

Acle NEWS



Newsletter – 29th November 2024



We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

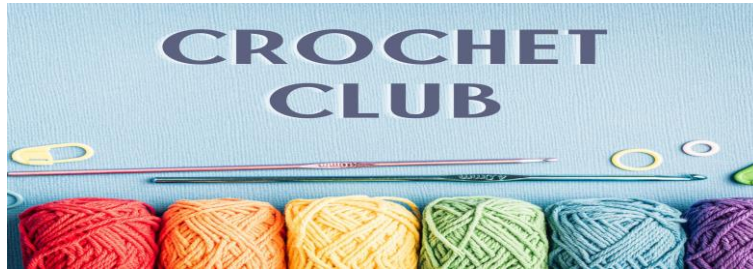
I wish to express my gratitude for the continuous support and partnership you and our community bring to Acle Academy. This time of year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished together and look forward to the rest of the school year with optimism.

Please join us when the opportunity arises in the school calendar to discuss your child's achievements and areas for growth. Your involvement plays a huge role in our students' success. Your presence helps strengthen the bridge between home and school.

Mrs Helen Watts

Principal





Crochet Club

We have been overwhelmed by the attendance at the new crochet club, with over 40 students participating in the first week! The club meets every Thursday lunchtime in room 30, open to all years and experience levels. It's a chance for students (and staff!) to learn, make new friends, and share their creations. Thankfully, Mrs Mills was on hand with her expertise, as Mrs Mackie is in the early stages of learning. A big thank you to the PTA for the new crochet hooks!

We look forward to seeing what the students will produce over the coming weeks.



Notice for Early Closure on Friday 20th December

This will be a Non-Uniform Day and an early finish for the Christmas Holiday @ 1pm. All transport will operate at this time.



Reminder

School Christmas Dinner Day is on Friday 13th December, not Wednesday 11th December. Remember to place lunch orders with the canteen by Friday 6th December.



Norfolk English Symposium Trip

On 7th November, Year 10 and 11 English students enjoyed a trip to the Norfolk English Symposium.

Students participated in an undergraduate style seminar led by Giles Foden, author of 'The Last King of Scotland' and literary editor for the Guardian, and Jeremy Noel-Tod, Literary Editor and Associate Professor at the UEA. The seminar helped prepare students in their approach to unseen poetry and prose. We were very proud of the way our students conducted themselves and participated in the seminar.



Year 9 Learning Skills Day

On 13th November, Mr. Sayce had the pleasure of working with our fantastic Year 9 students in a core study skills session, and he was truly impressed with their dedication and engagement. The session was focused on the *3 Core Steps to Success*, which are crucial at every level of study:

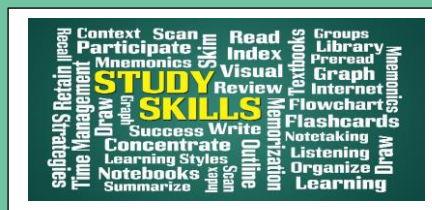
1. **Organisation and Planning:** We explored how to make effective weekly planning grids for home learning to ensure they manage their time efficiently.
2. **Study Habits:** We discussed and assessed learning habits to identify areas for improvement.
3. **Revision Strategies:** I demonstrated practical ways to create high-quality revision resources to enhance their learning and exam preparation.

Year 9 students actively participated in the practical application of these skills, and Mr Sayce is confident that their efforts today will pave the way for their future academic success.

Exciting Competitions for Year 9!

Mr. Sayce is delighted to announce three competitions for our Year 9 students, with some exciting prizes up for grabs:

1. **Homework Planning Competition:** Create and send Mr. Sayce your weekly homework plans! Every plan submitted will be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher.
2. **Learning Habits Improvement Challenge:** Complete your learning habits self-assessment and choose up to five habits to improve this term. Explain how you plan to make these changes and what strategies you'll use to improve. The best thought-out plans will be rewarded!



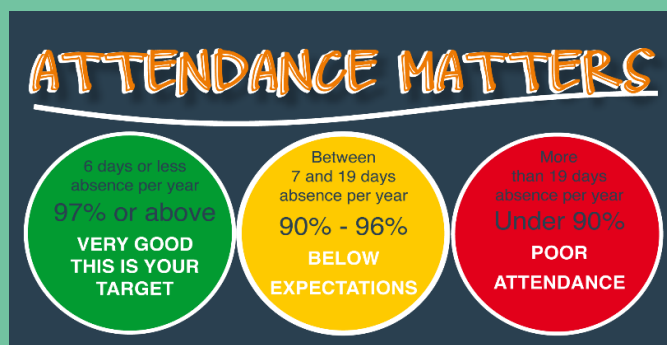
3. British Empire Revision Resource

Competition: As part of your homework, you'll be making a revision resource for your upcoming assessment on the British Empire. Enter your best resource into the competition for a chance to win sweets, chocolate, or Amazon vouchers! Use the techniques that were discussed during your session for a winning entry.

