

# ACLE ACADEMY

Acle Academy 



We are part of...

**WENSUMTRUST**

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy)



# WELCOME...



I am very proud of all that we have achieved as a school community and I encourage you to visit and discover first hand the wealth of educational opportunities and warm environment we offer young people.

As a small, rural school we understand that the passage from primary to high school can be a daunting experience, and we strive to ensure our transitional arrangements are as supportive as possible. When children join our school, our staff get to know them as individuals, not just as numbers or names on a list, so that they can ensure every child is challenged to achieve their own personal best within every aspect of their school life.

We are devoted to ensuring that our curriculum is enhanced with a diverse array of enrichment opportunities which support not just excellent academic results but also the collection of wonderful, memorable experiences. We want to give pupils the chance to discover the things they would really love to be great at and to give them the opportunities to develop the skills and the resilience needed for life after school. We believe it is not enough to leave with just a clutch of examination certifications.

We want students to have also learnt how to be tenacious and resourceful, imaginative and logical, self-disciplined and self-aware, collaborative and inquisitive. We want to help them to build the mental, emotional, social and strategic resources needed to enjoy challenges and to cope well with uncertainty and complexity. We believe that confidence, capability and passion can be developed in all students irrespective of their starting points. Real world intelligence is not something we are born with, we can all develop the skills needed to succeed with the right mind set.

Fundamentally, we are a learning community and therefore our personal conduct, respect for each other and for our learning environment and our commitment to achieving our personal best, underpins every aspect of school life. We will inspire every young person and nurture their potential in order to develop the leaders of tomorrow.

I look forward to welcoming you in person and to showing you that Acle Academy is the right choice.

## Helen Watts

Principal

# OUR VALUES

## Respect, Aspiration and Determination

At Acle Academy we respect the power of learning to unlock our future potential. We respect education, our learning environment and each other. We have high aspirations and we understand that we have to be brave, open minded and resilient in order to achieve them. We are determined to do our best – we focus, we reflect and we persevere. We value and nurture confidence, independence and high quality communication and social skills. Acle students leave our academy ready to take on the world.

# ADMISSIONS

Acle Academy follows the Norfolk County Council applications and admissions procedures. The intake number for each of our year groups is 142. If we are oversubscribed for places in Year 7 the Local Authority's appeals system comes into operation. The applications procedure and oversubscription rules are available on-line at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions). For queries regarding places in the school in Years 8 -11 please contact the admissions team at Norfolk County Council on: [admissions@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@norfolk.gov.uk)

Prospective students and their families are warmly welcomed to contact the school to arrange a visit. We also offer young people the opportunity to participate in a trial day with us so that they can experience first-hand, all that Acle Academy has to offer.



# TEACHING & LEARNING

“Our learning culture encourages students to become better learners. It allows students to approach difficulties in learning with confidence and without fear of failure.”

Our teaching and learning ethos is at the heart of Acle Academy and underpins everything we do in the school. We are dedicated to helping young people become better learners. In our classrooms and the wider school environment, we systematically cultivate habits and attitudes that enable young people to face difficulty and uncertainty calmly, confidently and creatively. Students who are more confident with their own learning ability learn faster and learn better. Our teaching and learning strategy rests on developing four key areas of learning habits. We develop emotional engagement, social learning skills, thinking skills, and learning strategies. By taking abstract concepts of learning and making them visible, we help students discover the things that they would really love to be great at and then we strengthen the will and skill to pursue them. Acle Academy builds the spirit of resilience and resourcefulness in our students. Our lessons always start with a learning question because we want our students to be thinking as soon as they enter the classroom. Lessons are rich with mysteries, puzzles and problem solving activities that encourage questioning, collaboration and deep learning opportunities. We aim to provide several routes through a lesson so that students can choose an appropriate task to stretch and challenge their learning.



## Curriculum

At Acle Academy we offer an engaging, broad and balanced curriculum, which prepares students not just for examinations, but for a life of learning after school; helping them to build up the mental, emotional, social and strategic resources to enjoy challenge and to cope well with the uncertainty and complexity of an ever-changing world. It recognises and values our local cultural heritage but also seizes opportunities to broaden horizons for the young people in our community. Our curriculum is driven by a moral imperative to develop responsible, ethical and global citizens of the future. We promote opportunities to link knowledge and concepts to real life examples that can be found in the workplace and life beyond the classroom.

We understand that students learn best when they can relate new knowledge to existing knowledge, so our curriculum is focused on interconnectivity. We aim to place all learning in context ensuring that students understand the social, cultural, historical or future context of what they are learning and can make links between key concepts, ideas and skills. Transferable skills are developed throughout our curriculum to enable all students to apply their knowledge and understanding in a variety of unfamiliar contexts, strengthening their resilience and developing their curiosity to learn more.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study a common curriculum consisting of timetabled lessons in Art, Character and Culture, Computing, Drama, Design & Technology, English, Geography, History, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, PE, and Science. In Years 10 and 11 students study their four selected options plus a broad core of subjects including English, Maths, Science, PE and Character and Culture.

