

01 October 2021 (Issue 19)

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. We have also added a new section which is a central calendar for training events and other notable meetings at Trust-wide level.

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

Good News Stories

Newton Flotman CE Primary Academy are proud to announce that Sarah Brailey, a Teacher at their school, qualified as a Sands Befriender recently. This wonderful role offers support and guidance to parents who have suffered a stillbirth or neo-natal death. We offer our warmest congratulations to Sarah on this achievement.



Tacolneston & Morley Federation recently took part in the Norfolk Open Studios event, and their Art & DT Leader, Kate Easter, has written the following article which we are delighted to share...

"It was with great excitement that we took part in the Norfolk Open Studios event on the 25th and 26th September. We are currently on our Artsmark journey and this was the perfect opportunity to open our doors to the community and to showcase all the talent and creativity of our pupils."

"The staff had collected work from the past year and we generously gathered in the hall after school on Friday to display and showcase the work of the children. Staples were flying, Blu-tac was being stuck to all manner of surfaces and the gymnastics frame became an urban jungle in the name of art!"

"When standing back to take a first look we were just blown away with the talent of our pupils. Every child had something on display, and these works were diverse and varied. There were collaborative pieces, individual processes in sketchbooks and end outcomes in every type of medium; clay, print, textile, paper, pastels. We were able to show the links we make to other parts of our nurturing curriculum with our young carers teddy bears and the slab pots made in Clay Club."

"The friends of both schools kindly supplied the refreshments and it really was a big event for two small schools."

"We place a high value on the arts and none more so than now, when wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do in our Federation."



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

- ◇ Assistant Caretaker—The Harleston Federation
- ◇ MSA—The Harleston Federation
- ◇ EYFS Teacher—The Harleston Federation
- ◇ Administrator—DNEAT
- ◇ School Governance Officer—DoNESC

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](#).



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**

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12–15-year-olds

We have had a number of queries from members over the past week following the publication of the [guidance](#) which makes it clear that the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. Legal accountability for offering COVID-19 vaccines to children and young people sits with the SAIS and not with the school. The role of schools is limited to working with SAIS in order to facilitate the programme and therefore it is very difficult, if not impossible, to see how any issues with the programme can be attributable in any way to the school, trust, or its leaders.

The DfE has provided further advice for us to share with you:

“The school-aged immunisation team is the primary provider of the school vaccination programme for 12- to 15-year-olds and is legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. Schools are not legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccination programme on school sites. This is the same position as other school vaccination programmes. We are aware some schools have received letters or emails which feature false or misleading information (misinformation) about the safety, efficacy and purpose of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Headteachers and teachers are advised:

1. *Not to engage directly: misinformation narratives and tactics flourish when they are responded to.*
2. *Acknowledge receipt: if a response is needed, simply acknowledge receipt of concerns.*
3. *If there is a need to, refer to the latest scientific guidance on the issue. Some helpful links to trusted sources include:*
 - [COVID-19 children's programme guidance and leaflets](#) from Public Health England
 - [Vaccine Knowledge project](#)
 - the World Health Organization's [Mythbusters page](#)
 - the [Check Before You Share Toolkit](#)
 - [Health Publications website](#) to order and download COVID-19 publications
 - information on the [COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - information on the [COVID-19 vaccination programme](#)

More information is available in the PHE guidance for schools, which can be found [here](#).”

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](#).

Reminder from Darren Williams, Estates Manager

If schools have any maintenance works planned, please do not unplug or remove your computer servers in advance. If this action is required before any maintenance work is done, it will be managed through your IT provider. Contact Darren at darren.williams@donesc.org.



