

Acle NEWS



Newsletter – 20th December 2024



We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

As the Christmas holiday season draws near, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you. This time of year, offers us a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect, and celebrate the joy, gratitude, and generosity that make our school community so special.

Throughout the past year, we have witnessed the dedication, kindness, and resilience that shine in our classrooms, hallways, and beyond. Each day, I am grateful for the hard work of our students, the support of our parents, and the unwavering commitment of our staff. Together, we create an environment where growth, learning, and compassion flourish.

We wish all students a wonderful Christmas break with their families and friends.

Mrs Helen Watts

Principal



Legal requirements for 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' (EAPCs), also known as e-bikes



Due to the rise in the misuse of e-bikes, and with Christmas coming up, we have been asked to share the message below. Please also see the link below to a e-scooter information leaflet.

It must have pedals that can be used to propel it.

It must show either the power output or the manufacturer of the motor.

It must also show either the battery's voltage or the maximum speed of the bike.

The electric motor must have a maximum power output of 250 watts.

The motor should stop assisting once the bike reaches 15.5 mph (25 km/h). Riders can go faster by pedalling, but the motor cannot assist beyond this speed.

Riders must be at least 14 years old to legally ride an e-bike on public roads, even if the bike is designed for younger users.

If an e-bike exceeds the standard power or speed limits or can be ridden without pedalling (often called 'twist and go' bikes), it's classed as a motor vehicle. These require a valid driving licence, registration, insurance, and tax, and the rider must follow all regulations that apply to mopeds or motorcycles.

Children aged over 14 years are allowed to ride e-bikes anywhere normal pedal bicycles are allowed. They must not be ridden on pavements.

More information: www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules

Police can seize any EAPC that does not comply with the law. They can also seize a legal EAPC that is being ridden by a child aged under 14 years. Costs incurred in doing this will be passed on to the rider/parent or guardian.

Link to [e-scooters & the law leaflet](#)

Thank You to Our Kitchen Staff!

A big thank you to our kitchen team for preparing a wonderful Christmas dinner for our students and staff. Your hard work and effort made the day extra special, and it was truly appreciated by everyone.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Christmas break when it comes!



Pool success!

Malaika Sheridan is a regional swimmer and has had amazing success recently, she has ambitions to swim for England.

This picture was taken at the UEA after competing in the Winter Wipeout race weekend and winning 2 silver medals.

Well Done Malaika!

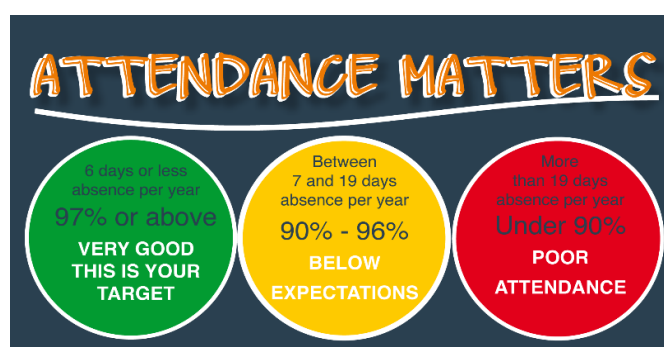


Hippodrome

Last week year 7 went to the Hippodrome in Great Yarmouth for a special Christmas performance. We were treated to spectacular circus, magic and water performances from an incredible international cast. Year 7 were an absolute credit to the school. A thoroughly enjoyable outing!



Mr Sayce enjoyed it too!



End of First Term – time to reflect and review

EVERY DAY COUNTS

It is really important that we all recognise the importance of attendance, not just as it gives a student access to their education, but also for the wider benefits of social interaction, well-being and the general life skill of simply accepting that we all have to do things we might not like!!

I have recently held meetings with each Head of Year to review attendance for their year group. We have identified students whose attendance is below the year group average and I will be sending home letters to those parents this week. All of the students will be added to my “watchlist” and will receive a call from the Head of Year or myself the next time they are absent and parents may be required to come in for a meeting to discuss ways we can support improved attendance.

