

SPRING TERM 24/25



01752 396100

ACE SCHOOLS

OUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER



PLUS | Celebrating STARS • Key Dates •
Open Days

“Everyone should be treated with kindness
and respect at all times.”

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A Message from our Senior Leadership Team

Hello everyone, welcome to our new ACE Newsletter!

Several bases have been running their own very popular newsletters for quite a while now to capture and celebrate all the work and events they get up to with pupils, families and staff. Lucy at North Hill suggested that we get a whole school one up and running again so we can share not just the pictures and news but also ideas for activities, a calendar of events and training or community opportunities for example.

So what are the leadership team up to at the moment? Chris McNamara is out this week doing a school evaluation through our membership of Challenge Partners.

Matthew Read our Head Provision for Cornwall is doing the same a little closer to home in the Isles of Scilly. I look forward to hearing about their experiences next week. Tim Mathias and Rachel Crozier will be doing similar visits later in the year.

On Monday SLT got together to review our whole school self-evaluation document and our development plan. We reflected on the school improvement work completed since our Ofsted visit in October and did some forward planning for 2025-26.

I've popped into a couple of sites and should get to them all before the end of term and Tim is doing the same. It's been a while, and it is great to see the developments on bases and meet new staff and pupils face to face rather than on Teams or photos.

And whilst I was thinking about getting out and about and seeing pictures of you all exploring your local environment, I had an idea for another school-wide challenge like our advent calendar. So, look out for news of a treasure hunt. I just need to run it past the team 😊

Ruth Westwood
Headteacher



A Message from our Heads of Provisions

Welcome to the 1st newsletter of the school year. It's been a really busy year so far one which has seen us go through Ofsted, welcome new staff, build new teams and take a new approach to whole school activities, this newsletter being just one!



I joined ACE nearly a year ago and have found it to be a truly rewarding experience and one which has given me the chance to work in number of excellent teams. First of all at the provision level, across Cornwall, meeting the three extraordinary teams that work so hard at each of the bases, secondly, working with the other Heads of Provision and building up a working relationship with them and the SLT and, thirdly, working with the school as a whole.



As I say it's been a really busy and rewarding year so far and one which has seen the whole school making huge strides in improving the work that we do every single day for the pupils that we work with.



Matthew Read
Head of Provision, Cornwall

The Three Strand Curriculum

At ACE Schools, our curriculum is designed to meet each pupil's unique needs through three interconnected strands:

Specialist Support

We provide tailored educational and therapeutic assistance, ensuring every pupil receives the specialised care necessary for their success.

Learning and Development

Our ambitious and personalised curriculum fosters social, moral, and academic growth, preparing pupils for post-16 education and adulthood.

Preparation for Adulthood

We equip pupils with essential life skills, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future and contribute positively to society.

This flexible model allows teachers to adapt the curriculum based on individual goals, ensuring a relentless focus on catch-up, recovery, and challenge. By embracing these strands, we aim to improve life chances and prepare pupils for their next educational journey.



Student Council 1

Student Council is back at Bretonside. Students from all year groups come together every term to feedback on developments on site that impact them directly and give their opinions on policy and events. It has been a pleasure to have students want to commit to representing student voice, to share their ideas for their life at school.



Adam Wood

What's your job role?
Pastoral Manager

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?
The staff team at Bretonside

What's your favourite thing to eat?
A CORNISH pasty!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
Cambodia

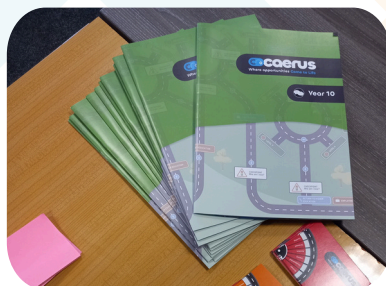
2 First 5

Staff have done a fantastic job of creating "first 5" resources to allow students to have the most positive and successful start to lessons. They are based around creating strong routines, building confidence and resilience.



Skills for Life 3

Launched last year, Caerus is a career guidance tool helping students explore strengths and career paths. Through workshops, roadmaps, and workbooks, it bridges education and industry, fostering social mobility and addressing skills gaps in sectors like healthcare and engineering.



Weir

Fantastic effort in mock exams and some really promising results.

