

Newsletter | 5th November 2021

Increase in Covid Precautions

We have seen a sharp increase in the number of coronavirus cases in our local community over half term and as a result have increased our preventative measures in school. In response to rising case numbers we are:

- Deploying CO2 monitors in restricted ventilation areas
- Minimising opportunities for large groupings
- Encouraging more frequent use of sanitiser at the beginning and end of every lesson
- Masks to be worn on school transport
- Reducing opportunities for staff contact
- Encouraging students who wish to wear a mask to do so in social areas
- Increasing cleaning of touch points in classrooms in between lessons.
- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimise the risk of our teachers giving your child or other children Covid;
- Ensuring our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a [PCR test](#) should they develop symptoms of the virus.

Please note that some of our bus companies will insist on masks to be worn on their buses and can refuse entry. All students who travel on school transport should carry a mask. **Additional home tests are being issued to students next week.**

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to encourage their children to test twice a week to help keep our school open.

If you are unable to work due to your child having, or displaying symptoms of, COVID-19, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate.

You will be eligible if you live in England and meet all the following criteria:

- you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, including by the NHS COVID-19 app
- you are employed or self-employed
- you cannot work from home and will lose income as a result
- you are claiming at least one of the following benefits:
 1. Universal Credit
 2. Working Tax Credits
 3. income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 4. income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 5. Income Support
 6. Pension Credit or Housing Benefit

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST 

COVID-19 tests - what's the difference?



Rapid lateral flow tests



PCR tests

When do I take them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice a week - if you have no symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After an NHS Test and Trace alert • After a positive rapid test • Or if you have symptoms
Do I send them away for processing?	No	Yes
When do I get the results?	Up to 30 minutes	24 - 72 hours
Where do I get one?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Test sites • Call 119 • Participating pharmacies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Test sites • Call 119

Regular rapid Covid-19 testing

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

You can get regular rapid testing from your school or college to protect your friends and family.

Been alerted by NHS Test and Trace?

Take a PCR test

If you're told you've been near someone who's tested positive for COVID-19, you should **take a PCR test** (not a rapid lateral flow test).

PCR tests	Rapid lateral flow tests
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To get one, order online at: gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test, call **119** or visit a **test site**.



Sad News- Mr Batty, Former Headteacher- Acle Academy

During the half-term break, we received the shocking news that Gerry Batty had suddenly passed away on Sunday 24 October 2021, aged 60.

Gerry was Headteacher at Acle High School from 2003- 2008 and pioneered the Science Specialist status for the school. Gerry was renowned as a passionate and formidable Headteacher who always put children first. Gerry moved on to his second Headship at Hellesdon High School, where he was Headteacher for eleven years. Gerry was the founding CEO of The Wensum Trust, where he continued his career in education until retiring in 2019.

Gerry was paramount in the recovery of Acle Academy in 2016. After the Academy was placed in special measures in 2015 the school experienced great turbulence and the viability of the school was in question. Gerry was approached to help the school during a difficult time. His passionate belief in the school, the community and most importantly the children paved the way for the school's improvement. We will be forever thankful for his unwavering support and dedication to our school community.

The school is collecting cards to pass on to Gerry's family so if you wish to send a card, please pass it to the main school office.

Service Area Day- 11th November

On Thursday 11th November our whole school will be taking part in a variety of activities led by our Service Areas. The following events will be running in each Service Area:

Community- Community litter pick, Remembrance Day service and community bake

Diversity, Inclusion, Campaigns and Equality- A series of workshops around educating against hate, extremism and bullying

Charity- Workshops with Nelson's Journey and Pets as Therapy

Wellbeing- Yoga, boxing, wellbeing murals and art therapy, meditation and mindfulness

Enrichment- Go Green Climate Change Project, Multi Sport and East Norfolk College, Laser Tag, Airsoft Shooting Gallery and Teambuilding

Study Support- Workshops to support independent study and revision

We look forward to this exciting day which has been organised by our students with the support of staff. Each year group will have a chance to experience all activities throughout the school year.



