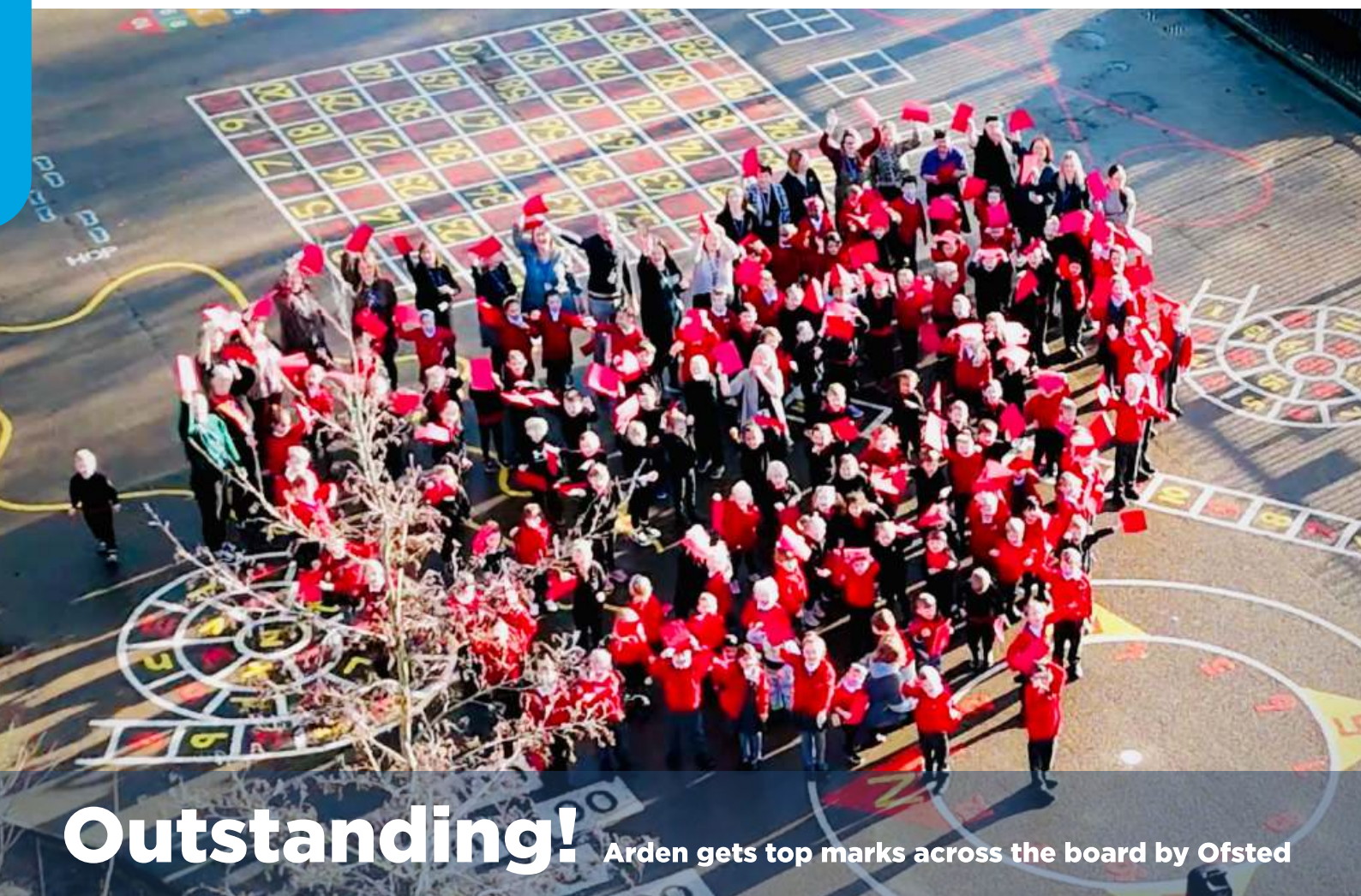


WENSUM news

SUMMER 2025

WENSUMTRUST



Outstanding! Arden gets top marks across the board by Ofsted



Alderman Peel wins national STEM award



Children at Burnham Market get the red carpet treatment



Firsides Junior secures its Good Ofsted rating

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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An outstanding achievement!

