Church of England's General Synod. They were invited so that the Church of England could get a better idea about young and diverse people in relation to the church and Christianity.

Students Lily Marsden, Korben White (Head Students), Keisha Clark, Grace Frankland and Ivy Worrall, lead by Deputy Headteacher Johannes Ahrenfelt, worked in small groups to explore ways to engage young people in the church and they also spoke to the assembled guests. Below are a selection of their reflections after the event:

At first, I had such mixed thoughts about the event at the General Synod, it was a bit daunting, imagining speaking in front of a lot of people but, I was wrong! Members of the Church, gathered from across the country to listen to us! It was such a breath-taking experience and the group I was in, were extremely encouraging and made sure my suggestions and ideas were being absorbed by the group.
(OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS)

We were surprised to learn that the stigma and harmful stereotypes around the Church are not true, through our first hand encounter we feel as though this is something we can and should spread awareness about! We all felt pleasantly surprised when faced with such accepting people. They all acknowledged how there are diversity issues in the church and were incredibly willing to use our ideas in order to challenge this. We loved how obviously comfortable they were among each other and showed a strong sense of belonging. We loved hearing their stories about converting to Christianity and how happy it made them!
(WHAT SURPRISED US)

To say the experience was inspiring is an understatement. Through our discussions it was truly eye opening how communal the Church of England is. We learnt about the Christian values of kindness and charity, making it feel like a place you wanted to be. It was revealed to us how the religion isn't just going to church on Sundays, but also a family. Stereotypes were broken and we all have taken away how inviting Christianity is! We felt so appreciated when told about how they want to appeal to all people and explore diversity in such a positive light. Furthermore, we were informed on the process of converting and how it is accessible and encouraged at any age. Synod were amazing and so willing to hear our opinions and ideas. The main thing we have taken away from this experience is how welcoming the church are, through letting younger people lead their services and creating clubs especially for people's desires. We are so thankful for such an astonishing and informative experience.
(WHAT WE WILL REMEMBER)

Congratulations to all the students for representing ASHS so professionally.



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Current Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: www.stbenets.org

For vacancies at DNEAT, DoNESC and the Diocese of Norwich please visit: www.dneat.org or www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Please email your vacancies to georgia.evans@donesc.org for uploading to all 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](#).



Finance Department Update

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Rufaro Jiri** as Finance Assistant to augment the Finance Department within DoNESC: Rufaro started on 22 November and we welcome her warmly to the team.

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: January 2022—pastoral care and chaplaincy; February—pupil voice/race and ethnicity; April—churches and schools working together; June—vulnerable groups; September—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.

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Operational Updates

⇒ **FAO Headteachers & Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Supporting Afghan Pupils

Many schools and colleges will be welcoming pupils from Afghanistan and Norfolk welcomed a small number of families who were offered resettlement in the North Norwich area in the first instance with more families coming into the county by end October 2021. For reference here are some resources which academies may find useful if you have Afghan pupils and students coming on roll.

International Rescue Committee – Supporting Afghan students

This [teacher briefing pack](#) on supporting Afghan students, is designed for teachers and leaders and educators to support children arriving from Afghanistan.

Resources from Refugee Education UK (REUK)

[Education welcome pack](#) A welcome pack for newly arrived Afghan children: includes key information about the education system and how to access it, a welcome to school and classrooms for children and lots of other sources of support, including helpful charities, resources, courses, and interpretation services. This can be downloaded in English, Pashto, and Dari.

REUK's training "Supporting the Educational Needs of Afghan Refugee Children" draws on recent research into the displacement of young Afghans to explain the educational implications for students with a focus on barriers to their progress and achievement. The training outlines practical strategies schools/teachers can adopt to overcome these challenges, shares details of existing and latest resources that can help schools engage with Afghan families and develop their policies and practices. [Sign up to REUK's mailing list](#) to receive information about upcoming dates or fill in this [enquiry form](#) to discuss your bespoke training needs with the REUK team.

REUK's paper on the impact of educational achievement on Afghan refugee youth's integration and wellbeing in the UK:

[Research](#) conducted by REUK's team explores the links between young Afghans' education and its impact on their socioeconomic outcomes.

[Practitioner advice sheets](#) for those supporting young refugees' transitions to further and higher education.

[Research](#) into the challenges facing child refugees' educational access and progression, and best practice examples of how to enable them to thrive in schools.

Refugees and forced migration: [teaching resources](#): this page contains ideas and resources for schools who want to teach their students about refugees and create cultures of welcome.

