

WENSUM news

AUTUMN 2025

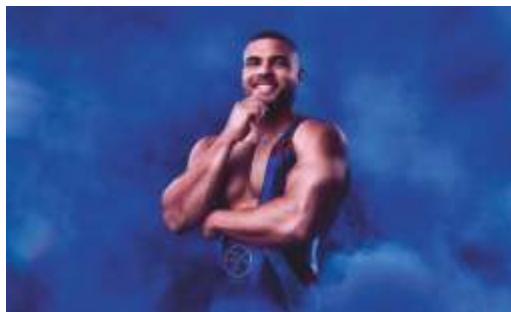
WENSUM TRUST



APHS Races into National Greenpower Final



Wensum Trust Celebrates
Fantastic GCSE Success



Fittest Man in England
Motivates at Burnham Market



Firside Friendship Takes
Flight at Saxon Air!

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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Wensum Trust



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GCSE Success Across The Wensum Trust

Wensum Trust schools are celebrating exceptional GCSE results, with record-breaking achievements and inspiring personal stories across the board.

There were great reasons to celebrate across our trust as schools revealed their GCSE results.

Alderman Peel celebrated the best results the school has ever recorded, and Headteacher Matt Hardman said the entire school community was proud of the achievements of everyone involved.

"They are the best results that the school has ever achieved and put us in the top flight of results for English and Maths across the County," he said. "I am so grateful for the hard work from all staff across the school and the support we have had from parents throughout their time with us." He added: "Within the results, there are some outstanding individual performances with students achieving grades 7 to 9, those all important 4s and 5s, but also students who have worked really hard to achieve grades 1, 2 and 3. We are delighted to achieve all of those results equally. We wish all of our students the very best for their next steps."

The school was also featured on Anglia News as a team from the TV station joined students and staff for the morning.

Staff and students at Acle Academy were also celebrating after another year of strong academic results.

Executive Principal Helen Watts said: "We are delighted with the overall and personal results for our 2025 cohort who have shown great determination and aspiration to achieve their personal best in their GCSEs."

Morgan Seddon, who achieved seven grade 9s a distinction and a grade 8, said: "I am so happy with my results, I can't believe it!"

Mrs Watts said everyone was delighted with the personal achievements of the students, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). "They have

achieved fantastic results including many grades 9s and 8s.

Tommy Bray, who has an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) achieved an amazing set of results, including two grade 9s and 4 grade 8s. Reacting to his results, Tommy said: "I'm so thrilled and I just want to keep on studying now" Mrs Bray, Tommy's Mum, added: "When Tommy started in Year 7, we didn't think he would survive in mainstream. He couldn't stay in a classroom in primary school, so we are so absolutely delighted that he has made it this far and achieved such wonderful results. We are so grateful to the amazing team at Acle that has supported him so well."

Mrs Watts continued: "It is testament to our inclusive culture that children with additional needs achieve so well at Acle Academy. "I am particularly grateful to our wonderful staff who make our school community such a supportive and caring environment which helps our students to thrive. "Our staff see the potential in every child and work relentlessly to help children achieve amazing success which builds strong foundations for their future." Well done to all students, staff and families who are celebrating the culmination of their hard work today."

Mike Earl, Principal at Hellesdon High School, praised his Year 11 cohort for its hard work and dedication in achieving a strong set of results. "They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year and truly deserve the results they've achieved," he said. "Their hard work and commitment have paid off, and these results are a testament to their resilience, determination, and passion to succeed. "As they move forward to the next chapter - whether it's at Sixth Form, College, Apprenticeships, or stepping into the workplace - we wish them all the very best for the future. "We have no doubt they will continue to achieve their goals and make a positive impact in whatever path they choose." He added: "We also like to take a moment to thank the teachers, mentors, and families who have supported them along the way. "Your guidance and encouragement have been crucial to their success."

GREEN POWER UK FINALS

APHS returns to the GreenPower Finals

APHS qualifies for national final of student engineering competition! Alderman Peel High School has secured a spot in the Greenpower electric car competition, a national contest where students design, build and race electric kit cars.