All the resources you'll need have been attached to a ClassCharts announcement, including the main presentation from the session, competition information, planning/self-assessment documents, and the knowledge organiser for your history revision.

Well done, Year 9! Remember, hard work and following the advice given today will set you up for success in your studies. Keep up the excellent work, and Mr Sayce is looking forward to seeing all your competition entries!





A little bit of context from the Attendance Manager

Reporting Student Absence

In the first newsletter of this academic year, I advised of the need to report your child's absence **EACH** and **EVERY** day that they are not in school. I do appreciate that the mornings are hectic in most households, regardless of whether or not you are a working parent, however reporting your child's absence is important so that I know the reason for the absence and that they are safe at home. I am still regularly sending reminder texts and then having to follow these up later in the morning with phone calls if a response has not been received.

Reporting Absence on ClassCharts

If you are reporting an absence on ClassCharts please do not include a request for a phone call from the Head of Year as I cannot forward the absence report to them without sending them an email, which I do not have time to do first thing in the morning. Instead, please record the reason for the absence and then email the Head of Year yourself. Similarly, please don't just put "I have emailed the reason to the Head of Year" as I will then need to contact them to find out the reason. The Heads of Year are not always office based so will not always see those emails early enough to pass the absence reason on to me. Likewise, the Heads of Year will not necessarily know that you haven't reported the absence so may not even appreciate that they need to pass the information to me.

All of these small admin tasks (sending texts, making follow up phone calls or passing messages to the Heads of Year etc) take my time away from where it could better be used to support students and parents.

What to do if your child is feeling unwell in the morning but you are still sending them to school

Please drop me an email or leave a message on the absence line if you have sent your child into school feeling a bit under the weather, and you suspect that they might struggle. This gives me the heads up that they might come to my office during the day if they feel worse, lets me know if they have already taken any medication etc. It also helps me appreciate that the illness is likely to be genuine, as I often have students come and say they feel sick / have a headache and want to go home as a reaction to something that has happened in school.

I appreciate that some parents and students think that I will just make the child stay in school. Obviously in some cases I will – but please be reassured that if your child is genuinely unwell, they will be allowed to go home. My first approach might be to see if a rest in the medical room, or a paracetamol will make them feel better. I might check if anything has upset them and send them in the direction of Reflection for pastoral support if it is anxiety related. But if this is not appropriate, or doesn't lead to them feeling better, I will of course make a call home and see if they can be picked up.

What to do if your child messages you during the day to ask you to pick them up.

Firstly – please don't encourage them to do this in the first place.

Secondly – please contact the school to let them know you have had a call / text rather than get straight in the car. I can then check in on them and call you back with an update.

Third and finally – often if a parent turns up at school, I find that the child has gone to their next lesson. I would suggest if they are well enough to have gone to their lesson, they are well enough to stay. I can guarantee I am far more tolerant, understanding and sympathetic if a student comes to see me during the day because they are struggling, than if I have to interrupt a lesson to retrieve them from a classroom.

Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation to maintain / improve your child's attendance.

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



Run by the Humanities Department at Acle Academy, our LGBTQ+ club has been running once a week at Acle Academy for the past two academic years now, and has gone from strength to strength. Each year we have more students joining and it is a lovely, safe space where everyone takes care of each other. Although it is LGBTQ+ club, everyone is welcome from around the school and we do have lots of members who are not LGBTQ+ themselves, but are allies who want to support equality for the community.

The club is involved in lots of fundraising activities and creativities. Last academic year we raised money for Stonewall and the DICE Service Area by holding a non-school uniform day for Pride Month as well as a pride picnic. Currently our members are designing a canvas to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community which will be displayed at the lgbtqproject.org.uk headquarters (who we work closely with). Ms Segurado, our lovely art teacher, has kindly allowed us the use of her room and expertise on Monday lunchtimes.

On the 13th January 2025, we have a youth ambassador from www.justlikeus.org who is coming into one of our sessions to talk about their experiences as a young LGBTQ+ community, so we very much look forward to welcoming them into our school. If your child would like to come along it will be in Room 24 at lunchtime on the 13th January 2025.

Our members are always coming up with exciting new ideas for our club, so watch this space to see where they take the LGBTQ+ Club this year.



Textiles Autumn Term

During the last half term, KS3 students have been busy in their textiles lessons, finishing off their amazing products. Year 7 students have learned how to use a sewing machine and developed their hand-stitching skills to produce a pencil case. Year 8 students have designed and made a felt toy, and Year 9 students have experimented with a range of printing techniques to produce a cushion. Fantastic work from them all!