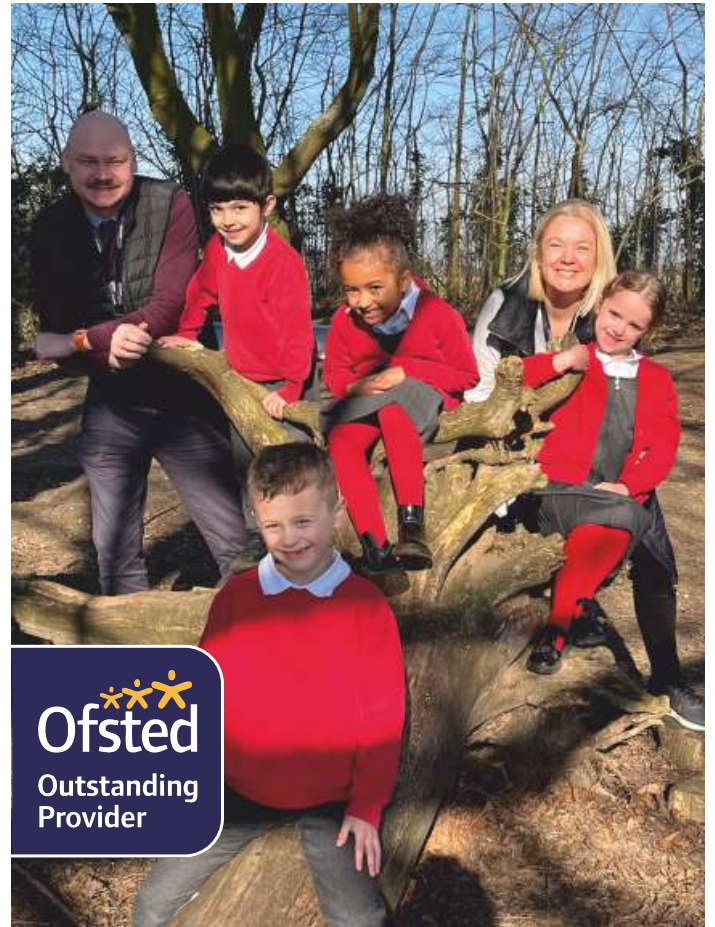
Arden Grove Infant School has been praised as Outstanding in a glowing report from Ofsted. Inspectors found the school to be Outstanding in all areas to the delight of the whole school community. The report stated pupils are thriving, and develop excellent learning skills and behaviours which enable them to flourish and succeed.

As well as praising the schools 'meticulous curriculum', inspectors commended staff for their strong knowledge of what they teach, resulting in children making excellent progress in their learning. In addition, they said that children with special education needs and/or disabilities are supported to a very high standard and are fully included in all aspects of school life.

The report also highlighted 'The Place', a specially resourced provision, based at the school, for pupils with SEND. Inspectors said pupils attending The Place have excellent support to help them engage with education, with staff gaining a deep understanding of these pupils and their needs.

Sarah Waterfield, Headteacher at Arden Grove, said: "I am absolutely delighted with the report and I believe our strength is down to all our staff members bringing together their skills and experience, and working towards a shared goal where we celebrate learning for all.

"I am especially pleased inspectors highlighted how much we value knowing every pupil very well, adapting their learning if needed and making sure they feel valued. I am so proud of our school community where Hellesdon is in our hearts and the whole world is at our feet."



Daniel Thrower, CEO of the Wensum Trust, said "This report is packed full of praise for Arden Grove Infant School and rightly so. The staff work exceptionally hard to ensure children are in school, participating, enjoying their learning, and with a sense of belonging which is all part of our definition of success. I was especially pleased to hear staff at the school feel well supported and through the Trust they are able to share expertise. I would like to congratulate everyone at Arden Grove and thank them for their hard work and commitment to their children, families and communities."



FIRSIDE CELEBRATES OFSTED RESULT

Firside Junior School continues to be a Good school.

Ofsted has confirmed the school has maintained the standards identified in its previous inspection after a visit by the education regulator in March.

