

June 2026

Dear Parent/ Carers,

We really enjoyed meeting all our new parents at our Welcome Evening last Thursday and we hope you found the event useful. For any parents who were unable to attend, the tutor PowerPoint and speeches will be shared on our school website this week for you to view. Our transition area can be found on our homepage drop down menu, under the parent tab.

Student Welcome Days

23rd and 24th June 8.45am- 3.15pm

A reminder our student Welcome Days are running next week, on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June. Each tutor group will be following their own personalised timetable for the two days, experiencing a range of different Year 7 curriculum 'taster lessons'. They will also have the opportunity to meet their tutor and follow a treasure hunt to help them learn their way around the school.

Both days will be starting at 8.45am and finishing at 3.15pm. We request students arrive for 8.45am, enter through main reception where they will then be directed to the hall to sit in their tutor groups, prior to the day starting. We encourage parents not to wait outside the school gate after dropping off students, to avoid crowds and congestion along Croft Road.

Students will need to wear their **primary school PE kits** on both days. It is due to be very warm weather. Students will also need to bring a pencil case and packed lunch with them both days and a spare bottle of water and sun cream due to the warm weather.

At 3.15pm we will be dismissing students for the day. We encourage parents not to park outside the school, along Croft Road but to arrange to pick up their child somewhere nearby. Alternatively, students can walk home. Croft Road can become very busy, so we do ask that parents are considerate of our neighbours when making pick up arrangements.

Sports Camp

We are very pleased to be able to offer a Summer Sports Camp which is taking place on the 27th and 28th July, 10am – 3pm. If you wish to sign up your child you can do this via Parent Mail. If your child receives Free School Meals, please do contact finance@theappletonschool.org and they can look at allocating you a place free of charge.

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

Croft Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN **Tel:** 01268 794215

Email: info@theappletonschool.org **Website:** www.theappletonschool.org

School Uniform and PE Kit:

Attached alongside this email is a flyer from Khalsa Schoolwear sharing information about their Pop Up Shop Event on the Wednesday 29th July. Different timings have been allocated, depending on your child's surname. Timings for the additional day on the 13th August will be shared closer to the event.

School Day Structure September 2026

To confirm our school day in September will start at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm. Following extensive research, consultation, and visits to a number of the highest-performing schools locally and nationally, we are pleased to confirm that from September 2026, we will be introducing a new internal structure to the school day built around four 80-minute lessons.

This revised model has been carefully designed around educational research and evidence-informed practice, including principles from Doug Lemov's influential work *Teach Like a Champion*. The longer lesson structure allows teachers greater opportunity to embed key teaching strategies such as modelling, checking for understanding, guided practice, purposeful independent practice, and responsive feedback within a single lesson. This supports greater depth of learning and stronger retention of knowledge over time.

The revised model will also allow us to create a more balanced and effective day for students while ensuring that lunchtime is distributed more effectively across the school. Under the new structure, half of the school will have an earlier lunch period, while the other half will continue to have lunch at the same time to the current arrangement. This staggered approach will help improve the overall experience for students throughout the day while also reducing congestion around social spaces and dining areas.

The proposed structure of the school day is outlined below:

Time	KS3
8:30 – 9:50	Lesson 1
9:50 – 9:55	Transition
9:55 – 11:15	Lesson 2
11:15 – 11:35	Break
11:35 – 12:55	Lesson 3
12:55 – 1:25	Elevate Programme *
1:25 – 1:55	Lunch
1:55 – 3:15	Lesson 4
3:15 – 4:15	Enrichment (optional)

There are a number of significant educational benefits to this approach:

- Increased curriculum time in core subjects, allowing students more opportunity to develop depth of understanding and secure key knowledge.
- Longer lessons reduce disruption caused by frequent movement around the school and allow teachers to deliver learning in greater depth.
- Improved opportunities for practical work, extended writing, retrieval practice, modelling, and purposeful independent practice within a single lesson.
- Greater opportunities for high-quality teacher feedback and responsive teaching.
- A calmer and more structured day with fewer transitions between lessons.
- Research and evidence from other schools suggest that longer lesson models can be particularly beneficial for students with SEND, as they reduce cognitive overload associated with multiple transitions and allow more time for consolidation and support.
- Timing of lunch period for KS4/5 facilitates a full lunch break prior to afternoon examination periods.

The structure of our 80-minute lessons will continue to reflect our whole-school approach to teaching and learning through:

- “I teach”
- “We check”
- “You practise”

In addition, the revised *elevate programme will provide dedicated time for reading, assemblies, Citizenship and SRE, careers education, and wider personal development opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming all our new students on Tuesday 23rd June at 8.45am and please email the school on info@theappletonschool.org if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Miss B Cooper
Assistant Headteacher
Lead KS2 – KS3 Transition