

# B-Comms



Diocese of Norwich  
St Benet's  
Multi Academy Trust

11 February 2022 (Issue 26)

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

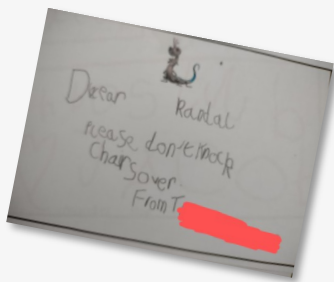
*B-Comms is our fortnightly newsletter that includes good news stories from our academies, operational updates, general information and a central calendar for training events across the Trust.*

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

## Good News Stories

Pupils at **Newton Flotman Primary Academy** have been enjoying a monster-filled approach to writing, following training given to teachers by Kelly Stokes, the Trust's School Improvement Officer.

Mrs Brailey used characters from Disney Pixar's Monsters Inc and Julia Donaldson's much-loved The Gruffalo to help spark the imagination of children in her mixed Reception/Year 1 class and they have been writing notes to the monsters, making posters and filming themselves behind monster masks.



## Planting a Tree for the Jubilee

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, with organisations, local authorities, schools and individuals across the country being invited to **'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'**.

Royal British Legion Industries provides stable, permanent employment for the country's most disadvantaged veterans and those with disabilities. Their social enterprise factory, Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company, has been **selected as an approved supplier of plaques** to commemorate the planting of trees (pictured below):



As part of their employment, our veterans will be producing and fulfilling these Corten Steel plaques and in doing so will learn vital metalwork skills that they can take with them when seeking further employment in their career.

To buy a Queen's Green Canopy Plaque click here: <https://rbli.shop/products/queens-green-canopy-plaque>

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## Vacancies

For vacancies at St Benet's MAT please visit: [www.stbenets.org](http://www.stbenets.org). Please email your vacancies to [robyn.redman@donesc.org](mailto:robyn.redman@donesc.org).

For vacancies at DNEAT, DoNESC and the Diocese of Norwich please visit: [www.dneat.org](http://www.dneat.org) or [www.dioceseofnorwich.org](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org).

## 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](mailto: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: 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](mailto:holly.davy@dioceseofnorwich.org).

### Norfolk Churches Trust Primary School Art Competition

The Norfolk Churches Trust have asked us to share their announcement of their art competition. The competition is being judged by Bishop Graham and aims to inspire children from Norfolk Primary Schools to draw or paint their own church. More information can be found here: <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news/the-norfolk-churches-trust-schools-art-competition-2022/>.

### Book Grant Scheme from 'Speaking Volumes'

Christian bookshop Green Pastures in Dereham have contacted the Diocese about a book grant scheme from Speaking Volumes, a charity set up to encourage Christian reading in schools and libraries.

This charity are offering schools grants of £200 for free, good quality, new Christian books. Schools can apply from 1 March until 30 April after which applications will be reviewed and allocated (there is a priority criteria). If successful, the money can be spent on a selection of books which can be found on their website. These can be ordered through a designated Christian bookshop and Green Pastures (the only registered shop in Norfolk) is offering to deliver and process the orders for each successful school and would like to reassure busy teachers that they would help and support them through a quick and easy process.

Further information including terms and conditions can be found at: <http://www.speakingvolumes.org.uk/>

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## Operational Updates

### **Stop Abuse Together: A new government resource to help keep children and young people safer from sexual abuse**

You can help parents and carers you work with keep their children safer online by sharing these new resources. Most children won't tell anyone at the time of their abuse. That's why it's important for everyone to know how to spot the potential signs of child sexual abuse and where to go for support if concerned.

The new Stop Abuse Together website ([stopabusetogether.campaign.gov.uk](https://stopabusetogether.campaign.gov.uk)) can help parents and carers learn to spot the signs, have regular conversations with their child which can help keep them safer, and know when it's right to reach out for more support.

### **Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents and carers**

This guidance for parents and carers is based on the voices of children and young people and gives tips to adults about how they can support children to stay safer online.

The guide for parents and carers and summary poster are available to download from the [Children's Commissioner for England's website](#).

### **Automated Collection of Attendance Data – DfE Trial**

As part of the focus on school attendance, the DfE is trialling a new way of establishing a better attendance data through automated collection. This should not create any additional administrative burdens. More information is set out in the DfE's document: [Requesting daily data from schools – Principles of Data Use](#). An [article](#) on the Education Hub provides further explanation.

The DfE has asked Wonde to trial this approach. Wonde will ask for the agreement of schools to share daily pupil level and attendance data with the DfE.

The Confederation of School Trusts (CST) have asked for assurances that this will not be used for accountability purposes and the DfE has confirmed that this data will not be used for inspection or regulatory activity - identifying a school causing concern, inspection, or decisions to place or remove a school in a trust.

You will need to continue completing the Educational Settings Status form while the DfE test and develop this new approach.