Please help your child attend regularly by not keeping them off school unnecessarily. It can be hard for a child to catch up on missed learning, and this then becomes an additional barrier to attending.

As always, I would remind you to let me know if there are issues affecting your child’s attendance so that we can work together to find solutions and ways to support an improvement.

For Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 – 11) it is really important that good attendance habits are embedded to prepare your child for their GCSEs to give them the best chance to get the results they are individually capable of.

Have a lovely Christmas break, however you choose to spend it. My best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy new year.

Jane Bryant (Attendance Manager) 01493 750431 (option 2) or jbryant@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

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



STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Finley, who recently took part in the Kuk Sool Won UK Tournament in Liverpool. He was awarded two silver medals for staff and technique, and a bronze medal for sparring.

FINLEY O'HARA



Acle Academy

Respect, Aspiration and Determination



STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Jacob, who recently took part in the Kuk Sool Won UK Tournament in Liverpool. He was awarded two gold medals for technique and sparring, and two bronze medals for form and staff.

JACOB O'HARA



Acle Academy

Respect, Aspiration and Determination



STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Ollie, who recently took part in the Kuk Sool Won UK Tournament in Liverpool. He was awarded a silver medal for staff and came third and fourth for form and technique.

OLLIE GREEN



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Faculty News



Acle Academy Earns Prestigious NCCE Quality Mark for Excellence in Computing Education

Acle Academy is celebrating a major achievement after being awarded the NCCE (National Centre for Computing Education) Quality Mark. This recognition highlights the school's commitment to delivering high-quality computing education and preparing students for the digital future. The award was made possible through the dedication of the school's staff, who have worked hard to enhance computing curriculum, and by implementing the Enthuse Partnership with STEM Learning UK. Together, these efforts have helped Acle Academy to provide students with innovative learning experiences and ensure they develop crucial digital skills.

The NCCE Quality Mark reflects the academy's ongoing commitment to raising the standards of computing education. Teachers at Acle Academy have embraced new technologies, resources, and teaching methodologies to inspire students. The Enthuse Partnership has played a vital role in facilitating access to professional development and high-quality STEM resources, strengthening the Computer Science curriculum. The Creative Industries Faculty would like to thank our strategic partners; National Centre for Computing Education, Enthuse Partnership and STEM Learning UK for making a significant difference in students' academic journeys and future career paths.



As ever, this has been a busy term in the History department. Period 6 sessions for Year 11 have gotten underway in the run up to non-core PPEs due to take place immediately after the Christmas holiday. This has been a brilliant opportunity for students to revisit key content from the 'Medicine through time, c1250-present' and the 'Medicine on the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918' units, and develop key exam skills in line with Paper 1 requirements. In Year 10, students are coming to the end of the 'Medicine through time, c1250-present' unit and beginning the source focused element of Paper 1. Year 9 have grappled with the often-controversial historical debates surrounding the British Empire, forming supported judgements of their own on the legacy of the empire, based on the varied evidence they have analysed. Students in Year 8 have been analysing the causes, events and consequences of the English Civil War and forming their own judgements about how Oliver Cromwell should be remembered. Finally, Year 7 have begun their exploration of the medieval period of English History through their unit on the Norman Conquest of England. They have explored key battles of 1066 and evaluated the methods used by William I to secure control of England in the aftermath of the Battle of Hastings.



As we approach the end of term it's great to reflect on all of the positive things we have achieved as a Faculty. No more so than the culmination of months of work with Mr Frost's Beauty and the Beast production which has been shared in the last week of term.

It is the result of a huge amount of work from a number of staff, and even more amazing pupils. It brings together all of the key things we are trying to achieve in Performance Studies, with huge dedication and commitment shown by so many. It really brings to life the Schools commitment to developing pupils through our PRIDE approach.

