

Acle NEWS



Newsletter – 24th October 2024



We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

We've had a busy start to the academic year with a jam packed first half term. Our year group Engagement Information evenings have begun, we hope you find them useful. Please follow the link below to view our school calendar of information evenings, parent evenings and events.

[School Calendar](#)

We hope that all students have a wonderful half term break with their families and friends.

Mrs Helen Watts

Principal



Parliament

We had our first Acle Academy Parliament session of 2024-25.

Each house shared ideas for areas they wished to improve across the six service areas to enrich the student experience, and then discussed and debated which would make the most impact. The head students then led a voting session where motions were passed, giving each service area aspects to develop over the next half-term in advance of the next session.

We were extremely impressed with the maturity and passion of the students involved. Well done!



Thank you to everyone who bought something from the bake sale for Passage to Portugal. Over £200 was raised.



Year 11 trip to Cambridge University

On 9th October Ms Carrington and Ms Thompson took 13 French and German students from year 11 to Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge for the day to experience life at university.

During the visit the students learnt about Cambridge University and what it is like to study there, took part in a fascinating lecture on film and attended some individual seminars on translating from French, German and Spanish.

A definite highlight was eating lunch in the college dining hall where the students were treated to a three-course meal!

Everyone had a brilliant day and our students were an absolute credit to the school, contributing ideas in the lecture hall and collaborating with students from other schools in the seminars.

Ms Carrington and Ms Thompson



ALUMNUS Spotlight

Former Acle Academy student Roan Durkin is now a student at Cambridge University. Roan became determined to win a place at one of the world's most prestigious universities after visiting as part of Acle's Aspire Nine programme run by Mr. Sayce. Roan achieved five grade 9s and 4 grade 8s at GCSE and went on to study maths, chemistry and biology at Sir Isaac Newton where he achieved two A*s and one A. Roan is studying natural sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, and wants to pursue a career in biochemistry.

Roan said, "I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities, encouragement and support I received at Acle, especially the visits to Cambridge University which inspired me to want to study here. It still feels like a dream come true - especially when I put my gown on for formal dinners in the hall - but if I can do it, it shows that anybody can!"



ROAN DURKIN



www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy

ALUMNUS Spotlight

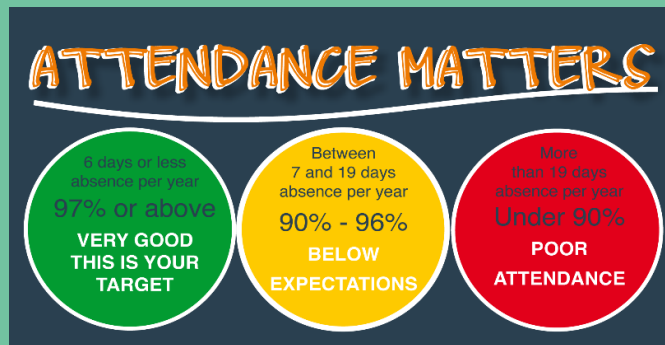
Congratulations to ex-student, Violet Robinson, who was awarded regional winner for East Anglia of the T Level Student of the Year Award 2024 at the National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards.



VIOLET ROBINSON



www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy



If you would ever like to discuss issues affecting your child's attendance then please do contact me via email jbryant@acle.norfolk.sch.uk so that we can identify the issues your child is experiencing and work together to support an improved attendance.

End of half term attendance review from a parent/carer's perspective

Please take the opportunity over half term to review your child's attendance with them – which you can see on ClassCharts and then ask yourself the following question:

Has my child attended school every day when they were well enough to do so?

If you can honestly answer "yes" (even if there have been some absences) then that is great. That's all we ask – for students to attend school every day that the school is open, unless they are too ill to do so, or have a medical appointment that couldn't be arranged outside of school hours.

However, if your answer is "no" ask yourself the following questions:

Has my child said they felt "unwell" but then been absolutely fine an hour later?

Has my child refused school without saying why?

Has my child been really anxious about school but not wanted to tell anyone?

Does there seem to be a pattern to the days that my child doesn't attend school?

Have I prevented my child from attending school which could have been avoided?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" then please have a chat with your child about what might be worrying them/preventing them wanting to attend school and what support they might need to improve their attendance. Then drop an email to myself and/or the Head of Year so that we can start working in partnership with you.

