

Acle Academy PROSPECTUS



Respect, Aspiration and Determination

Part of the
WENSUMTRUST
Acle Academy

A Welcome from the Head of School



Dear Student and Parent/Carer

I am delighted to welcome you to Acle Academy, part of The Wensum Trust community of learning. It is my great honour to serve as Head of School as Acle Academy embarks on its transformational journey to become an outstanding centre of excellence. I would like to invite you to visit us in person to discover the wealth of wonderful educational opportunities that we can offer the young people of our community.

As a small rural school we understand that the passage from primary to high school can be a daunting experience. This is why we strive to ensure that our transitional arrangements are of the highest quality. Our staff will know your children as individuals, not as just a number or name on a list. At Acle Academy, we will care for your child ensuring that they are challenged to achieve their personal best in every aspect of school life. We are devoted to ensuring that our curriculum is enhanced with a diverse array of enrichment opportunities which will guarantee that your child leaves Acle Academy with excellent academic results and a wonderful collection of life long memorable experiences. We want our students to look back at their time at Acle Academy as 'the best days of their lives'.

As Head of School at Acle Academy I expect the highest standards of students and staff. Fundamentally, we are a learning community and therefore our personal conduct, respect for each other and our learning environment and our commitment to achieving our personal best, underpins every aspect of school life.

We are dedicated to creating a culture which helps prepare students not just for exam results, but for lifelong learning. To thrive in the 21st century, it is not enough to leave school with a clutch of examination certificates. Students need to have learnt how to be tenacious and resourceful, imaginative and logical, self-disciplined and self-aware, collaborative and inquisitive. At Acle Academy, we believe that the core purpose of education is to prepare young people for life after school; helping them to build up the mental, emotional, social and strategic resources to enjoy challenge and cope well with uncertainty and complexity. We believe that this purpose for education is valuable for all young people and involves helping them to discover the things that they would really love to be great at, and strengthening their will and skill to pursue them. We also believe that confidence, capability and passion can be developed in all students irrespective of their starting points. Real world intelligence is not something we are born with, we can all develop the skills needed to succeed with the right mind set. At Acle Academy we will inspire every young person and nurture their potential in order to develop the leaders of tomorrow.

We invite you to join Acle Academy and be part of the exciting new era for our school. I look forward to welcoming you in person and showing you that Acle Academy is the right choice for you.

Helen Watts
Head of School

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Acle Academy one of the founding school members of the Wensum Trust. Acle Academy has always been at the centre of its community and there it will remain and the recovery programme has already seen impact in restoring Acle to its rightful position of a leading provider and innovator of education in Broadland. Our ambitions are simple which are to reduce central expensive administration costs and put these into where it matters most, the classroom and also to restore the infra-structure of this school. We will provide all staff in the school with the best quality training so that the learning experienced by all students is challenging, exciting and enjoyable. Above all we will provide the students during their journey through the schools of the trust, a series of activities and experiences which will make them ready to take their place in a multi-cultural and technological 21st century Britain and beyond.

Gerard Batty
CEO The Wensum Trust

School Values and Vision

Respect, Aspiration and Determination

At Acle Academy we respect the power of learning to unlock our future potential. We respect education, our learning environment and each other. We have high aspirations and we understand that we have to be brave, open minded and resilient in order to achieve them. We are determined to do our best – we focus, we reflect and we persevere.

We value and nurture confidence, independence and high quality communication and social skills. Acle students leave our Academy ready to take on the world.



Teaching and Learning

Our Teaching and Learning ethos is at the heart of Acle Academy and underpins everything we do in the school. We are dedicated to helping young people become better learners. In our classrooms and the wider school environment, we systematically cultivate habits and attitudes that enable young people to face difficulty and uncertainty calmly, confidently and creatively. Students who are more confident with their own learning ability learn faster and learn better.

Our Teaching and Learning strategy rests on developing four key areas of learning habits. We develop emotional engagement, social learning skills, thinking skills, and learning strategies. By taking abstract concepts of learning and making them visible, we help students discover the things that they'd really love to be great at and then we strengthen the will and skill to pursue them. Acle Academy builds the spirit of resilience and resourcefulness in our students.

Our lessons always start with a learning question, we want our students to be thinking as soon as they enter the classroom. Lessons are rich with mysteries, puzzles and problem solving activities that encourage questioning, collaboration and deep learning opportunities. We aim to provide several routes through a lesson so that students can choose an appropriate task to stretch and challenge their learning.

