

## Newsletter – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



### Welcome to the New School Year

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. It has been a great start to the new school year and students have settled back into the routines of school life quickly. It is a delight to see all the Year Sevens settling in so well and adjusting to life at High School. I hope you all had a wonderful summer with your families.

We are all very proud of the fantastic achievements of Year 11's 2022 who achieved a great set of results and the highest academic performance we have seen as a school in six years. Students across the cohort made excellent progress against their targets. Our results show that students made on average half a GCSE grade improvement across all of their subjects in comparison with their target grades- this is a superb achievement for the students and for all the staff who supported them.

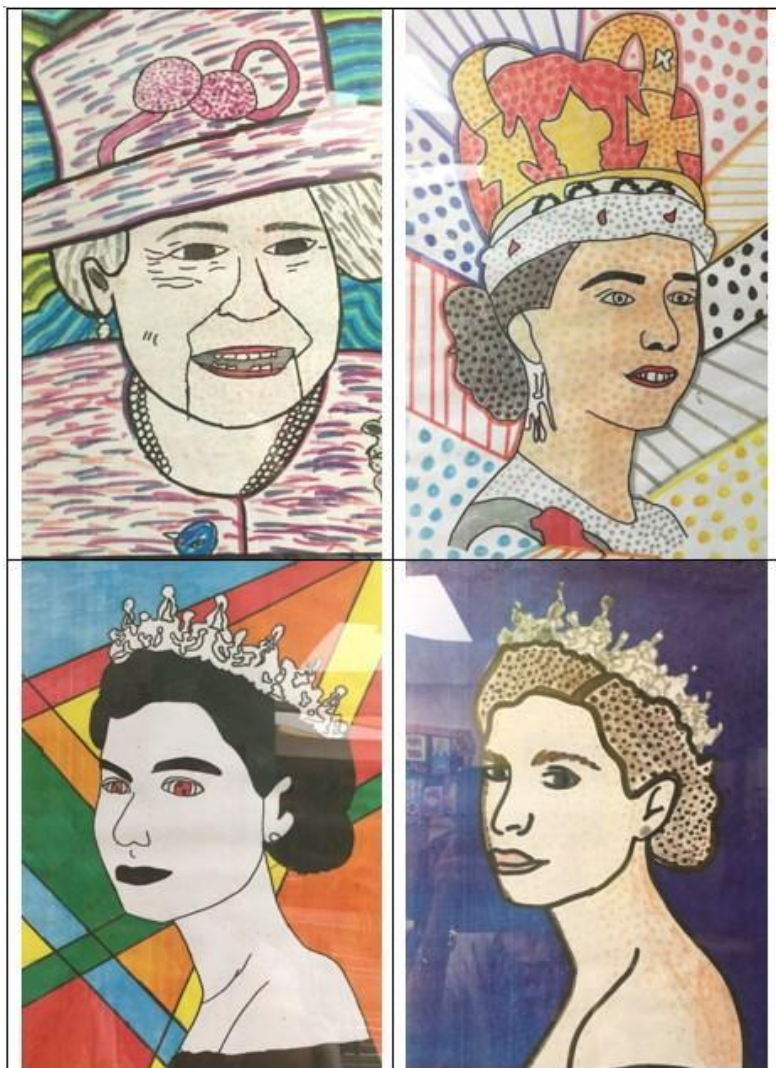
This year we hope to continue to build on the academic successes of last year. As an Ofsted rated 'Good' school that is now oversubscribed, we are delighted with the progress the school has made. Our development priorities for this year are focused around three main areas:

1. Helping to improve the literacy skills of all learners especially in terms of developing their vocabulary and confidence in speaking in a range of formal and informal contexts. These are important skills which will not only contribute to academic success, but also help prepare students for life after school and develop their employability skills.
2. Helping students to regulate their own emotions, build resilience and further develop empathy and respect for others through deploying emotion coaching strategies to help improve mental health and wellbeing.
3. Creating more opportunities across the curriculum for active and independent learning with a particular focus of looking beyond the classroom and making links to the wider world and careers.

We are always looking for opportunities to expand the horizons for our students and would love to hear from parents, carers or members of the community who may like to work with us to support our students. We are particularly interested in providing opportunities for students to gain insights into the world of work. If you think you could help work with us on a project or visit, we would love to hear from you.

## **Celebrating the Life of HRH Queen Elizabeth II**

As the nation has mourned the loss of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, students have been learning about her life and reign and reflecting on her contribution to our nation and the Commonwealth. The below Pop Art inspired portraits were created by our students and are on display in the canteen.



