



## Newsletter – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

### Open Heart Week- 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February

February is the British Heart Foundation's Heart month and in light of this we will be raising awareness of congenital heart disease with a week-long theme of activities and events.

Mrs McNulty will be leading assemblies on heart disease looking at the causes and prevention. In Science lessons, students across all Year groups will learn about the functions of the heart. In form time, students will get the opportunity to learn CPR. In PE lessons, students will take part in a healthy heart relay competition. Selected students will be invited to take part in a STEM focused activity involving a dissection of a heart.

In addition, students will be able to take part in a number of creative opportunities themed around hearts including Art activities and Valentine's poetry in English. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to host the RSC who will be performing 'Romeo and Juliet' and students in Year 11 will have the opportunity to watch the performance which will aid their GCSE preparation.

We will be holding a number of charity events including a bake sale, a doughnut sale and a non-uniform day. All money raised will go towards Great Ormond Street Hospital which specialises in children's care. Students and staff alike are encouraged to give £1 to support this fundraising event. We ask that pupils wear something with hearts, red or even a hint of red to celebrate 'Open Heart Week.' To donate, please use the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/acleacademygosh2024>

We are very proud of our school community for celebrating this charity event and raising awareness of the importance of healthy hearts. More information about the Congenital Heart disease can be found through this link;

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/conditions/congenital-heart-disease>

or Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity can be found via <https://www.gosh.org/>

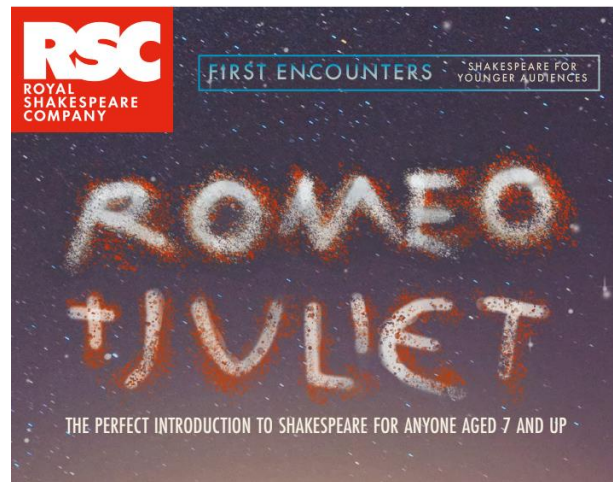


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We are part of...

**WENSUM TRUST**

## The Royal Shakespeare Company is coming to Acle!



We are delighted to announce that the Royal Shakespeare Company will be visiting Acle Academy on **Wednesday 14th February**.

Tickets for Wednesday 14th February's 6.30pm performance at Acle Academy are available to purchase on Eventbrite via the link below.

**[Buy tickets here!](#)**

Norwich Theatre has been working in partnership with the RSC for a number of years as part of the RSC's Associate Schools Programme. Acle Academy is one of two secondary schools that leads a cluster of Associate Schools in Norfolk.

Acle Academy joined the programme in 2022 and has been working with Norwich Theatre and the RSC to use Shakespeare's work and arts-based learning in the curriculum.

The RSC's series of *First Encounters* with Shakespeare productions, 'Romeo and Juliet', will be performed at Acle Academy, as part of a 12-week national tour of schools and regional theatres. Aimed at new and younger audiences, *First Encounters: Romeo and Juliet* is an adrenaline-charged 90-minute take on Shakespeare's classic tale of love and loss. The show is directed by Trybe House Theatre Artistic Director, Philip J Morris and in a reworking of the Prince of Verona's role, ten of our students will also perform as members of a Prince's counsel alongside the professional RSC actors.

This is an incredible opportunity for our students who will take part in the play that will be shown in the afternoon to all of Year 11 students and then an additional performance in the evening for our community. **Additionally, our students will have the opportunity to perform in a performance at the Playhouse theatre on Saturday 17th February. Reduced price tickets can be purchased for this performance using the code:**

*RSCEDU to book accompanying adult tickets at the U18 price (£13), when you purchase at least one U18 ticket.*

*Book via*

<https://norwichtheatre.org/whats-on/rsc-first-encounters-with-shakespeare-romeo-juliet/#book>

## Year 10 Careers Trip – East Norfolk Medical Conference



On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, some of our year 10 students visited East Norfolk Sixth Form to take part in a medical conference. Students had an introductory session by Dr Fox talking to students about applying for universities for medical, veterinary schools and thinking of work experience and visiting universities at open days. This was followed by a practical problem solving session and a tour of the campus and a visit to the newly created medical suite. A very interesting afternoon.



