

# Acle NEWS



Newsletter – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

**ACLE ACADEMY  
GOVERNOR  
VACANCIES**

**TWO COMMUNITY  
GOVERNORS AND A  
PARENT GOVERNOR**

If these roles are of interest to you and you would like more information, please contact us on [info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) or 01493 750 431 .

Please note that parents/carers of current students of the school are not eligible to be community governors.

**CLOSING DATE** 6th June 2025

We are part of...

**WENSUM TRUST**

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



[www.acleacademy.co.uk](http://www.acleacademy.co.uk)



Acle Academy Norfolk



@Acle Academy



## Welcome to our latest newsletter.

The Summer term is always one of the most exciting times of the school year, as we see the culmination of months of hard work and the promise of new successes. It's a time when progress is visible and accomplishments are shared and celebrated.

Over the coming weeks, perseverance and dedication will come to life across our school. Our students will be showcasing their talents, celebrating their learning, and reaching goals they have worked towards all year. It's a time when effort transforms into achievement, and dreams begin to take flight.

We send our encouragement and best wishes to our Year 11 students who are undertaking their GCSE exams. We are incredibly proud of their commitment, resilience, and determination, and we are confident that their hard work will lead to well-deserved success. The entire school community stands firmly behind them during this important time.

I encourage everyone to embrace this term with enthusiasm and pride. Let's continue to support one another, strive for excellence, and make these final weeks truly remarkable.

Thank you for being such an essential part of our community — your partnership and encouragement make all the difference. We hope you have a wonderful half term with your family.

**Helen Watts**

**Executive Principal**

**Acle Academy** 

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**



## Thank You British Sugar

Earlier in the year, our students raised in parliament that they would like more outdoor seating for breaktime and lunchtime. A huge thank you to British Sugar who provided us with 5 outdoor benches made from 100% recycled plastic bottles.



## Easter Fête

On the final day of term before the Easter break, the senior prefects hosted Acle's first-ever Easter Fête during lunchtime. There was fantastic participation across all the stalls, but the most popular — and highly anticipated — was the "Sponge a Teacher" stall, which drew plenty of cheers and laughter.

A big thank you to all the teachers who volunteered and gave up part of their lunchtime to support the event. As the afternoon went on, students' aim improved dramatically, leading to even more successful hits on the later teachers!

The Easter Fête, along with a non-uniform day, was organised to raise money for P.A.C.T. In total, £162.58 was raised. Thank you to everyone for your incredible support!



For parents and carers who have watched *Adolescence* and want to learn more about how emojis are used in online communication, here's a quick guide.

# DECODE THE CODE

The digital world is evolving faster than most adults can keep up, but we don't have to be in the dark!

## What can parents and carers do?

- Get curious, not combative - Ask open-ended questions and keep the conversation light. "I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?"
- Create a judgment-free zone - If your child feels like they'll be punished for opening up, they won't.

- Decode together - Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don't assume - ask!

- Teach critical thinking - Help them question online content. Arm them with questions, not just rules. "Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?"

- Be real about manipulation - Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have 'insider knowledge'.

- Build their offline confidence - The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they'll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.
- Monitor without spying - Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.



## The meaning behind the emoji

 <p><b>Red Pill</b> "I see the truth." Used in toxic male spaces to mean walking up to the supposed hidden 'truths' about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.</p>	 <p><b>Blue Pill</b> Represents those who are 'blind to the truth' or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.</p>	 <p><b>Dynamite</b> An 'exploding red pill', meaning someone is a radicalised incel.</p>	 <p><b>Kidney bean</b> A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.</p>	 <p><b>100</b> Tied to the '80/20 rule', the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.</p>
 <p><b>Black hole</b> Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.</p>	 <p><b>Tornado</b> Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.</p>	 <p><b>Frog</b> Associated with alt-right and extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by some toxic online groups.</p>	 <p><b>Eagle</b> A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.</p>	 <p><b>Skull</b> While often just slang for, "That's funny," or "I'm dead (from laughing)," in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.</p>
 <p>Love</p>	 <p>Lust</p>	 <p>"Are you interested?"</p>	 <p>Interested but not in sex</p>	 <p>"You'll be okay."</p>

# STEVENSONS

## Norwich Branch

Our opening hours are changing slightly, but don't worry we will still extend our opening hours for the busy back-to-school period and you can also shop online for ultimate convenience.