The team qualified for the finals during the Norfolk heat on September 21 at the Lotus test track in Hethel, where more than 20 teams competed.

Their success was supported by the JP Blanch legacy fund, which provided funding for one of the cars.

Archie, a student from the team, said: "One of the key things I put in my application [for work experience at Lotus] was my work building the Greenpower car."I've grown in confidence, learned how to lead a team, and improved my communication and organisation massively."

The JP Blanch fund was established from the sale of a vintage car collection belonging to the late JP Blanch, who died in 2008. The fund, managed by the Norfolk Community Foundation, supports young people in developing engineering and technical skills.

Paul Birch, an engineer and panel member of the JP Blanch fund, said: "It's brilliant to see young people getting hands-on with engineering, applying it in a fast-paced, real-world challenge."The creativity, problem-solving and teamwork these races inspire are exactly the skills they'll need to take into the workplace."

Barnabas Shelbourne, chief executive of Greenpower, said: "We are extremely grateful for the support from the JP Blanch fund which has enabled schools to compete at a higher level and give more young people the opportunity to explore careers in engineering."

JP Blanch's passion for cars and craftsmanship is living on through every student who takes part in these races."The national finals will be held at Goodwood in October 2025.

Alderman Peel High School has received an additional grant from the JP Blanch fund to help them prepare.



LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

Ypres Trip

Hellesdon High School's Humanities Department took 44 GCSE History Students on a two day visit to Ypres in Belgium on 23rd and 24th October.

Students learnt about the Medical treatment of soldiers on the Western Front to support their GCSE History course. A highlight of the visit was the ceremony at the Menin Gate. Three of our students were able to be part of the procession in the ceremony and lay a wreath. This was particularly poignant as both Mr Tkaczuk and one of the students have the names of their ancestors on the memorial and one student is related to the longest surviving Irish veteran from World War One. We found the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 very interesting and our students had the opportunity to re-enact the work of stretcher bearers and dress up as a World War I soldier. Throughout the trip the History staff were impressed with the students' attitude and exemplary behaviour. They were respectful and they made the most of the visit - whether it be exploring the battlefields or the chocolate shops.



CPR training for Sixth Form Students

On 17th September, the East Anglian Air Ambulance ran a CPR Training session for our Y12 and Y13 students.

The students were fantastic - they actively engaged in the discussion at the start of the session, and then had the chance to put what they had learnt into practice.

A huge thank you to the East Anglian Air Ambulance for the session. We are looking forward to raising some vital funds for this important charity during the Y12 Sponsored Walk.

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

Anything Is Possible! Gladiator Steel Powers Up Burnham Market Primary School.

Gladiator Steel brings his inspirational Zactiv workshop to Burnham Market Primary School. As part of our PE and Sport Premium funded project 'Be Inspired', we had an incredible morning with Steel, real name Zack George, who delivered Zactiv - Anything is Possible to all year groups. Zactiv is a workshop to help promote healthy balanced eating, hydration, exercise, confidence and a positive mindset.



The morning began with a whole school assembly, where Zac talked about his journey from a normal boy to gaining the title of the fittest man in England, which, of course, included his experiences of being a Gladiator. He spoke passionately about having a goal and learning from setbacks rather than allowing them to have a negative impact.

After the assembly, he spent time in every classroom, answering questions, chatting with children and signing autographs.

We will be having two more inspirational visitors this academic year so watch this space!



LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

Dragon's Den Success!

On 10th November Year 8 History students were involved in the Dragons' Den final.

Teams of Year 8 students had been chosen by their classes to pitch Norwich Industries to the Dragons (Professor Terry Haydn from UEA, and former HHS colleagues Mrs Chinnery and Mr Broster). Students had spent time researching companies such as Boulton and Paul, Bullards, Caleys, Colmans, and Rumsey Wells and preparing presentations. There were some fantastic pitches and the Dragons were very impressed. They said that the students were a credit to the school in terms of their application, determination and politeness. The Dragons highlighted the amount of detail in the presentations and the confidence the students demonstrated. Well done to all the finalists! Many thanks to our Dragons and to the Norfolk Museums Service for providing our winners with free tickets - we hope they enjoy exploring some of the Norfolk Museums.