A few quick updates on what I wrote in the previous newsletter:

Medical Appointments

Further to the last edition there are still several occasions of students arriving to school late, or needing to leave school early, for medical appointments that I have not been made aware of in advance. Could I please remind you to report these on ClassCharts in the morning before 9am and attach evidence of the appointment as well.

Reporting Absences EACH AND EVERY DAY Your Child is Not in School

I am still regularly having to chase absence reasons on the 2nd or 3rd day a child remains absent. As previously explained, it would be wrong to assume that the child is still at home unwell just because they were off the day before. If they have left home and not made it to school this would be of serious concern, and I am sure you would want to be alerted to this as soon as possible, so I hope you can appreciate the reason for daily contact and why we will text you if this is not provided.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this article, and once again please do reach out if you need support or have information affecting your child's attendance that it would be useful for me to know.

Jane Bryant, Attendance Manager.

Missed minutes =


missed learning =

missed opportunities

Guidance for Parents / Carers

Good attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

 **Norfolk**
County Council

Faculty News



On Friday 27th September and Monday 14th October our year 11 Geography students undertook their fieldwork enquiry data collection. In Norwich students investigated the influence of Norwich and conducted questionnaires to members of the public. Even in the heavy rain, the students stayed positive, were a credit to the school and collected some brilliant data.

In Sheringham students were investigating the effectiveness of the sea defences. Here they had an action filled morning and worked in groups to collect sediment and beach profile data. In the afternoon students conducted field sketches and environmental quality surveys, luckily the weather stayed calm and clear.





Performance Studies has had a busy start to the academic year. Drama have been busy with continuing their rehearsals for Beauty and the Beast in the run up to the performance in the last week of the term before Christmas.

Music have had a lot of clubs running at lunchtimes and after school, lots of strumming of guitars and compositions often heard when walking by.

PE has had the start to the football fixtures both local leagues and the first round of County Cup. Netball has seen tournaments for Years 10 and 11 along with the first Years 7 and 8 match against tough competition Lynn Grove. Players of the matches were Layla O, Eliza P and Eva K. Well done to all who played! We've had regular girls football and netball clubs after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays with great numbers from Years 7 to 9 seen (around all of the wet weather). Rugby with Mr Orton has shown good numbers for both matches and training, starting the league for the year. North Walsham Rugby Club have joined us in our PE lessons across all year groups for the past three weeks. They will continue to join us throughout the rest of the term once units change where the boys will swap to rugby second week back. Well done to all involved across the events in Performance Studies.



Please keep your eyes peeled across our various social media pages for ticket details coming soon... show dates are Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December @ 19:30.



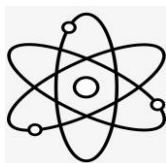


The Science department have had a very busy first half term this year:

At Open Evening we welcomed prospective students, and ran a range of activities including dissections, flame tests, as well as the ever-popular big bang experiments. We are very grateful to our Year 8 and 9 helpers who did a fantastic job assisting with the experiments and helping to set up and pack away!



Within lessons, students have been delving into their studies in Science. Our year 8 students have been learning about infectious diseases, the immune system and about climate change. Their questions in lessons show a real curiosity for the subject and their knowledge is really developing. Meanwhile, year 11s are now preparing themselves for their first mocks of year 11. Students have impressed us with the quality of revision material that we have seen and the flash cards that they have been using to learn the core questions. Keep up the amazing work as you continue to prepare for these!

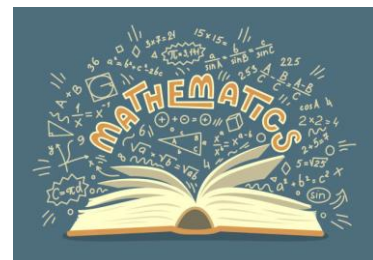


As we come to what has been quite a long half term, we can look back at what has been, despite its length, a fantastic start to the year. Year 7s enthusiasm has not waned and we continue to be thrilled with the start they have made really getting the hang of the new routines.

Other Key Stage 3 classes have enjoyed a variety of tasks with Ms White's year 9s doing some fantastic work on Maths Challenge questions...more to come on this for Years 7 and 8!

Mr Green's classes have been out and about on the field doing practical maths and this week Year 11s will start their Period 6s in preparation for their mocks.

We congratulate the students on a great half term and hope everyone rests up as there's lots more exciting things to come before Christmas!