It has been another really busy few weeks in the faculty - We have excellent engagement across all areas of the faculty with the additional activity we have on offer beyond the curriculum. Final practices are being held for our upcoming Beauty & The Beast show next month (tickets available to purchase now).

There are some excellent individual performances and it looks set to be another great show from Mr Frost.

Music opportunities continue to be well attended - with several clubs running each week and a great range of talent on show! Ms Gilbert is planning some exciting opportunities in the year ahead so much more to come also!

In PE we have seen pupils represent the school in Boys & Girls Football / Boys and Girls Rugby / Netball and Table Tennis over the last few weeks with some excellent individual and team performances.

The recent weather has delayed some activities which we now look forward to, with both the Y8 and Y9 Boys still in the Norfolk County cup football competition. The Y8s attended the North Walsham Rugby day on 26/11 coming away unbeaten against 5 other schools without conceding a single try on the day!

We have recently collected some excellent student data from KS3 pupils, with over 400 responses to the PE survey. We are looking at the data to improve PE moving forward with some exciting changes on the way to improve PE for all.



We have seen excellent numbers attending lunch and after school clubs this term and hope this continues over the winter period.

In other non department news - we have launched a school Ski trip for February Half term 2026. And pupils have spoken!!!! It was the most requested trip from the survey with over 40% of students asking for a ski trip - we now have over 100 pupils signed up to attend the trip to Italy in Feb26! A great response and a fantastic trip to look forward to.



Tickets are on sale now!! - use link below

[Beauty & The Beast JR](#)





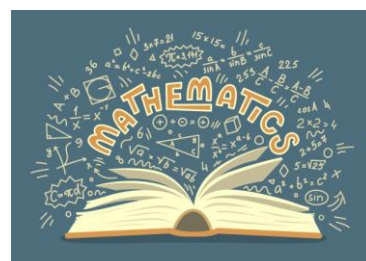
In science this week, year 11 students have been working incredibly hard towards their mock examinations. In class students have explored the nature of waves in physics, understanding key organic molecules in chemistry and analysing the nervous system and hormonal system in biology. We have also had the pleasure of running period 6 sessions, where in the department we have been able to focus on exam technique, and reinforcing difficult scientific concepts such as understanding the process of electrolysis whilst in physics looking at radiation and half life.

At Key Stage 3 students have also had the opportunity to work on their practical skills. Year 7 have been exploring topics such as electromagnetism and organ systems. Year 8 students have been studying natural science; exploring and understanding some fundamental geology. Whilst year 9 students have finished learning about genetics and space - sparking lots of creativity and wonder!



This week sees our Year 11s going into their first set of Year 11 Mock exams. It is always a tiring and at times stressful experience but one that shows valuable insights into their progress and gives them necessary experience of the “real thing”. Students have been revising and practising exam techniques regularly in lessons and period 6, with past papers and exam-style questions, so we know they have been well prepared to give each exam their best shot. Results will be given out later in the term and each class will go through their papers in lessons so they know how to keep improving.

Years 9 and 10 have also been doing assessments this week. Year 9 doing a topic-based assessment specifically on what we have covered so far this year and Year 10 attempting their first GCSE style paper. Years 7 and 8 classes will take their assessments later in the term.





Students have had a productive month in their English lessons. As I write, year eleven students are mid way through a week of mocks during which they will sit English Language papers one and two. The period six sessions leading up to this exam period have provided invaluable extra time on aspects of these papers. We were fortunate to meet many of the parents of our year ten students at parents' evening last week and this year group having finished their study of 'An Inspector Calls' are now moving on to study 'A Christmas Carol' in the run up to Christmas. At Key Stage three, students are enjoying their study of 'Trash' and 'His Dark Materials' in year seven, 'Hamlet' and 'The Town' writing unit in year eight and 'Macbeth' and 'Black Flamingo' in year nine.

On Thursday 14th November, Mrs Barber took a small group of students to Stage Two of the Theatre Royal. These students are our Shakespeare Ambassadors. They spent the day working with a director/actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company with a view to raising the profile of Shakespeare within our school. There were students from four other schools in attendance and it was a brilliant day of fun and planning. The week before, on Thursday 7th November, Mrs Hanner and Mrs Watts took forty year eleven students to the English Symposium at The Space in Norwich, an event run by Norwich School. Students were lucky enough to experience two guest speakers: poetry and literature critic and Professor, Jeremy Noel-Todd and author of 'The Last King of Scotland', Giles Foden. Several of our students contributed to the discussion during these lectures and it was great to hear the opinions of other students too.