At the same time work has been going on with Acle's got talent which really merges the excellent work by Mrs Gilbert in music, with the performance elements of drama. I was lucky enough to see the auditions for this year's acts - and Acle truly does have talent! I look forward to the last day of terms performances to an audience.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Performance studies team for all of their work over months to ensure opportunities like this are given to pupils.

On a PE front - final touches to the Santa Dash this week, with over 200 students participating. A huge thanks to Miss Pring for bringing this opportunity to life - it's a great way to end the term, with excellent commitment shown by the pupils to be involved.

The Ski trip led by PE has been launched with over 110 pupils signed up to attend the trip in Feb 2026 to Italy.



This is a phenomenal response and shows the demand for this type of opportunity is strong - and hopefully we can offer more trips such as this in the future.

Behind the scenes - we continue to develop the PE offer, following student voice we are making key changes to things like groupings / curriculum mapping and assessment/tracking. We have implemented a new tracking system in KS3 classes, which not only has changed the way we look at athletic performance (aligning to KS4 pathways), but we have incorporated tracking progress in key areas of our PRIDE focus.

As we look forward to 2025 there is so much more to come as we introduce a more defined sports leadership pathway, enhance the curriculum offer and assessment process and continue to look for ways to increase the opportunities afforded to Acle students.



Thank you, Mr Frost and the whole cast, for putting on a great school production of Beauty and the Beast this week. Your commitment to rehearsing and teamwork shone through on stage for the three nights of the performance and behind the scenes, supported by Mrs Green, Ms Gilbert, Ms Nichols, Ms Mackie. You should all be very proud of what you accomplished.



This term, the students have been working incredibly hard with the science department. Year 11's are full steam ahead, receiving some mock feedback and learning about exciting topics such as rates of reaction, waves and genetics and inheritance. In triple physics, students are starting to explore the space unit, bringing some very interesting class discussions, as well as learning about organic compounds in triple chemistry.

In year 10, students are learning about new units including particles and state of matter and salts in chemistry. In Biology pupils have been looking at cells and transport. These groups have had a chance to do many exciting practical's ranging from using microscopes, calculating density and

In year 9, students have been learning about acids, alkalis and other important chemical reactions. Students therefore have had a chance to do some practical work and some exciting demonstrations.

In year 8 students have been looking at waves. In the most recent lessons, we have been looking at how we can calculate the speed of sound. In biology, students have been coming to the end of their B3 units and starting looking at separating techniques in chemistry.

In year 7 students have been looking at studying the nature of solid, liquid and gases and have continued to study plant and animals' cells. In the most recent lesson, some students were able to see the structure of plant and animal cells using microscopes.

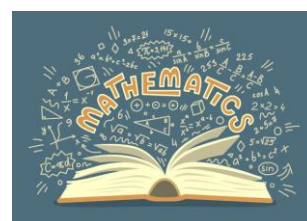


As we approach the holidays, I am sure everyone is feeling tired, this term is always the longest term of the year and very busy! The year 7s have now completed their first term of secondary school and we hope they have enjoyed the challenges this has brought. Every year group has had at least one assessment and I hope everyone has also had time to reflect on the progress they are making. Please do ask your class teacher if you need support with any topics next term. Next term sees new topics, Pi Day in March and lots of other exciting opportunities including Maths challenge for selected students in Key Stage 3.

We hope everyone has a great holiday, takes time to relax and enjoy family time and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Merry Christmas!

The Maths team.





We've had a busy and positive half term in English. Year 11 have had to switch their focus fast, from Language for the round of PPEs they have just finished, to Literature which will be assessed in round two, and we have an additional period six on Mondays to help support them further in their preparation. Year 10 have been assessed on An Inspector Calls (this will be reported in Tracking One) and are enjoying the festive feel of our next text, A Christmas Carol. We have seen some beautiful creative writing from Year 9 for their Macbeth mid-point assessment, and likewise Year 7, who have written descriptive pieces all about the Northern Lights, with many of them drawing on their own recent experiences of seeing them here in Norfolk! Year 8 have worked hard on their unit of work based around 'The Town' with the opportunity for lots of pieces of writing about the fictional town they created. Their recent assessed piece was a letter of complaint about a visit to a restaurant and there were some brilliant and assertive letters. The end of the unit is giving groups the opportunity to plan a town fundraiser with a Christmas theme.

