

Monday 9th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Leadership Changes at Acle Academy and Hellesdon High School

The Wensum Trust remains committed to its aspiration for all young people, of all abilities, to want to attend and achieve well in all of our schools.

Since 2016, the Wensum Trust has demonstrated a successful track record in bringing about rapid and sustained improvements in all our schools.

This has been demonstrated at Acle Academy through the leadership of Helen Watts. The school has transformed from a school in Special Measures to a Good school, and is on track for outstanding outcomes in the future.

These successes were made possible through the support of Helen's strong leadership team, along with Tom Rolfe, the Trust's part-time Secondary Strategic Lead, and the wider Trust team.

The Wensum Trust is working hard to ensure all our secondary schools have consistent and strong leadership to realise our ambitions for your child/our school.

In order to achieve this, we are excited to announce some changes in our leadership team across our secondary schools which will come into effect in January 2025.

Tom Rolfe, who also holds the post as joint Principal at Hellesdon High School, will become the Trust's full-time Secondary Strategic Lead to ensure all our Secondary Schools are receiving consistent support to improve outcomes for your child/our school; aligning the curriculum across our schools and working on projects to boost attendance.

Tom will also be building on the success of our partnership work with organisations such as Lovell, Norwich Theatre, Norwich Community Sport Foundations and KLM UK Engineering, to provide even more opportunities for your child/our school, so that they can explore their interests and create a pathway to achieve their aspirations.

In addition, he will be developing our in school SEND provisions and overseeing the opening of two new Specialist Resource Bases at Acle Academy and Alderman Peel High School, which will support the needs of children with autism.

As a result of the changes to Tom's role, we are delighted to announce that Helen Watts will become Executive Head across both Acle Academy and Hellesdon High School on a three year secondment. This appointment reflects Helen's achievements at Acle and we know her strong leadership and proven track record in school improvement will accelerate the progress already being made to ensure Hellesdon High is meeting its targets.



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Please be reassured that Helen will still remain the strategic and operational head at Acle, supported by the Senior Leadership Team and Vice Principal Scott Newstead. We know it is important to Helen to remain visible and engaged with you and your child.

The Wensum Trust is excited about these changes, and how they will benefit your child, and we are grateful for your ongoing support as we continue to put children, families and communities at the centre of all we do.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith

Chair of Trustees