

4 March 2022 (Issue 27)

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

B-Comms is our fortnightly newsletter that includes good news stories from our academies, operational updates, general information 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

Harleston Primary Raise Over £2,000 to Support Guide Dogs for the Blind

Harleston Primary Academy has been overwhelmed with the response to raising money for the Guide Dog Association after a talk to the children about what it is like to be blind.

A sponsored bike ride raised a staggering £2,025 and was organised after a visit to the school by Fiona McGregor, who is registered blind, and her Guide Dog Winnie.

Fiona, who is from Harleston and has a grandson at the school, shared her story with the children about how she lost her sight fifteen years ago and how lucky she feels to have Winnie the Guide Dog to be her eyes.



Fiona said: "I would like to say a massive thank you to the children, parents and staff for fund-raising such a wonderful amount for the Richard and Jill Bussien Guide Dogs Harleston & Diss Fundraising Group."

She added: "I loved my visit to Harleston Primary School with my Guide Dog Winnie to share my experiences with eyesight loss. I'm totally overwhelmed with the amount the children have raised. This will go a long way in a Guide Dogs' life and will help someone like me in their journey."

Mrs Ingram, Teacher, said: "The Year 1 and Nursery children joined the class in the hall to learn about Fiona's story and they were so inspired they wanted to do something. The children and parents of the Reception and Year 1 children took the time to decorate the children's bikes and scooters and then very kindly donated over £2,000! The children displayed enormous stamina and proudly rode their bikes, completing laps of the playground."



Mrs Bev Beaumont, Teacher, said: "We are very proud of our children for coming up with the idea and taking the initiative to raise the funds for an important cause. We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of our families across Early Years and Year 1, it is truly remarkable and so wonderful that we all came together for such a worthy cause and raised so much money and had great fun at the same time! May we take this opportunity to thank our families for their most generous donations and for helping others in our community."

Mrs Beaumont added: "We held another fundraiser to raise money to name and sponsor a new Guide Dog puppy, and thanks to the generosity of our supporters we have raised £500 and will now be holding a competition at school to name the puppy."

The photos show 2 members of the Guide Dog Association sitting alongside Andrew James and his Grandmother Fiona McGregor. Guide Dogs are Winnie, Stamp and Vinnie.

B-Comms



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

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News from Diss Primary Academy

With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, many pupils have expressed their concerns and worries for the civilians of the country and those of neighbouring countries. With a large mix of eastern European countries represented within our school communities, children are wanting to share their compassion for the plight of the innocent during this distressing time.

Extracts from some of the prayers from our **Prayer Wall** read: *Dear Lord, Please look after the families affected by the war... please keep children safe and provide food and clothes for them... please end the war... look after the people of Ukraine.*



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](#).



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.

Diocesan Headteachers' Conference 2022

This years' Headteachers' Conference is taking place in person at the Weston Room at Norwich Cathedral on **Tuesday 29 March at 8.45am-5.00pm**. Speakers include Mark Russell—Chief Executive of The Children's Society; Simon Bailey—National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Member; Allana Gay—Headteacher and Co-founder of BAMEed; and Lorna Fitzjohn—Regional Director of Ofsted.

To book your place please visit www.DofN.org/headteachers2022.

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: 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.

Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: www.stbenets.org. Please email your vacancies to: robyn.redman@donesc.org.

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

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Operational Updates

School Site Maintenance

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent site questionnaires.

DoNESC have made the decision to end the service maintenance contract with Kershaw. The contract has been running for 3 years and DoNESC have taken the opportunity to re-tender these services.

Please make a note that the Kershaw contract will end on 1 May 2022 at 23:59hrs. DoNESC have decided to separate all of the services into separate contracts; the aim of this is to gain better service as well as better value for money overall. These contracts will be managed centrally by Darren Williams and Fiona Garner which means that any issues or concerns can be reported to them.

Over the coming months you may be contacted by companies to visit your school so they can get an idea of what is being quoted for and the scope required. The contracts will be separated into the following areas: boiler servicing, fire alarm servicing, emergency light servicing, fire extinguisher and blanket servicing, water hygiene, air conditioning and security equipment.

Once the tenders are returned to DoNESC and they select the contractor, they will make you aware who you should be expecting for each required task. Please be aware that Kershaw should undertake all servicing up until the end of the contractual agreement and if you have any work booked with them it can still go ahead. You can still ask them to quote for work in the future.

If you have any questions please contact **Darren Williams** (Building Surveyor & Estates Manager, DoNESC) on darren.williams@donesc.org or 01603 550132 / 07395 333038.

Rural Teaching Partnership 2022 Launch - webinar (28 March 2022, 4.00pm)

Please RSVP to Vicky Colman vcolman@teachfirst.org.uk by 5.30pm on Thursday 24 March for the calendar invitation and Teams link.

This webinar (28 March, 4pm) will launch the expanded Rural Teaching Partnership: a collaboration between the Church of England, Teach First and the Chartered College of Teaching, and now available to primary schools in all Dioceses following a successful pilot in 2021.

Evidence shows that rural school leaders face greater difficulties with staff recruitment and retention compared to urban schools. The Rural Teaching Partnership enables Church of England primary schools to access high quality trainee teachers: recruited, trained and supported by Teach First (an Ofsted- Outstanding ITT Provider and Early Career Framework Lead Provider).

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's lead bishop for Education said: "Children in rural communities deserve excellent teachers, and this partnership is about helping to ensure the best outcomes for children in every community."