Heather Avenue Infant School Earns Bronze Geography Quality Mark

Congratulations to Mrs Howes (Geography Lead) and the team at Heather Avenue Infant School for achieving the Bronze Geography Quality Mark (PGQM) A fantastic recognition of the school's commitment to high-quality geography education!

This award, granted by the Geographical Association, celebrates schools that demonstrate excellence in geography teaching, curriculum development, and pupil engagement. The school now proudly holds the Bronze PGQM for 2025-2028.

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

New Friendships Soar as Firside Pupils Visit Saxon Air

In October, some children from Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an event designed to build friendships across the generations. We were invited by Friend in Deed, who aim to promote intergenerational friendships, to Saxon Air to learn more about what they do as a company, take part in some fun events, whilst building relationships with older friends in care.

The children loved being able to walk around the hangar and get up close to some very exciting helicopters. They enjoyed a drink and a biscuit with the care home residents (one child, kindly shared his biscuits with his new friend Rita!) They then took part in activities including pin the tail on the aeroplane (labelling all the parts of a plane), coding activities and were taught how to direct a plane using light up wands and paddles.

It was a wonderful event which all of the children loved and we were so proud of the kindness they showed to the older people.



Heather Avenue Infant School Earns Eco-Schools Green Flag with Merit!

Congratulations to Heather Avenue Infant School and their amazing Eco-Committee, led by Mrs Paterson and the Eco Committee, for achieving the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Merit!

This fantastic accomplishment reflects the school's dedication to sustainability, environmental education, and community involvement. The Eco-Schools programme encourages young people to engage with environmental issues and take meaningful action—and Heather Avenue Infant School has done just that! Led by Mrs Paterson and the Eco-Committee, our whole school community have worked incredibly hard to implement eco-friendly initiatives, raise awareness, and make a real difference in their school environment. Their efforts have now been officially recognised with this well-deserved award.

Well done to everyone involved—your commitment to a greener future is truly inspiring!



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Proud to Care: Kinsale School Achieves Carer Friendly Tick Award

A prestigious caring award has been made to our school to recognise the work we do in supporting our young carers. We have joined the Carer Friendly Tick Award organisation which noted the 'outstanding commitment to supporting young carers and adult carers within the school community.'

Mrs Clarke, Young Carer Lead and office manager said the hard work had been worthwhile. "We applied because we wanted to raise awareness and recognise the important role young carers play in our community. Gaining this award has given our group of young carers a real sense of pride and belonging, it is really important to us at school that they always feel supported and know how special they are," she said. "We are thrilled that our work with the amazing young carers in our school has been recognised. This award is all about them, and making sure they have the support and resources they need to carry on caring for loved ones whilst prioritising their own wellbeing. I think our pledge that was written with our young carers explains perfectly: "Being positive about being a Young Carer means looking for the magic in the everyday but knowing it's ok not to not always feel sparkly. Supporting the people



we love and taking the time we need to take care of ourselves and each other."

The Carer Friendly Tick Award was introduced in 2019 by the Norfolk Young Carers Forum and has expanded via the Caring Together Charity to include a variety of organisations from education to healthcare services.

Headteacher Stacey Coleman said: "We are incredibly proud to recognise and support our young carers — their strength, kindness, and resilience inspire us every day. We're also delighted to see this commitment recognised through the Young Carers Award." By receiving the award, our school pledges to continue supporting students and ensure young carers have the tools and understanding they need to balance both their roles as carers and as students.

Applications are rigorously assessed by a panel of carers and the award remains valid for two years and the school can renew afterwards.

We are also able to receive expert guidance from Caring Together as it provides tailored resources and training to help everyone involved.

HHS New EAL Google Classroom!

We are excited to share that we now have a new EAL (English as an additional language) Google Classroom for our families!