Our Stars

Cody

Made huge progress in PIVOT and started to engage in Entry Level qualification work with staff.



WRAP Plymouth

Lego Therapy **1**

We've been using hands-on activities to make maths more engaging. Recently, pupils explored ratios using Skittles, reinforcing key concepts through interactive learning. These tailored interventions ensure every pupil receives the support they need to build confidence and succeed in numeracy.



Danny Kings

What's your job role?
Pastoral Manager. My job is to ensure the students are kept safe, attend school and to oversee behaviour.

2 Descriptive Writing



Our recent trip to Saltram House was a fantastic opportunity for students to enhance their descriptive language skills. Through engaging group activities, they explored the environment, using nature as inspiration to create vivid descriptions. This hands-on experience helped bring their writing to life in a fun and creative way.

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?
Seeing students enjoying attending school and making progress. It is also great to spend time with students to build trusting relationships.

Skills for Life **3**

Students enjoyed an exciting visit to Exeter City Football Stadium, exploring the locker rooms, pitch, and media areas. They learned about the club's history and discussed teamwork, perseverance, and goal-setting, inspiring them to aim high.



What's your favourite thing to eat?
A nice, spicy curry!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
Right now, I would like to go somewhere like the Maldives to relax by the beach.

Toby

Toby has shown great teamwork skills by helping other students during PE and gym sessions. He has taken a very mature approach to his exams and has asked for extra lessons.

Our Stars

Brandon

Brandon has been determined to read the whole Harry Potter series and has achieved his goal. As a reluctant reader, Brandon now enjoys his daily reading time and has now started reading the Percy Jackson series!



Motional Activities **1**

At Exeter, students begin each day with a TIS Motional Activity, promoting emotional well-being and readiness for learning. Here, Mac is using the Safe Space Motional activity, which helps him self-regulate, build resilience, and start the day positively.



Paisley Rogers

What's your job role?
I am the Pastoral Lead at ACE WRAP Exeter.

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?
Having recently returned off Maternity Leave it has been lovely to see how much the students have flourished in my absence.

What's your favourite thing to eat?
I love all food – However, I currently have a very sweet tooth and love cake and chocolate!!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
I'd love to return to South East Asia and return to a school I volunteered at in Cambodia, from there I would fly to Melbourne, Australia to see my friends.



2 Revision

Year 11 students at Exeter have been engaging in a diverse range of revision activities, including practice papers, group discussions, and independent study sessions, ensuring they are well-prepared and confident as they approach their upcoming mock exams and final assessments.

Post-16 Placements **3**

Our Year 11 students are actively preparing for their Post-16 pathways, with most having secured college placements for the next academic year. They are also exploring apprenticeships, vocational courses, and career options to ensure a smooth transition into further education or employment.



Nico

Improved engagement with work, showing more focus and enthusiasm. Better emotional regulation, handling challenges with resilience. Consistently kind and considerate towards peers.

Our Stars



Leo

Increased emotional, social, and communication maturity. More confident in expressing thoughts and navigating social interactions with empathy and clarity.

WRAP Launceston

Forest School 1

This term, students have had a fantastic experience participating in specialist interventions, including horse therapy and forest school. These unique programs have fostered personal growth, boosted confidence, and enhanced well-being. We're excited to continue offering such valuable opportunities to support our students' development in a fun and engaging way.



Matthew Stevens

What's your job role?
I am the Lead Pastoral at ACE Launceston.

2 Art Award

This term, students have had the opportunity to work on the Bronze Art Award, continue developing their culinary skills, and participate in weekly PE sessions. These activities have encouraged creativity, teamwork, and physical fitness, providing a well-rounded experience that supports students' personal and skill development.



What's your favourite part about working at ACE?
Working with individual and talented students who continually surprise and impress me is always the best part of my job.

Careers South West 3

Year 10 students are actively preparing for their next steps. They've met with Careers South West, started booking open days to explore colleges, and are trying out various vocational options. These experiences are helping them make informed decisions about their future educational and career paths.



What's your favourite thing to eat?

That's a harder question to answer. I will have to go for lasagne. It's the best of the pastas.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
The Maldives. For as long as possible!

Jason

For completing his Bronze Art Award and consistently being Ready, Respectful & Safe at forest school.

Our Stars

Denne for an amazing term and great progress with his maths and phonics.

