

14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are arriving towards the end of our first half term at Acle Academy and Year 7 have brought a burst of energy and enthusiasm to the school that we warmly welcome, they seem to have settled into their new school routines with ease and appear overwhelmingly positive about their experiences so far, which is great to see.

Since welcoming Year 7 to Acle Academy in September, the year group have been taught (for the vast majority of their lessons), within form groups. This approach was slightly different from previous years, where Year 7 students are traditionally set by Maths and English based on their Key Stage 2 performance. As you will be aware, due to Covid-19 your child did not sit their KS2 SATs, so this data was not available. Coupled with the fact that we were regrettably unable to offer the normal transition experience for our new cohort we took the decision to delay setting.

We feel we are now in a position to set Year 7 and will be doing so at the end of this half term. Year 7 have undertaken a variety of assessments in Maths and English. Assessment data in Maths will primarily be used to determine sets in Maths, Science, Art, Computing, Technology, Music, Physical Education and Drama as these subjects are all linked together in the timetable model. Assessment data in English will be primarily used to determine setting in English, Geography, History, Character and Culture and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), but will also factor in students' MFL choices (German or French), where class sizes need to be balanced. Essentially, this means that when your child returns from half term their classes are likely to look vastly different.

We are aware that one Year 7 English assessment was disrupted due to some Year 7 students recently having to self-isolate, students will have the opportunity to catch up on this assessment when they return this week. Please be reassured that this disruption will be taken into account when we set students, and setting is based on a variety of assessment material and not on one stand-alone piece of work.

It is important to emphasise that class sets are regularly reviewed within school, and resetting of individual students can occur at different points across the academic year, if it is felt that their original setting has been misjudged or a student's rate of progress is noticeably different to their peers with whom they are taught.

Due to time constraints, we will not be able to issue students with a paper copy of their new timetables until their first day back after half term, so we will be emailing out electronic copies of their new timetables to their school email addresses. They will need to check their emails during half term to ensure they come equipped for the appropriate lessons on their first day back.

If your child is going to have difficulty accessing their school email because they do not have internet access then we would be grateful if you could communicate this to us (via the school office) before the end of half term so we can endeavour to arrange for a hard copy to be posted to you during half term.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Newstead  
Vice Principal

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**WENSUMTRUST**