This classroom will make it easier for you to receive school messages. Important information will be shared in clear, simple language, and you can also listen to audio recordings in English and other languages. This way, all families can feel more connected with our school.

Please check your email. If you have received an invitation, make sure to click accept so you can join the classroom. We look forward to welcoming you!

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



Hellesdon Students Spread Christmas Cheer – One Shoebox at a Time

Two inspiring students, Tilly and Sienna in year 8, known as the 'Shoebox Squad' are leading a heartfelt campaign to bring joy to those in need this Christmas – a tradition they've proudly upheld for the last five years.

Every year, they collect shoeboxes and fill them with thoughtful gifts, toiletries, and treats to donate to local charities such as Leeway and Dawn's New Horizon – helping ensure that people who might otherwise go without, receive a little kindness and joy over the festive season.

Last Christmas alone, they handed out an amazing 428 shoeboxes!

This year, their mission is growing even more special. They are now teaming up with Friend In Deed, a local charity that brings companionship to older people in care homes. Together, they are putting together Christmas stockings to make sure elderly residents also feel remembered and valued during the holidays.

Hellesdon High School is proud to be supporting their campaign – and we're calling on our school community to help make it another record-breaking year. We will be posting information about how you can help soon!

If you'd like to see more about their campaign, check out their Facebook Page here:
www.facebook.com/shoeboxsquad

REMEMBRANCE

So incredibly proud of our school today as we made our acts of Remembrance.

A wonderful whole-school Remembrance Assembly led by our friends at Wells and district Royal British Legion branch , featuring a presentation by our prefect team on their own families and reflections on conflicts around the world. The conduct of every single student was impeccable during the 2-minute silence in the assembly and then again in classrooms at 11:00am.The art display created by students is exceptional and the inclusion of Sea Cadets Wells Next the Sea in their uniforms and Oli as standard bearer was brilliant.

A very proud day for us all.



It was an honour to represent APHS along with Ava (Head Girl), Alex (Head Boy) and Millie (Junior Member of the Royal British Legion) at the Wells - next - the - Sea Remembrance Service yesterday.

Always a fantastic turnout including our good friends at Wells next the Sea Primary & Nursery School, Sea Cadets Wells Next the Sea Wells Carnival - Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, Wells RNLI, Homes for Wells, Holkham and many other local organisations and service personnel.

Well done to all involved for another great community event.



SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

APHS said "Hello Yellow" for World Mental Health Day. A total of £613 raised so far, plus £52.37 in gift aid.



Heather Avenue's Year 1 and 2 pupils enjoyed a fantastic walk to Mountfield Park as part of their geography learning.



Thanks to the support of last year's Book Fair, Kinsale were able to purchase lots of lovely new books for their library!



Acle Academy was proud to host a full day of celebration events recognising the outstanding achievements, progress and contributions of their students.

Hellesdon High Year 7 students enjoyed some action packed days at Eaton Vale Activity Centre.



Burnham Market Primary School attending the War Memorial for Remembrance Day



Pudsey came to Garrick Green to thank them for supporting Children in Need.



Hellesdon High had Mini Donks visit their Young Carers and students from the Bridge.

Kinsale had a crazy colourful day in support of Children in Need.



A brilliant day was had by all at Firsайд Junior School for their Run Firsайд event.



FACILITIES HIRE

Do you run a group or club?

Are you looking for somewhere to meet regularly? Or somewhere to host a one-off event?

Many of our schools have facilities which you can use as your base.

Whether you're running exercise or antenatal classes, slimming world sessions, adult education classes or drama groups, we can help accommodate you.

If you're interested in talking to us about using our facilities, please get in contact with Kris Hart by emailing k.hart@wensumtrust.org.uk or call 01603 254327.

Alternatively you can visit our website www.wensumtrust.org.uk to look at all the facilities we have on offer across the Trust.



“We are delighted to have access to the great facilities at the Wensum Trust. As a grassroots football club, they have been able to support us in providing good quality facilities at each of the formats we need; 5, 7, 9 & 11 a side, at prices that mean we can make football accessible for the children of our community.”

Dan Henry Costessey Youth

We are...

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