The report praised the school's ambitious curriculum which encompasses the school's vision, 'to become the best you can be, for learning, for life, for future success,' and the school's values which

are evident in the pupil's exemplary attitudes.

Roz Robinson, Headteacher at Firside Junior School, said: "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised our efforts to maintain a Good standard across our school. It is clear our children enjoy coming to school and thrive demonstrating our DREAM values of determination, resilience, enthusiasm, ambition and motivation.

"I would like to say a special thank you to all our staff, children and families who work incredibly hard to make sure we have a school community we can be proud of."

Ofsted
Good
Provider



STEM success continues for Alderman Peel

Alderman Peel High School has won a national award for its STEM education.

The school scooped the top prize at the 2025 Education Business Awards, which celebrates the outstanding achievements of schools across the UK.

Deputy Principal Bal Tawana, said: "Winning this award is a huge honour and a testament to the incredible work of our students and staff in promoting STEM education, sustainability, and innovation. We are so proud to be recognised on a national level and excited to continue inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and designers. Well done to everyone involved."



Sixth form students take part in-ter-stellar workshop.

Students at Hellesdon Sixth Form had an out of this world experience with a visit from the National Space Academy.

Year 12 and 13 physicists took part in a day of activities and learnt about the diverse number of careers available in the Space Industry. Students discovered how astronauts on the ISS overcome zero-gravity challenges, linked wider physics concepts to astrophysics and demonstrated collaboration and calculation skills in a variety of tasks.

They also built their own telescopes, competed with rocketry, modelled the expansion of the universe, experimented with pressure, examined a space suit and held pieces of meteorite and the moon.

Mandarin Lessons at East Norfolk Sixth Form College

Students from Acle Academy have been given a unique opportunity to learn Mandarin.

The school chose 15 pupils from Years 8 and 9 who have an aptitude for languages, and by the end of their first session they were already able to confidently speak a few key Mandarin phrases.

Helen Watts, Principal at Acle Academy, said: “The enthusiasm and positive engagement of our pupils is truly inspiring. Despite the challenges of learning a new language, each student is embracing the experience with determination and curiosity. I would like to thank East Norfolk Sixth Form College for this wonderful opportunity.”

EN Principal, Dr Catherine Richards said: “East Norfolk Sixth Form College is extremely proud to offer Mandarin as part of our languages provision. We are thrilled to be collaborating with Acle Academy now as part of our partnership working with the aim of ensuring even more young people can access Mandarin lessons and qualifications from GCSE through to Level 3. Achieving a Level 3 in Mandarin offers students the opportunity to be considered for a scholarship to study in China, so Mandarin really offers young people in Norfolk learning that is life changing.”



Burnham students take to the red carpet

Budding filmmakers from Burnham Market Primary School took over Fakenham's Central Cinema for an evening for the world premiere of their latest film.

The school, which is making a name for itself producing award winning films, had an audience of 150 for the first showing of A.I Superficial Intelligence.

The film was produced by Year 5 and 6 students and is about two ambitious 'computer nerds' who construct artificial intelligence to complete their homework, although their invention soon takes an unforeseen turn.

The film has since been shortlisted in the Into Film Awards finals and the students will attend a special ceremony in London.



Former footballer kicks off sports awards

Former Premier League footballer, David James, was the guest speaker at Alderman Peel High School's sports awards.

The ex-goalkeeper spoke to a packed audience at the Celebration of Sport 2025, focusing on achieving records during his school days before reflecting back on his career at club and international levels.



Choir takes to the stage at Wembley

Firside Junior School's Rock Notes choir joined 6000 children from around the country to take part in a special concert at Wembley Ovo Arena.

The Voice In A Million concert saw 160 choirs come together to learn songs and dances before a performance in the evening.

The Firside choir were so determined to take part, they even held bake sales to help fund the trip themselves.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Boost for Hellesdon's Young Carers

Young carers at Hellesdon High School have been given more opportunities to develop their skills over the next year thanks to a grant from the Broadland Youth Advisory Board.

The school runs a group for its young carers to offer support, learn new skills and socialise with others who face similar challenges to them.

Now a grant of £1,382 from the Broadland Youth Advisory Board means the school can offer even more opportunities with plans for group sessions in survival skills and first aid, as well as visits from Pets As Therapy, The Garage and Mini Donks.