## Theatre Performance- *Outskirts*

On Wednesday the 31st January we were very excited and lucky to welcome local Actor Ashton Owen to Acle Academy. Year 7 and 8 had the opportunity to take part in his performance of 'Outskirts'.

Ashton, from North Walsham, knows exactly how it feels to be one of only a tiny handful of mixed race or black pupils at a rural school: and he's written about it. *Outskirts* is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story set in North Norfolk about a fictional character called Aiden and the people he comes into contact with.

The piece was originally part of a Rewriting Rural Racism project being led by young performers from Sheringham Little Theatre. Mr Owen said: "I hope the play gets people to think about what they say and do, and how it impacts on people of colour. "We are trying to make people more aware of issues faced by people living in rural areas, by highlighting real experiences, so they realise it happens here as well as the United States."

The students were a real credit to the school, welcoming Ashton, saying after that they really enjoyed it, they asked some very thoughtful questions and were very mature about a very difficult topic. Special mention to students Alfie C, Harry B, Arthur H, Maisy L and Mr Frost who supported Ashton with lights and sounds for both performances. Thank you! -Mrs Skarin







**Please follow the link below to information about the 5-19 year old Healthy Child Programme, which has a section about attendance and useful resources**

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance>



**The latest Rewards & Achievements News can be found [Here](#)**



## WWI Battlefields Trip

From Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, students from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the WWI Battlefields Trip to Belgium and France. Students arrived at school bright and early on Wednesday morning to begin the journey down to Dover, where they caught the ferry over to Calais and got started straight away. Our first visit was to a very snowy, Lijssenthoek British Cemetery and Visitors Centre, where students were introduced to some key aspects of treatment of injuries and the processes surrounding this on the British sector of the Western Front, during World War One. Later that afternoon, students visited one of the famous Belgian chocolate shops and then took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Three of our students laid a wreath as part of the ceremony and took an active role in this incredibly important act of remembrance.



Day two began with a trip to Vimy Ridge, a significant Canadian Memorial Park, where students got to explore some reconstructed trenches and visit the impressive statue that marks the important contributions of Canadian troops to the Allied war effort. From here, we made our way to the Somme. Students explored the Thiepval Memorial and read some WWI poetry beneath the cross of sacrifice. We also explored Mill Road Cemetery, Newfoundland Park and the Hawthorn Crater before returning to Ypres.

On our final day, students made an early morning visit to Essex Farm Cemetery and Dressing Station where they explored underground bunkers that were used to treat casualties during World War One. Students learned about the work of Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel, John McCrae, author of the famous memorial poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. We also visited the grave of the 15 year old soldier and had an opportunity to reflect on those under-age soldiers who tragically sacrificed their lives in this conflict. From there, students visit Bayernwald (Croonaert Wood), the site of reconstructed German trenches and then Langemark, a Germany Cemetery where more than 44,000 German soldiers were laid to rest. Our tour ended at Tyne Cot British Cemetery where students had a final opportunity to explore and where some students were able to locate the names/headstones of ancestors.



We hope students enjoyed the trip and learned a lot from it!

## The Woman in Black Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January the English Department took 95 year eight students to Norwich Theatre Royal to watch the matinee performance of The Woman in Black. Cleverly crafted, with just two actors on stage, they were treated to a brilliant performance which added an extra plot line to the original novel where the main character is planning a performance himself to tell his ghostly tale. One of our students commented that “it was like a play within a play”.

From studying the novel, the students expected the play to be a bit scary in places and it didn't disappoint. The arrival of The Woman in Black herself was surprising as she crept along an aisle brushing past audience members almost unseen. Students said “it was scary!”

As the story unfolded, it became more jumpy with one year eight saying “I screamed so many times”. The atmosphere of the story was created with eerie sound effects and special effect smoke which “really added to the surroundings” said one of our students.

It was a brilliant afternoon and the whole group thoroughly enjoyed it.



## Places Leisure & the Big Sister Project

At Places Leisure, we are delighted to partner up with Women in Sport and Hey Girls to deliver the 'Big Sister project', a programme designed to help **all** girls achieve their goals, whatever they may be. 3 months free Gym Membership is available for girls aged between 9 and 15 at Riverside Leisure Centre, Norwich.

More details can be seen via the link below

<https://www.placesleisure.org/big-sister-project/>



<https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>

**The next programme will take place over the Easter holidays between 2nd – 12th April 2024. Further details will be announced closer to the time.**

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme is run in partnership with Norfolk County Council, and provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 4 -16 in Norfolk.

These activities include multi-sports, dance, theatre, arts and crafts, and much more!