Students have made a wonderful start to the English academic year, embracing the challenges and the changes, such as the move to mixed ability groups for Y10 (which is proving to be hugely positive). Whilst we no longer have fortnightly library lessons, we have ensured that that emphasis on reading for pleasure is still there, with visits to the library to get resourced, expectations discussed and form reading books shared and started with form groups. All year groups now have a writing lesson once a fortnight, where the focus is purely on the skill of writing creatively and the process: planning, editing, drafting. For some students, the idea that it is OK to get it wrong and that writing is a process that we don't always get right first time, has been a learning curve! Crossing out and changes are a good thing! It's been lovely to see Y10 adjust to GCSE expectations and astound us with their work ethic and the quality of their analysis with An Inspector Calls-we still have a few places on the January theatre trip if anyone else is interested. Y11 are embracing the year ahead, throwing themselves into their study of Romeo and Juliet and starting to impress us with evidence of their work and revision at home. We will be starting extra form-time intervention for some and period six sessions for everyone on Wednesdays in the run-up to the first round of PPEs. KS3 are enjoying some new texts, such as Black Flamingo and some established favourites, such as His Dark Materials, the play. It's been lovely to see and hear some of the confident analysis of language and structure that students have been practising in class.



Year 10 Construction

Year 10 students followed up their Unit 3: Construction and Design assessment with a visit to a Lovells site in Holt. Students got to walk around two buildings currently under construction. Students first visited the Osbourne (£395,000) which was similar to the context the exam board set and the Queenswood (£725,000).

Well done to all the students for a very productive first half-term.

Thank you to the Lovells team for making the experience possible. - Mr Green
Head of Creative Industries.



Papillion Project

At Acle Academy, we have been working alongside the Papillon Project to grow a school garden since 2021. During this time the gardening project has taken many forms, from lunchtime and after- school clubs, to focussed groups of students off timetable learning outdoor skills. In its current state, we have a group of Year 8 students who are endeavouring to re-establish an old and overgrown pond, as well as grow a variety of vegetables and herbs in our poly-tunnel.

We have recently relocated our school garden to the rear of the bungalow on the school's drive. We had finished setting up a calming garden space for students to use and wanted to move onto something more ambitious, and the newer space came equipped with a greenhouse, shed, polytunnel and much more.

With the support of the Papillon Project, students from all ages have engaged with the project and all of them have thoroughly enjoyed taking part and learning new skills. One of the real positives which we've seen take place is new and unexpected friendships forming through students working together side by side. Many of the students who are involved in the gardening project find themselves struggling in an academic setting, but given the opportunity, they find genuine enjoyment and an opportunity to thrive when working outdoors. It's also really helped build relationships between staff and students as it provides an opportunity to get to know the young people better than you might otherwise.



We are looking for volunteers to help support our garden project- this could either be local people interested in coming in to help run gardening sessions with a small group of enthusiastic students within school time- training and DBS checks would be provided, or alternatively, volunteers who would be willing to come into the school for an hour or two over the weekend and help with maintaining the space- watering the plants, mowing the grass and weeding, as due to timetable restraints this can be difficult to get completed within school time.

If you would be interested in getting involved, please email Mrs Sutton info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk





**Parent or carer?
Need advice or support?**

There's lots of services to help in Norfolk and they're joining together in what's called Norfolk family hubs.

Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs or www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/family-hubs to find out more, including information on:

- Parenting
- Health and wellbeing
- Pregnancy
- Money and work
- Learning
- Days out and activities.

From the minute you know you're having a baby, right up to your child's 19th birthday (25 if your child has special educational needs), Norfolk family hubs are here to help.

Norfolk.gov.uk Just One Norfolk




Families can be referred to us, or can self-refer, via the Family Hub web page. This is a universal service for all families with a child aged up to 19 or 25 with SEND.

This is the website link for the Family Hub: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-hubs>

The webpage provides a lot of general signposting information and at the bottom of the webpage is the green request for support form link, which can be used to make a referral.

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





There have been some incredible nominations for Learner of the Month for September which makes the process of choosing the winner extremely difficult.

I was so impressed with the quality of the environment project work from Regan R, Jacob W-B and Ava Y who were all nominated in Geography.

History has seen some superb learning this month. James S produced an excellent replication of the cipher Mary Queen of Scots sent to Anthony Babington.