We are very much looking forward to taking Year 10, and a few Year 11 students to see An Inspector Calls in Norwich on January 22nd. Further details for anyone on the trip will follow in the new year. We are also looking into being part of the Great Schools Debate, hosted by Aylsham High, if you think your child would like to be a part of it, do get them to flag their interest with Mrs Cullen.



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.](#)



Acle Academy Traffic Management Scheme

As many parents, carers, staff and students are only too aware, everybody's safety when accessing our school site is of the utmost importance.

It is with this in mind that a new Traffic Management Scheme will be implemented from January 2025 to ensure the safety of all at Acle Academy. This will include, but not be limited to the following measures;

- **New bollards to ensure the front gates are kept clear**
- **Parents are reminded not to drop students at school within the car park, unless agreed with the Principal.**
- **Parents are not permitted to park on the school site when waiting for students at the end of the day.**
- **When visiting the school, parents only park in designated areas, you will be asked to move if parked incorrectly.**
- **It is illegal to park or drop off/pick up on the yellow line on South Walsham Road during the times of 8am -9.30am & 3pm-4.30pm. You will be asked to move your vehicle and repeated violations will be noted and reported to the police.**

We hope that everyone can assist in our aim to ensure the safety of students when arriving and departing, and to prevent unnecessary accidents.

**Mr. D. Butcher & Mr. K. Denny
Premises Site Team
Acle Academy**

Careers and Enrichment Fair

A huge thank you to all the organisations and companies who attended our Careers Fair last week. Your time, expertise, and passion for what you do made this an insightful event for our students.

A **special thank you** to Mrs Jacotine and Melissa Pentney for their hard work and dedication in organising such a fantastic event. Your efforts have inspired so many students to think about their future paths.



Christmas Carols at the Minster

Students representing our school helped to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Heart2Heart Norfolk. Various schools took part in this event, which was held at Great Yarmouth Minster on Saturday 30th November. Led by Gabriella Harvey-Mobbs, the Acle singers performed a range of songs and carols, including 'Half the World Away' and 'Somewhere Only We Know'.

One of the parents said: "I just wanted to say thank you. It was such a lovely event for a great cause. Very well organised. The children made you proud. We all really enjoyed it!"

Year 8 Study Skills Success with Mr Sayce

Year 8 pupils have been focusing on building strong study habits, mastering organisation, and learning effective revision techniques like **Cornell Notes**.

Key Takeaways:

- Reflect on your **study habits**: small changes = big results!
- Use the **Weekly Homework Planner** to stay organised and plan ahead!
- Try **Cornell Notes** for revision—it's a game-changer!



Year 11 Mock Interviews

Our Year 11 students have recently taken part in a mock interview session. They began with a presentation on interview skills and techniques by a Pathways to Work adviser and then each student had a 20-minute interview with an employer.

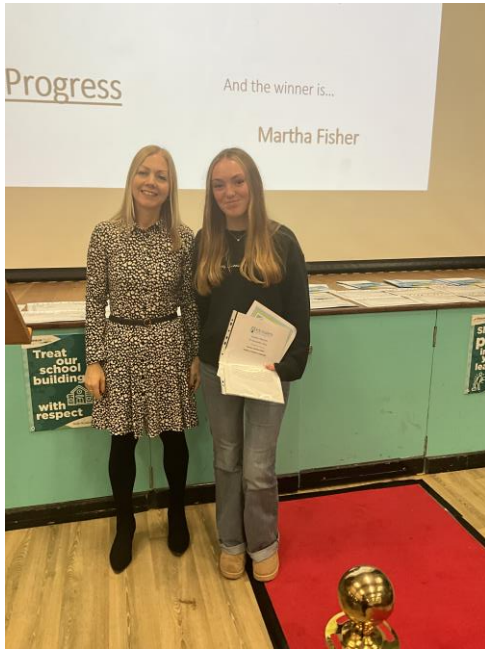
A huge thank you to the staff from Lovell, British Sugar, Altrad, Rossi Long, Richard Utting Associates and South Norfolk and Broadland Council for giving up their time to allow the students this valuable experience.



