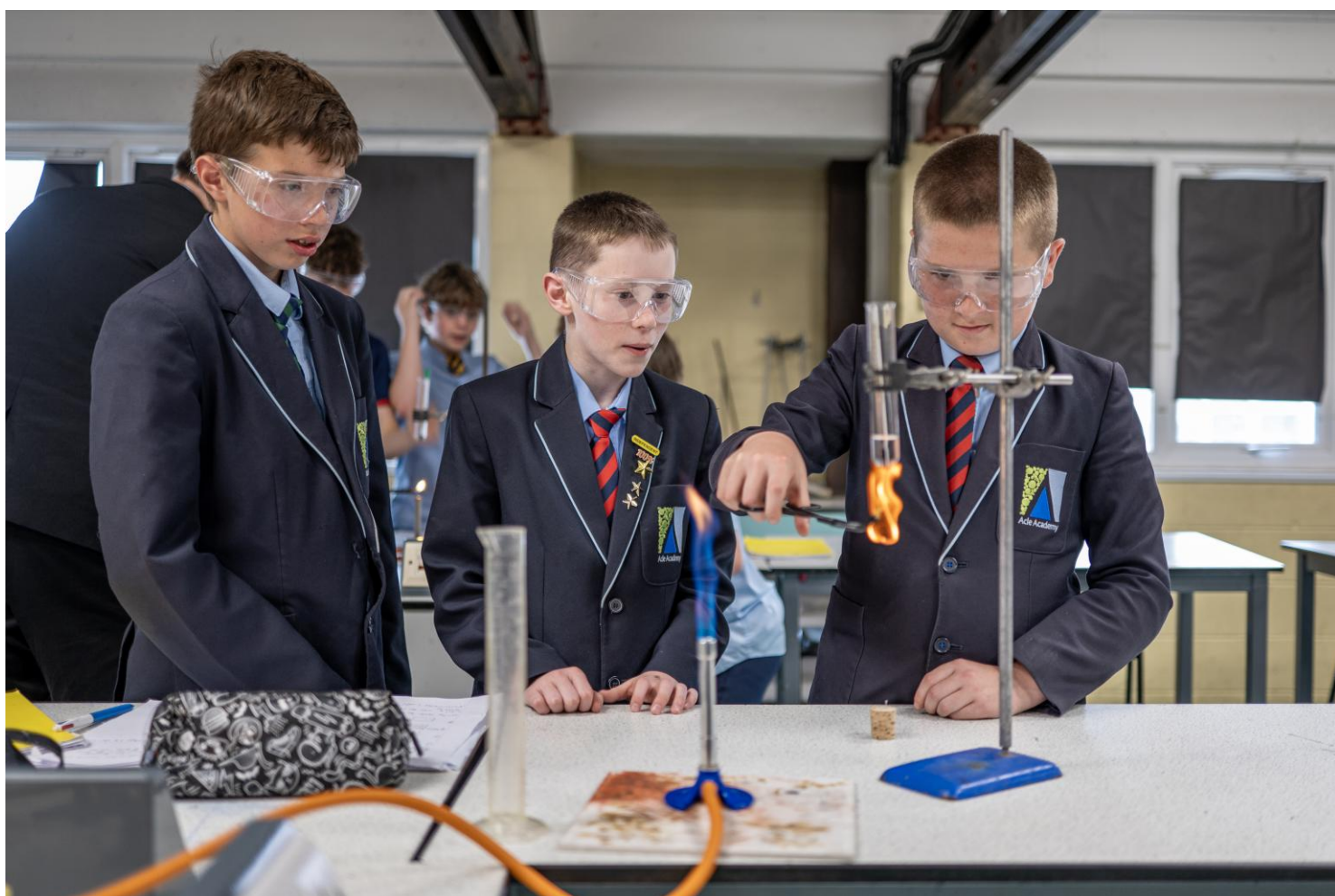


Acle NEWS



Newsletter – October 2026



We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

RESPECT, ASPIRATION AND DETERMINATION



www.acleacademy.co.uk



Acle Academy Norfolk



Acle Academy Instagram



Welcome to our October newsletter

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year!

