

Acle NEWS



Newsletter – February 2026



We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our latest newsletter

As we approach the half term break, this is a particularly important time for students to remain focused and committed to their learning. With coursework, assessments, and exam preparation underway across many year groups, we encourage students to maintain positive study habits, manage their time effectively, and seek support whenever needed. Our teachers and support staff are, as always, available to guide and encourage students throughout this busy period.

To support students in being fully prepared for learning, we carry out regular equipment checks in school. We are grateful for your continued support in ensuring that students arrive each day with the correct equipment, ready to engage positively and make the most of their lessons.

It is essential that students arrive punctually and are ready to engage fully in their learning. Strong routines at home and school play a vital role in helping students stay on track and achieve their full potential.

As a school, we have identified that overall attendance has fallen below the national average this year. We recognise that there are a variety of reasons for this and would like to reassure families that we are always happy to offer support where needed. However, we would greatly appreciate your continued support in reinforcing the importance of regular attendance, both to minimise missed learning and to help students develop essential habits and life skills that will benefit them beyond school.

Looking ahead, allocations for Curriculum Enhancement Week in July have now been made. Students have been informed of their placements, and there is much to look forward to, including a wide range of enriching activities designed to broaden experiences, develop skills, and inspire learning beyond the classroom. Further details will be shared closer to the time.

We wish all students and staff a restful and enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to learn.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Watts
Executive Principal





ACLE ACADEMY'S

CANOPY *Campaign*

2025

We are launching a fundraising campaign to install a new canopy in the outdoor space for our students, providing them with a shaded and comfortable area for learning, socialising and outdoor activities. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to our goal. Join us in making this project a reality and improving the school experience for everyone!



Canopy Appeal

We're still fundraising to install a new canopy in one of our outdoor spaces for our students. Every contribution, large or small is very welcome.

Donations to the 'Canopy Campaign' can be made via the following link

[Canopy Campaign - Donate Here](#)



Faculty News

Battlefields Trip – Wed 28th – Fri 30th January 2026

Students across years 9 and 10 took part in the History department's recent WWI Battlefields Trip to Belgium and France. The trip was a huge success, and it was wonderful to see students engaging with the stories of individual soldiers and maximising this wonderful opportunity to expand their cultural capital. A very full itinerary kept us on our toes and made sure that students were able to get the most out of their time away.

A very early start on Wednesday saw us depart from Acle at 3am and make our way down to Dover to catch the ferry. Our first stop when we arrived in Ypres was Lijssenthoek CWGC Cemetery where students explored the causes of the First World War (in line with their recent learning on this in the classroom). This was followed by a visit to Bayernwald trench system, where students had the opportunity to explore a German trench for themselves and learn more about the equipment soldiers carried and their experiences on the Western Front. We finished Day 1 with a visit to the Menin Gate, chocolate shopping in Ypres and attendance at the Last Post ceremony. Farrah, Charlotte, Eden and Jamie represented the school within the ceremony and laid a wreath on our behalf. The ceremony, as always, was a poignant reminder of the devastating impact of the Great War and thousands of soldiers whose bodies remain without a grave to mark their sacrifice.

Day two was spent exploring the battlefields of the Somme in France. Students visited Sunken Lane and our expert guides helped them to understand more of what the experience of fighting at the Battle of the Somme would have been like. As well as hearing about the battle, students also had the opportunity to listen to a recording of a soldier who survived the Somme whilst in Sunken Lane, really bringing home the extraordinary impact of this, the deadliest battle in British military history. After lunch, students learned more about medical care and processes on the Western Front and several students had the opportunity to take part in a demonstration of the chain of evacuation and different methods of treatment used throughout WWI. In the afternoon, we visited the Newfoundland Memorial Park and ended the day at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, where students had the opportunity to use the registers and search for names they may recognise.

