

Welcome back to the new school year.  
We hope all our staff had an enjoyable and  
refreshing summer break.



B-Comms is moving to monthly publication in 2026-27, to allow us  
to include more good news stories from across all our schools.

Whether you are Teaching or Support Staff, if you have a story  
from your school that you would like to share, send it over to  
[suzannah.kay@stbenets.org](mailto:suzannah.kay@stbenets.org) so that we can celebrate the  
wonderful things that happen across St Benet's MAT.

In this issue we open with a fantastic story from Morley Primary Academy,  
who have a brand new Sand Shed thanks to the generosity of parents  
and local businesses, and the tenacity of staff.

Read on for the full story....

## New Sand Shed at Morley Primary Built on Community Spirit

Report by: Sam Osborne, Year R/1 Teacher

Sometimes, the best things happen when a great idea meets a little bit of determination — and a whole lot of community spirit!

One of our wonderful governors generously donated £500, and we wanted to make sure we used it towards something substantial and long-lasting for our children. We had our hearts set on a Sand Shed, but we quickly discovered that £500 doesn't stretch very far when it comes to garden buildings.

Rather than giving up, we contacted several garden building companies to see if anyone might have an ex-display model. That's when Appletree Bespoke stepped in.

As a local company looking to expand into supplying schools and nurseries, they very generously agreed to design and build our sand shed for the full £500. They created this superb Sand Shed for our children.....

Of course, we then needed one rather important ingredient... sand!

Castle Quarter mall in Norwich had run a beach project over the summer holidays and had 14 tonnes of sand that needed a new home. It was offered to us — on the condition that we could arrange collection.

Enter one of our fantastic parents, who owns Pinky Plant Services. They generously offered to collect the sand and bring it to us.

And so, through a wonderful chain of generosity, kindness and community spirit, we ended up with something far more valuable than we could have created with £500 alone.

A huge thank you to our governor for the original donation, Appletree Bespoke for going above and beyond to create our beautiful sand shed, Castle Quarter for donating the sand, Pinky Plant Hire for collecting it, and to every person who helped shovel the sand round to the playground.

It really does take a village — and we are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful one at Morley.



[www.appletreebespokeoutdoorplay.co.uk](http://www.appletreebespokeoutdoorplay.co.uk)

[info@appletreebespoke.co.uk](mailto:info@appletreebespoke.co.uk)

[www.pinkyplant.co.uk](http://www.pinkyplant.co.uk)

[www.castlequaternorwich.co.uk](http://www.castlequaternorwich.co.uk)

## Great OFSTED Result at Little Plumstead Primary Academy



OFSTED inspectors visited Little Plumstead Primary, part of the Acorn Partnership, on 7th/8<sup>th</sup> July and their report was issued last week.

We are delighted to report that the school achieved the Expected standard in every category.

We thank all the Teaching and Support Staff who worked so hard to make this happen, alongside the Central Team staff from the Trust who supported them and the Interim Headteacher at that time, Laura Richardson.

The full report can be read here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/149878>



## Visit to SEND Horizon School



Last term, SENDCos and teachers from across St Benet's spent a day at Horizon School in Suffolk, a specialist Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) for pupils 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.

We spent time finding out about the journey the school have been on and how they have adapted their curriculum to support ever changing pupil needs. We had a tour of the site, thinking about what environmental adaptations and small changes could be applicable in our own settings.

One of the highlights was learning about the Hamish and Milo programme, something that I know a lot of schools are keen to introduce and also thinking about how the 7 Cs Learning Portfolio has been developed for use within their setting.

We are incredibly grateful to Tina Stagg and Di Chester for their hospitality on the day, for inviting us to experience their wonderful school and for the wealth of resources kindly shared. Thank you also to all the staff who spoke with us, sharing their expertise, energy and enthusiasm - we left the day truly inspired!

For more information about Horizon School see their website [www.horizonschool.org.uk](http://www.horizonschool.org.uk) or contact [nadine.avenal@stbenets.org](mailto:nadine.avenal@stbenets.org) to arrange a visit.



Visit organised by Nadine Avenal,  
Trust Improvement Lead for SEND



## New Headteacher for Acorn Partnership



We welcome Paula Jones to St Benet's as new Executive Headteacher of the Acorn Partnership (Acle Primary and Little Plumstead Primary).

Paula joins us from Litcham School and we hope this is the start of a long and fulfilling career with St Benet's.