The next programme will take place over winter, between December 30th – January 3rd (excluding New Year's Day)

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme is run in partnership with Norfolk County Council, thanks to four years of funding which is due to end in winter 2024. It 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.](#)



Kady Denton Selected for National Rugby Team in Austria

We are proud to share that Kady has been selected to represent the UK EggChasers U16 team at the prestigious United World Games in Austria, happening from 19th-22nd June 2025.

She will join talented players from across the UK to play 7s rugby on an international stage. Kady has worked incredibly hard to earn this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, being selected from so many talented girls. She's been tirelessly fundraising to reach her goal of £1,000, which will help make this dream a reality.

All the games will be live-streamed, so you can tune in and watch Kady in action, along with other incredible sports from all over the world!

Here's what Kady had to say:

"I love rugby, and the fact that I get to go and play in Austria representing the EggChasers is amazing. I've been part of the Norwich Wildcats for just over 3 years, and it's thanks to the incredible coaches who have pushed, encouraged, and believed in me that I made it into the EggChasers Academy in the first place. I'm so grateful for the support so far with my fundraiser—I can't believe how close we are! I hope everyone tunes in to see me play, and I'll do my best to make everyone proud."

If you'd like to support Kady and help her reach her goal, you can donate here:

[Kady's GoFundMe Page](#)




STUDENT Spotlight

We are thrilled to share that one of our own, Alfie, was recently nominated and shortlisted for the Young Achievers Award at the Broadland District Council Community Awards. This prestigious event took place on the 24th of October at the Royal Norwich Golf Club.

Alfie was recognised for his exceptional volunteering efforts at the Walled Garden, Little Plumstead. Although he did not win the award, we are incredibly proud of his contributions and the positive impact he has made in the community.

The ceremony was a heartwarming event, showcasing inspiring stories from volunteers and businesses across the region. Alfie's story, captured in a video shown during the event, highlighted his dedication and passion for community service.

We congratulate Alfie on this remarkable achievement, and thank him for embodying the spirit of service and community involvement.




ALFIE PROCTOR

Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

ALUMNUS Spotlight

Congratulations to former Acle student, Jacob Roper, who has graduated with a 2:1 in Film and Moving Image Production from Norwich University of the Arts.



JACOB ROPER

www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy

RSC Ambassador Training

On Thursday 14th November, a small group of students from Acle Academy went to Stage Two of the Theatre Royal. These students are our Shakespeare Ambassadors. They spent the day working with a director/actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company with a view to raising the profile of Shakespeare within our school. There were students from four other schools in attendance and it was a brilliant day of fun and planning.



**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.

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](#)



SAXON AIR™

CHRISTMAS FAMILY OPEN DAY

INNOVATE STUDIO



Saturday 7th December

FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL!



Explore our hangar - Hands-on activities, packed with fun & learning



Help plot Santa's flight path - Plus, design & fly your own paper plane



Test your skills - Wire locking, simulator and marshalling challenges



Join our community plane build - See our electric aircraft up close



Christmas crafts - As well as gingerbread decorating

Book your ticket:



SAXON AIR'S HANGAR

10AM -
2PM

£5

per ticket

(Under 5's go free)

Location: Klyne Business Aviation Centre, Norwich Airport, Norwich, NR6 6JT



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



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



Dates for your diary

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

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

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

Friday 20th December – Non
Uniform Day, Early finish for the
Christmas Holiday @ 1pm (All
transport will operate at this time)

Tuesday 7th January – All students
return & Year 11 Mock exams
(Round 2) begin today.



**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:

- Cover Supervisor
- Head of Character & Culture

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](#)





Fantastic learning!

October nominees for Learner of the Month

We have had some wonderful nominations for our learner of the month in October. Charlie H, Ben H and Grace C have produced some wonderful work in Art.

Ellis F in Year 11 has been nominated for his excellent work in Computer Science. Ellis' coding skills are absolutely amazing. In class, he quite often adapts and creates his own code which is above GCSE level. Above is a screenshot of a piece of code he has been working on. This is a game where the aim is to keep the city running based on the amount of energy it requires.

Ellie May L has been nominated in English for her superb analysis of the Queen Mab speech in 'Romeo and Juliet'. Equally, Tom Bondi has shown an excellent understanding of audience and purpose when writing a review.

Jacob D has been nominated in Geography for his superb presentation on Banff and his excellent oracy skills. Jasmine T and Jesse have also been nominated for the compelling persuasive letters they wrote to the Malaysian Prime Minister to stop deforestation.

In History Amelia C, Freya C and Nivani D S produced some excellent work on why it is important to study the British Empire and Lana K produced the most detailed and through revision resource on the Queen, Government and Religion.



Winner - October of the Month

Congratulations to Sophia F S who I have selected as the Learner of the Month for her captivating charcoal sketches she has produced. These sketches show a real maturity as they have managed to capture the human condition with depth and emotion. This is really impressive work- well done Sophia!

Find Photographs [Here](#)



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