### INSTORE:

As of the 1st April, our new opening hours will be:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday:  
9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Closed: Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

We want to reassure our customers that during the busy Back to School season, we extend our opening hours to provide greater flexibility. We also open our appointment booking service so that you can make the most of your visit for a smooth and stress-free shopping experience. Appointments are available to book online - register with us to be notified as soon as bookings become available.

### Address:

Stevensons, 67 Ber Street,  
Norwich, NR1 3AD

### Contact:

[norwichbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:norwichbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

Please note that we are a cashless branch



### ONLINE:

Order online for home delivery or collect instore

[www.stevensons.co.uk](http://www.stevensons.co.uk)

with low-cost postage and FREE returns

Our in-stock items are typically dispatched within 48 hours. Plus, with our 365-day return policy, you can shop with confidence knowing that returns are hassle-free.

### Need Assistance?:

If you have any questions our Customer Care team is available via our Livechat service.

Our FAQs section on our website also has additional helpful information should you need it.



## Acle Academy Spring Concert

The St Lawrence Art Centre in South Walsham came alive with music as students from Acle Academy showcased their talents to an appreciative audience of family and friends.

The venue's acoustics beautifully complemented performances on the flute, piano, violin, and voice. Every performer was met with well-deserved applause.

The evening concluded on a high note with a rendition of *Ex-Wives* by the Acle Choir. No memorable evening would be complete without a cup of tea or coffee, and guests enjoyed chatting and sharing their love of music together.



## Year 10 End of Year Exams - June 2025

Date	AM 1: 09:00-11:25	AM 2: 11:40-12:40	PM: 13:30-15:30
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 1 Monday 16th June</b>	GCSE EXAMS	PE GCSE Paper 1 - 45mins	Maths Paper 1 (non-calculator) - 90mins
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 1 Tuesday 17th June</b>	Maths Paper 2 (calculator) - 90mins	French Listening (foundation) 45mins	English Literature (Poetry) 60mins
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 1 Wednesday 18th June</b>	GCSE EXAMS	German Listening (foundation) 45mins	Geography - 90min
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 1 Thursday 19th June</b>	English Language (Paper 1) - 105mins		Leavers Assembly
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 1 Friday 20th June</b>	Biology Separate - 105mins / Biology Combined - 75min	French and German Reading - 45 mins (H and F)	History - 60mins
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 2 Monday 23rd June</b>	Product Design - 120 mins / Textiles - 105 mins / Computer Science - 105 mins		PE GCSE Paper 2 - 45mins / Sports Study 75min
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 2 Tuesday 24th June</b>	Chemistry Separate - 105mins / Chemistry Combined - 75min		French and German Writing - 80 & 75 mins (H and F)
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 2 Wednesday 25th June</b>	Hospitality & Catering - 80 mins		French Listening (Higher) 60 mins
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 2 Thursday 26th June</b>	Physics Separate - 105mins / Physics Combined - 75min		German Listening (Higher) 60 mins
	Hall	Hall	Hall
<b>Wk 2 Friday 27th June</b>	Drama - 1hr 45min		Construction - 60 mins
	Rm11	Rm11	Rm11
<b>Wk 1 Monday 30th June</b>	Art Exam	Art Exam	Art Exam

## Faculty News



In science in April and May, Year 11 students have been working hard preparing for their GCSEs with plenty of exam practice. Year 10s have been exploring various topics such as farming techniques, sustainable food production and food security. In chemistry, students have been learning about extracting metals from compounds, energy changes in chemical reactions and how to calculate concentrations, relative formula mass and the mole. In physics, students have investigated the concepts of radioactivity, forces and using equations.