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## New Allergy Policy and IHP Template Issued

To meet the requirements of Benedict's Law, which is now in place, the Trust have prepared a new standalone Allergy Policy (S30), which is available on iAM Compliant (in the Statutory Policies folder) [here](#).



There is a new template for an Individual Healthcare Plan also available in the same location.

## New Policies

The following policies were published in September 2026 following their update and approval:

- S03 Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- S09 Data Protection Policy
- S11 Capability Policy
- S18 Business Continuity Plan
- S20 Risk Management Policy
- S30 Allergy Safety Policy (NEW POLICY)
- HR05 Recruitment and Selection Policy
- HR15 Adoption Policy
- HR24 Reference Policy
- HR28 Paternity Policy
- NS05 Religious Education Policy
- NS16 Administration of Medicines Policy



The following policies were published in July 2026 following their update and approval:

- S16 Safeguarding Policy
- HR06 Probation – All Employees
- HR29 Staff Substance Misuse Policy
- NS01 Collective Worship Policy
- NS04 Pupil Anti-Bullying Policy
- NS11 Parent, Carer and Visitor Policy
- S01 Accessibility Policy
- S02 SEND Policy
- S18 Academy Business Continuity Plan Template
- S29 Data Protection Complaints Procedure

The following policy has recently been retired:

- NS08 Offensive Weapons Policy has been retired. This can be removed from circulation in schools. Schools should ensure that the statutory [DfE guidance for Search, screening and confiscation: guidance for schools](#) is incorporated into Academy Behaviour Policies if it is not already when they are updated for Autumn 2026.

These policies have been circulated to academy Headteachers and offices via iAM Compliant.

## New MIS Rollout

### JUNIPER MIS - 2026-27 ROLLOUT PLANS

The next group of schools moving over to Juniper MIS will be as follows:

- w/c 12th October - Swallowtail Federation
- w/c 9th November - Lighthouse Federation
- w/c 16th November - Diss & Scole Partnership
- w/c 23rd November - Acorn Partnership
- w/c 23rd February 27 - North Star Federation (pending conversion date)

Rosemary Ison, DoNESC Operations Manager, will make contact with each Headteacher in advance of their rollout date to discuss the plan in detail.

Any schools in the OFSTED window will have their MIS implementation immediately paused if we receive notification of an inspection.

Pupil Asset will continue to run alongside Juniper MIS until further notice.



## Reminders

### Helpdesk Updates

A few reminders and improvements to help keep things running smoothly:

- Please submit all queries via the DoNESC Helpdesk rather than emailing individuals. This ensures your request can be picked up even if someone is away.
- One query = one ticket. This helps us track and resolve issues more efficiently.
- Ticket lists now show newest tickets at the top.
- The 2026/27 Payroll Dates and DoNESC Academies Handbook have both been updated.
- The Short Description box is now required when raising a ticket.

More enhancements are on the way — we'll keep you posted.

### Safeguarding and Monitoring

#### IMPORTANT

Please note – it is essential that all devices are registered on the Network. If devices are being utilised by staff or pupils that are not on the Network, then they are not monitored by Senso or Smoothwall and are therefore a Safeguarding risk.

### ESPO Discount Window: 7<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October

Please remember to take advantage of the ESPO Discount Window if you can.

All schools will automatically receive 7.5% off stock products, making it the perfect opportunity to stock up for the new academic year or purchase any items that may have been missed from summer orders.

The offer includes products such as exercise books, although low-cost paper and direct delivery items are excluded.

There's nothing you need to do to activate the discount. Simply place your orders as normal and ESPO take care of the rest.