Children eligible for benefits-related free school meals can claim free spaces on the activities, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't. [Find out more about this in our FAQ section.](#)

[FAQ's here](#)





## Sweets and Energy Drinks

We would like to gently remind families that we do not expect students to be coming into school with large quantities of sweets. We have noticed that some of our younger students seem to be filling up on sweets in the morning and then find it difficult to concentrate. If staff see students with large quantities of sweets, these will be confiscated. Likewise, students must not bring energy drinks or fizzy drinks to school- these are prohibited items. Thank you for your support.

## Parking Reminder

We have received a number of complaints from residents in the area regarding parents blocking driveways or even parking in driveways to either drop off or collect children from school. Please can we remind all parents and carers to be considerate of our neighbours. We would urge parents and carers to use the large car park situated behind the Methodist church in Acle which is only a short walk from school.



## **FTAO Year 10 Parents/Carers** **Year 10 Work Experience Reminder** **10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Thank you to all the parents for completing the parental consent so promptly. We are now in the process of starting to collect the Employer Placement form, which informs us about the placement that your child will attend and enables us to carry out risk assessments and safeguarding checks. The deadline for the placement form, which students need to share with the employers to complete and then return to Acle Academy is coming up rapidly. We will need **placement forms to be returned to Acle Academy by 21st March 2024**, in order for us to process the placements with the county council before students are able to attend their work experience.

We feel that work experience is a really important and valuable experience for students to take part in and we aim for all students to find a placement. Please can we urge parents/carers to support the students in finding placements, and to stick to the deadline. As stated before placements are to be student/ parent generated, but if your child is really struggling please do contact Mrs Skarin or Ms Denny and we might be able to support with suggested placements.

If you need to access the support booklet or download a new placement form, they are all available on our website. <https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy/students/careers>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Skarin.



# Help with living costs

You may be struggling with living costs for a range of reasons. This leaflet tells you what support is available and how to get advice. You can also find this information on our website [www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving). If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can go online at any of our Norfolk libraries.

There is also a cost of living hub provided by the government which contains useful information. This can be found at [www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living).

Winter 2023/24



['Help with living costs' link to more information](#)



Our online preloved uniform shop includes school uniform and sportswear and is accessed via our SumUp Shop by following this link:

<http://acle-academy-parent-teacher-association.sumupstore.com>

Items can be paid for online with suggested donations per item. The item can then be collected at a prearranged time with the PTA. If you have any uniform donations please drop these off to the school office.

**If you would like to join the PTA please contact them by email**

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



### **Please remember to check ClassCharts**

ClassCharts is our main form of communication to keep up to date with daily progress, updates and messages. ClassCharts is used to communicate pride points, behaviour points and interventions. We also use this platform for parent announcements. As part of the home school agreement we ask parents to check this regularly, at least on a weekly basis. 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 a child's timetable via ClassCharts.

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# ROMEO + JULIET

THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE FOR ANYONE AGED 7 AND UP



**Coming to Acle Academy**  
**18:30 on Wednesday 14th February**  
**Use the QR code to buy tickets!**

[rsc.org.uk/firstencounters](https://rsc.org.uk/firstencounters)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

[Buy tickets here!](#)



# ACLE WINTER BEER FESTIVAL

COME AND JOIN US AT OUR  
4<sup>TH</sup> WINTER BEER FESTIVAL  
RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL  
CHARITIES/GROUPS

REAL ALES, CIDER, SNACKS,  
HOT FOOD, AND OTHER  
DRINKS AVAILABLE.

FOLLOW US ON:



FREE ADMISSION  
FRIDAY MIDDAY - 11PM  
SATURDAY MIDDAY - 11PM  
SUNDAY MIDDAY - 6PM

NEW VENUE - ACLE  
ACADEMY, SOUTH  
WALSHAM ROAD, NR13 3ER

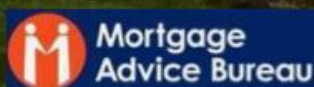
X1 BUS ROUTE AND TRAIN STATION  
(10 MIN WALK) PARKING ON SITE.



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WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL  
TO OUR MAIN EVENT  
SPONSOR OVAMILL LTD FOR  
SUPPORTING US AGAIN

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 2024**





**Useful Resources/Activities & links can be found [Here](#)**



**More Acle Academy News can be found [Here](#)**



### 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.

### Dates for your diary

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February **Year 11** English Engagement Evening 6-7.15pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – RSC Performance of Romeo & Juliet - 6.30pm

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Year 9 Options Evening 6-8pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February –School closes for half term break @ 3.30pm

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – School reopens after the half term break (Week 2 timetable)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 Round 2 of PPE (Mocks) exams begin

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Engagement Evening 6pm-7.30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.30-7.30pm



**Our Rural Hub Term Dates can be found [Here](#)**

**Our School Calendar can be found [Here](#)**