



**HARLESTON SANCROFT**  
ACADEMY

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Diocese of Norwich  
St Benet's  
Multi Academy Trust

**Value for this half term:** Hope

**Theme for this week (11 - 15 September 2023):** Hope - The rainbow is a symbol of hope

**Life Skills theme for the week:** We are reflective

### ***Life in All its Fullness:***

Today marks the first Monday and the first full week of the new school year for our students.

It's an exciting and hopeful time! Although we do recognise that for some students, the excitement is mixed with a sense of nervousness.

To help students to settle in quickly they are already forging strong relationships with key adults, such as Form Tutors and Year Heads. They also have their equipment, their planners, any new items required for the school uniform, and this helps them to feel confident and a part of our community; they are ready to focus on enjoying learning and getting the most from their time in school with us. For students attending school and adults who work in schools, this time in early September often feels much more like our *New Year* than the first of January!



On a personal scale, children and families face their own challenges. On a wider scale, we only have to watch or listen to the news to sometimes feel overwhelmed by information about war, earthquakes, wildfires, floods and famine.

This week in school we are thinking about the rainbow of hope, but also about being reflective people. Being reflective in our community means taking time to think about ourselves and others - to consider what role we play in every lesson, every day, but also thinking about those who are suffering or struggling - whether we know them personally, or not.

### **Our Vision**

The Harleston Sancroft Academy is a community that flourishes, through God's love, to live

**'Life in All its Fullness'.**

(JOHN 10:10 AND JOHN 13:34).

We are a foundation of **Hope**; a family of **Love**; a school of nurture guided by **Faith**; promoting a unique, personalised journey towards excellence.

As well as being full of hope and fresh starts, the world can seem like a very daunting place.

When terrible things happen in the world, particularly when these things are on a large scale, it can be hard to picture the individuals involved. When we read that the death toll following the earthquake in Morocco has climbed beyond 2,000, we may struggle to visualise the scale of the disaster.

Billy Collins, a New Yorker and the American Poet Laureate wrote a poem for the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America. Now, over twenty years later, the poem remains a powerful reminder that huge and terrible disasters are composed of individuals who should be held in our hearts and minds.

In his poem “The Names”, some of the victims of the 11 September attacks are specifically recalled, with one letter of the alphabet and one victim’s surname taken in turn.

Here’s the beginning and end of the poem:

### *The Names*

Yesterday, I lay awake in the palm of the night.  
A soft rain stole in, unhelped by any breeze,  
And when I saw the silver glaze on the windows,  
I started with A, with Ackerman, as it happened,  
Then Baxter and Calabro,  
Davis and Eberling, names falling into place  
As droplets fell through the dark [...]

Names of citizens, workers, mothers and fathers,  
The bright-eyed daughter, the quick son.  
Alphabet of names in a green field.  
Names in the small tracks of birds.  
Names lifted from a hat  
Or balanced on the tip of the tongue.  
Names wheeled into the dim warehouse of memory.  
So many names, there is barely room on the walls of the heart.

You can listen to Billy Collins reading the whole poem [here](#).

### **Key dates for September:**

Thursday 21 September: Y6 Information Evening, from 18:00-19:00

Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 September: Open Days in the Secondary Phase

**Attendance matters:** Attending school every day gives your child the best opportunity and access to a wide range of learning, wellbeing and social connections.

The Department for Education (DfE) published this information last week:

“There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people.



Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.”

“It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should *not* be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.”

The DfE has shared the following information: [NHS ‘Is my child too ill for school?’ guidance](#) which we hope will be useful for parents and carers.

### **School website and Twitter:**

The [school website](#) is a useful source of information. Please also visit the Harleston Sancroft Academy [Twitter feed](#) for photos and updates.

### **A prayer for the week ahead**

Father God, we pray for our world.

We pray for peace and hope to abound.

Many people are afflicted by natural disasters – floods, droughts and forest fires – by conflict, poverty, and the aftermath of the global pandemic.

In challenging times, help us turn to you as our source of strength and hope.

Merciful God, we ask for your peace to be with all those who are suffering from griefs and hardships - and we pray that they would come to know your comfort and provision.

Amen.