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St Benet's MAT Central Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT
05 Oct	10.30-12.30	Maths Mastery Understanding	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
	15.45-16.45	HMI Lecture Series—Marc White, HMI Subject Lead for Computing	Suzannah Kay suzannah.kay@stbenets.org
06 Oct	09.00-13.00	St Benet's MAT Heads & Chairs Forum	
	09.00-16.00	English Subject Leader Update at Harleston	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
	15.45-16.45	HMI Lecture Series—Richard Kueh, HMI Subject Lead for RE	Suzannah Kay suzannah.kay@stbenets.org
08 Oct	09.00	RE Audit by Chris Allen at Diss PAP	
11 Oct	16.00-17.30	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leaders— Embedding Mastery	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
22 Oct	09.00-15.00	St Benet's Trust INSET Day	Academy/School Headteacher
25-29 Oct		Half term holiday	
04 Nov	09.00-12.00	EYFS Planning Non-fiction at Diss Infants	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
	12.30-15.30	Y1/2 Planning Fiction at Diss Infants	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
05 Nov	09.00-12.00	Y3/4 Teachers—Planning Non-fiction at St Mary's	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
	12.30-15.30	Y5/6 Teachers—Planning Non-fiction at St Mary's	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
11 Nov	10.00-14.00	PiXL Primary National Conference (digital)	
22 Nov	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
23 Nov	09.00-16.00	English Subject Leader Update—Moderation Focus (HT to join 14.00-16.00) at Dickleburgh	Kelly Stokes mrskellystokes@outlook.com
25 Nov	09.00	RE Audit by Chris Allen at Newton Flotman	
09 Dec	09.00	RE Audit by Chris Allen at Garboldisham	

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Focus On Our People

Focus On Our People returns this week with a conversation with the newly-appointed Deputy Headteacher at Harleston CE Primary Academy, Jane Price.

Jane only joined Harleston Primary 4 weeks ago, but she already describes it as *"feeling like home"*. This is a good start to any new job, but a feeling that Jane has been lucky enough to experience before in her career as a Teacher.



Jane went to school in Southend-on-Sea, attending the local Catholic primary and secondary schools. She recalls a particularly memorable Teacher in her primary school who let the children do what interested them, on top of following the curriculum. She allowed her pupils to do things like putting on little plays and building tadpole ponds, and this approach provided Jane with her first thoughts that teaching could be the right path for her.

Interestingly, when Jane returned to her primary school after qualifying as a Teacher, she found that the little pond had been enlarged and turned into the school wildlife area.

Jane is also honest in admitting that even as a child she enjoyed leading people, or as she puts it, *"bossing people around!"*

After school, Jane started training as a Dance Teacher but unfortunately was injured which meant she was unable to continue with this as long-term career. She enrolled on an Access to Teaching course which led her to attend King Alfred's College in Winchester on a 4-year degree in education. From the start, this felt like the right choice although the challenges of living on her own away from home were sometimes hard. Jane credits her family as being very supportive during this period.

After graduating from King Alfred's College, Jane joined a Church of England school in Thurrock. The school was single-form entry and despite being a lovely village school it had suffered from a lack of leadership with 5 Headteachers in 5 years. This meant that Jane had to step up very quickly so by her third year of teaching she was phase leader for EYFS and KS1 across 2 schools as part of a soft federation.

This steep learning curve included an Ofsted inspection whilst the school had no Headteacher and the Deputy Head was on long-term sick leave.

Despite these challenges, the school achieved a Satisfactory grade, which was a huge relief to all the staff.

After this milestone, Jane realised that she needed a new challenge and moved to a school that, although it had a terrible reputation, gave her a sense of feeling at home as soon as she visited it. She describes how she *"Felt like the place was mine as soon as I visited it."*

Although it was a step back for her, as she was now a classroom Teacher again, she embraced the change as a way to learn some of the things that had been missing from her previous school.

Over the next decade Jane moved up through the school, finally becoming Deputy Head and gaining an Outstanding judgement under the new inspection framework which she accredits to the whole schools' learning ethos.

She also worked with the Local Authority, running an Improving and Outstanding Teacher programme. She wrote a Partnership programme with a colleague which was designed to encourage partnership in schools based on the idea that there is always something to learn from the people around you. Two of the schools that utilised Jane's programme had her training quoted in their Ofsted reviews when they were graded as Good schools.

Jane was then seconded to work in another Trust school in Newham; a large 4-form entry primary. Her focus was to improve teaching & learning and curriculum. Most recently she worked on a Curriculum Leaders development programme.

Jane and her family decided to move to Norfolk to gain a greater sense of space, which they have found in their new home near Harleston. They love to go walking and enjoy entertaining at home.

Jane describes Harleston Primary as, *"A great new team, not scared to challenge"*. She adds, *"There is no hierarchy, just a good team working together for the kids."*

Jane's passion is training and CPD and she firmly believes that we can all be lifelong learners, learning from others and passing that knowledge on to develop a learning community.

There is no doubt that the staff and pupils at Harleston Primary will benefit from Jane's boundless enthusiasm for learning and we are delighted that she has joined the St Benet's family.