

Acle NEWS



Newsletter – May 2026



Restoration Begins on Our Sailing Boat Elf at Hunter's Yard



We are part of...



RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our latest newsletter

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

As we approach the May half term, the progress and determination shown by our students has been truly admirable. Across the school, we continue to see students demonstrating resilience, ambition, creativity, and excellence both inside and outside the classroom. I am equally thankful to our dedicated staff whose hard work and commitment ensure that every learner is supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. To our parents and carers, thank you for your partnership, trust, and ongoing encouragement of our young people.

Our Year 11 students are now fully immersed in their examination period, and we wish them every success as they continue to prepare and perform with focus and determination. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the support being provided by staff and families alike during this important time.

At the same time, staff are finalising plans for our Curriculum Enhancement Week in July — always a highlight of the school year and our Awards Day is an opportunity to celebrate our students' successes in the classroom and beyond. We look forward to providing enriching experiences that inspire, challenge, and recognise the many talents within our school community.

We also look forward to welcoming at the end of June all students transitioning to us in September for two fully immersive days, done the Acle way. These transition experiences are designed to help students feel confident, supported, and excited as they begin the next stage of their educational journey within our community.

Together, we are building a positive, inclusive, and high-achieving environment where every member of our community feels valued and inspired. We remain committed to maintaining high standards of learning, wellbeing, and personal development for all students.

As we move forward, I encourage everyone to continue working collaboratively, showing kindness, respect, and pride in all that we do. By supporting one another, we strengthen our community and create the best possible opportunities for our students' success.

Our recent Ofsted Inspection report will be available in the coming weeks, if you completed a parent survey thank you for your time.

Thank you once again for your continued dedication and support.



Warm regards
Helen Watts
Executive Principal

Elf – Restoration Project

We have tried in vain for several years to “re-float the school boat”, raising funds from the school walk and seeking guidance from those working in boat restoration and repair in the local community. An exciting opportunity has now arisen for us to offer a very small number of pupils the opportunity to learn some traditional boat building and maintenance skills, by working with some trained professionals at Hunter’s Yard in Ludham.

We have selected them to participate as they have chosen product design as one of their options next year and Mr Green, Head of Creative Design Faculty felt they would benefit hugely from the experience of working with trained professionals in a workshop, learning and applying skills and techniques that will support their future qualification.

The eight pupils have been split into two groups of four. On alternate Tuesday’s, where they have a double lesson in Technology, they are instead being taken by minibus to Hunter’s Yard to work on “Elf”.

We look forward to showing you the progress over the coming weeks.

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](#)

We also have a clothes donation/Rag Bag bin for the Canopy Campaign fundraising, which is located near the bicycle shelters. Please drop items and always close the front panel. Thank You!



Our Strategic Framework

Our framework has been designed to guarantee that the needs of the whole child are met and that our schools offer every child the best possible support throughout their learning journey.



At the core of our values is our own, unique **definition of success:**

Children are in school, participating and enjoying their learning and feeling safe; with a sense of belonging and with aspirations towards a future path. Our children are resilient, articulate and, by the time they leave us, they are learners for life.

More information can be found via the link below

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/information/our-vision-and-strategic-aims>

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Summer Uniform Rules



It is not a requirement for pupils to wear blazers to school next half term when the weather is hot. However, if the weather is not sufficiently warm and pupils wish to wear a layer above their school shirt then the expectation will be that this is their school blazer and not an alternative item such as a hoodie, zip up tracksuit top or sweater. It remains an expectation that ties are worn to school, weather permitting permission will be given on the day when ties can be removed.

Year 9 Boys Crowned County Champions

Our Year 9 boys became the County Football Champions on Wednesday night with a fantastic 2-1 victory against Cliff Park. Toby C got both goals in a superb final. Toby's second goal was probably the best goal Mr McCombe has ever seen in schoolboy football in 20 years! Kai D was in goal and made a string of top class saves and a clear man of the match. All the boys were amazing, when the game got tough, they stuck together and pulled through as a team and were deserved winners in the end. Mr McCombe is very proud of them all.

Well done and congratulations on this fantastic achievement to Kai D, Riley D, Myles C, Ollie S, Tom B, George J, Tyler-Jay B, Oscar L, Riley F, Jenson H, Toby C, George B & Olly L.



Faculty News



Humanities - Y7 Geography Project

Year 7 students have recently impressed the Geography Department with their creative ecosystem homework projects. Each student was asked to research an ecosystem of their choice and present their findings in a unique and engaging way.

The projects included a wide variety of creative ideas. Many students designed colourful posters filled with facts, maps, and diagrams, while others created detailed shoebox models showing habitats such as rainforests, deserts, oceans, and the Arctic. Some students even produced handmade books and information guides to explain the animals, climate, and food chains found in their chosen ecosystems.

Several students also chose to present their projects to the class during lessons. These presentations gave students the chance to share interesting facts and explain how different ecosystems work, as well as the challenges they face from climate change and pollution.

The Geography teachers were extremely pleased with the effort and imagination shown by Year 7. The project not only helped students develop their research skills, but also encouraged creativity and confidence when presenting ideas to others.

Well done to all Year 7 students for producing such fantastic work!





It has been a busy and productive term in Science, with students across all year groups showing great enthusiasm and engagement in their learning.

Year 7

Year 7 students have been exploring some of the fundamental building blocks of Science through units on particles, atoms and the periodic table. Students have developed their understanding of matter, elements and how substances are organised within the periodic table, building a strong foundation for future scientific study.

Year 8

Year 8 have been learning about genetics and reproduction, developing their understanding of inheritance and how characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. Alongside this, students have also begun a “Working Scientifically” unit, focusing on developing and refining their practical skills, including planning investigations, analysing results and working safely in the laboratory.

Year 9

Year 9 students have completed a range of GCSE-style units this term, including cells and organ systems in Biology, atoms and the periodic table in Chemistry, and energy stores in Physics. Students have responded well to the increased challenge and are continuing to build the knowledge and skills needed for GCSE success.

Year 10

Year 10 have now worked through the majority of the Paper 1 content across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be sitting a full Paper 1 examination as part of their end-of-year mock exams in June. Revision should now be well underway, and we encourage all students to continue revising regularly and making use of the revision resources provided by their teachers.

Year 11

Year 11 students have now completed 2 of their 6 Science GCSE examinations. Overall, students have approached the exam season with positivity and determination, and we are very proud of the attitude they have shown so far. We wish them the very best for the remaining four exams — keep working hard over half term and the weeks ahead. The finish line is in sight!

Thank you
For Your Support

A huge congratulations to Mr. Newstead, who raised an incredible £2,814 for Myeloma UK by completing the London Marathon in an impressive time of 3 hours, 55 minutes and 22 seconds. Thank you to everyone who donated and showed their support.

Congratulations also to Freya, whose guess was the closest to Mr. Newstead's finishing time and who has won a £20 Amazon voucher.

Well done, Mr. Newstead - a fantastic achievement!

MyelomaUK



The 2026 London marathon saw Sebastian Sawe from Kenya become the first human to run under 2hrs in an official marathon competition in a staggering time of 1hr 59min 30sec. All the 2026 London marathon finishers joined the Guinness book of world records as they totalled 59,830, making in the highest number of people to ever complete a marathon.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated towards the MyelomaUK fundraising effort



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.

Reminder for all students who use County transport buses

Students can only travel on the bus they have a bus pass for, friends who don't normally travel on the same bus cannot use the service to meet up after school.

Lost PE Kits

We are experiencing a high-volume of reports regarding lost PE kits. Please could you remind your child to check in the PE department and then with student reception. The main lost property box is located near the main hall entrance doors.