## ASD Resource Base consultation

The school will be holding a drop in event on Tuesday 27th September between 5pm and 6pm where you can come and find out more about proposals to add an Autism Spectrum Disorder Resource Base to the school from April 2025.

You can also take part in the consultation for the proposal by completing the online survey on the link below:

<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/aclesrb>

Further details regarding the proposal and consultation are available on our website under the information tab



## Humanities Transition Day

A successful pirate themed transition day was held by the Humanities Faculty on Friday 16th September. We welcomed over 200 Year 6 students from a range of local primary schools who all enjoyed taster sessions in History, Geography, French and German. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 students and parents to our Open Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Rewards lunches- Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> September**

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our pupils next week beginning on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. We have reflected upon their end of July tracking and have analysed their progress and want to reward pupils who have achieved high ATLs (Attitude to Learning). We will be holding rewards lunches on the below days for all pupils in the 'top 25' ATLs within each year group. We will also be rewarding pupils who have seen significant improvements in their ATLs. Having a high ATL is crucial to academic success and the two are irrevocably linked. Well done to all pupils we will be celebrating lunch with next week. Announcements for this have already gone out on ClassCharts and reminders will be given next week.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup>- Year 8

Tues 27<sup>th</sup>- Year 9

Weds 28<sup>th</sup>- Year 10

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup>- Year 11

## **Homework**

We have recently implemented our new model of setting all homework for pupils on a Monday morning in a bid to help them with their organisational skills. This has started really well and we are very impressed with the feedback we are receiving from parents and pupils alike. I'd like to remind pupils that the best thing to do with homework now is to plan out the week ahead on a Monday evening so that they know the schedule for the rest of their week. If pupils are struggling to plan their homework schedule, then we will be offering prefect-led sessions with the study support team in the Library every Tuesday lunchtime. They will be on hand to offer support and guidance on how to best manage homework schedules. We also offer a homework club every Tuesday and Thursday and there are staff on hand to support pupils with their homework on these days. We just ask that all pupils sign up for the late bus by 1:30pm on the day.

## **GCSE Information Evening**

Just a reminder that we will be holding our GCSE Information Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. This will run from 6pm-7pm and will be a good opportunity to learn more about the GCSE courses and how parents can support pupils with these. There will also be an opportunity to buy revision guides and speak to senior members of staff if there are any individual queries. A letter and ClassCharts announcement has also been sent home with more details on this.

## **GCSE Revision Cards- monitoring and supporting Year 11 with revision**

We are now following up on the summer revision project which all year 11 pupils should have worked on over the holiday. As part of this, we are asking them to get their revision loyalty card signed off by their teachers and then their form tutor will check this formally next week (Thursday 29th September).

This revision loyalty card was part of their summer pack and all form tutors have spare copies if your child has misplaced their one.

It is really important that all pupils take responsibility for their independent revision and get their loyalty cards signed off by their teachers or form tutors. They need to show their teachers/form tutor what they have completed, e.g. past papers, revision notes, flashcards, mind-maps, GCSEPod videos etc. and for each hour's worth of revision they have produced they get a square signed off on their card. This also encourages them to complete what we call 'active revision' which involves not simply re-reading notes or revision guides and instead they need to do something active with this material.

Can parents/carers please continue to support us with this process and have a conversation with your child about this and remind them that we will be doing a form check next week. Please encourage them to talk with their teachers about getting their revision checked. This is incredibly useful in many ways as it not only allows them to get their revision checked and promotes good communication in the lead up to the exams but it also gives myself and Miss John good oversight of their progress and work-rate in preparing for the rigours and demands of Year 11.

Following the first formal check next week we can then see who has been working incredibly hard and put in rewards to celebrate their determination and achievements. Equally, we'll know who hasn't been revising and we can then communicate with parents/carers to see how we can support them and move their revision forward constructively.



## Year 11 Post 16 Options

Year 11 students are currently preparing for their next steps; they are being informed of their post-16 options via CC lessons, assemblies and their tutorial sessions. They will be given the opportunity to explore their choices which include traditional A-levels, Vocational qualifications and Apprenticeships – all being offered from a number of local providers. All Year 11 students are in the process of having one to one career meetings with our career's advisor, who will offer them impartial advice and will guide them through any difficulties they might be facing. If they feel that they need a meeting more urgently and have not yet had one, please advise them to speak to Ms Cunliffe, our Careers Coordinator and this can be arranged.

In addition to this support, it is crucial that your child visits prospective colleges during their open events which will be happening over the coming weeks. Dates for open events can be found on the relevant college's website and students will also be provided with a full list of open events provided by local providers. **Some colleges require you to register online before attending so please check in advance.** Many colleges' application processes are now open, with the majority of deadlines at the end of January 2023, so please encourage your child to begin actively preparing themselves for this next step.