## Diary Dates

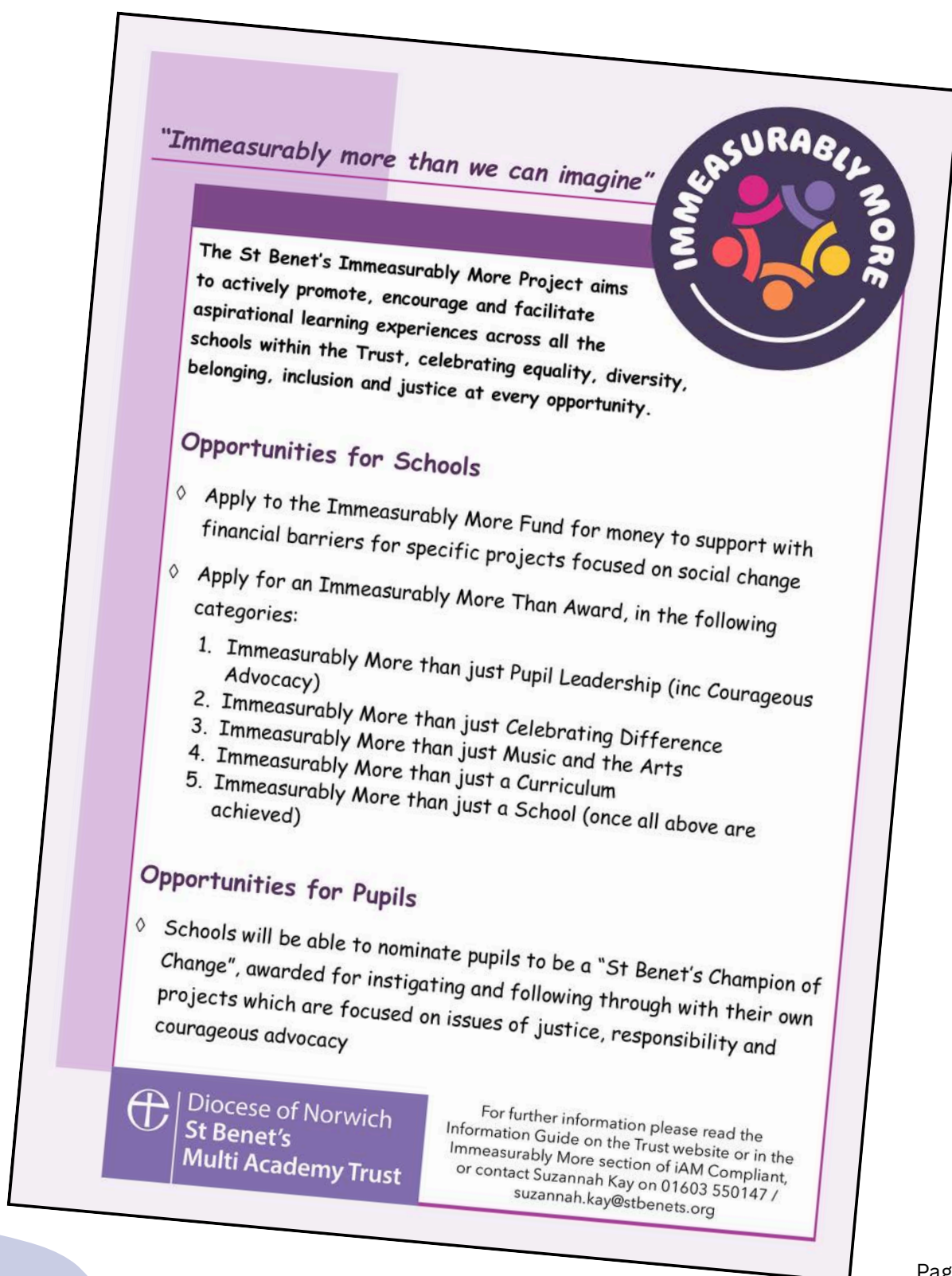


| WEEK COMMENCING       | MONDAY                                                                      | TUESDAY                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                            | THURSDAY                                      | FRIDAY |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept | Sancroft Primary ARM (09.30-11.30);<br>Sancroft Secondary ARM (11.30-13.00) |                                                                         | Lighthouse Fed ARM (09.30-11.30)                     |                                               |        |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Acorn Partnership ARM (09.30-11.30)                                         | Newton Flotman ARM (09.30-11.00);<br>St Mary's Junior ARM (11.30-13.00) | Pulham ARM (13.30-15.00)                             | Leaders' Forum at Orchard House (10.00-15.00) |        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct   |                                                                             |                                                                         | LA Data Support Session: KS2 QLA at OH (15.00-17.00) |                                               |        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct  |                                                                             | SEND Network at St Mary's Jnr NR15 2UY (09.15-16.00)                    |                                                      |                                               |        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct  |                                                                             | RSL Network-online (15.40-16.40)                                        |                                                      |                                               |        |



**IMMEASURABLY  
MORE**

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.

**IMMEASURABLY MORE**

**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

 Diocese of Norwich  
St Benet's  
Multi Academy Trust

For further information please read the Information Guide on the Trust website or in the Immeasurably More section of iAM Compliant, or contact Suzannah Kay on 01603 550147 / [suzannah.kay@stbenets.org](mailto:suzannah.kay@stbenets.org)



Did you know that St Benet's pays for all its employees to have free access to the Spectrum Life employee wellbeing service?

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](mailto: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.

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