Why Every School Day Matters

At secondary school, every lesson counts. Good attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success, wellbeing, and future opportunities. While occasional illness is unavoidable, regular absence can quickly have a significant impact on learning and progress.

Research from the UK Department for Education consistently shows a clear link between attendance and achievement. Pupils who attend school regularly are far more likely to achieve strong GCSE results than those with lower attendance rates. In fact, students with attendance below 90% are considered “persistently absent” and are statistically much less likely to secure a Grade 5 or above in English and Maths.

To put this into perspective:

- **90% attendance sounds high, but it means missing almost one school day every two weeks**
- Over a school year, this adds up to around **19 days of learning missed**
- Across five years of secondary school, that is approximately **half a year of education lost**

Even missing just a few lessons can make it harder for students to keep up with coursework, class discussions, practical activities, and revision. Learning in school is carefully sequenced, and gaps in attendance can create gaps in understanding.

Attendance is not only linked to academic achievement — it also supports confidence, friendships, routines, and emotional wellbeing. Students who attend regularly are more likely to feel connected to school life, participate in enrichment activities, and build positive relationships with staff and peers.

There is also a strong connection between attendance and future opportunities. Employers, colleges, apprenticeships, and universities all value reliability and commitment. Developing strong attendance habits now helps prepare young people for adult life and the world of work.

As a school community, we understand that there are sometimes genuine reasons for absence. However, wherever possible, we encourage families to:

- Avoid booking holidays during term time
- Arrange medical appointments outside school hours when possible
- Encourage punctuality and strong daily routines
- Contact the school early if support is needed

Every day in school provides opportunities to learn something new, build confidence, and make progress. By working together to prioritise attendance, we can help ensure that every student has the best possible chance to succeed — both academically and personally.

Every lesson matters. Every day matters.



STUDENT *Spotlight*

On Sunday 12th April, Harry played in the Norfolk County Indoor Bowls Association County Under 25 Singles Final. After beating an England international on his way to the final, Harry showed exactly what he is capable of on the big stage. He lost the opening set but responded superbly to take the second and force a tie-break. Harry then produced a brilliant final bowl to stay alive, touching the jack and making shot, before his opponent narrowly claimed the title with the last bowl of the match.

It was an entertaining contest, and Harry's performance showed he has a bright future ahead, with plenty more chances to compete for this title in the years to come.

HARRY STONE



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Harrison, who has made an excellent start to the city stage air season, representing Norfolk in the new Under-18 category in style.

On Saturday 25th April, Harrison competed in the first Eastern Regional Race of the season, achieving 1st place in the Under-18 boys category. He also reached his first Top 10 Freestyle, narrowly missing out on the overall win to an adult Masters rider.

The following day, at the first National Race of the season, Harrison secured an impressive 2nd place for Norfolk in a highly competitive Under-18 field, while also achieving the 7th highest total time overall across all age categories.

Congratulations to Harrison on a fantastic start to the season, and we wish him continued success in the competitions ahead.

HARRISON BANHAM



Acle Academy
Respect, Aspiration and Determination



More Faculty News



To celebrate the fantastic achievements of our Year 11 Construction students this year, we organised a trip to the A47 Thickthorn Improvement Scheme.

Hosted by Skanska, the visit included a range of subcontractors showcasing the wide variety of careers available within the construction sector. Subcontractors also demonstrated a range of high-end tools, CAD software, and plant machinery, giving students a real insight into modern industry practice. Students further benefited from hearing directly from professionals about the educational journeys that led them to where they are today.

Congratulations, Year 11 - we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved!



YEAR 7 Textiles students have been exploring how different fabrics are constructed, gaining an understanding of key material types such as bonded, woven, and knitted fabrics. To support their learning, students have taken part in a hands-on activity where they created their own woven designs using paper, helping them to visualise and understand the over-and-under structure of weaving. This practical task has strengthened their knowledge of fabric construction while developing their creativity, accuracy, and fine motor skills.



YEAR 8 Product Design students have been learning about the different types of plastics, focusing on their properties and uses. As part of this, they have learned how to identify various plastics by their recycling codes, developing their understanding of material selection and sustainability in design.

YEAR 9 Product Design students have begun manufacturing aluminium bottle openers, developing their practical workshop skills throughout the process. They have been introduced to a range of tools and equipment, including hacksaws for cutting, centre punches for accurate marking, and pillar drills for precise hole-making. As the project progresses, students will also learn how to personalise their products by punching letters into the metal, allowing them to create a unique and finished piece while gaining confidence in metalworking techniques and safe workshop practices.



YEAR 10 Construction students have been working on building their own gabions, developing a range of practical construction skills throughout the project. They have been carefully measuring and cutting wire mesh to size, before assembling and securing the structure by stitching it together using wire thread. Once constructed, students have filled their gabions with pea shingle, gaining an understanding of both the structural purpose and real-world applications of this technique in landscaping and civil engineering. Gabions are commonly used for retaining walls, erosion control, drainage solutions, and decorative landscaping features, making them an important and versatile construction method. This project has helped to build students' confidence in using tools safely, working accurately, and understanding how materials are applied in real construction contexts.





Food Technology Update

It has been a busy and successful half term in Food Technology, with students across all year groups developing their practical cooking skills, food preparation techniques, and confidence in the kitchen. Students have worked hard to complete their final practical assessments and have produced some excellent dishes.

Year 7 - Year 7 students completed their final practical assessment by making **Pizza Toast**. This task allowed students to demonstrate key skills including safe knife handling, preparing toppings, using the oven safely, and presenting their finished product. It was fantastic to see how much confidence and independence they have developed during their first rotation in Food Technology.

Year 8 - Year 8 students also completed a practical assessment, where they made **Pizza Wheels**. Students practised shaping dough, selecting flavour combinations, and improving their food presentation skills. Many students showed excellent creativity and organisation throughout the lesson.

Year 9 - Year 9 students undertook their assessment by preparing and cooking a **Tomato and Basil Tart**. This recipe challenged students to demonstrate more advanced skills, including pastry handling, flavour balancing, and careful timing. The standard of work produced was extremely impressive.



Year 10 - Year 10 students have been busy developing more advanced cookery skills. Recently, they have made **Chicken and Ham Pie** or **Chicken and Mushroom Pie**, focusing on sauce-making, pastry techniques, and working hygienically with raw ingredients. This week, students have been baking **Victoria Sponge Cakes**, where they have been learning about accurate weighing, cake-making methods, and decorative finishing techniques.

We are very proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and progress shown by all students in Food Technology this term.





This term has been a wonderfully creative and productive one in the Art Department, with students across all year groups producing some fantastic work.

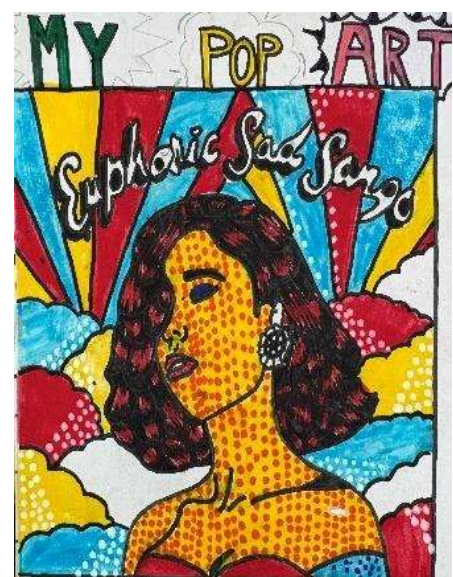
Our Year 7 students have been exploring ceramics through the exciting theme of sea creatures. They have been carefully designing their own clay pinch pots and have now begun making them this week. We are already seeing some imaginative and colourful ideas take shape.