We have made a fantastic start to the new school year, with plenty of energy, enthusiasm and creativity across our school community. It has been wonderful to see students embracing new opportunities, engaging in their learning and working together to make the most of everything school life has to offer.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one, with a wide range of initiatives, activities and trips designed to inspire curiosity, develop character and strengthen our sense of community. I encourage all students to get involved, remain curious and approach each day with a positive attitude, making the most of the opportunities available to them.

As we settle into the term, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of attendance and punctuality. Arriving at school on time, every day, and ready to learn is essential for success. Every lesson matters, and regular attendance allows students to build confidence, make progress and fully participate in school life. We also expect all students to arrive in full school uniform, looking smart and prepared for the day ahead.

With the colder months approaching, please ensure that students come to school prepared for changing weather conditions. A suitable, warm coat is essential, particularly for the journey to and from school and when spending time outdoors. Please help your child to be ready for colder mornings and wet weather so that they can remain comfortable and focused throughout the school day.

I would also like to reassure parents and carers that our staff are committed to supporting every student's academic progress, personal development and emotional wellbeing. If you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year. By working together, we can ensure that every student feels supported, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. By working together as a school community, we can make this a successful, positive and rewarding year for all.

Warm regards
Helen Watts
Executive Principal

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 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!



Medication

Should you need your child to take any temporary medication at school, this must be dropped off in the original box to the office with a note. Long term medication permission will be required where we hold medication on an ongoing basis. Please contact Mrs Plane lplane@acle.norfolk.sch.uk for this.

Crisis & Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund will run until the end of March 2029.

For the first year of the fund, covering 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, Norfolk has been allocated £11.2 million by the government. This funding is to support residents who are struggling with the cost of living and everyday expenses - this might be in the form of a crisis payment, holistic support or both.

We expect funding for years two and three to be at a similar level.

This new fund replaces the Household Support Fund, which ran from October 2021 to March 2026. If you require more information please follow the below link.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41945/Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-CRS>



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



Norfolk County Council

Child Employment

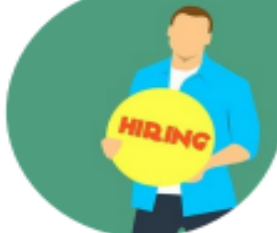
This does not apply to work experience placements

Parents



Is your child keen to get a part time job? Maybe they already deliver newspapers, have a Saturday job, volunteer at a charity shop or work during the school holidays?

Employers



Are you keen to give an employment opportunity to a child? Do you already employ children aged 13-16 years?

Did you know?

It is illegal to employ children of compulsory school age without a **child work permit**. Without one the employer risks prosecution, and children may not be insured.



GOOD NEWS! Child work permits are free

Applying for a work permit is simple, apply using the form on our website www.norfolk.gov.uk/childemployment or scan the **website QR code** below.



Our website also has lots of information about the rules and regulations to be followed when employing children.

Feel free to email us at childemployment.edu@norfolk.gov.uk.





Attendance Matters

Celebrating a Great Start to the Year!

We want to start by celebrating the fantastic start to the school year our students have made with their attendance. As a school, our attendance is currently sitting just below the national average, which is a positive achievement to build on. We are also delighted to see that Years 7, 8 and 10 are already achieving attendance above the national average – a brilliant effort and something to be proud of!

As we look ahead to the next half term, our focus is on building on this success and continuing to make every school day count. Our whole-school attendance target is 95%, and every student plays an important part in helping us achieve this. Good attendance is about more than being in lessons; it helps students build positive routines, develop resilience, strengthen friendships and make the most of every learning opportunity.

We know that every student's circumstances are different, and we want to encourage all students to keep striving for improvement, whatever their current attendance looks like. Every day in school makes a difference, and every improvement is worth celebrating. If your child has experienced difficulties with attendance so far, the new half term is a fresh opportunity to build positive habits, improve attendance and get back on track.

