

Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

June 2018



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

Performing Arts

Schools are wonderful places filled with talented and creative pupils, staff, governors and other volunteers.

One way such talent and creativity is developed is through performing arts and this edition of Footprints showcases four very different examples of how our Church of England schools and academies are providing fantastic opportunities for children to get involved and experience the power of performance. There are sound educational reasons for ensuring all pupils get opportunities to perform which go well beyond any aspiration to appear on Britain's Got Talent! It is well recorded that confidence and character develop significantly as well as team working skills being honed.

We have recently circulated to all our

schools, academies and stakeholders the Diocese of Norwich Board of Education's 'Education Strategy 2018 – 2023'. At its heart is the desire to make real the promise of Jesus of 'life in all its fullness' (John 10 v10) which means achieving both high academic outcomes and a broad school experience preparing pupils for the next stage of life in modern Britain. Many schools feel under increasing pressure to make artificial choices between academic rigour and the wellbeing of their pupils. However, we are unequivocal in our message that there is no such distinction – a good education must promote life in all its fullness. The performing arts play an important role in achieving this.

The Bible and church history are full of examples of drama, music, imagery and storytelling, enabling the people of God to worship and relate to their creator. As seen in this edition of Footprints the performing arts are also an effective way of enhancing collective worship and the teaching of Christianity, such as the Easter story. Creativity through the arts also helps us to think and dream big. Our spirits can be truly inspired and moved. This concept too sits at the heart of our Education Strategy which speaks of achieving 'immeasurably more than we can imagine!' Please keep doing those exciting artistic activities that add so much to every school and its community.

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE



Bradley Young
Head teacher, Homefield VC Primary

At Homefield Church of England Primary School, we have spent the past two years developing our music provision. This was aided by the appointment of a music specialist to our staff team, who has revitalised the music curriculum and has raised the profile of the subject across the school, making it more tactile, more active and a subject all pupils look forward to with eager anticipation.

With our school strapline being “providing opportunities to shine,” we felt it necessary to increase the peripatetic sessions we offer to enable a greater number of pupils the chance to learn a musical instrument for the first time. Expanding from the more common keyboard, choir and recorder, we now have the pleasure of offering drumming,

guitar and flute. Developing this further, we will see our pupils performing live in front of audiences, either individually or collectively in an ensemble. It has been a real highlight of our recent collective workshops to listen to the newly acquired musical talents of our pupils as they performed for us. Such elements enable all to prepare better for collective worship or assist all to reflect on the key message of the worship as they depart from it.

Increased participation in community, local and regional inter-school singing events and competitions has been an important development at Homefield, not to mention our fabulous class performances across the year. Our school choir has supported the Big Sing at our local church, as well as our community fete and we have achieved choral success competing against some neighbouring schools by winning the Talbot Happy Cup

in 2017.

Our greatest musical success is undoubtedly our House Shout competition, which sees our four house teams compete against one another for the coveted House Shout trophy. This annual event has now run for the past two years and has involved Mrs. Alison Corfield (Head of Norfolk Music) as our Head Judge. It has also seen local celebrities provide their own motivational messages and endorsements to inspire our pupils. Our children and staff engage with this whole-heartedly utilising some detailed choreography and powerful singing to showcase and celebrate their talents. The event is highly emotive and uplifting and one we are extremely proud of.

Looking ahead to the future, we aim to combine the expressive arts of Music, Art and Dance by undertaking the Take Ten Pieces project.

Lisa Blowfield
Head teacher, Harleston VA Primary

Harleston Primary has a long history of staging a key stage 2 performance in the Summer term. This year we are looking forward to seeing ‘Pirates of the Curried Bean’ on our stage. Preparation starts in the Spring term with an afternoon of auditions. This year over half of key stage 2 auditioned. Unfortunately there are never enough parts for everyone and this year one hundred and five pupils will be part of the cast and crew, with extra parts being written to include as many budding actors as possible.

In last year’s amazing production we were cautioned to be alert for a gang of colourful tights in our local area. Audiences, over two nights, were wowed



by Harleston’s rendition of ‘Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies’. In the words of Robin Hood, the performances were

‘fabulous darlings’. The pupils performed confidently and sang with tune and commitment.



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain, Open Academy

Easter Uncovered

On 26 April we had the privilege of hosting Easter Uncovered for our year 7 classes. This was an interactive experience that looked into the final week of Jesus' life before his death on the cross. The objective was to retell what Christians believe about Easter week through storytelling, drama and media.

Norwich Youth for Christ set up the experience, facilitated the day and explained why Easter is significant for them. There were a series of seven zones for students to engage with. Each zone was led by a team member who would retell a part of the story of Easter, and guide students in the interactive element.