Year 8 have recently completed a short study inspired by Frida Kahlo, experimenting with vibrant crayon and ink techniques to create expressive artwork. They are now moving on to painting their impressive Day of the Dead clay skull creations, which are full of personality and intricate detail.

In Year 9, students have been studying Pop Art and have produced a range of bold and eye-catching album cover designs. They are currently transferring these designs onto tote bags using Posca pens, developing both their drawing skills and confidence in working on textiles.

Year 10 students have been exploring sculpture and natural forms through a range of exciting projects. Inspired by Barbara Hepworth, they have been carefully carving sculptures from bars of soap, developing their understanding of shape, form and texture. They have also completed a study based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, producing detailed and expressive pieces inspired by her famous floral artwork.

Finally, our Year 11 students have now completed their final art examination. It has been wonderful to see all of their hard work, dedication and artistic growth come together in their final pieces. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and wish them the very best for the future.



Acle Taskmaster Gameshow

Three of our Year 11 students organised and filmed a Taskmaster-inspired game show at Acle Academy to raise money for our Canopy Campaign.

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy/canopy-appeal>

Our contestants were Mrs Jacotine, Mr Frost, Mr Kennedy, Miss Kent and Miss Cunliffe - who even appeared as David Attenborough!

The challenges included tasks such as "Paint a self-portrait without using your hands", "Rub a rubber out", "Make a costume for the fish", and "Get to the other side of the room without using your feet."

The final live task took place on stage in front of students, with contestants attempting to make the weirdest noises without being detected by the host. After a brilliant competition, Mr. Kennedy was crowned the winner with the highest number of points!

Congratulations and well done to all the teachers who took part. A huge thank you to Alex, Toby and Daniel for organising and filming the event, and to Miss Pring, Alfie and all the other helpers for supporting the production and helping backstage.



What a fantastic day at the Grand Norwich Duck Race!

The atmosphere was buzzing as our Acle Academy duck, *Quack-a-delic*, took to the water alongside many other entries.

A huge thank you to Ms Segurado for organising our involvement, and congratulations to Isabella for creating the winning duck design - a well-deserved winner of an Amazon voucher!

Well done to everyone who took part and supported the event. We loved seeing *Quack-a-delic* in action!



STEVENSONS

Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our
Norwich Branch

Address:

67 Ber Street,
Norwich,
NR1 3AD

Contact:

norwichbranch@stevensons.co.uk

Please note we are a cashless branch.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30am - 5pm
Tuesday: 9:30am - 5pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9:30am - 5pm
Saturday: 9:30am - 5 pm
Sunday: Closed

Online

Shopping online at www.stevensons.co.uk is easy!

You can select home delivery or opt for convenient Click & Collect from your local store.

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.

In Store Opening Hours

Will be open for pre-booked fitting appointments from Monday 27th July - Friday 21st August.

We recommend booking a fitting appointment so we can offer you dedicated one-to-one service during the summer period.

Walk-in customers are welcome, Saturdays are a great option for visiting without an appointment, and our team will assist you as soon as they are available.

Please visit our website to check extended opening hours over the summer.





Please click [Here](#)
to access PDF versions of the
March & April 2026 newsletter



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

for **HOMework**
SUCCESS



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



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



Dates for your diary

Friday 22nd May – school closes at 3.30pm for the half term holiday

Monday 1st June – all students return to school after the half term holiday

Thursday 18th June – Year 11 Leavers' Assembly 1.30-3.30pm (students only)

Friday 19th June – Year 11 Prom at Dunston Hall 6.30-11pm (Feel free to come and watch arrivals)

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June - Year 6 Transition days 10-2pm

Tuesday 30th June – Year 6 parents and student Transition Information evening 5.30am – 8pm

Wednesday 15th July – Rewards Celebration Evening for invited students only 6- 8.30pm

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