Working Together to Support Attendance

We understand that there may be occasions when students are feeling a little under the weather but are still well enough to attend school. In these circumstances, parents and carers can use ClassCharts to let our pastoral team know. This helps us keep a close eye on students throughout the day, check how they are feeling and provide support where needed, helping them to remain in school whenever they are well enough to do so.

We also want to remind families that we use a staged approach to supporting and improving attendance. Where we see increasing levels of absence, this may trigger meetings in school with families to discuss any barriers, understand individual circumstances and agree practical steps to help improve attendance. These conversations are intended to be supportive and proactive, ensuring that students and families receive the right guidance before attendance concerns become more difficult to address.

Our Focus for the Next Half Term

As we head into the next half term, we want to maintain the positive momentum we have already built and avoid seeing attendance slip. We are asking all parents and carers to continue working in partnership with us to ensure that students attend school regularly, arrive on time and make the most of each day.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us reinforce the importance of excellent attendance. By working together, celebrating progress and encouraging resilience, we can help every student achieve their potential.

Let's make the next half term another positive step forward towards our 95% attendance target – every day counts!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Finley, who won his first Junior Darts Corporation competition on Saturday, competing against county-level players. This is a fantastic achievement for Finley, who has been playing darts for just under a year. At only 12 years old, he achieved an impressive average of 53.84 and is currently ranked 29th out of 146 players in the county. Finley is now aiming to finish in the top 64 to qualify for the County Championships. A brilliant achievement – well done, Finley!

FINLEY RIX



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STUDENT *Spotlight*

Congratulations to Aggie, who achieved joint first place in the Under 13 category of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) Youth Climbing Series in Milton Keynes. Competing in the London and South East region against climbers from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire and North London, Aggie faced strong competition, with 35 girls in her category alone. This is a fantastic achievement, and Aggie is understandably delighted with her result! Well done, Aggie!

AGGIE REED



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Faculty News



On Transition Day we were delighted to welcome Year 6 students from our surrounding primary schools for a hands-on Creative Industries Transition Day, giving them the opportunity to explore some of the exciting subjects and skills they can look forward to when they join us next year.



The students got creative across a range of areas, including Product Design, where they made their own wooden tea light holders, and Textiles, where they experimented with stencil printing to create fabric swatches inspired by the Broadland theme.

These colourful, individually designed swatches will be brought together to create a collaborative patchwork, which students were able to see at our upcoming Open Day later on in the month or when they join the school next year.

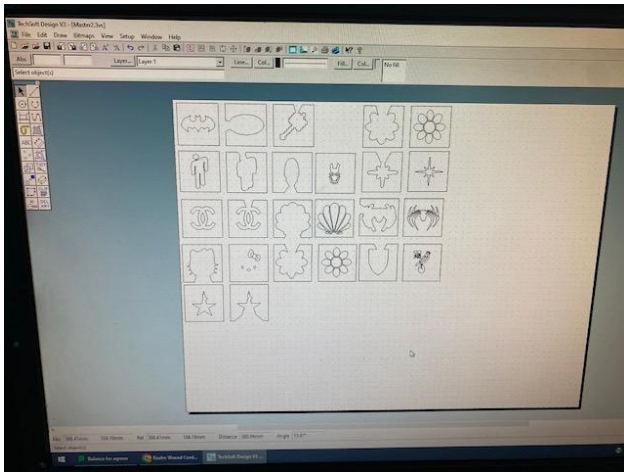
It was fantastic to see the students embracing new techniques, exploring their creativity and getting a taste of life at Acle Academy. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future!



Year 7 computer science have been focussing on coding their Microbits, with students completing a variety of coding challenges. Students were challenged to design and code a product that could be sold, and two Year 7 students created a radio-controlled device for training farm animals and pets. The device sent messages back and forth over the radio waves and changed the display based on the buttons you pressed on a separate device across the room.