Raising Awareness and Prevention of Online Sexual behaviour- Sex, Likes and Social Media Talking to Teens in the Digital Age

On Monday 15 November, Allison Havey, CEO of the RAP Foundation & co-founder of The RAP Project (Raising Awareness and Prevention), will be coming into school and doing two workshops with our year 10 and 11 students in the afternoon. She will also be providing an information evening for parents at Acle Academy on the evening of **Monday 15th of November at 6pm, which we would like to extend an invitation out to all our parents of students in year 9-11.**

RAP is an organisation delivering RSE and Sexual citizenship workshops to pupils, parents, and teachers in over 260 schools throughout the UK and abroad. Allison is a former international TV news journalist and Deana Puccio, RAP co-founder, is a former sex crimes prosecutor from Brooklyn.

Since establishing The RAP Project in 2012, their core messages have remained the same: Students aged 11-18 should know the legal definitions of sexual offenses; practice 'Mutual Respect and Mutual Consent' and understand how social media and online porn influence attitudes, expectations, and body image- all in an **age-appropriate manner**. They deliver a variety of workshops, from 'Digital Natives', 'Social Skills', 'Altered, Airbrushed and Unrealistic' to 'The Big Leap,' designed for Year 13 pupils about to transition to University, a GAP year, or an apprenticeship. The Parents talk will include elements of all the presentations and aim to inform and empower parents of students aged 11-18. From educating younger pupils on social media, Protecting Privacy and Practicing Discretion and Kindness Online to making informed decisions about Consent, Alcohol, Personal Safety Advice at Parties, On Public Transport and Music Festivals to Being an Active Bystander, we cover a lot of ground. The founders strongly believe that when students and parents both participate in RAP workshops on the same day, a bridge is created allowing for more open discussions about difficult topics.



Big Norfolk Festive Holiday Fun

The Festive HAF scheme is due to run during the Christmas holidays for 4 days from 20-23rd December for children aged 5-16 who are eligible for free school means. The scheme will combine lots of fun activities to help keep children and young people busy before Christmas.

Parents will be able to book places from 8th November and will need to contact the school office for our School specific code.

Further details can be found at <https://www.activenorfolk.org/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



Rag Bag

We are taking part in the Rag-bag recycling scheme to help raise funds for our chosen charities. We are collecting wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags and belts. We cannot accept workwear, uniforms, linen, towels or bric a brac. Textiles are sorted and then graded accordingly for reusing or recycling. Good quality textiles are exported to Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe providing quality affordable second hand clothing. Poor quality textiles are cut into industrial wiping cloths. Our rag bag bin is situated in the main corridor and students can drop off donations at any point.

Lost Property

We currently have a number of lost property items once again. If your child is missing anything from clothing, PE bags to water bottles and even pencil cases, please ask them to check Lost Property or come to the Office.

Whatever is remaining on Friday 12th November (and not named/claimed or carries the school logo) will be donated to our rag bag bin.

Football Winners

On Tuesday the Year 8/9 football team began their Norfolk County Cup journey with a long awaited trip to Archbishop Sancroft High School.

The boys had to withstand some early pressure but grew into the game. A good through ball from Alfie P put Zechariah away and he slotted past the keeper to take the lead. Acle then doubled their lead when the ball broke to Leo in the box and he finished expertly. Acle were pegged back just before half time with a stunning strike which beat Finley in goal. In the second half, Acle started well and Edward scored a superb goal after weaving past three defenders and finishing well. Acle then allowed the hosts to score two quick-fire goals before player of the match, Leo, capitalised on a defensive mix up to score the winner. The boys now progress to the next round.



On 12th October, the Year 7 team played their first ever match together and produced some lovely football. After a tight first half the visitors went in at half time 1-0 in the lead. The young Acle boys turned it around in the second half, however, as Jack M scored two amazing long range goals. They pushed on with three more goals from Nathan, Connor and an own goal to eventually win 5-1. Well done on an amazing performance boys!