The webinar will include a chance to:

- Learn more about Teach First's Early Years and primary offer and find out why 94% of schools are satisfied with their school's partnership with Teach First;
- Hear from Teach First's Head of Primary, Sarah Shreeve, about Teach First's ITT curriculum, its benefits for your school and the golden thread from ITT to the Early Career Framework;
- Hear about the impact partnership with Teach First has had for one partner school;
- Hear about additional support, provided by the Chartered College of Teaching, to enable trainees in small rural schools to teach mixed age classes and take on subject leadership.

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Training/CPD Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
07 March	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Harleston, Alburgh-with-Denton). Location: Harleston Primary	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
14 March	15.45-16.45	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Beacon Federation). Location: Dickleburgh Primary	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
15 March	09.00-16.00	English Subject Leads—Focus: Changes, research, Ofsted narrative. Location: Alburgh with Denton Primary	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
16 March	15.45-16.45	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Tacolneston & Morley) Location: Tacolneston Primary	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
21 March	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery. Location: Diss Junior	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
30 March	10.00-12.00	Quality Assuring Lesson (Garboldisham Teachers) Location: Garboldisham Primary	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
25 April	09.00-12.00	TRG—Embedding for Maths Subject Leads 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: Review of action plans and strategy implementation—monitoring, updates, coaching/mentoring (HT to join 14.00-16.00). Location: St Mary's Junior Academy, Long Stratton	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
19 May	09.00-11.30	The Role of a TA in a Mastery Classroom (Beacon Federation TAs) Location: Dickleburgh Village Hall	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
07 June	09.00-12.00 12.30-15.30	Teachers/TA's—Learning to read, reading to learn, vocabulary, decoding, comprehension, academic reading preparation, gaps-social justice. Location: TBC	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
09 June	09.00-12.00 12.30-15.30	Teachers/TA's—Learning to read, reading to learn, vocabulary, decoding, comprehension, academic reading preparation, gaps-social justice. Location: TBC	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
23 June	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: Moderation (HT to join 14.00-16.00). Location: ASHS TBC	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
01 July	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery Location: TBC	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org

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Spotlight on You



Dan Stagg joined Harleston Primary Academy as Assistant Headteacher in September 2021. Despite joining the school during a pandemic he has quickly made his mark, rapidly becoming the 'go-to guy' for celebrity endorsements!

Dan was born in Ipswich and grew up in Woodbridge, where his Father was the local PC. Dan's family lived in the Police house and Dan attended Farlingaye High School. PE was an early love of his along with languages and drama.

As early as Year 7, Dan thought that he would like to be a PE teacher, inspired in no small part by his own PE teacher. Dan recalls how, when he was at 6th Form, he used to look in discarded copies of the TES at teaching vacancies.

When one learns that Dan's Grandfather was Head of Science at Royal Hospital School in Suffolk, his Grandmother was a Reception Teacher at Holbrook Primary School and his Mother is a University Lecturer at West Suffolk College, it is clear that education runs in the family blood.



After A Levels Dan studied for a BEd at De Montfort University where his early training placements included schools in Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Dunstable and King's Lynn. He thrived on the challenge of working with children in these coastal towns. As he says, "You can make such a big difference to their lives".

After graduating, Dan worked at Bacton Middle School as PE Teacher in Years 5-8 for 10 years. When asked to recount an amusing story from this time he immediately recalls an incident in his first term at the school: "A young lad in my PE class had decided he didn't want to run the 1500m so ran off the school site. We called the Police who mobilised tracker dogs and a Police helicopter to try and locate him. He was eventually found at home, after running 4.5 miles to get there. The fact that he had run much further than the original 1500m was quite ironic!"

Dan met his future wife at Bacton Middle School in 2004, and when Suffolk County Council were closing middle schools, Dan started thinking about moving to a Primary school which led him to a new job at Whitton Primary in Ipswich.

Dan led PE at Whitton for 2½ years and then decided to move to Cedars Park Primary in Stowmarket where he led Raising Standards for Years 3-6, Teaching & Learning and Behaviour. Dan says he, "...loved interacting with the families, it was a really great experience". Dan worked at Cedars Park for 3 years before the Assistant Headteacher role at Harleston caught his eye last year.

Talking about what drew him to the role, Dan says, "The ethos of the Trust was a big part of the attraction, as was the reputation of the school".

Dan joined Harleston Primary at the same time as the new Head of School and the new Deputy Headteacher and the three have grown together in their new roles.

As has been reported in previous editions of B-Comms, Dan has recently got some high profile celebrities to offer their support to the school, including TV Presenter Gabby Logan, Olympians Joel Fearon and Amy Williams and Strictly stars Nadia Bychkova and Dan Walker.

Dan explains that he simply got in touch with the stars' agents or reached out via Twitter and asked if they would support the school. He used their involvement to raise aspirations and relate to the schools' values.

Dan is quick to stress that it is not just celebrities that he involves in raising aspirations for the pupils but also students he used to teach, including a ex-pupil in the GB Junior Rowing Squad who is coming to Harleston for a Collective Worship.

Outside of school, Dan and his wife are season ticket holders at Leicester Tigers Rugby and they are also keen theatre-goers.

When asked about his future at Harleston, Dan says that he is really excited about the new All Through School and what it could mean for students, and to be working more closely with colleagues and students at ASHS.

Dan sums up his feelings about Harleston Primary by saying, "This is the best job I've had in my teaching career."



Dan can be contacted at dstagg@harleston.stbenets.org.