Within Key Stage 3, Our Year 9s have been learning about the importance of energy, energy transfers and how to reduce wasted energy. Year 8 are continuing their studies by looking at the amazing molecule of life that is DNA. Year 7 students are continuing their work on adaptations, food chains and our role as humans to maintain stability within ecosystems.



This week our year 10 geographers visited Norwich City Centre to collect fieldwork data for their GCSE exams. The students were investigating 'How sustainable is Norwich city centre?' To do this, they collected a range of data from questionnaires with the public, to traffic counts and environmental quality surveys in different areas of the city.

Back in the classroom, they will evaluate the data and analyse their results before discussing these in their 'paper three' exam next summer.

Field trips are vital to help students immerse themselves in a geographical setting but also require them to collect robust data, draw conclusions from this and develop their team working skills. It was a very sunny day but the students stayed focussed and collected some brilliant data. Very proud of all the year 10 Geographers!



In English in April and May our year eleven students have been working hard in their final GCSE preparation. As I write, students have already completed both Literature papers, with the Language papers now just around the corner. We have supported students with last minute tips and advice in our breakfast sessions prior to each exam and have been pleased to see lots of smiling faces coming out of the exam hall. Some students were supported with their final preparations through an English conference at The Nest which took place just before the Easter holidays, this enabled our students to work in small groups alongside students from Hellesdon High School and Alderman Peel. Students also sat a walking talking mock immediately after the Easter holidays and parents came into school for our Maths and English engagement evening, giving them an opportunity to see first hand what their child had produced in these mocks and help them to reflect on their work.

Our year nines have been working hard on their spoken language presentations. This is a component of the GCSE English curriculum where students plan and deliver a presentation to the rest of the class. We have heard some interesting, thought provoking presentations and been impressed with the confidence demonstrated by students. Our year sevens have also been doing some oracy work, looking at writing and delivering a conscription speech as part of their World War One poetry unit. Our year tens are preparing for their end of year exams. In English they will be assessed on the poetry anthology and English Language Paper One so please encourage your child to use the materials on their google classroom to revise.



Last week we had our English faculty review where we looked at the provision we offer our students. We were impressed with the year seven and ten pupils who sat on our student panels. They were able to reflect on their English lessons and gave us plenty of insight into their thoughts on the subject and their learning journey.



A selected group of our year 9 pupils were invited to join the series of Royal institution Maths Saturday sessions at Sir Isaac Newton College in the city. These are being led by a selection of guest visitors from the university and maths fields of work and have had our pupils working their brains hard at a university level.

Our year 10 Mathematicians also continue to work with Mr Evans and Sir Isaac Newton on their Further Mathematics online GCSE qualification. We applaud them for their commitment to this and can see the progress they are making at this high level.

A reminder that after half term pupils will be taking part in their end of year assessments. Your teachers will be letting you know exact dates and revision materials on ClassCharts.



Well it's been a busy chaotic year to date and the last couple of months have been even more so, culminating with the news around changes to the faculty staffing ahead.

Head of Performance Studies Mr McCombe will be moving into the Assistant Principal role overseeing Behaviour and Attendance. While this represents even more change into the PE department, the news is really positive in many ways. We will see significant gains in having additional male staff supporting the PE department with the Head of PE from Hellesdon High School as well as Mr Chapman – new Head of Year 8 coming in after half term.

This will enable more opportunities for pupils next year with greater capacity in the department.

And we can confirm we will be looking a lot smarter next year – with new full Kits for Rugby and Football being purchased as well as staff wearing branded Acle kit. In addition, we have listened to pupil voice and have improved our purchasing processes for sports jumpers (new online ordering process) as well as provision of an optional KS4 Examination PE kit package on offer for KS4 GCSE PE / Sports Studies pupils.

The Faculty has been busy introducing new sports to the school this term – exploring Ultimate Frisbee (new quality frisbees purchased), Pop Lacrosse and Pickleball! – Pickleball is a new version of tennis-based activity which is really inclusive and accessible to all ability levels.