On our final day, we headed into the nearby town of Poperinge to visit Talbot House. This carefully maintained house was a 'home from home' for British soldiers during WWI, a quiet and unique place behind the British lines where men could spend time relaxing, writing letters and meeting with serving friends, brothers and fathers. This unique opportunity allowed students to see a different side to the war and learn individuals' stories and experiences, as well as enjoying a well-earned cup of tea! From Poperinge, we headed to Langemarck German Cemetery where students were able to make comparisons between German and Allied cemeteries and learn more about the different approaches countries took to honouring their war dead. Our final stop was Tyne Cot CWGC Cemetery, where students learned more about the Third Battle of Ypres (1917) (Passchendaele), explored the memorial and heard about the brave actions of the soldiers buried there.

A huge thank you to all members of staff who supported the trip and to all the students who came along and demonstrated the utmost respect for these hugely significant places. I hope that the trip will enhance students' understanding of the First World War and the experiences of the individuals that served.



Debate Competition

Before Christmas, we hosted the in-school first round of East Norfolk Sixth Form College's debate competition. Our students embraced the experience with passion and enthusiasm, and two teams were selected to represent Acle in the next round at East Norfolk. Well done - we can't wait to see how you perform in the next round!



Labour Market Information



We are pleased to introduce Labour Market Information (LMI) into our school newsletter. LMI provides up-to-date information about careers, job trends, and future employment opportunities, helping students and families make informed decisions about learning pathways and career choices. By sharing this information, we aim to better support students in understanding the world of work and the skills employers are looking for—both now and in the future. The below labour market information is for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Top Growth Sectors

- Clean Energy & Renewables - Offshore wind, nuclear, and green heating projects.
- Digital & Tech - Software development, cybersecurity, and data analytics.
- Agri-Tech & Food Production - Precision farming and sustainable food systems.
- Ports & Logistics - Supply chain management and HGV driving.
- Creative Industries - Design, media and digital content.

Christmas Food Bank Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who donated items for our Christmas Food Bank Appeal. Your generosity and kindness made a huge difference in supporting Great Yarmouth Pathway.





Attendance Matters

As we move towards February Half Term, whilst recognising whole school attendance is below the national average (as referenced in Mrs Watt's welcome), we still took the opportunity to celebrate our students with good attendance.

At our recent rewards assemblies, we presented certificates to students with attendance over 95% (for the whole of the Autumn Term) and those with 100% attendance were also given a bronze pin badge which we hope they will wear with pride on their blazers.

We also recognised in the assemblies that for some students, attendance over 95% is never going to be achievable due to underlying medical conditions or issues beyond their control, but they have still attended as much as they possibly can. In addition, some individual certificates will be given out next week to students who may not have excellent attendance, but have demonstrated resilience, determination and improvement.

As we move into the second half of the academic year we look forward to continuing to support our students and work with families to overcome barriers to achieve good attendance.

More Faculty News



It has been another busy half term in the English department, particularly for our year eleven students who are about to embark on another round of mocks. Year eleven students will sit Language Paper two this side of half term and Literature paper two after half term. We have seen good attendance at our period six sessions and excellent focus during the form time intervention. Students must ensure they are accessing all the resources available to them in order to continue this hard work at home.

We have been delighted to welcome Mr Bowles to our department this term; he has replaced Mrs Halls and has already built brilliant relationships with our students. Watch out for information coming out soon about a creative writing club which Mr Bowles will be running once a week after school. We also have Mrs Cullen's silent reading club which runs several times a week and Mrs Baber's classroom is open every Thursday lunchtime for year eleven students to complete English revision.

Please remind students that they should always have their 15 by 15 books with them as these count as a piece of equipment. If your child was absent when their class visited the library then they should be visiting the library at lunchtime to borrow a book. Once books are read there is the chance to receive ten pride points by submitting a book review to Mr Carrier.



It has been a busy and productive term in the Science department across all year groups.

Year 7 students have been completing their units on **Forces**, exploring how objects move and interact, alongside an introduction to **organ systems within the human body**, where they have been learning how different systems work together to keep us healthy.

In Year 8, pupils have been developing their practical skills through the topic of **separating mixtures**, using methods such as chromatography, filtration, evaporation and distillation. They have also been studying **waves and their properties**, building a strong foundation in key physics concepts.

Year 9 students have begun their **GCSE-level studies**, covering topics including **cells and human body systems**, as well as units on **energy** and an introduction to the **periodic table**. We look forward to welcoming many Year 9 students and parents to **Options Evening on Thursday 5th February**, where we will be available to discuss prospective GCSE Science courses.