Year 8 Our Computer scientists have been looking at computer systems and python coding during this rotation. The students have taken to coding like ducks to water! And I have been very proud of their progress so far this year!

Year 9 Product Design students have been using the TechSoft computer-aided design (CAD) programme to create designs for their own pewter-cast pendants and keyrings. They are developing their digital design skills and bringing their creative ideas to life through product design.



Year 10 Construction: Learning Through Real-World Experience

Year 10 Construction students are preparing for their Unit 2: Construction and Design assessment, taking place on 2nd and 3rd November.

As part of their preparation, students have been tasked with designing an office space suitable for construction on an existing retail park car park. To help bring the exam board's brief to life, the Creative Industries Faculty organised visits to Riverside Retail Park, Sweet Briar Retail Park and Sprowston Retail Park.

These real-world visits gave students the opportunity to explore potential sites, consider the challenges of developing existing spaces and gain a better understanding of how their design ideas could be applied in practice.

By connecting classroom learning with real-life environments, students are now better equipped to interpret the assessment brief and apply their knowledge and creativity to their upcoming assessment.



Year 11 Textiles students have been developing customer profiles and creating mock-ups of their final piece ideas. This work is helping them refine their designs and ensure their final creations meet the needs and preferences of their target customers.



Well Done, Cerys

A massive well done to Cerys M in year 9 who played the lead role of 'Robin Hood' in the RCA Theatre company production of 'Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies' at Reedham village hall over three nights at the beginning of the summer holidays this year. Cerys performed a solo medley, supported group songs with other aspiring young actors, telling an alternative to the traditional story. Cerys showed confidence, enthusiasm and a natural lovely singing voice to an audience of all ages.



A very warm welcome back to all our students! We hope you had a relaxing break and are ready for another exciting term filled with sporting opportunities, teamwork and personal achievement. It has been fantastic to see students returning with enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards Performance Studies.

Our County Cup football journey has got off to an exciting start, with students representing the school brilliantly. The commitment, teamwork and determination shown by our players have been excellent, and their efforts so far deserve recognition. It is great to see students supporting one another, competing with pride and demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship. Well done to everyone involved! We look forward to seeing how the teams progress throughout the competition.

There is plenty to look forward to on the netball courts this term, with fixtures providing opportunities for our teams to develop their skills and put their training into practice. Players are encouraged to attend training regularly on Tuesday's, communicate effectively and continue building confidence as a team. Keep an eye out for fixture announcements and make sure you are prepared to represent the school with pride!



Our lunchtime table tennis sessions continue to offer a fantastic opportunity for students to get active, enjoy friendly competition and develop their hand-eye coordination. Whether you are an experienced player or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome to come along, practice their skills and challenge their friends in a positive environment.

As we move further into the term, we encourage everyone to get involved, try something new and make the most of the sporting opportunities available.



It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year in Science, with students across all year groups getting stuck into their learning and exploring a wide range of exciting scientific topics. Here's a look at what we've been up to!

Year 6 Open Evening – Science in Action!

We had a fantastic evening welcoming prospective Year 7 students to our Open Evening! Students had the opportunity to get hands-on with some exciting science practical's and enjoy an excellent show of **whizz-bangs** from Mrs Baxter. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement for Science!

A huge thank you to **Mason, Amber, Lacey, Maisie, Timmy, Harry and Kaitlin** for giving up their time to help make the evening such a success. You were all brilliant ambassadors for our department, and we really appreciate your support!



Year 7 – Building Scientific Foundations

Our Year 7 students are well underway with their Science lessons! They have completed their laboratory safety and introduction to Science topics, helping them develop the essential skills needed to work safely and confidently in the lab. They have also been exploring the fascinating world of microscopy and had the opportunity to observe their own cheek cells under a microscope. A fantastic way to bring the microscopic world to life!

Year 8 and Year 9 – Exploring New Topics

Year 8 and Year 9 have also made a brilliant start to the year.

Our **Year 8** students have been investigating the human body and diseases in Biology, while also getting stuck into Chemistry, exploring the Earth and its atmosphere.

