

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have almost come to the end of a half term and I am sure you are all feeling the strain as much as your children. This will be a time that we all look back on at some point in our lives and marvel at how we got through it, but for now, whilst we remain in the thick of it, can I thank you for all your support and endurance. I am confident that we are all looking forward to a week away from remote learning and a chance to take a break. Hopefully, the weather will allow us the opportunity to get out of the house and away from computer screens.

### **Half Term Goodbyes**

We will be saying goodbye (again) to Mrs Halls at half term. Mrs Halls returned to us in January last year but has decided that she would like to maximise her time with her young daughter and has decided to pause teaching for the time being. Mrs Halls is an incredibly conscientious and dedicated teacher and I know that her students will sadly miss her. We wish her all the best and hope that she will return to Acle again in the future. Mrs Halls will be replaced by an experienced and highly skilled teacher; Mrs Chapman, who will be joining the English Department after half term.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to a much loved member of our school community, Anita Hodgetts who is retiring this week. Anita has worked in the school kitchen for over twenty-five years. Her first job was washing up the plates and she worked her way through the years to Head Cook. Anita has fed and looked after countless generations throughout her time at Acle and always mothered many a lost soul. She has been a stalwart of the school and is cherished by all those who have worked with her or known her through the years.

### **Remote Learning Survey**

If you have not had a chance to complete our remote learning survey yet and would like to contribute your views, please use the link below.

<https://forms.gle/FL1NPWBVmbLYrgNV8>

### **Support for mass testing**

Although we are unsure of any further details about full school return, we are working on the assumption that initial mass testing will remain part of the Government's plan. During this lockdown period, we have established our testing centre and have been testing staff and students in school. When we move to larger numbers of students in school we will be seeking support from the community to help us with this programme. We are particularly looking for any volunteers that could help with administration during the registration process of the testing programme. This would involve assigning students a barcode and entering information from the registration card onto the national data base. Volunteers would be needed for mornings only for the first two weeks when students return to school. Full training would be provided. If you or anyone you know, may be interested in helping us with this, please email [info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) for further details.

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### **Vacancies**

We are currently advertising for a behaviour coordinator to join our Engage team for a one year initial post. Please see the website for further details.

### **PGCE students**

After half term we will be joined by five trainee teachers in English, French, History, Maths and Science. The trainee teachers will be joining live lessons and working alongside their mentors to help set remote provision and develop their training.

### **FSM vouchers**

Free School Meals vouchers have been issued to all eligible parents inclusive of half term. The next available time for us to place an order will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> February so the vouchers for that week should follow slightly after that date.

### **15x 15 library books**

If your child has finished their library book and would like to select another title, please email Mr Carrier with their selection. We will then arrange delivery and collection. Students should be reading for pleasure for at least 10 minutes per day and every student in Year 7-10 should have a 15 x 15 library book. Year 11 students should also be re-reading their English Literature text books.

### **Year 9 Preferences**

The Year 9 Preferences process is now underway. Full details of all the subjects available and the process itself are available on the school website under- Learning- Year 9 Options- 2021. If you have any questions please email the dedicated options process email address- [options2021@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:options2021@acle.norfolk.sch.uk). Students must return their preferences by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

I hope all students and your family have a lovely half term break together. Although I appreciate no one is able to go very far, I hope that you enjoy doing something fun together as a family.

Best wishes



Helen Watts  
Principal