Year 11 Reunion

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the Year 11 Reunion on Thursday 5th December! It was wonderful to see so many of our students from the class of 2024 and hear about what they've been up to since moving on from Acle Academy. Students received their GCSE certificates and some special awards were also presented.

A special thanks to our amazing staff and organisers who made the event possible.

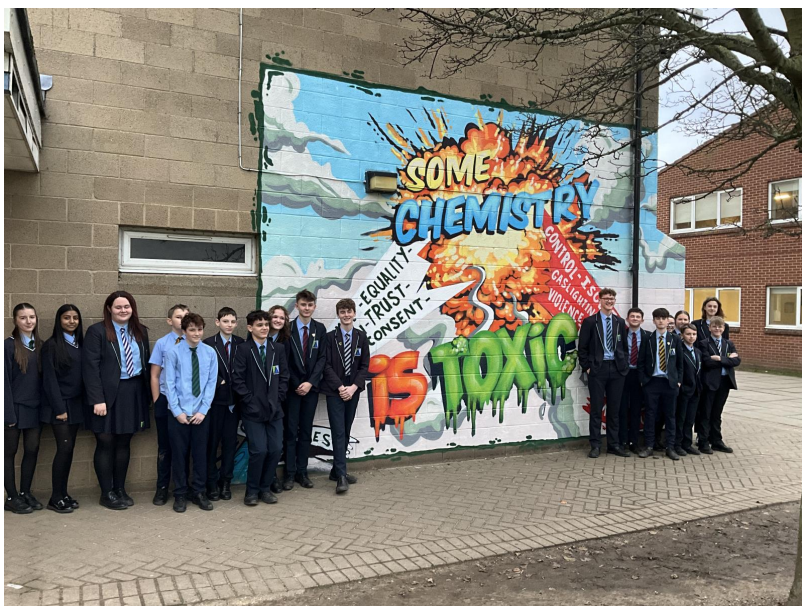


Additional photographs can be found [Here](#)

Tender Celebration

On Tuesday 10th December we celebrated being recognised for our commitment to promoting healthy, equal and respectful relationships. We were awarded the RE:SET Healthy Relationship Champion Setting Award by Tender for our dedication to fostering positive attitudes and behaviours based on equality and compassion.

We'd like to say a big thank you to all our wonderful students and staff for their involvement and support.



RE:SET

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
CHAMPION SETTING

Acle Garden Project

As part of our continued work with the Papillon Project, Matt Willer BEM has visited our school garden and put in a massive amount of work to rejuvenate the space and make it workable for students.

As the area had become overgrown over Summer, he took it upon himself to cut back the brambles which had grown up around the space, remove an unsafe brick structure and clear the for future works to take place.

With the help from volunteers in the community and a core group of students, the plan is to use the area to establish a garden which can grow a mixture of flowers, vegetables, and herbs both inside the large polytunnel and outside in handmade raised beds, with the goal of creating a space all students can use and appreciate, as well as teaching important life skills.

The next steps for the project will begin after Christmas, where we will brace the cold and build the raised beds out of reclaimed timber. We also plan to re-establish the pond and clearly mark out a path through the area.



National Tree Week

National Tree Week (NTW), from The Tree Council and partners, marks the traditional start of the winter tree planting season. At this time of year, trees are dormant and so experience the least stress when being placed in their new homes – to hopefully thrive into maturity, bringing huge nature, wellbeing and biodiversity benefits to all.

At Acle, the Creative Industries department celebrated this by running a logo design competition for Key Stage 3. All appropriate entries have received a PRIDE Point, and we have decided to feature some of the best designs below.

Well done to all who entered, and keep an eye out on your Google Classroom to see more competitions from the Creative Industries department.





**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](#)





Acle Academy PTA AGM

Join Us and Make a Difference!

Date: Tuesday, 14th January 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Acle Academy

Open to: All parents, teachers, and community members

Recruitment for Key Roles

We are looking to fill the following positions:

- **Chair:** Responsible for leading and coordinating the activities of the PTA, chairing meetings, and acting as a liaison between parents and school administration.
- **Deputy Chair:** Assists the Chair in their duties and steps in during their absence.
- **Secretary:** Manages all correspondence, records minutes of meetings, and ensures proper documentation of PTA activities.
- **Communications Officer:** Handles all communications between the PTA and the school community, including newsletters, social media, and publicity for events.

Our Contributions and Achievements

The hard work of organising events and activities by the PTA goes towards enhancing the school's resources and experiences for our students. Here are some examples of how funds have been utilised:

Laptops: £822 Hippodrome Trip: £500
Poppy Wreath: £20 Yr 6 Dare to be You Journals: £720
PA System: £200 Yr 11 Prom: £727
Donation to Drama: £300 Rewards: £300

Our Activities

We also run a successful preloved school uniform shop and organise various events such as:

- School Discos
- Car Washes
- Quiz Nights
- Christmas Hampers
- Support for School Production
- Transition Events

Get Involved!

Join us at the AGM to learn more about our efforts, contribute your ideas, and become a part of the dynamic team that supports Acle Academy.

Your involvement makes a significant difference in the lives of our students.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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



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



Dates for your diary

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.

Thursday 16th January - 4.30-7.30pm
-Year 11 Parents' evening

Thursday 23rd January - 4.30-7.30pm -Year 9 Parents' evening

Thursday 6th February – Year 7 Engagement Evening - 6pm- 7.15pm

Thursday 13th February – Year 9 Options Evening – 6pm-8pm

Monday 24th February – All students return & Year 11 Mock exams (Round 3) begin today.



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

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

Our Current Vacancies

- Head of Year 9 (Non-teaching)

[Find Current Vacancies here](#)





November Learner of the Month Nominees

There has been some fabulous nominations in English this month. Dexter L and Tyler D have been nominated for their wonderful dystopian writing which is really engaging. Equally Kaleb R has been nominated for his excellent analysis of the Queen Mab speech in 'Romeo and Juliet'

Students in History have produced some fantastic learning. Enzo B and Jacob W-B have created some thoroughly detailed time lines on the reign of the Stuarts. Charlotte E, Chloe C and Ella S produced some amazing GCSE exam practice responses to the challenges faced by Elizabeth I. Matilda H-W and Sadie F created some excellent work on early Elizabethan England.

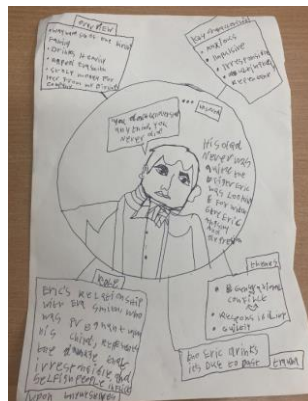
In French, Ryan S and Seren N excelled in their Autumn term written assessment.



Winner of Learner of the Month

Jayden S has been chosen as the winner of learner of the month for his fantastic attitude to learning in English; making huge efforts with his handwriting, completing additional independent learning, contributing more frequently in class and really stretching his vocabulary. Miss Webb, Jayden's English teacher said, "It has been so lovely to see the effort he is putting in to stretch himself in every lesson. The difference from the start of the year is huge, he has transformed. The additional work is indicative of the transformation in Jayden's attitude to learning."

Well done Jayden!





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



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