

17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of a very challenging term and I have to admit, we are all exhausted and ready for the break. The covid secure measures have been challenging for staff and students in lots of ways we could not have anticipated. However, we have all worked together to ensure the safety of our community and I am very grateful for all the support we receive from home. We are all looking forward to some rest and recuperation with our families and I am sure you all are too.

Tomorrow will be a non-uniform day in aid of Cancer Research, donations can be made at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AcleAcademy-CancerResearchUK-nonuniform2020>

Students will have normal lessons in the morning but will be in tutor groups in the afternoon where they will watch the Christmas Music performance video and Tik Tok Extravaganza. The school will finish at the normal time of 3.30pm.

### **Goodbyes**

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Gibbons at the end of term who has been part of the school for nineteen years. Mrs Gibbons has inspired many students through the years and helped children gain confidence with Maths. Mrs Gibbons will be sadly missed by students and staff alike, she has had a significant impact on the education of so many and is a wonderful colleague. Mrs Gibbons is retiring and will be enjoying life with her new granddaughter but will hopefully still be a familiar face as she will continue to help students with maths intervention. Mrs Gibbons will be replaced by Mr Minns who is already a well-established member of our team.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Lynch, formerly Mrs Branson. Mrs Lynch is a fantastic Art teacher and has been a warm and enthusiastic colleague. Mrs Lynch has taken up a unique position working with younger children and I know this was a very difficult decision for her as she has loved working at Acle. We will truly miss her but wish her all the best in her new role. Mrs Lynch will be replaced by Mrs Segurado, an experienced art teacher who we welcome to our team.

We also have a new vacancy for a behaviour coordinator who we are seeking to appoint from January- for further details, please see our vacancy section on our website.

### **Congratulations**

We have been celebrating the achievements of students this week through our rewards assemblies and we have celebrated a wide range of achievements including house points, high attitude to learning grades and form tutor nominations.

Special praise should go to the students who have achieved the most house points in their year group

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Daisy Sawyer- 221	Darren Smedley- 185	Henry Hewitt-179	Eva Chapman-121	Tegan Howe- 88
Freya Gibbs- 198	Thomas Jarrett- 163	Eve Lily Adams Inacio- 161	Roan Durkin-120	Leo Farrell- 86
Lexi Mair - 163	Ellice Willimott-148	Thomas Smith- 136	Sophia Cullen- 119 Emily Gill- 119	Livia Bostin-77

We have also been celebrating students who have achieved the top 25 for Attitude to Learning with a Rewards Lunch. We are also very grateful to the Piazza Wheel who donated free pizzas to our Year 11 students who have gone above and beyond with their revision.



### Year 10 Product Design superstars

Our Year 10 Product Design students have created these wonderful chairs using the new laser cutter and their construction skills. We are very proud of their fabulous achievements.



We are part of...



FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

### **Acle Academy has joined the My School Fund initiative to help boost our budget**

We're pleased to announce that Acle Academy is part of the My School Fund initiative. This innovative scheme allows for us to be able to boost our school's budget with your help.

#### **How does it work?**

Parents, guardians and carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend you'll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we'll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

#### **How to get involved**

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) to register for free and link to Acle Academy. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org)

### **You're not alone this Christmas: Mental Health Campaign**

A new mental health campaign, Not Alone, has been launched to help people who will find this Christmas particularly difficult to deal with. Norfolk County Council, the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, local mental health charity, Norfolk and Waveney Mind, and the county's NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are working in partnership with the support of Archant to encourage people to reach out to those who may be struggling.

Christmas is often a difficult time of year for people and, with measures in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus, we may not be able to do the things we normally do and to be with friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable and feel they need to be alone to be safe, this year. The campaign offers support and advice, via an e-card. This digital card can be sent to people who may be struggling, to show that they are being thought of and to signpost them to a range of services that can give them some extra help and support. A paper version of the card will also be free in next Friday's edition of the EDP and Evening News. To send the e-card to someone, please visit <https://t.email.archant.co.uk/lp/notalonethischristmas>

One of the available services is the NHS Wellbeing Service, which offers a range of talking therapies, employment support, peer support and social activities by telephone, video call, instant messaging and webinar. The service is for anyone experiencing common mental health and emotional issues, such as low mood, depression or stress. People can self-refer by visiting [www.wellbeingnands.co.uk](https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk) or by calling: **0300 123 1503**.

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

**Winter support package**

**Support for households  
in Norfolk**

**FREE**  
household meals  
kit this winter

The kit provides the ingredients for  
four meals for a household to cook  
and enjoy together plus other  
essential household items.

Order yours today via our website  
**[www.pinkorange.co.uk](http://www.pinkorange.co.uk)**

Need assistance? Call or Text 07553 894233



**Thank you**

Thank you so much to the Acle Food Bank who donated these Christmas treats to some of our students. We will distribute these at the end of the day tomorrow. This was such a thoughtful gesture and we are very grateful.



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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

### **Coronavirus updates**

The government has **changed the isolation requirements for close contacts from 14 to 10 days** as of 14 December 2020. This applies to everyone currently in isolation as well as anyone who may be required to isolate in the future.

We have also been made aware this week of the Government's intention to introduce mass testing in secondary schools from January. Our understanding at this stage is that the testing will be conducted in school and will be voluntary. We await further guidance from the DFE regarding the operational procedures of this scheme but will update parents and carers as soon as we know more.

You can read the parent Q&A here: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/15/mass-testing-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>

### **Contacting the school in relation to positive tests during the holidays**

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than **48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted**. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. There should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24th December.
- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.
- For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times but will check the hotline and emails at a designated time each day.

**In the event of a positive case before 24<sup>th</sup> December – please ring  
07721 332592 or email [hwatts@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:hwatts@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)**

We wish you a wonderful Christmas break from all at Acle Academy and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2021!

Yours sincerely



Helen Watts  
Principal

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