Across the Faculty – we have recently engaged KS4 pupils in feedback about the quality of provision in PE/Sport Studies, Drama and Music and have a range of quality data along with some great ideas about how we can improve provision moving forward.

We intend to complete a KS3 survey later in the summer term to get student feedback also.

In other exciting news – we have had the go ahead to train multiple school staff to be able to use the Fitness Suite at the School – enabling us to reopen the Acle Gym for curriculum and extra curricular use from next year.



### KS3 Creative Industries: IET Faraday Challenge

A group of enthusiastic Year 8 students recently took part in an exciting STEM competition hosted by the Wensum Trust as part of the national IET Faraday® Challenge Day. This one-day event, delivered free of charge by regional partners on behalf of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), offered our students a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of real-life engineers.

Throughout the day, students were challenged to research, design, and build prototype solutions to genuine engineering problems. Working in teams, they showcased creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking as they competed for a coveted place on the season's national league table.

The IET Faraday® Challenge Days are part of the IET's broader mission to inspire young people and highlight the exciting possibilities within careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The Creative Industries Faculty is passionate about offering our students engaging and innovative opportunities to connect with STEM subjects. Events like the Faraday Challenge not only fuel curiosity and confidence, but also contribute to the future of a strong UK economy driven by world-class engineering talent.

Well done to all the students who took part — we are proud of your efforts and can't wait to see where your STEM journey takes you next!



This month our kitchen has continued to be busy with a wide range of dishes, mostly of the sweet variety. Students across KS3 and KS4 have learnt to use a bain-marie to melt chocolate without burning it, with the Year 10's infusing theirs with orange zest. Year 9 have been focussing on some staple dishes to help them cook more independently at home with some one-pot pasta bakes, stir fries and brownies. With the coursework all sent off to the exam board, year 11 are deep into their revision, revisiting topics from year 10 and going through past exam papers as a class to improve their exam technique.



### Year 9 Textiles – Exploring Stencil Design with CAD/CAM

This term, our Year 9 Textiles students have been busy designing their own stencils as part of experimenting with both traditional and modern techniques. Pupils first created stencils by hand, developing their practical cutting skills.



continued...

They then moved on to use CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software and the laser cutter to produce a second stencil with precision. Students compared both methods, discussing the benefits of each. It's been a fantastic opportunity to blend practical skills with technology.

#### **KS4 Creative Industries: Product Design**

Our KS4 Product Design students have been busy developing 3D models in preparation for the upcoming NEA Context release. These models allow students to explore and refine their design ideas in a practical, hands-on way. The process is helping to build confidence and technical skills ahead of their assessed coursework. We're excited to see how their creativity continues to grow as they move closer to the official brief.



#### **KS4 Creative Industries: Construction**

KS4 Construction students have been developing CAD models in response to past exam board materials. This work is helping them build essential digital design skills and understand industry standards. By engaging with real exam content, students are gaining valuable insight into the expectations of their qualification. Their progress demonstrates a strong foundation for future success in construction and design.



We are thrilled to introduce the new Creative Industries YouTube Channel, designed to enhance student learning and engagement. Subject staff have carefully selected a range of relevant videos that align with current lessons, providing an additional resource for students to deepen their understanding and revisit key topics at their own pace. This platform offers an exciting way to explore creative subjects through high-quality content that complements classroom learning.

Our goal is to create a modern, accessible learning tool that supports students in their studies and revision. Whether reinforcing class discussions or exploring new ideas, the YouTube channel provides a dynamic and engaging way to learn. We encourage both parents and students to subscribe and make the most of this valuable resource. Stay tuned for regular updates and new content!

Scan the link below to view and subscribe.



## Creative Industries need your help

We're collecting plastic bottles for our year 8 scheme of learning! Please send in empty, clean plastic bottles that display the No. 2 recycling symbol (♻️ HDPE – High-Density Polyethylene).