Year 8 students in History produced some first-class responses to their Elizabeth I enrichment project. Nominations for Learner of the month include Ebony B, George B, Jacob W-B and Sadie F - well done on your fantastic achievements!

Hurley J was nominated in Product Design as he has been busy creating and printing his own designs using Tinker CAD. This is one of the many prints that Hurley has created.

There have also been some fabulous nominations in English. Cameron B in Year 8 produced an excellent piece of creative writing

Laurel A in Year 7 created a fantastic mind map about Harry Potter.

Evie S really engaged with the speech task recently completed in class and worked hard to complete a great piece of writing. She organised this methodically and used a wide variety of persuasive techniques in her work, resulting in a superb speech. Well done, Evie!

Mia E has been nominated for being so proactive in lessons and for making really valuable contributions. Her work is reflective and thoughtful.

Oscar L was also nominated for the fantastic work he produced on his persuasive speech, his attention to detail is evident in his work. His writing is engaging and accurate and he has managed to incorporate lots of persuasive techniques. Well done, Oscar!



The winner of Learner of the Month is Kia Symonds! Kia wrote the most thoughtful and reflective poem in the Summer holidays entitled 'The Golden Sun'. The poem captures a moment in time and a delicate interaction of humanity and nature- Kia's writing is mature and sophisticated. We can't wait to read more of your work Kia- Well done!

The Golden Sun

the sharp surface of the rock wall I'm sat on tenderly scratches my thigh as I watch the lovers in each others arms, waltzing along the shoreline

they each hold the other so dearly, so carefully as if she's made of glass and him of ceramics
she kisses him in the golden sun, letting the light dance betwixt and around them as they embrace
once more

he spins her twice, with love in her eyes as the sea accompanied them with a gentle swish and a
calming sway

I found a trinket on the beach a small while ago, a yellowy translucent pebble, it reminds me of the
sun and it's warming, comforting rays - a golden sundrop

they wave me down to the gleaming sands and smooth stones of the beach where the sea meets the
lovers in another calming touch of humanity with nature

we embrace, the sea joins us, with nothing but love and peace in the wind and our hearts to end
another day in the seeming never ending summer

I retreat, and climb back up the stairs, the lovers chasing each other across the yellowing sand as I
reach the solace of the sharp rock wall
and look out onto the horizon, the sea and the stars and the sun, the golden sun



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



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



Dates for your diary

Thursday 24th October - Non uniform day & school closes for the half term break at 3.30pm

Monday 4th November - All students return to school after the half term break

Thursday 7th November - Year 9 Engagement Evening 6pm - 7.15pm

Monday 18th November - Round 1 of Year 11 Mock exams - Core subjects

Thursday 5th December – Reunion for our 2024 Leavers 6.30-7.30pm

Thursday 12th December – Yar 8 Engagement Evening – 6pm -7.15pm

Tues 17th, Wed 18th, Thurs 19th December – School Production of Beauty & the Beast -7.30pm - 9.30pm



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

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

Our Current Vacancies

We have the following vacancies in our team:

- Teaching & Learning Assistant

If you would like to find out more details about any of these posts, please see our website or contact the school for an informal chat.

[Find Current Vacancies here](#)





For more information on Norwich Book Festival, and to see everything that's happening, please visit the link below:

[Norwich Book Festival - A Celebration of Stories](#)



RE:SET

Parents and Carers Sessions on Relationships Education

Acle Academy is working with Tender Education and Arts this academic year to become a Healthy Relationships Champion School!

RE:SET is their Healthy Relationships programme, and they are supporting us to deliver relationship education sessions throughout the school. They will also be supporting families in how to talk to children about healthy relationships.

Tender will be hosting online parent and carer information sessions on the following dates - please register by using the sign up links next to each session. We look forward to seeing you there:

Healthy Relationships Online [Sign Up](#)

November 6th 7.30 – 8pm

Healthy Friendships and Relationships [Sign Up](#)

November 13th 7.30-8pm

Supporting children to manage their emotions [Sign Up](#)

November 20th 7.30 – 8pm

These sessions will take place on Teams using this link: [RE:SET Parent and Carers](#)

To find out more about RE:SET, please visit www.tenderreset.org.uk

To find out more about Tender, please visit www.tender.org.uk

Thank you!





Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination



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



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.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram



Follow us!

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.

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES