

Footprints

Step by step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

September 2022

Life in all its fullness

(John 10:10)



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

You are reading this at the start of a new academic year, hopefully refreshed by a lovely summer break.

I wrote this introduction at the beginning of the summer holidays after another tough year filled with many challenges for us all. Despite feeling tired

and ready for a holiday I now feel totally exhilarated and uplifted as I read the wonderful stories from our schools, and I hope you do too!

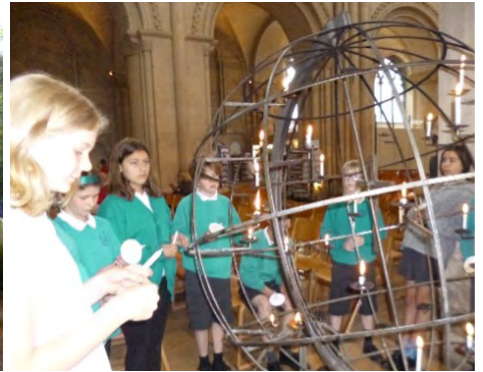
As schools reflected on what it means for them to live 'life in all its fullness', it struck me that empowering children is at the heart of this. For example, one article says 'So, the adults stepped back' and let the children lead, be in charge, learn from their mistakes and develop resilience. In the nursery featured, children 'take responsibility' and independence is encouraged. Governors seek out pupil voices and recognise the importance of spiritual, physical, and mental health.

The Year 6 pupils featured in this edition show a maturity and remarkable depth of understanding of how

their lives have developed and been enhanced through attendance at a church school. I would love to explore further with them their statement that 'we recognised that life was the truest phenomenon of them all', a deep statement to unpack!

Our national vision for education has the subtitle 'Deeply Christian, serving the common good'. In all our schools those two things sit well together. The deeply Christian values, vision and ethos lead to us all, whatever our faith position, being able to serve the common good. And of course, the children in our schools are the focus of that.

I pray that this academic year will see children and adults flourish and experience 'life in all its fullness' across all our Diocesan schools.



Libby Moulard & Nina Iwanczyk
Year 6 pupils
Lyng VC Primary

We definitely believe Lyng VC Primary School has helped our learning journey both in life and in our learning; we believe it has given us a perfect start in our lives and how to live in the future.

In this article we wish to give you an insight, into how our charming little school has supported us to become caring and clever people.

At the start of our school lives, we gained a love of reading from school by reading books. This has developed as

we've moved through school, so that every time we pick up a book we can picture the image of the story. Every year we celebrate the Christmas story, in our imagination we can picture the image of the shining white angel wings as the angels appeared to the shepherds in the inky blackness.

In the books we have read, we have learnt that team work is a great power, and that you can always form new friendships. This will be key when we start high school, seeing as we will be in new classes with different people.

We visited the Cathedral in Year 5 to see Dippy the dinosaur on tour. We saw how wonderful the world was

and the amazing things it could do. We recognised that life was the truest phenomenon of them all.

We were truly impressed about the amount of diversity that was and still is, in our world.

Recently we made another visit to the Norwich Cathedral. It taught us many lessons but perhaps the most important one was that we will make new friends in our lives, stay with old ones and keep the memories of the past and future.

As we reach the end of our primary school journey, all the things we have seen and done have brought us to this moment and the present is the best moment to be in.

Titus Cotton
Headteacher
Overstand The Belfry VA Primary

'But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."' Luke 18:16

COVID changed the world for everyone, but perhaps most of all for the children. People lost jobs, money, loved ones, and freedom. But children lost something fundamental to their lives, something vital in their development; they lost the chance to play with other children.

At the Belfry we knew that literacy and numeracy and all the other subjects could be organised remotely, but there was one thing that we could not provide online – the freedom to play with peers.

We knew that something so central to childhood was essential, and we had to do something. But what? We researched and contacted experts, here and in the US.

Play in schools is often bounded by the adults who organise it, choose the resources, explain the rules, arbitrate



disputes... The underlying message to children is always, "adults will sort things out for you". And although it is always done with the best of intentions, was that really the message we wanted children to learn?

What about freedom? Resilience? The chance to fail and learn from mistakes? The chance to create your own games. The chance to be in charge and in control in a world where everyone had lost

control? So, the adults stepped back.

We act as lifeguards now. We watch for accidents or bullying, but everything else...? The children are in charge.

They create, they fix, they resolve, they rule, they organise, they care, they fall out, they fall back in again, they disperse, they regroup, they build, they hide, and they play. They are not hindered.

For 45 minutes every day they live life to its fullest.



Fiona Tibbitt
Senior Leader
St Michael's VA Primary and
Nursery School, Aylsham

We are delighted with our new nursery building driven by the support of The Diocese of Norwich.

Governors and staff strongly felt that they wanted to offer a Church of England Primary in Aylsham, rather than stopping at infant age. The change to Primary started in 2018 and since then it became apparent that we would need to be larger than a 5 class primary so more space was required.

We are now able to offer children from 3 to 11 the chance to Dream, Believe and Achieve with us; encouraging them to get the most out of life, to achieve their

full potential.

The new nursery, constructed to have minimal ecological impact, offers a calm and safe place for our youngsters to explore, play and experience all aspects of learning. The home corner lets them role play, the washing up sink at child height allows them to take responsibility, the tiny toilets and exciting trough sink and 'magic' taps encourage independence. The children eat together in the snack room and have amazing conversations with staff and each other, the interactive whiteboard is used by adults and children alike to entertain and explore the wider world.

Let us not forget the outside space, almost floor to ceiling windows give the nursery an airy feel and the double doors open to a covered area and the activity slope with climbing wall, slide, rope

climbing and grassy bank to roll down. This free flow access to the wider early years outdoor area has created so many learning experiences as well and lots of joy and laughter.

The nursery space encourages creativity and curiosity amongst all the children and allows for so many exciting challenges and teachable moments, to help the children flourish from whatever stage of development they are.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Bishop of Lynn, Bishop Jane in September for the grand opening of our nursery once the finishing touches are complete. We truly feel that this nursery project is testament of Ephesians 3:20.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, by his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

**You're invited to a special service
celebrating our work with
children and young people**

**The Dean & Chapter warmly invite you to a Celebration Service
conducted by The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher
Sunday 18 September 2022, 6pm, Norwich Cathedral**

The event is for all those supporting children and young people across schools and churches including headteachers, school staff members, governors, trustees, youth & children's workers, school chaplains, volunteers and clergy. Join with us as we are commissioned and pray for the new academic year and all it holds.

Light refreshments will be served from 5pm in the Bishop's House Garden
by kind permission of the Bishop of Norwich and Mrs Rachel Usher.

Book now, visit: www.DofN.org/CelebrationService

Governor focus



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When I joined the Diocese of Norwich in 2018, it was Diocesan Director of Education Paul Dunning who first introduced me to the idea of educating for “life in all its fullness”.

A wrap around or holistic approach to education that would prepare children and young people not only to pass tests and exams but to be part of their community both locally and globally as adults. Immediately, this was an idea I could really get on board with. As the four years since have passed, none of us could have predicted how the world

has changed but one great positive is the wider understanding of the role that schools play in forming the minds and the character of their pupils.

It is easy to become very focused on the academic, after all it is the academic achievements of the summer which will have made the headlines. However, in the Diocese of Norwich family of schools we try to remember the idea of “life in all its fullness”. Whatever the summer outcomes in the school(s) where you govern, it is just as important to ask how the school has supported the pupils’ wellbeing. What successes have been seen last year and what challenges lie ahead to ensure that all pupils have the opportunities they deserve. Governors can also look wider than wellbeing too. Are there any rising sports, theatre or music talents in the school and how does the curriculum support them too.

Of course, at the essence of “life in all its fullness” we remember that it was Jesus who said, ‘I have come that you may have life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10). When you visit your schools consider how the Christian distinctiveness of the

school is supporting the development of the children in all aspects of their life. Are there reflections of the ethos across the school physically in displays and in the curriculum that support the development of resilient well-rounded individuals? Can you see evidence in your meetings and your school visits that pupils’ spiritual development (Christian or otherwise), good physical and mental health and academic achievement is well supported?

Considering “life in all its fullness” as a governing body will help you on a meeting to meeting or visit to visit basis to build a broad view of a school. It will also help you to hear and understand the voice of the pupils and in this way prepare yourselves and the school for the challenges that may lay ahead, not least a SIAMS or Ofsted inspection.

Educating for “life in all its fullness” means nurturing and enabling every child to become the person they are fully capable of being. Thank you, to all those governing, for including in the fullness of your life, the pupils in the Diocese’s family of schools.

Welcome

Headteachers starting

Kerry Read – Homefield VC Primary
Lorraine Ratcliffe – The Bishop’s Academy DNEAT, Thetford
Suzannah Hayes – Unity Federation
Rhiannon Price – The Saints Federation (Interim HT)
Emily Sacre – Bluesky Federation (Interim HT)
Victoria McConnell – Flourish Federation (Interim HT)
Matt Dunscombe – Scole VC Primary (Interim HT)
Leigh Goodhew – Alburgh with Denton Academy (Interim HT)

Farewell & thanks

Heads leaving

Laura Watts – Bluesky Federation
Elaine Glendinning – Homefield VC Primary (Interim HT)
Lindsay Hangar – St Mary’s Junior Academy, Long Stratton (Interim HT)
Martin White – Scole VC Primary (Interim HT)
Hayley Sonnex – Alburgh with Denton Academy

Others

Jon Moule – Distinctiveness and Standards Manager

Global Neighbours

Hethersett VC Primary – Bronze award



HARLESTON SANCROFT ACADEMY

St Benet’s Multi Academy Trust are pleased to announce that The Harleston Sancroft Academy opened on 1 September 2022. This brings together Harleston Primary Academy and Archbishop Sancroft High School offering a seamless education journey for its community from 3 to 16 years of age.

SIAMS congratulations

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

Great Massingham – Good

REQM congratulations

Old Catton VC Junior – Gold Award (14 July 2022)
Alburgh with Denton CE Primary Academy – Silver Award (18 July 2022)