“Our learning culture encourages students to become better learners. It allows students to approach difficulties in learning with confidence and without fear of failure.”



The School Day

Our day is organised around five one-hour long lessons. Students are expected to arrive on site by 8.45 am. Breakfast is available from 8.30 am and registration is at 8.55 am followed by Tutor time or assembly. Our day is structured with two lessons in the morning before a 15 minutes break, with one further lesson before lunch. There are two lessons after lunch and the day ends at 3.30 pm. Many students stay on for after-school clubs, matches, team practice or homework club. School buses arrive at approximately 8.45 am and depart by 3.45 pm. Students attending after school activities may go home on the late bus which leaves at 4.45 pm two nights each week.

Teaching and Learning – the heart of our school
On entry to Acle Academy the Year 7 students are placed in classes within broad ability and prior attainment groupings. Class sizes rarely exceed 30. Students who need learning support are allocated to classes where targeted help is available.

- We offer a broad and balanced curriculum designed to:
- provide equal opportunities for all students regardless of gender, aptitude or cultural, ethnic or religious background;
 - offer a broad and balanced entitlement to all students;
 - prepare students for further study, the world of work and to become active citizens;
 - develop positive personal and social values;
 - provide a variety of activities which bring about effective learning, provide appropriate challenges for all students and lead to achievement for all students;
 - provide continuity and progression from the point of transfer to the time of leaving school.

In years 7, 8 and 9 students study a common curriculum comprising of timetabled lessons in Art, Computing, Drama, Design & Technology, English, Geography, History, Maths, MFL, Music, PE, Ethics and Life Skills and Science.

In Years 10 and 11 students study their four selected options plus a broad core of subjects including English, Maths, Science, PE and Ethics and Life Skills.



Assessment and Progress

Assessment is a vital part of teaching and learning at Acle Academy. It allows staff, students and parents/carers to track the amount of progress students make in each subject. Target grades are initially based on students' past progress at Key Stage 2 and at Acle Academy; however, these may change as students progress at different rates in various subjects. We encourage parents to contact the school with any queries concerning progress or target grades.

Parents/carers receive information on progress throughout the year. All parents are invited to a parents' consultation evening.

Show My Homework is a programme used by staff to record the homework set and allows parents/carers access to this information to enable them to support their children.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

We are committed to providing the highest quality pastoral care. All students from Year 7 to Year 11 have their own personal tutor and belong to a mixed ability form group. The role of the form teacher is to offer personal and academic support to students so that effective learning and student well-being are paramount at all times. Each form is part of a larger family of support within our House system. Our House system, led by our Senior Leadership team, encourages a team ethos across the school.

Key Stage groups have a dedicated Progress Leader who works with our Engage team to ensure that all students are happy, safe and thriving academically. Where barriers to learning, such as attendance or low confidence, are identified, teams of adults in the school work together to ensure that programmes of student and family support and intervention are put in place quickly and impact monitored.

We have high expectations for the behaviour of our students. Students are encouraged not only to behave impeccably, but also to develop effective and pro-active behaviours for learning such as independence, organisation and resilience in the face of challenge.

Our Engage Centre supports all aspects of student progress and welfare. The Engage Centre focuses on unlocking barriers to learning and addressing the individual needs of students to



help them maximize their future potential. We offer a range of multi agency services to ensure that students are well supported throughout every aspect of their school life.

Ensuring that our students feel safe and happy both in school and outside of school, is a key priority at Acle Academy. Through the curriculum and our personal development and welfare system, every opportunity is taken to make students aware of, and how we manage risks. A passion for equality is at the heart of what we do. Students at Acle are taught to recognise and respect the need for equality regardless of gender, race, religion or sexual orientation and we adopt a zero tolerance approach to all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Careers and Work Related Learning

We are committed to ensuring that all of our students have high aspirations for their future and are fully prepared for the competitive world of work.

Students study careers through their Life Skills lessons and in form time. We are committed to providing impartial careers advice and guidance to all of our students. We work closely with Beacon East to work with an independent career advisor as well as those employed by Norfolk County Council. We are very proud of our careers programme and strong links that we have built with local post 16 providers.

Student Leadership and Active Citizenship

We are exceptionally proud of our students and recognise the important part that they can play in leading and developing our school.