The first session took place with Mini Monsters, where the group got to meet a selection of creatures and learn all about them.



Abby Thetford, Student Mental Health Lead at Hellesdon High, said: "The young carers group has been running for many years and offers those students a chance to socialise, relax and feel less isolated from their peers. We are very grateful for this funding as we will be able to offer much more variety and have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of our young carers."

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



Hellesdon High shows commitment to student wellbeing

Hellesdon High School proved that the wellbeing of students is at the heart of all they do at a special event.

The school's annual wellbeing event saw unprecedented numbers of students, parents and staff take part in wellbeing activities, find out how to access support, and meet some lovely animals.

Students enjoyed hands-on experiences such as pedalling the smoothie bike, throwing axes (safely supervised), whittling sticks, playing against a Chess Champion and creating their own music. There were also exciting animal corners, featuring friendly donkeys, therapy dogs, and fascinating reptiles, which were popular with the crowds.

The event wasn't just about fun—numerous stalls offered valuable advice and resources, including Carers Trust, Alpha Inclusion, Menscraft, YMCA, the Mental Health Support Team and the Matthew Project. Families had the opportunity to speak with professionals about mental health strategies, support services for families, and guidance on helping children with special educational needs.



END OF TWO ERAS

Two of the Wensum Trust's longest serving teachers will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Bal Tawana, Assistant Principal at Alderman Peel High School is retiring after 22 years at the school, and a total of 37 years in teaching.

Bal's highlights during his time at Alderman Peel have been overseeing admissions and the school doubling its number of pupils, along with excellent Ofsted results, the recent national STEM award and securing more than £50,000 of grants for STEM in the past two years.

He said: "It has been a privilege to serve the students, staff, parents/carers and local community, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at APHS. I will really miss the students and staff but I am now looking forward to some more time for all the things I enjoy."

Meanwhile, Beccy Dewing, Headteacher of Lodge Lane and Garrick Green Infant Schools, is retiring after a massive 32 years teaching at Garrick Green where she became head in 2007.



Early in her career, Beccy spent a number of years teaching abroad, but it's the Garrick Green and Lodge Lane school communities which will always be closest to her heart.

Beccy said: "Both schools are such wonderful communities to be part of and that's what's made me stay so long - knowing the families so well, and watching children develop from birth, go through school and then come back to visit."

"It's a privilege to see children being engaged in their learning and loving school but I have also enjoyed working with incredible colleagues, empowering them to develop in their roles and help the schools go from strength to strength."

"I will miss the camaraderie, the amazing team spirit and the way everyone supports each other."

We wish Bal and Beccy all the best with their next adventures!

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

Children at Lodge Lane listening to their heartbeat during a visit from a local vet.



The parents of Garrick Green Infant School nominated Jade Class to win the ROARR world book day competition.



Seal class at Burnham Market released the butterflies they helped hatch.



We love this entry to Hellesdon High School's Historical egg competition!

Alderman Peel students feature on Anglia News' VE Day 80th Anniversary coverage



Kinsale Y6 football team won their match against Old Catton.



Making hand puppets at Arden Grove.



Art lessons at Wells Primary.

Kinsale students spend time with the people at Redlands House Care Home.



This is one of four baby chicks settling into their new home after being hatched at Heather Avenue.



Do you run a group or club?

Are you looking for somewhere to meet regularly? Or somewhere to host a one-off event?

Many of our schools have facilities which you can use as your base.

Whether you're running exercise or antenatal classes, slimming world sessions, adult education classes or drama groups, we can help accommodate you.

If you're interested in talking to us about using our facilities, please get in contact with Kris Hart by emailing k.hart@wensumtrust.org.uk or call 01603 254327.

Alternatively you can visit our website www.wensumtrust.org.uk to look at all the facilities we have on offer across the Trust.



"We are delighted to have access to the great facilities at the Wensum Trust. As a grassroots football club, they have been able to support us in providing good quality facilities at each of the formats we need; 5, 7, 9 & 11 a side, at prices that mean we can make football accessible for the children of our community."

Dan Henry Costessey Youth

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