Examples of accepted bottles include:

- ✓ Shampoo bottles
- ✓ Detergent bottles
- ✓ Milk bottles

Your contributions will support our sustainability efforts and teach students the importance of recycling. Please drop off bottles at reception or room 8.

Thank you for making a difference! 🌍



## Summer Uniform Rules

**We do not require students to wear their blazer to school for the rest of term, but they must not replace this with a hoodie. Students should still wear their tie and usual uniform to school every day.**

# RYA ONBOARD SAILING SUMMER CAMPS



Sail and Socialise in Norfolk's Biggest Outdoor Classroom!

27th to 29th May 2025 and 13th to 15th Aug 2025  
3 day course 09:30 to 15:30, £225 pp. Suitable for ages 8+ and perfect for beginners. Please bring a packed lunch.



TEL: 01493 750430, EMAIL: info@eastwood-whelpton.co.uk

ADDRESS: Eastwood Whelpton, Upton Yacht Station, Boat Dyke Road, Upton, Norfolk, NR13 6BL



# ACLE ACADEMY GOVERNOR VACANCIES

TWO COMMUNITY GOVERNORS AND A PARENT GOVERNOR

If these roles are of interest to you and you would like more information, please contact us on info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk or 01493 750 431.

Please note that parents/carers of current students of the school are not eligible to be community governors.

CLOSING DATE

6th June 2025

# STUDENT Spotlight

Earlier this year, Tommy began working as a Reception Air Force cadet. Outside of school, he engaged in an array of activities that he decided to pursue following some interest in March. He completed and passed his PE release course. Once done, he has achieved lower primary points across age groups. Tommy wishes to be under 16.

Tommy has refereed games for several local clubs, including Norwich United, Bideford, and Southsea. A highlight was officiating a match for Norwich, the club he supports. George plays for a great team at these games.

He looks forward to helping the academy achieve its goals and support the school. He is a Level 7 referee. Tommy is looking forward to officiating at further tournaments after his exams and continuing into the new season in September.

**TOMMY BRAY**



Acle Academy  
Respect, Aspiration and Determination



# STUDENT Spotlight

Congratulations to the Norwich United U13s, who were crowned NCYFL Division 1 Champions following an amazing season. Special mentions to Acle Academy students, Stan Breading, Tyler Brown, Myles Calver, Toby Cracknell, Jensen Head, George Johnstone and Lewis King.

**NORWICH UNITED U13S**



Acle Academy  
Respect, Aspiration and Determination



## Reminder – Student Drop Off & Collection

We have noticed an increase in the number of cars dropping students off in the mornings. We request students are dropped off away from the main school gate and they walk in. The school driveway is exceptionally busy with buses and taxis and for student safety we would appreciate everyone dropping off and collecting a child do so away from the main school gate.



## Uniform donations

We are always grateful to receive uniform donations. If your child has outgrown any uniform and you would like to donate it to the school, please could you pass any items to the school office. Equally if you would like to sell or buy any pre loved uniform you can do this via our PTA Facebook pre loved uniform shop.



Homework Club is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 9 until 4.30pm. There is always a member of staff available to help with homework, classwork and coursework.

Pupils can sign up for the late bus, they must do this by 1.25pm.

We would really like to see students come along so they are able to complete their work in a quiet space with support available if needed.

Any questions please contact the school via [info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk)



## Reminder - Fizzy Drinks and Sweets are not allowed in school

**Please may we remind you that fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed in school, this includes Lucozade sport and energy drinks. They will be confiscated and destroyed.**

# Why should I strive to improve my attendance?

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**



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





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



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



## Dates for your diary

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Half term break  
begins at 3.30pm.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – All students  
return today. GCSE exams  
continue.

w/c Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10  
Work Experience week.

w/c Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10  
end of year exams commence for 2  
weeks.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11  
Leavers' assembly 1.30-3.30pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11 Prom @  
Dunston Hall arrivals for 6.30pm.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Year 8  
Royal Norfolk Show Trip.



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

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



We currently have no vacancies



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.

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