Year 10 students continue to make good progress in their GCSE studies, while Year 11 are preparing to tackle their **second round of mock examinations**. We wish them the very best of luck in their preparations.



Art Department Update

It has been a busy and creative term in the Art Department, with students across all year groups making excellent progress and exploring a wide range of techniques and themes.

In **Year 7**, students have been exploring the environment as a source of inspiration. They have been developing their observational drawing skills through a project titled *“Views from the Window”*, creating thoughtful sketches that focus on perspective, detail, and composition. This project has encouraged students to look closely at their surroundings and record what they see with increasing confidence.

Year 8 students are currently working on a project called *“Text in Art”*. This unit introduces them to printmaking processes and explores how words and typography can be used creatively within artworks. Students have been experimenting with printing techniques and considering how text can communicate meaning and emotion visually.

In **Year 9**, students are working with clay to design and create **mythical creature eyes**. As part of this project, they are learning key clay processes such as forming shapes using pinch and coil techniques, securely joining pieces using scratch and score, and adding surface texture and detail. This hands-on work allows students to explore form, texture, and expression while developing their practical ceramic skills.



Year 10 students have been producing some fantastic work through their printmaking unit. They have been etching into acrylic plates and recycled CDs, then creating prints from these surfaces. The results have been impressive, with students showing strong technical control and creative experimentation.

Finally, **Year 11** students have begun their exam coursework. They are currently exploring initial ideas and developing their projects, demonstrating a focused and mature approach as they begin this important stage of their GCSE Art journey.

Well done to all students for their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment this term. We look forward to seeing their projects continue to develop.



Food Technology Update

It has been a busy and exciting time in the Food Technology department, with students across all year groups developing their practical skills and culinary confidence.

Year 7 students have been getting hands-on in the kitchen, learning essential preparation and cooking techniques while making **Chicken goujons** and **Pizza toast**. The lessons focused on kitchen safety, basic knife skills, and building confidence with simple, tasty dishes.

In **Year 8**, students explored a wider range of skills and flavours by preparing **pizza wheels** and a hearty **Pasta bake**. These lessons encouraged creativity and an understanding of balanced meals.



Year 9 students stepped things up with more advanced dishes, producing a delicious **Tomato and basil tart** alongside a classic **Dutch apple cake**. This work helped students refine their pastry skills and develop a greater awareness of flavour combinations and presentation.



Our **Year 10 GCSE Catering** group have been working to a very high standard, making their **own fresh Pasta and Ravioli** from scratch. They have also been learning valuable professional skills, including how to **joint a whole fresh Chicken**, giving them excellent preparation for future assessments and the catering industry.

Finally, we would like to wish our **amazing Year 11 students** the very best as they are currently completing their **final practical examination**. They have worked incredibly hard, and we are extremely proud of their dedication and progress.

Well done to all students involved — we look forward to sharing more culinary successes soon!

Product Design

Year 9 students have now completed the final stage of their pewter casting project, turning their carefully planned designs into finished pieces. Throughout the process, students developed their design thinking, practical skills, and understanding of materials and processes. The final outcomes showcase a high level of creativity, precision, and craftsmanship, and we are proud to share the impressive results of their hard work.





As another busy and exciting period draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the incredible commitment, enthusiasm, and achievements shown by our students across school life. It has been truly inspiring to see so many young people getting involved, challenging themselves, and representing our school with pride.

First and foremost, a huge well done to all students who have taken part in clubs and fixtures. Whether competing in sporting events, attending after-school activities, or representing the school in the community, your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Taking part in extracurricular opportunities builds confidence, teamwork, resilience, and friendships, and we are extremely proud of everyone who has stepped forward and given it their best.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our amazing Mr Frost, who recently took students to the Royal Shakespeare Company for ambassador training. This was a fantastic opportunity that allowed students to develop leadership skills, confidence, and a deeper appreciation of the arts in a truly inspiring setting. Experiences like these help broaden horizons and create lasting memories, and we are very grateful for the time and effort put into making this happen.

A sincere thank you to all students who continue to commit to their music lessons. Your perseverance, practice, and passion for music are commendable. It is wonderful to see students developing their talents and contributing to performances throughout the year.



We would also like to say well done to the students who have joined our new Cheerleading club. It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm and energy for this exciting addition to our enrichment programme. The club has already shown great promise, teamwork, and positivity, and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow.

Our Fitness Clubs have seen massive growth, and we are thrilled by the number of students attending regularly. Your commitment to staying active and healthy is encouraging to see, and it reflects a positive attitude towards wellbeing and personal development. Keep up the fantastic effort.

Finally, we are looking ahead to an exciting calendar of upcoming events, including the much-anticipated Italy Ski Trip and the Brundall Primary Concert. These events promise to be memorable experiences for our students, offering opportunities to learn, perform, and create lifelong memories.

Thank you to all students, staff, and families for your continued support. We look forward to sharing even more successes with you in the coming weeks. Kind regards Performance Studies Team.



Some of our Year 8s are getting trip-ready! Hoodies are out and the countdown is officially on... just 10 days to go until our ski trip to Tonale, Italy. The excitement is definitely building!

All the fun of the Careers Fair at Acle

The future was looking bright, when students at our school had the chance to explore possible further education and career options, as well as meet representatives from a range of businesses and other organisations.

The Acle Academy Careers and Enrichment Fair was held in the school hall and was attended by around 400 students from Years 9, 10, and 11, while younger pupils in Years 7 and 8 were invited to visit during break time.

“We had 22 stalls with post-16 providers, local businesses, clubs and activities, and a university,” said organiser Michelle Jacotine, who is our Assistant Principal for Personal Development.

It was the second time the event had taken place at our school, which is part of the Wensum Trust.

“The Careers and Enrichment Fair is extremely important, as it demonstrates to students the breadth of opportunities that are out there, and raises aspirations,” added Mrs Jacotine.

“Students not only have the opportunity to discover information about industries that they may not have considered, but they also gain knowledge of the different routes to get there.

“Speaking to employers allows students to gain confidence and develop communication skills, whilst allowing them to ask questions to further their knowledge in the areas that they are most interested in.”



STEMPOINT Renewable Energy Workshops

Last month, our year 7 and 8 students got hands-on with renewable energy during an exciting session led by STEMPOINT, generously funded by Scottish Power. Working in teams of four, they designed and built their own mini wind turbines, developing teamwork, problem-solving and engineering skills for a sustainable future.

Please follow the below link to a gallery of photographs

[Photo gallery here](#)

Information from the Children's Commissioner

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This link below takes you to a parent guide and activity pack and aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

[Link to Children's Commissioner Guides](#)

Mock Interviews

We were extremely proud of our year 11s who demonstrated maturity and professionalism in our mock interview sessions. Thank you to the employers who joined us for this valuable experience.



STUDENT *Spotlight*

Three well-known athletes competed in the Acle Academy Sports Club Championships earlier this month, putting in fantastic performances throughout the tournament.

Alex had an exceptional run, winning several of the men's races and also coming out on the podium three times. A great in-house track special young champion.

Theo won the junior club championships. He will be heading to the club for his first season in the club having been in the club for 10 years. He was presented with a President's Award for his 10th birthday, showing his commitment to the club.

ALEX BARNES & THEO WITTE-VERMEULEN



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Huge congratulations to Alice, who has earned her Blue Peter Sport Badge for cheerleading. The badge recognises young people who challenge themselves and try new sports.

In their letter, the Blue Peter team praised Alice's effort and enthusiasm, stating that earning the badge is a "terrific achievement".

We are very proud of Alice and hope she wears her badge with pride.

Alice Gough



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Alex recently represented the Norfolk Under-13s team in the Inter-county semi-finals. He played four matches against top players from Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire. The team performed brilliantly overall, and Alex secured two impressive wins.

ALEX BARNES



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Esme recently competed in a county basketball tournament representing Norfolk, where her team finished an impressive second place - just narrowly missing out to Essex. She is now looking for the opportunity to represent the entire East region at a tournament in Manchester this spring. Alongside this, Esme plays for two national teams as well as her local club team. Her under-13 squad is currently undefeated in the league - a fantastic accomplishment.