Save the Children resources

[Mental health and psychosocial support toolkit](#)

[Doing what matters in times of stress](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(English\)](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(Pashto\)](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(Dari\)](#)

The Boloh helpline (0800 151 2605), originally developed during the early days of the pandemic, is a support line which delivers help, support and therapies in community languages, including Pashto and Dari.

Schools can apply for devices for children who have joined their school or college under Operation Warm Welcome. Up to 6,000 devices are available for children in years 3 to 13 or in 16 to 19 education, who have arrived in the UK under Operation Warm Welcome, via the Get Help With Technology service. If a school needs to order devices for these children you should sign into the Get Help With Technology service and follow the Operation Warm Welcome guidance, which is available [here](#).

Mobile phones (with 6-month data SIM cards), Raspberry Pi computers and tablets are available through the *Great British Tech* appeal.

You can pre-order by emailing emily.walton-pattison@barnardos.org.uk.

Family guide from Barnardo's: [An orientation guide](#) includes details on healthcare, education, work and references to other forms of support.

General resources on trauma and psychological first aid

[CYP Psychological First Aid online course - FutureLearn](#)

This short course created by the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (formerly Public Health England) aims to support those working directly with children and young people to help them access appropriate support needed during and after crisis situations.

[MindEd Hub](#)

This site contains a series of learning paths created by specific organisations or professional groups, focusing on children's' mental wellbeing.

[UK Trauma Council](#)

These resources focus specifically on helping professionals and carers to understand trauma and its impact on children.



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Training/CPD Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
09 December		RE Audit at Garboldisham	Chis Allen chris.allen@dioceseofnorwich.org
20 January 2022	13.00-18.30	Poetry Training at ASHS (all Teachers)	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
25 January	09.00-12.00	EYFS Teachers—SPAG & Poetry Planning at Newton Flotman	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
25 January	12.30-15.30	Y1/Y2 SPAG & Poetry Planning at Newton Flotman	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
26 January	09.00-12.00	Y3/Y4 SPAG & Poetry Planning at Garboldisham	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
26 January	12.30-15.30	Y5/Y6—SPAG & Poetry Planning at Garboldisham	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
03 February	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: tbc (HT to join 14.00-16.00) at Alburgh-with-Denton	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
07 February	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery—location tbc	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
21 February	13.00-15.30	Maths—Mastering Mastery in EYFS at Diss Junior	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
28 February	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Newton Flotman, St Mary's, Tacolneston & Morley) at St Mary's Junior	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
07 March	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Harleston, Alburgh-with-Denton) at Harleston Primary	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
14 March	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Beacon Federation) at Dickleburgh	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
15 March	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: Moderation (HT to join 14.00-16.00) at Diss Infants	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
21 March	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery—location: TBC	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
16 May	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery—location: TBC	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
18 May	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: tbc (HT to join 14.00-16.00) at St Mary's Junior	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
23 June	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: Moderation (HT to join 14.00-16.00) at Diss Junior	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
01 July	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org

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Focus On Our People

When Dickleburgh and Garboldisham Primaries joined together to become the Beacon Federation earlier this year, Alex Boothby was appointed as Assistant Headteacher in Garboldisham. Here we learn about his career path to teaching.

Alex was born in Norwich and grew up in Bungay, attending Bungay High School. Thoroughly enjoying Science, he went to the UEA to study for a degree in Environmental Science. Following this he worked as an Environmental Consultant for a large local company.

However, Alex's wife was a Teacher by this time and the more he learned about teaching from her, the more he started thinking that it might be the right career for him.

Alex studied for his PGCE at the UEA and enjoyed being in placement in schools. Due to his science background there were suggestions that he should consider secondary teaching but he felt that he would prefer having a hand in each subject rather than just focusing on one.



In his early career Alex worked at Dickleburgh Primary. During this time he became Head of Science then Head of PiXL and most recently moved into the Garboldisham role.

Alex comments that, *"Garboldisham is challenging in a good way; taking on a completely different school has exposed me to many more unique situations."*

He adds that being part of the Beacon Federation with Dickleburgh means both schools now have a wider scope to experience new challenges, meaning that the federation can develop collectively, benefitting each other.

Alex is clear that he wants Garboldisham to become an outstanding school.

When not teaching, Alex enjoys outdoor pursuits, spending time in nature, kayaking and travelling the world. One of his favourite travel stories is of being woken by a Black Mamba snake in his tent whilst camping in Tanzania! He is also a self-confessed "geology nerd".

As the end of the year approaches, Alex says he wants to, *"Look back at all the changes we've put in place and see positive improvements."*