We have elected House Captains as well as Junior Prefects, Senior Prefects and our Senior Student Leadership Team. We take student voice very seriously and routinely use our students as part of student panels in recruitment processes. In addition, students act as Parent Guides, help on reception and are regularly asked about their experiences of teaching and learning and behaviour, safety and attendance. Our School Council allows students to have their say with senior leaders and governors on important aspects of school life, an ideal opportunity for those who are interested in politics and active citizenship.

Parent and Family Engagement

We believe that effective home-school communication is key to ensuring that students thrive in school. We use the student planner to help inform parents or progress and as a communication tool between home and school. In addition we use text alerts, Facebook and Twitter to keep families fully aware of what is going on in school, as well as our comprehensive website which is updated on a weekly basis.

Where parents and carers have more specific concerns these will be picked up quickly. Pastoral concerns will be picked up by the form teacher, Progress Leader or Engage team whilst subject specific inquiries can be directed at the class teacher and Head of Faculty.

We believe it is important to engage with families and the local community as much as possible. Regular information evenings and events such as our Family Fete all offer important opportunities to bring our community together. We are very proud of our Parent Teacher Association and would welcome any interest from new members.

A Rich and Diverse Curriculum

Learning does not just take place within the classroom. Students are encouraged to try new activities or develop skills and talents across a wide range. Performing Arts are popular and our school production gives students of all ages and abilities the chance to work and perform together.

Music is also a strength of our school, with many students taking peripatetic music lessons or playing in the orchestra.

We work with local groups on community projects and students have visited Mimosa in France, gone skiing in the Ardeche and taken part in a German exchange visit.

Sporting and Physical Education Activities

Our indoor and outdoor sporting facilities are enjoyed by students and staff. We have extensive playing fields, tennis courts and a gymnasium.

Student participation in sport is high and part of the culture of Acle Academy. We have competitive teams that compete locally and nationally including; rugby, football, basketball, cricket, netball, athletics and golf.

Our expertise and commitment within Sport and Physical Education is recognised through:

- Sportsmark Award
- FA Clublink Award
- Community Rugby Development School Status

Staff from our PE Department are heavily involved in facilitating competition and sporting opportunities. We run cluster festivals and competitions for all years, which feed into the Norfolk School Games.



Special Educational Needs and Disability Provision

The school policy for students with SEND follows the Government's Code of Practice. Students with an additional need at Acle Academy make good progress. This is due to our effective work during transition from primary to secondary and to our robust monitoring systems which enable us to identify and provide effective care and support to ensure all students achieve. In addition, we work closely with parents and the students themselves to make sure that their voices are heard.

We have a diverse curriculum, including a 'SEND pathway' at GCSE level, designed to meet the needs of all learners as well as a wide range of intervention programmes. As a department, we work in close collaboration with all subject areas to provide advice, guidance and training.

Our SEND policy is available on the school website or a hard copy can be requested via the school office.

Safeguarding

We are committed to promoting the safety, health and welfare of all our students. We comply with safeguarding legislation and follow the procedures laid down by Norfolk Children's Services and work closely with professionals to ensure the best possible care and support for our students.

The school has a number of designated teachers for safeguarding including the Headteacher, Assistant Head, SENDCo, Engage staff and Progress Leaders as well as a designated safeguarding governor.

Our safeguarding policy is available on the school website or a hard copy can be requested via the school office.



Charges for School Activities

At Acle Academy we recognise the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including trips and residential experiences, can make towards students' education.

Charges are made with reference to DfE and Local Authority guidelines. A copy of our Charges and Remissions Policy, which can be obtained from the school website, covers:

- Activities organised in school hours
- Activities outside school hours
- Individual instrumental tuition
- Examination entry fees



Charging for Ingredients and Materials

Charges for ingredients and materials in Design and Technology, Science and Art are also in line with the Local Authority's charging policy. We make a charge for ingredients and materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product.



Acle Academy

Applications and Admissions

Acle Academy follows the Norfolk County Council applications and admissions procedures. The intake number for this school for a year group is 142. If we are oversubscribed for places in Year 7 the Local Authority appeals system comes into operation.

The applications procedure and oversubscription rules are available on-line at www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions

For queries regarding places in the school in Years 8 -11 please contact the admissions team at Norfolk County Council. The e-mail address is admissions@norfolk.gov.uk

Prospective students and parents are warmly welcomed to contact the school to arrange a visit. In addition, prospective students are encouraged to participate in a trial day with us so they can experience first-hand, all that Acle has to offer.

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