The Holding zone - An introduction to Easter. A short video was shown about the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Angry Street - This showed that Jesus was angry at the injustice in the synagogue, and students were asked to write on a flipchart what injustices God would be angry about in the world today.

Wash zone - This showed that Jesus served his friends. Students washed their hands in bowls and were encouraged to think about ways they could serve others.

Meal table - Students learnt about the last supper and why Christians take communion.

The Garden - Students heard about the garden of Gethsemane, why Jesus prayed and what Christians believe about prayer. Students then took a minute to reflect on

things they would like to change.

Cross Hill - To show how Jesus died and the significance of forgiveness. Students wrote down in private something they have done wrong on some post-it notes and these are hammered with a nail into a piece of wood by the leader.

The Cave - Students learnt what Christians believe about Jesus' resurrection. Students were then invited to ask any questions about their experience and then were invited to have a look inside the cave.

At the end of the experience, students and staff commented on how much they had learned and came away challenged.

"I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Easter session given to Year 7s today – it was great to have so many little activities to get us thinking and the class were really engaged! I think it was really worthwhile".

Other feedback from students include:
'It was funny and still educating about God'
'It was new to me and interesting to learn'
'We got to learn about what the last supper is all about'
'I got to have some alone time with God'
'I did not know much stuff before'
'It was interesting because it explained more of Jesus' death'
'It told you about why Jesus took all of our sins with him, he did that for us.'
'Thank you for an amazing lesson.'





Mr Blanch
Class teacher, Fairhaven VA Primary

Every year, the Acle Cluster of schools holds a film festival where pupils at all of the primary schools are encouraged to make a film on a theme of their own choosing. These films were premiered at Cinema City in Norwich on 28 March 2018.

Beech Class from Fairhaven CofE VA Primary School, decided to go in a different direction to previous years and create a factual style documentary. This was to be

based on the churches of St Mary and St Lawrence, two important buildings that stand next to each other at the centre of the village of South Walsham. The children were keen to investigate why the two churches were built so close to one another. As in previous years, we contacted BBC Voices who were happy to help and were equally inspired by the subject matter.

Early in March, six people from BBC Voices visited the school and taught Beech Class about the equipment they use to film, along with the different techniques necessary to take varied shots and in turn make the best possible film. Equipped with this knowledge, our Year 4 children made their way to the church and worked in two groups, so that while one group filmed at St Mary's the other could film in St Lawrence's next door. This involved the children planning and carrying out

interviews, which they filmed, as well as filming the features of both buildings. With limited time available, BBC Voices worked incredibly hard to help with editing the shots and creating a successful film.

This whole venture is an excellent opportunity for the children to work alongside experts and put into practice the skills they have learnt.



You can watch the video at:
<https://bit.ly/2w1RjhV>

Governor & Clerk update



Louise Reeves
Education Support Officer

What impact do the arts have on your children within your school or academy? How can they and how do they link with other aspects of the curriculum? How is the impact measured and monitored? What do the children say?

Children do not have to be artistic to enjoy these elements or to be good at them. Many children will enjoy these regardless of ability.

Maybe you can ask yourself as a governor:

- What elements of the arts does your school or academy participate in and to what extent?
- Do the arts form part of your broad and balanced curriculum timetable?
- What percentage of time is given each week?
- What is the impact on the children?
- How do the arts link in with other subjects?
- How does access to the arts help your vulnerable groups?

- Does the school offer after school activities relating to the arts and who runs these?
- Do your children have a chance to showcase what they have learnt?

Maybe have a group monitoring session to see the arts in practice, take part and speak to the children about what they enjoy the most.

Arts can also help in the distinctiveness of the church school or academy. Visual displays are a good way to reinforce a value or elements of RE. Once these displays are to be taken down, why not see if the local church would like to display the artwork for a period of time.

SIAMS Congratulations

Congratulations to the following schools that have had their SIAMS inspections this Spring term.

Good

Lyng CofE VC Primary School
North Elmham CofE VC Primary
St Nicholas Priory CofE VA Primary

Welcome

We warmly welcome to his new headship from 1 September 2018:

John Neenan, Head teacher of Aylsham St Michael's CofE VA Nursery & Infant

Jonathan Moule who is joining the Diocesan team as Distinctiveness and Standards Manager

Farewell & Thanks

Catherine McMahon - Aylsham St Michael's CofE VA Nursery & Infant

Tracey McCarthy - Swaffham CofE Junior Academy DNEAT

Christina Galletly - Churchside Federation DNEAT

Maggie Broad - Diocesan School Support Officer