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## Training/CPD Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
21 February	13.00-15.30	Maths—Mastering Mastery in EYFS. <b>Location: Diss Junior</b>	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
22 February	13.00-18.00	Overview of Strategy/Poetry Focus/Shared Writing Focus. <b>Location: Brome Grange, Norwich Road (A140), Eye, Nr Diss, Suffolk IP23 8AP</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
28 February	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Newton Flotman, St Mary's, Tacolneston & Morley). <b>Location: St Mary's Junior</b>	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
02 March	09.00-12.00	EYFS Teachers—Collaborative planning time and sharing of ideas across schools. <b>Location: Newton Flotman Primary</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
02 March	12.30-15.30	Y1 & Y2 Teachers—Collaborative planning time and sharing of ideas across schools. <b>Location: Newton Flotman Primary</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
03 March	09.00-12.00	Y3 & Y4 Teachers—Collaborative planning time and sharing of ideas across schools. <b>Location: Newton Flotman Primary</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
03 March	12.30-15.30	Y5 & Y6 Teachers—Collaborative planning time and sharing of ideas across schools. <b>Location: Newton Flotman Primary</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
07 March	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Harleston, Alburgh-with-Denton). <b>Location: Harleston Primary</b>	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
14 March	15.30-16.30	Maths—Inclusive Mastery Practice (Beacon Federation). <b>Location: Dickleburgh Primary</b>	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
15 March	09.00-16.00	English Subject Leads—Focus: Changes, research, Ofsted narrative. <b>Location: Alburgh with Denton Primary</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
21 March	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery. <b>Location: TBC</b>	Laura Richardson l.richardson@diss.stbenets.org
16 May	09.00-12.00	Maths Hub Day for Maths Leads—Embedding Mastery. <b>Location: TBC</b>	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). <b>Location: St Mary's Junior Academy</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@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. <b>Location: TBC</b>	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. <b>Location: TBC</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
23 June	09.00-16.00	Subject Leader Update—Focus: Moderation (HT to join 14.00-16.00). <b>Location: ASHS TBC</b>	Kelly Stokes kelly.stokes@stbenets.org
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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## Spotlight on You

**Some of you will already have met Kelly Stokes, the Trust's new School Improvement Officer. Kelly started working as a consultant in our schools back in 2020 but since January 2022 has joined us as an employee. We caught up with Kelly to hear about her career path.**

Kelly was born in London and went to school in Brentwood, Essex. As a child, Kelly enjoyed school and remembers a particularly inspirational primary school teacher who sparked her interest in teaching as a career.

Kelly studied for A Levels in Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Theatre Studies and also undertook some work experience in her old primary school, Stapleford Abbots Primary, where she was encouraged to pursue teaching as a career. This led her to study for a BA degree in Teacher Training at Anglia Ruskin University.



Before Kelly had finished her degree, her local primary school where she had attended as a pupil, asked her to cover a sickness absence so she started teaching there and was offered a

permanent position after graduating.

Kelly thrived in the school and soon became a Maths Specialist Teacher and ICT Leading Teacher. The teacher who had so inspired Kelly when she was a child now became her mentor and Kelly recalls feeling part of a wonderful community and being given the opportunity to flourish.

This included studying for a Masters degree whilst teaching and also supporting other schools in the area with ICT. Kelly's school won the East of England IT Award for Using IT in the Community through a project where pupils taught elderly people to use computers.

After 12 years at Stapleford Abbots Kelly moved to a new school which had been judged Requires Improvement by Ofsted. Kelly was given a very challenging class and due to staff absence was soon running a number of other classes too. Strong leadership at that school meant the school was judged Good by Ofsted within 6 months and when Kelly left the school 3 years later it was receiving the best results it had ever had.

Kelly and her husband were living in Essex at this time but started to think of moving to Norfolk and buying a home with enough land to keep horses, which Kelly had done since childhood. They eventually moved to a house with paddocks near Thetford Forest and bought two horses which they enjoy riding in the forest.



In 2017 Kelly was appointed as Director of Improvement at Sapientia Education Trust and stayed there for 2 years. After working with SET on the project group for Wymondham College Prep, the DfE asked them to open White House Farm Primary in Sprowston and Kelly took on the role of Headteacher.

At this time Kelly started a Doctorate on 'The Impact of Ofsted and their Framework'. Knowing that she needed to spend time on her Doctorate whilst also maintaining an income, Kelly left SET and became a self-employed consultant before joining St Benet's in a part-time role this January.

Kelly comments that, *"It is a privilege to be able to get into schools; I have a strong desire to help schools at this very challenging time."* She adds that, *"It can be very isolating being a Headteacher in a rural area and St Benet's can offer an opportunity for staff to share and support each other."*

Kelly loves to read in her spare time but balances this out with participating in adventure sports and travel with her husband. Together they have travelled extensively including back-packing for a month around Thailand, climbing Machu Picchu in Peru, trekking to Everest Base Camp, visiting Alaska, St Petersburg and South Africa.



Kelly is delighted to have joined St Benet's and says that she, *"Enjoys working with a group of people who really value what's right in education, which is the people and the children."*

Kelly can be contacted at [kelly.stokes@stbenets.org](mailto:kelly.stokes@stbenets.org).