Meanwhile, **Year 9** have been developing their understanding of electricity, space, energy and neutralisation. There are plenty of exciting scientific ideas to explore, and students have made a positive start to their learning.

Year 10 – GCSE Science Is Underway!

Our Year 10 students have made a great start to their GCSE Science studies. In Biology, they have been learning about drugs and disease; in Chemistry, they have been exploring structure and bonding; and in Physics, they have begun studying electricity.

There is lots to learn as they begin their GCSE journey, and it is fantastic to see them getting started so positively. Great start, Year 10! Keep up the hard work!



Year 11 – Full Steam Ahead!

Year 11 have continued their excellent form in Science this year, working hard and going full steam ahead with their GCSE studies.

They have also demonstrated excellent attendance and a fantastic attitude to learning during our Period 6 sessions. These sessions are an important opportunity to consolidate knowledge, practise key skills and prepare for the challenges ahead.

Keep up the brilliant work, Year 11! Your commitment and determination are exactly what you need as you work towards your GCSE examinations.

☀️ A Fantastic Start to the Year!

It has been wonderful to see students across all year groups engaging with Science, developing their knowledge and embracing new challenges. We look forward to another exciting term filled with practical investigations, scientific discoveries and plenty of curiosity! - **Keep questioning, keep exploring and keep discovering!**



Well done to Year 7 for a great start to Secondary school. We are really pleased with the start you have all made. We have already done some assessments and we are going to be setting up some extra support for those who need it after half term. Just a reminder that Scopay has Calculators and equipment packs for sale. We strongly recommend all students have their own Casio calculator to help them in lessons and with home learning.

Year 10 had their first GCSE paper assessment this week and we are really proud of the effort they have put into the in-class revision. It's early days so, grades will be lower than targets but we must remember Maths is a progression and each skill builds on the last. Again, I encourage everyone to get their own Casio calculator and an exam pack from Scopay as this will set them all up for exams as well as support in class learning.

Period 6 has started well for Year 11. So far, we have invited 70 students to this and attendance has been amazing. Don't worry if you have not been invited to this, we endeavour to invite everyone to some intervention/revision support be it period 6 next time, drop-down days, holiday revision and for form time at some point throughout the year. A reminder for all of year 11 that calculators will be needed for the mocks!



Year 7 English: Preparing for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Our Year 7 students have been working hard in their English lessons as they prepare for an upcoming performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Students have been diving into the classic play, exploring its characters and themes while developing their performance skills and bringing the story to life on stage.

The performances will take place on **20th October**, and parents are warmly invited to come and watch. Further details regarding timings and seating will be shared shortly—we look forward to seeing you there to support our young performers!

Year 11 P6s:

In preparation for their upcoming November mock exams, year 11 teachers are offering P6s for targeted intervention. These are running on the following dates: 5th November/ 12th November. If you have not been selected by your English teacher, Mrs Stevens is running an open door Language Paper 2 session which you are welcome to attend.



History: Students have made a wonderful start to this academic year in history and have already produced some brilliant work. Year 7 have engaged well with the historical skills unit and are already close to completing their 'Invasions of England' unit too. Year 8 started the year with a focus on the reign of Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada and are moving on to explore the Gunpowder Plot. Some excellent home learning was submitted based on the Elizabeth I enrichment grid; it was fantastic to see students pushing beyond the learning in the classroom and creating creative pieces independently at home. Year 9 have completed their unit on the struggle for Women's Suffrage and have already begun to explore the early parts of the British Empire. Year 10 are well underway with their Medicine in Britain unit and Year 11 continue to explore the development of post-WWI Germany. We've been impressed with student engagement, effort and focus both in lessons and with home learning and look forward to seeing students progress further in the coming months.

We also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming prospective Year 6 students to the school for Open Evening, earlier this month. Our medieval apothecary table certainly started some interesting historical conversations, and we were hugely impressed with outcomes in the quiz we ran too. The historical photo booth went down well and lots of students were pleased to grab a photo opportunity with both Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II!