ESME DAWSON



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

ALUMNUS *Spotlight*

After competing in the Acle Academy Sports Club Championships earlier this month, Mitchel had an exceptional run, winning several of the men's races and also coming out on the podium three times. A great in-house track special young champion.

Theo won the junior club championships. He will be heading to the club for his first season in the club having been in the club for 10 years. He was presented with a President's Award for his 10th birthday, showing his commitment to the club.

MITCHEL PHILLIPS



www.acleacademy.org.uk
@acleacademy





NON-UNIFORM DAY
13TH FEBRUARY
TOMBOLA DONATIONS
WANTED

WE'LL BE RUNNING A TOMBOLA AT THE ACLE WINTER BEER FESTIVAL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CANOPY CAMPAIGN. FOR OUR NON-UNIFORM DAY, WE ARE ASKING FOR ITEM DONATIONS, INSTEAD OF CASH, TO USE AS TOMBOLA PRIZES. PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO SCHOOL ON 13TH FEBRUARY. ITEMS CAN BE HANDED IN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR GIVEN TO YOUR CHILD'S FORM TUTOR.

Thank you!





ACLE ACADEMY

SPARE PE KIT

If you have any spare Acle PE kit, football boots, or trainers that no longer fit your child, the PE department would be very grateful for any donations.

All sizes are welcome - the more we receive, the better - as this helps ensure every student can fully take part in PE lessons.

If you are able to help, please send any items into school with your child or hand them in at reception.

THANK YOU



Are you a Parent/Carer with children aged 0-19, or up to 25 with SEND

Are you looking for information or support? If so, why not come and chat to Yvette from the Broadland Family Hub.

Where - Acle ECFS, Bridewell Lane, Acle, NR13 3RA

When - Friday 20th February 12:15pm - 3:15pm
Wednesday 4th March 9am - 12pm
Friday 13th March 12:15pm - 3:15pm

For information, guidance and support with:

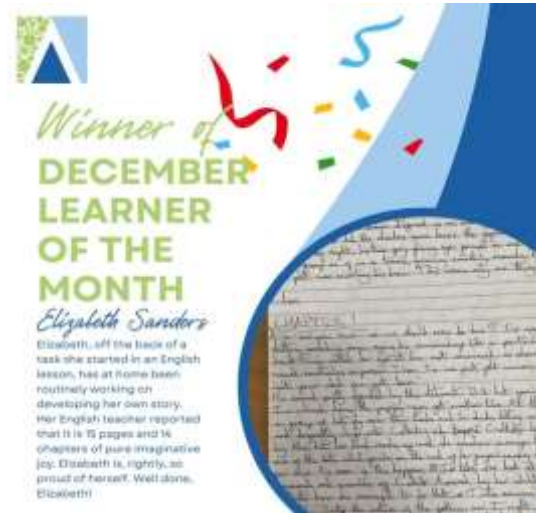
- ❖ Children's health, development & wellbeing
- ❖ Infant feeding
- ❖ Early education enquiries
- ❖ Home & family life
- ❖ Parenting
- ❖ Reducing parental conflict
- ❖ Adult Learning
- ❖ Debt & welfare advice
- ❖ Support groups & activities
and so much more.....

To book an appointment, contact Yvette on

yvette.gould@norfolk.gov.uk



Learner of the Month – December 2025



Learner of the Month – January 2026



Congratulations to Elizabeth and Laurel, who have been selected by Mrs Jacotine as the recent winners of the Learner of the Month award.

Elizabeth and Laurel will both receive a £10 Amazon voucher.





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



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



Dates for your diary

Thursday 12th February – Year 7
Pastoral Engagement Evening 4.30-
7.30pm

Friday 13th February – Non uniform
day, Half term break begins from
3.30pm

Monday 23rd February – all student
return to school after the half
term break

Wednesday 25th March – Year 6
Transition Easter Egg Hunt 4.30-
6pm

Thursday 26th March – Year 11
Revision evening 6pm -7.30pm

Friday 27th March – school closes
at 3.30pm for the Easter holiday

Tuesday 14th April – all students
return to school after the Easter
holiday

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

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



Please find Wensum Trust vacancies advertised via

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy/about-us/our-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



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