Phoebe



WRAP Redruth

Forest School 1

WRAP Redruth partners with specialist providers to offer students support, therapeutic spaces, and nature connections. BF Adventure, Life Recycle, White Gold, and Remembering Our Roots help empower students, complementing our work to foster personal growth and success.



2 Beach School

Since Christmas, WRAP Redruth's Beach School has given primary and secondary students a weekly outdoor learning experience. It fosters teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving while enhancing citizenship and community engagement. Students revisit learning objectives in nature, making the most of Cornwall's environment. Both staff and students eagerly anticipate each session.



Careers South West 3

WRAP Redruth and WRAP Bodmin students have spent four terms in an Introduction to Construction unit by Cornwall College. They've gained hands-on experience in bricklaying, carpentry, and plastering, developing practical skills and exploring construction careers - a valuable opportunity for all!



Lisa Baxter

What's your job role?

I am the Lead Pastoral at ACE Redruth.

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?

I work with the best team of staff and students who put a smile on my face daily!

What's your favourite thing to eat?

Fish and Chips

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
Hawaii

Ethan

Ethan has been working hard preparing for the mock exams. We're sure all his effort will pay off in the summer.

Our Stars

Star

Excellent attendance and a positive attitude. Star sat all her mock exams and shows a real motivation to do well.



WRAP Bodmin

Forest School 1

Several Bodmin pupils joined Forest School activities at two specialist sites. Two primary pupils attended Wyld Things, enjoying den making, fire starting, and whittling. They developed problem-solving, teamwork, and social skills with peers from other provisions, returning with a strong sense of achievement and excitement about their experiences.



Becky Smith

What's your job role?
Pastoral Manager for Cornwall

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?
The most satisfying part of my role is working with the students and helping them to develop new skills and emotional resilience.

What's your favourite thing to eat?
My favourite food is chocolate! But I try to eat healthily.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?
Disney World! The real one in Florida. I am a huge Disney Fan.



2 Skills Journal

Pupils explored Cornish traditions during St. Piran's Day, designing and creating their own pasties. Lively discussions arose about fillings and the 'jam first' cream tea debate. The experience boosted confidence, leading to a Y4 pupil regularly helping prepare 'Foodie Friday' lunches for the whole base.

Cornwall College 3

Bodmin pupils explore various experiences to plan their next steps beyond Ace Schools. A Y10 pupil is completing a placement with the Ocean Conservation Trust, engaging the public in ocean conservation and earning a Bronze CREST award. Others attend Cornwall College, gaining hands-on skills in trades like bricklaying and plastering.



Jowan

Jowan continues to excel academically and serves as a positive role model, mentoring primary students in Pokémon card creation, Scratch projects, and promoting readiness, respect, and safety.

Our Stars

Kaiden

Kaiden excelled in creative writing, improved communication, engaged in group activities, and enjoyed cooking club, Trethorne visits, and creating Pokémon cards.



Dover Road

Parent drop-ins **1**

We have been successfully trialling different methods to support students who struggle to articulate their emotions or communicate verbally. Every half term we've also been holding a parent drop-in session to build our community across health and welfare.



Natalie Pepperell

What's your job role?

I manage safeguarding, support self-harm and young carers, review attendance trends, and assist with behaviour management.

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?

Every day is different and is never the same. Definitely kept on my toes which I somewhat enjoy.

What's your favourite thing to eat?

Pasta or Pizza – anything Italian really.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?

Australia or South America

Exam preparation **2**

Students have been preparing for their summer exams by completing a series of mock exams for all subjects. They also completed PE practical assessments for GCSE and coursework for entry level across all core subjects.



Post-16 visits **3**

The majority of our Y11 students have applied for their post-16 provision for next year and secured places. They've also had the opportunity to visit a range of different colleges in the local area and engage in taster sessions.



Helio

For constantly supporting others and welcoming new students to the school. Helio also engages brilliantly in learning both in lessons and through additional revision at home as well.

Our Stars

Lacey

Lacey always tries her hardest in anything and continuously challenges herself, never giving up even when things get very difficult.



Primary

All about plants **1**

We have enjoyed visiting different places, including garden centres, to support our learning around growing plants. These trips have helped us to explore different types of plants and understand their needs. Knowledge about gardening tools, soil types, and how seasons affect plant growth have also been developed.