French: This month in Year 7 French we have been learning how to describe our families. One of our home learning assignments was to learn the French spellings for different family members for a vocabulary test. Pride Points were given out for any revision resources produced and some students were awarded Star of the Week for some wonderful work showing amazing effort.



Geography: We were delighted to welcome so many prospective students and their adults to the geography classrooms on Open Evening, where students had a whole range of activities to get involved in. By far the most popular was the scavenger hunt of Geographical questions, with the answers scattered around the room, with the winners gaining sweets! A big thank you to our helpers Jack and Hurley, the latter of whom put on an astonishing display of his fossil collection and talked visitors through his finds and why they were important. We were all very impressed! To help prepare for the upcoming mock exams and beyond, the geography department has invited a number of Y11 students to P6 sessions. These are taking place on a variety of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays after school, and are aimed at honing exam skills around 4- and 6- mark questions. Thank you to those who have taken part so far, I look forward to seeing you all again. Students in Year 7 have begun their Geography journeys by looking into some of the world's most fantastic places, and using these locations to hone their map skills. Year 8 are studying the processes that can shape our river landscapes and examining how flooding might be prevented. Finally, Year 9 have been taking an in-depth look at the continent of Africa, studying how the opportunities and challenges of its past, present, and future can be influenced by its location, landscape, resources, and people. **Travel and Tourism:** Some of our Year 10 cohort have begun their Travel and Tourism BTEC, the first time it is being run at Acle. We're really excited to be able to deliver this content to you and looking forward to beginning the coursework element, which will take place after the Christmas break.

Character and Culture: It has been another fantastic few weeks in Character and Culture (CC), with pupils across all year groups exploring a range of fascinating topics, developing their understanding of different beliefs and thinking carefully about how they can make a positive difference in the world.

Year 7 have been exploring Buddhism, focusing on how Buddhists relate to themselves and find peace and balance in their lives. They have looked at modern meditation, the calming art of Zen gardens and the Buddhist Eightfold Path, considering how these teachings can help people make positive choices and live well. **Year 8** have been learning about Sikhism, exploring the importance of equality in Sikh beliefs, the history and purpose of the Khalsa Army, and what it means to be a good person. Pupils have been considering how Sikh values can inspire people to stand up for others, challenge inequality and contribute positively to society. **Year 9** have been studying Hinduism, looking at Hindu views on vegetarianism, environmentalism and pilgrimage. They have explored how Hindus can protect the natural world, show respect for living things and fulfil their *dharma*, meaning their duty and responsibilities in life. It has been wonderful to see them making connections between religious beliefs and real-world issues. Our **amazing Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies group** have been diving deeper into Hindu beliefs, learning about the gods and goddesses and exploring fascinating ideas about the origins of the universe. They have discovered how some Hindu traditions describe vast cycles of creation and destruction, as well as accounts of multiple universes, ideas that are particularly interesting to consider alongside modern scientific theories about the universe.

Meanwhile, **CC at Key Stage 4** has been focusing on pupils' futures and wellbeing. Year 11 have been thinking about their next steps and preparing for life beyond school, while Year 10 have been completing important health checks and reflecting on their health and wellbeing.



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



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



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 20th October – Year 7 student performance to parents of a Midsummer Night's Dream – 6pm-7.30pm

Thursday 22nd October – Half term begins at 3.30pm

Monday 2nd November all students return to school

Thursday 12th November – Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.30-7.30pm

Thursday 3rd December – Year 11 reunion – 6.30-7.30pm

Thursday 10th December – Christmas lunch day

Tues 15th, Wed 16th & Thurs 17th December – School of Rock School Production 7.30 -9.30pm each night.

Friday 18th December – Christmas holiday begins at 1pm. All buses and taxis will run at this earlier time.



**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>



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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

It is really important that we maintain accurate records of parental contacts. If you change your email address, home address or phone number, please inform the school office so we can ensure you receive important information. Email info@acle.norfolk.sch.uk

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