# CARE & SUPPORT



We are committed to providing the highest quality of pastoral care for each individual child. All students from Year 7 to 11 have their own personal tutor and belong to a mixed ability tutor group. The role of the form tutor is to offer personal and academic support to students so that effective learning and student well-being are paramount at all times. Each form is part of a larger family of support within our House system. Our House system, led by our Senior Leadership team, encourages a team ethos across the school. Our ‘Engage’ team work with individual students to ensure that they are happy, safe and thriving academically. Where barriers to learning, such as attendance or low confidence, are identified, our team works together to immediately put a support plan in place for both the student and the family.

We have high expectations for the behaviour of our students. They are encouraged not only to behave impeccably, but also to develop effective and proactive behaviours for learning such as independence, organisation and resilience in the face of challenges.

Our Engage Centre supports all aspects of student progress and welfare. It focuses on unlocking barriers to learning and addressing the individual needs of students to help them maximize their future potential. We offer a range of multi-agency services to ensure that students are well supported throughout every aspect of their school life. Ensuring that our students feel safe and happy both in school and outside of school, is a key priority at Acle Academy. Through the curriculum and our personal development and welfare system, every opportunity is taken to make students aware of how we manage risks. A passion for equality is at the heart of what we do. We consider it our duty to

teach young people how to recognise and respect the need for equality regardless of gender, race, religion or sexual orientation and we adopt a zero tolerance approach to all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

## Family Engagement

We believe that effective communication between home and school is key to ensuring that students thrive in school. We use web-based software, called Classcharts, as a live communication tool to help inform parents on progress. In addition, we use our school website, regular text alerts, Facebook and Twitter to keep families fully aware of what is going on in school. Any pastoral concerns raised by a parent/carer will immediately be picked up by the form tutor or Engage team, whilst subject specific inquiries are directed to the class teacher and Head of Faculty. We believe it is important to engage with families and the local community as much as possible, and our information evenings and other annual events allow us to do so on a regular basis.

## Special Educational Needs Department

SEND provision is a significant strength of our school and we often welcome families from out of catchment based on our SEND reputation alone. Our SEND policy, which is available on our website, follows the Government’s Code of Practice and students with an additional need at Acle Academy make good progress. This is due to our effective work during transition from primary to secondary school and our robust monitoring systems which enable us to identify and provide effective care and support. We also work closely with parents and the students themselves to make sure that their voices are heard. We have a diverse curriculum designed to meet the needs of all learners as well as a wide range of intervention programmes.

## Safeguarding

We are committed to promoting the safety, health and welfare of all our students. We comply with safeguarding legislation and follow the procedures laid down by Norfolk Children’s Services and work closely with professionals to ensure the best possible care and support for our students. The school has a number of designated teachers for safeguarding including the Principal, Assistant Principals, SENDCo, Engage staff as well as a designated safeguarding governor.





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Learning does not just take place within the classroom. Students are encouraged to try new activities or develop skills and talents across a wide range of subjects. Performing Arts are popular and our school production gives students of all ages and abilities the chance to work and perform together. Music is also a strength of our school, with many students taking peripatetic music lessons or playing in the orchestra. We work with local groups on community projects and students have visited Mimosa in France, gone skiing in the Ardeche and taken part in exchange visits to Germany.



## Sports and Physical Education

Our indoor and outdoor sporting facilities are enjoyed by both students and staff. We have extensive playing fields, tennis courts and a gymnasium. Student participation in sport is high and part of the culture of Acle Academy. We have competitive teams that compete locally and nationally including; rugby, football, basketball, cricket, netball, athletics and golf. Our expertise and commitment within Sport and Physical Education is recognised through:

- Sportsmark Award
- FA Clublink Award
- Community Rugby Development School Status

Staff from our PE Department are heavily involved in facilitating competition and sporting opportunities. We run cluster festivals and competitions for all year groups, which feed into the Norfolk School Games.

# FOR OUR STUDENTS



## Student Leadership

We are exceptionally proud of our students and recognise the important part that they can play in leading and developing our school. We have elected House MPs who contribute to our student-led Parliament, as well as Junior Prefects, Senior Prefects and our team of Service Areas. We take student voice very seriously and routinely use student panels in our staff recruitment process. In addition, students act as Parent Guides, they help on Reception and are regularly asked about their experiences of teaching and learning, behaviour, safety and attendance. Our School Parliament allows students to have their say on important aspects of school life with senior leaders and governors. This is an ideal opportunity for those who are interested in politics and active citizenship.

## Challenging the Most Able

We are very proud of the significant academic successes from our most able students, many of whom go on to study at Russell Group universities or Oxbridge. Our curriculum is designed to create essential independent learning skills, with tailored opportunities to push academic boundaries. Our bespoke support programme 'Aspire 9' challenges and supports our most able students to achieve their potential and gain essential study skills needed for Post-16 education.



For more information on our school, please visit our website:

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# ACLE ACADEMY

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“Our Trust is a family of schools with a shared vision. We are all passionate about helping each and every child to be safe, healthy and successful, regardless of their background or early life experiences.

Children deserve an outstanding education that prepares them, both emotionally and academically, for their next steps in the world. We get to know every child as a unique individual and work together with families to support their individual needs. Our Trust also draws on the community relationships and partnerships that we have established to provide a wealth of inspiring experiences in order to nurture confident learners and happy, resilient young people.”

## **Daniel Thrower**

CEO, Wensum Trust

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