Both Ms Skarin (Careers Lead) and Ms Cunliffe (Careers Coordinator) will be available on the KS4 information evening on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, where we will also do a short presentation on Post 16 transition.

## The National Tutoring Programme

We are taking part in the DFE National Tutoring Programme and are very fortunate to be able to retain the skills of Mr Freeman who is conducting Maths intervention tutoring sessions within school. Private tuition in Maths outside of school is a very expensive luxury, so we are delighted to be able to offer this service to students within school. Mr Freeman will be tutoring students in small groups of three for an hour a week for 15 weeks. Students across Years 8- 11 have been identified by our Maths Department and have commenced tuition. If you would like further details of this programme- please contact Mr Newstead. [snewstead@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:snewstead@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Head of Year Structure- September 2022

This September we have moved to a new pastoral structure adding another member to our pastoral team. Ensuring students are happy, healthy and well supported is important to our whole school provision. Please contact your child's Head of Year for any pastoral queries.

Head of Year 7- Miss Walsingham [gwalsingham@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:gwalsingham@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

Head of Year 8 - Miss Nichols [snichols@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:snichols@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

Head of Year 9 - Ms Jarvis [kjarvis@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:kjarvis@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

Head of Year 10 - Mrs Perkins [cperkins@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:cperkins@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

Head of Year 11 - Ms John [ijohn@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:ijohn@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Emotion Coaching update from Mr Bliss

As part of the school's continued commitment to a more child centred, emotion regulation focussed approach to behaviour and wellbeing, we were delighted to be able to welcome John Drew from Emotion Coaching UK for a two day visit prior to the summer holidays. The school has been working closely with Emotion Coaching UK now for a number of years in an effort to try and ensure that we are utilising the latest research and expertise from professionals in the field of child psychology to help change the ethos and culture of the school to ensure that all of the children's experiences are a positive one, regardless of background or circumstance.

John spent two days working closely with the Pastoral staff, leading some training for our exceptional Student Emotion Coaching Ambassadors and working within our Reflection Room. This was a great opportunity for the school to conduct a progress check on ourselves as well as review our pastoral approaches. John was able to give some really valuable insight into the incredible work that has already taken place as well as help to clearly identify a route through the work that is still to be done.

We look forward to being able to welcome him back again at some point this academic year to be able to show him once again the considerable strides we are making as a school, trying to be a leading light in reforming the way that education manages children and their behaviour.

## Junior Prefects- Mr Sayce

We will be launching our Junior prefect process starting next week, 26<sup>th</sup> September. All pupils in Year 7-9 will have assemblies with Mr Sayce whereby we will outline how they can apply to be a junior prefect. This will link to our wider school work with our service areas and we encourage all pupils to consider applying to be a junior prefect as it represents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills alongside representing their school.

## Careers Education at Acle Academy – Can you help?

We are keen to engage with businesses, employers and parents to help us inform and educate our students about the world of work and prepare them for the future. Throughout the year we have several events and activities in which employers can engage with students, these include business lunches, drop down days, work experience placements, careers fairs, CV workshops & more.

We are always looking to involve more employers and businesses in linking careers to the curriculum. We would also like to welcome past students into our alumni and appreciate their participation and involvement into our school events and activities.

If any parents, family members or members of the local community would like to share information with our students about their current role or their career journey and to get involved in working with the school on future careers events for our students we would love to hear from you. If you think you might be able to help at some point in the future, we would be really grateful if you could complete the [Acle Academy - Careers Expression of Interest](#) survey.

Alternatively you could also email Ms Skarin- Careers Lead directly via email [cskarin@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:cskarin@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Length of skirts

We have noticed that we have a significant number of girls who are rolling the top of their skirts up in order to make them shorter. I am sure that this probably happens once they leave home but we would be very grateful if parents could help reinforce this expectation at home. We will be issuing behaviour points for girls who continue to roll their skirts up. Whilst we appreciate that everyone is different and some of the skirts do have more room at the waist, the length of the skirts should be worn at the knee or just above the knee, not barely covering bottoms as some of our students favour. Please help us reinforce the professional dress expectation.



### **This year's school production**

The drama department is pleased to announce that this academic year's school production has been decided! Mr Frost put it to a vote, where Shrek JR won! Please look out for more publicity surrounding the production, which will go live after the Easter holidays next April. More information will follow as to how to purchase tickets! Students have expressed a huge interest in taking part, and we can't wait to get them all involved in such a valuable, collaborative and ultimately fun process again this year! We look forward to seeing you there.