On 8th October, a mixture of Year 10 and 11 girls travelled for football matches at East Norfolk College. The girls started with a fantastic team performance against Pakefield High School, running out eventual 15-0 winners. Multiple goals from Bethany, Grace, Lauren and Darcey helped to make the score so high. They then took on Venture in an absolutely fantastic game of football, with two highly skilled teams. The game was end to end with many goals from Bethany and Lauren, amongst others, but they were just outdone by Venture with the final score ending 9-8 to the opposition.



Netball success

On 19th October the Year 9 and 11 teams went to Lynn Grove to try to qualify for the County Finals at UEA. The Year 11s took on Flegg first and won 15-0, but unfortunately the Year 9 team lost 4-2. The second match was against Lynn Grove and the year 11s comfortably won 13-1. The Year 9s were level with Lynn Grove at half time but couldn't go on and win so eventually lost 4-2. The last game saw the Year 11s beat Venture to win the tournament and the Year 9s drew 3-3 with Venture. This means that the Year 11s progress to the county finals at UEA on Saturday 6th November. Well done to all girls involved.



On 4th October, the Year 10 and 11 girls travelled to UEA to take on Norwich School in a challenge game. The Year 10 girls performed very well against extremely strong opponents but lost to a heavy score. The Year 11s' game was much closer but they unfortunately lost 16-6 to another very strong team. Well done girls for the determination to keep playing throughout!



The Wellbeing Group

Well-being Service Area Senior Prefects, Isobelle Smith, Mary Catchpole and Lily Dack celebrated teachers' work just before half term by collecting a series of thank you notes from the students at Acle Academy. Thank you to the 56 pupils who sent through lovely messages of gratitude and kindness to staff members.





Year 7 Careers Day

This week year 7 took part in a Careers Drop Down day, where they had the chance to meet employers from the construction sector with representatives from Lovells and Morgan and Sindall visiting us. They worked hard and learnt about all the different roles available within the sector, including some that none of us had considered such as a 3D visualiser!

The students thought about all the different skills needed within employment, from presentation skills- with students presenting raps, poems and posters about what they had learnt, teamwork- with students taking on tasks such as designing and creating the most durable balloon chair and listening skills- with students interacting and asking some fantastic questions to our visitors. The students were a real credit to the school and our visitors were really impressed. Look out for more photos on Facebook from a fantastic day!

'I just wanted to say thank you so much for having us to run our Role Discovery workshop at your Year 7 Careers Day. We both had a fantastic time, the students did brilliantly and were really engaged. We were so pleased that there were 18 students who said that they were now interested in working in construction when they hadn't been before and I think there were 30-40 students who were interested when you added in the ones who were already looking at construction. We were so grateful for all the work you and your colleagues put into organising the event and supporting us to deliver it. Can't wait for the next one!'

Sasha Bainbridge
Partnerships Manager

Dates for your diary

Flu Vaccine programme continues- Tuesday 9th November

RAP Parents Workshop Event- Monday 15th November- Talking to Teenagers about Sex, Social media and staying safe online- for parents of Year 9, 10 and 11- 6pm

Year 10 Parents Evening- Thursday 18th November – **this will be a remote online event**

PTA Quiz Night- Friday 19th November - **cancelled due to community covid cases.**

Year 11 Mocks- Monday 29th November- Friday 10th December

Self-Harm Parent workshop - Thursday 2nd December

End of term- Friday 17th December - **1pm closure, usual school transport will run at this time, including a replacement service for the First Bus 905 service.**

Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Exam Invigilators
- Cover Supervisor
- Head of House- Non teaching

- please see our website

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acl/academy/about-us/our-vacancies>

Contact details

The majority of our communication is electronic so it is really important that we maintain accurate records of parental contacts. If you change your email address or phone number, please inform the school office so we can ensure you receive important information.