Lucy Robinson

What's your job role?
Pastoral Lead

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?

No 2 days are the same. I get to support young people and watch them transform and see their journey.

What's your favourite thing to eat?

Roast Dinner

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?

Sri Lanka

2 Immersive Dome

This term, we enjoyed a trip to the Immersive Dome, which everyone loved! It was an exciting way to explore our topics. We are learning about different weather patterns, seasonal changes, and extreme weather, while also studying life cycles in science through engaging activities.



Staying Healthy **3**

We have taken part in lots of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT), working as a team to build communication and problem-solving skills. We are also learning how to stay healthy by discussing good nutrition, exercise, self-care, and making positive lifestyle choices for the future.



Reggie

Outstanding effort in all lessons.
Role model for Ready Respectful Safe.

Our Stars

Freddie

Outstanding effort in phonics and maths.



Outreach

Home Visits 1

Young people who come to the Outreach team, have often been out of school for a significant amount of time. They are at risk of becoming socially isolated and it can take a long time to build up a trusting relationship. Recently, Stephen (year 8) showed what incredible progress he has made when he ventured out with his teacher, Lucy, for the first time since he started working with her a year ago. They visited the supermarket and the park. This was an incredibly proud moment where he demonstrated the self-esteem and confidence he has started to build.

2 Online Learning

One of our year 7 students, Arthur, is currently completing an adult palaeontology course online at home after showing keen interest in the subject. He has an incredible mind and has taken it upon himself to learn as much as he can! Our learning mentor, Rhoda, is working closely with him to nurture his love of learning.

James (year 10) showed off his teaching skills when he taught some boxing moves to his teacher at home recently. He demonstrated amazing patience and encouragement whilst breaking down the moves. This is helping him build his self-belief and self-esteem.

Finally, a huge well done to all our year 11's who worked so hard completing their mocks and their entry level exams.

Life Skills 3

We incorporate many PSHE topics during our sessions at home. Recently, our learning mentor, Danni, collected a range of period products for students to see and feel for themselves and also found some great age-appropriate resources. This was due to one of our year 5 students, Alana, being very curious about and the menstrual cycle and wanting to find out as much as she could. They absolutely loved this mini project that Danni delivered and they now feel educated on the topic. These are resources we will use in future for other students of a similar age.



Lucy Brennan

What's your job role?

I am the Outreach Pastoral Lead

What's your favourite part about working at ACE?

The opportunity to help some of the most isolated kids in the city and work with them and their families to create a life line for them.

What's your favourite thing to eat?

Anything Italian

If you could travel anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go?

Bali

Olivia

Olivia is always working as hard as she can towards her GCSEs and contributes fantastically to online lessons, being a great role model and helping other students with their understanding.

Our Stars

Alana

She shows incredible resilience and courage. She continues to be curious and engaged in all her subjects.



Plym Bridge House

Physical Education 1

We have had students come out on activity and PE, that have either not be allowed to engage in physical activity or been too anxious to engage with this, however are now at a stage this can be re-introduced. We have seen huge steps forward in their confidence and motivation. The OT staff have had speakers in to develop their creative ideas and we have recently finished our animal theme term where they had animals brought onto the ward.

2 Making Progress

We have had a few discharges from the ward recently and wish those students the very best for their next steps. We have students starting their phased return to their mainstream school and this has been successful.

We have a great bunch of students who are keen to learn and develop their knowledge, who enjoy attending school.

Post-16 Visits 3

Debbie and Kirsty have done a few Post 16 visits to Discovery college, Eat that Frog and Petroc college to support our students next steps. We have also been supporting our Post 16 with driving theory and have just been informed one of our past students has recently passed their theory test and ACE for their support.

We also had a visit from a past student who thanked Staff for their kindness, humour, learning and support when they where here and they came with gifts for the ward.

Lola

Our Stars

Amy

She always works hard as she can towards her GCSEs and contributes to lessons. She is always so open and welcoming to new students and is currently queen of Skipbo!

It doesn't matter how poorly she is or what mood she's in Amy will always attend lessons and try her hardest .



Forest School

Student check-in 1

Students have engaged well with “check in” activities which take part near the start of the session either on a 1:1 basis or in small groups with lead forest school staff. This involves students choosing a location in the forest which helps them to feel calm and relaxed, and they take part in a forest school related challenge while talking to staff and their peers about their experiences of the week so far and anything they want to achieve at forest school that day.