### **Costume / Props: Community Plea from Mr Frost**

Mr Frost and his drama ambassador students are working hard this year to ensure that our drama department is as good as it can be. As part of this, we are always looking for costumes and props to add to the department. Therefore, if you have any old clothes or items that you are willing to donate, they will be gratefully received by Mr. Frost. Please contact him via email on [gfrost@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:gfrost@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) and he will be happy to arrange collection. Many thanks in advance.

### **Medication**

Should you need your child to take any temporary medication at school, this must be dropped off to the office with a note. Long term medication permission will be required where we hold medication on an ongoing basis, please contact Ms Frary [lfrary@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:lfrary@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) or Mrs Thompson [kthompson@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:kthompson@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) for this.



Homework Club is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 9 until 4.30pm. There is always a member of staff available to help with homework, classwork and coursework.

Pupils can sign up for the late bus on the day.

We would really like to see students come along so they are able to complete their work in a quiet space with support available if needed.

Any questions please contact Mrs. Mills at [lmills@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:lmills@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

### **Queen Elizabeth II- Memorial competition**

As you might already be aware from the assembly we held last week where we looked at the passing away of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II we also ran an opportunity for students to design a commemorative poster/postcard which looks back on the life of the Queen. Students had the option to choose to focus on the legacy of the Queen or something that commemorates the major events or turning points of her reign. We have received many excellent entries and as always, Acle students have shown real respect, dignity and creativity. There will be prizes for those pupils who put in considerable effort and more information about this will follow next week.

## **Vacancies**

We are looking for Midday Supervisory Assistants to join our team. For further details please see our school website or ring the main school office for an informal chat.



## **Safe Parking**

Please may we remind parents not to park on the single yellow lines outside the school during drop off and pick up points or come into the school grounds or park in the bus lay by. We have lots of buses and taxis that need to come into the school grounds and additional cars pose safety issues. Please can we urge all parents who collect their children to use the vast parking spaces available behind the Methodist Church. This is only a short distance from the school and will allow children to walk safely to and from school.

## **Uniform donation**

If your child has outgrown their uniform, we would gladly accept any donations so we can help other families with our second hand uniform shop. Please pass any donations to the main school office.

## **Rag Bin donations**

Please remember we have a rag bag bin at school and will gladly accept donations of clothes and shoes. The rag bag bin is now a permanent heavy duty collection bin and is situated near the bike sheds for ease of making donations.



Please remember to check ClassCharts for daily updates and messages. ClassCharts is used to communicate house points, behaviour points and interventions. We also use this platform for parent announcements. Parent help guides are available on our school website. If your child has lost their log in, please ask their form tutor or the school office who will be able to provide child and parent login details. Parents and students can view their child's timetable via ClassCharts. Please note you can no longer exchange instant chat messages with teachers or support staff.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September KS4 Information Evening - 6-7pm

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October Open Evening - 6-9pm for new starters in September 2023  
**(school closes at 1pm)**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 9.30-11am. Open Morning for new starter families in September 2023 who may miss Open Evening.

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Workshop on Internet Safety 6-7pm

19<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 Careers Trip to East Norfolk

21<sup>st</sup> October – PTA Halloween Disco 7-



## PTA

Acle Academy PTA is looking for new members and would love to hear from any parents or carers that are interested in supporting. The contribution of your time can be as little or much as you are able to offer. We are particularly looking for a treasurer. The PTA is excited to announce our first Halloween disco on 21st October and will be planning another Disco for KS3 before Christmas. Preloved uniform news will be coming soon. The PTA can be contacted via

[pta@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:pta@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies in our team:

- Invigilator
- Mid-day Supervisor

Please see our website for further details.

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy/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.





1st October

KO 15:00

North Walsham Vikings

v

Henley Hawks



Free entry for everyone associated with Acle Academy, Alderman Peel High School, Hellesdon High School

Bar opens 13.15 & Food Available from 14.30

Inter School Big Boot Competition at half time

**WENSUM** TRUST





# YMCA

YMCA NORFOLK



## Acle Youth Club

Tuesday

11-14 year 6:30 - 8:30pm

Senior Drop in:

15+ years 8:30 - 9:30pm

Acle Recreation Centre  
Bure Room NR13 3RA



Contact: 07894935775  
[youthclubs@ymcanorfolk.org](mailto:youthclubs@ymcanorfolk.org)

In Partnership with Acle Parish Council





Product Design requires more High Density Polypropylene for their Polymers recycling project. If you are willing to contribute please could we ask that the items are washed out before being brought in.



Many thanks  
Mr Green