2 Building Skills

Students have continued to develop their skills in using a wide range of tools safely and effectively at forest school. This has led to several improvements being made around camp, including our firm favourite camp chair. All students across our different forest school groups chipped in with this project and the teamwork was great to see. This included students who have been at forest school longer than others, demonstrating excellent technique to newer students and helping to build their confidence.

Cooking 3

Students absolutely love cooking at forest school. We are developing our forest school cook book and are continuing to promote a love of cooking. Students are becoming more independent when preparing and cooking food, as well as being eager to try new foods and cook for their peers and staff. We have made pizzas, nachos, fry ups, potato wedges, and spaghetti bolognese to name a few!



Josie

Josie has demonstrated amazing work ethic and independence this term. She has worked very hard each week to build and develop an incredible den at our camp area. Josie also led her peers and ensured they met the success criteria, using various natural materials to ensure their den was sturdy, safe, protected and camouflaged.

Our Stars



Skye

Skye is relatively new to forest school but has fit in extremely well. She is passionate about the outdoors, nature, and wild life. Skye's enthusiasm is infectious, and she is willing to give everything a go. Skye created a fantastic bird feeder which she hung up at camp, resulting in an array of birds visiting us.

Magro

Cookery 1

Each week we find a new recipe to experiment with and cook as a team. We have learnt how to communicate our ideas in an effective way which help us come to a decision. Once we know what we would like to cook, we go to the shops for ingredients which is another opportunity to practice our communication skills but this time with the public.



2 Reading



We have been focusing on reading and understanding different texts. The Red Reading Box has proven to be a hit, and all the students have been engaging with an intervention every week. Our students have been really proud of their learning and have managed to earn themselves a Headteacher's Award!

Skills for Life 3

We have started to find college placements for our students and so far, the most popular is catering! Each week our students spend a day at CTSW cooking in a real cafe for customers. They learn how to prepare food hygienically, how to use equipment safely and fantastic new recipes that we can try out at school!



Michael

You made an amazing start at catering college and brought lots of ideas back for us to use at school.

Our Stars

Carlton

You have been really mature and set a great example to some of the younger students in our group. You have even supported in managing others' conflict.



Key Dates

Stay informed about important upcoming events and deadlines this term

Term Dates & Review Week

Term	Pupils Start	Pupils End	Non-pupil Day	Review Week
1	Wednesday 4th September 2024	Friday 25th October 2024	2nd & 3rd September 2024 (Staff Training)	Week Commencing 9th September 2024
2	Tuesday 5th November 2024	Friday 20th December 2024	4th November 2024 (Staff Training)	
3	Monday 6th January 2025	Friday 14th February 2025		Week Commencing 13th January 2025
4	Monday 24th February 2025	Friday 4th April 2025		
5	Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Friday 23rd May 2025	Monday 5th May 2025 (Bank Holiday)	Week Commencing 28th April 2025
6	Monday 2nd June 2025	Friday 18th July 2025		

Exam Dates

GCSE Exams commence on Thursday 8th May 2025 and the final exam is on Wednesday 18th June 2025. However, ALL exam candidates must remain available up to and including the final contingency date of Wednesday 25th June. A detailed exam timetable will be available from your child's teacher.

Results Day

Results will be available to students on 21st Aug 2025.

Outreach Celebration Assembly

23rd May 2025 at 12:30pm on Teams.

Open Days & Events

Stay informed about important upcoming events



City College Plymouth

Apprenticeship Open Evening
Weds 23 April @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Open Day

Sat 10 May @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Plymouth College of Art

Open Day - Pre-Degree

Sat 5 April @ 11:00am – 1:30pm

Open Day - Pre-Degree

Sat 31 May @ 11:00am – 1:30pm

Discovery College

Open Day

Thu 22 May @ 4:00m – 6:00pm

Skills Group

Open Day

Fri 11 April @ 10:00am – 2:00pm

Open Day

Fri 30 May @ 10:00am – 2:00pm

Exeter College

Open Day

Wed 23 April @ 4:00m – 7:00pm

Cornwall College

Open Day

Thu 8 May @ 5:00m – 7:00pm

