The Appleton School
Parent Bulletin

Communication

Please follow us online for up-to-date information.

RAAC Update

We are incredibly pleased to announce that the school is fully open from Monday. As a community we’ve been waiting for this news and we’re just happy that this positive news came this side of half term so we can get on with the business of supporting the students.

FAQs

Is there a plan for extra support?
As you can imagine our priority has been to chase up the surveyor reports and getting the site ready for all students on Monday. Our next steps will be to look at what extra support can be put in place, prioritising the students with limited time in school i.e. our exam years, and then working back through the school. We hope to have more information on this shortly. The Headteacher will continue to meet with representatives from the DfE to champion this cause.

Will practical subjects be able to resume quickly?
Yes. No-one is chomping at the bit more than our practical subject teachers!

Will the extra-curricular timetable resume in full?
Yes, that is being pulled together now and will be communicated shortly.

Will you be covering online material, again in class?
Not necessarily. The curriculum is designed to have regular revision of material built into it, to help students break down revision and support long-term retention.

We also have assessment windows coming up in the school calendars; assessments are a very useful teaching tool, they help us to understand issues with individual student understanding and the whole class.

If an assessment identifies an area that needs to be revisited this will then be addressed by the classroom teacher. Heads of Faculty also review assessment data, if they identify an area of concern across the year group they will then centrally put a plan in place to support the students.
Shoutouts!

DT

Ms Bowles would like to give a huge congratulations to the Design and Technology Group 10B, who have all worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks at home. With special praise to the following students for the high standard of work they have completed already.

Anthony Nguyen
Jake Humphries
Taylor Parmenter
Lexi Roth

SCIENCE

Mr Hannan would like to give a shout out to Jake Judge, who has been excellent in Physics and trying incredibly hard every lesson!
Shoutouts!

**ENGLISH**

Ms N Cox
Jack Allen
Jessica Verlander
Both for fantastic work and outstanding effort in lessons

Emmy Coldham
Zane-Joel Lewis
Both having high aspirations in English

Ms Levey would like to Shout out to Megan Peacock in y11 for this fabulous piece of Macbeth homework please!
Shoutouts!

MATHS
Ms S Cohen
Would like to praise the following students for having such incredibly neat books and working so hard in lessons. These students were encouraged to show their books to Mr Hannan at breaktime who was very impressed!!

Well done: Ryley Cheesman, Stephany Sandu, and Alicia Morton
Sports Achievement

Just wanted to give a shout out to our U16 Netball Squad who have been together mostly since Year 7 (and trained all through COVID despite not having matches).

They played in the county qualifying tournament today and beat Belfairs, Westcliff High and King John to go through to the County Champs. This hasn't happened for a fair number of years.

Many of the year 11 girls regularly helped with the younger years' training and a couple have umpired at district rallies for the younger girls.

**Year 11**
- Elise Bryant
- Olivia Conway
- Issy Hilz
- Matilda Wright
- Lilly Wright
- Urte Sabulyte
- Ava Goodwin
- Erykah Haggar

**Year 10**
- Lexi Dobroch
- Jess Stafford
**Christmas Card House Competition**

Following the success of last year’s design, the Christmas card House competition where two of our students’ cards was our official Christmas card and sent out to over 100 associates of the school. We are delighted to announce that we will be running this competition again this year with an entry deadline of Wednesday 18th October 2023. This is open to all students in Key Stage Three. If your child is a keen artist and would like to enter this competition please encourage them to design a card of either A4 or A5 and hand this to the Art Department teachers either Mr Barry or Miss Riley we will then judge the winner and announce them at the end of Term. The winner and runners-up will receive House Points and a reward.
Essex Local Offer Roadshows

Are you the parent/carer or family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Do you have questions about accessing support in your area or questions about SEND support available in Essex through Health, Education and Social Care? Would you like to link up with other parents in your area?

If you do, please come along and see us at the Roadshow. There will be representatives from Essex Family Forum, SENDIASS, health, social care as well as representatives from the education teams, SEND Navigation Leads and local support groups. The roadshow is a drop-in event with no need to book.

This term for South Essex we will be at:

Ingatestone Community Centre, 7 High Street, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 9ED

Thursday 2 November
9am to 12.30pm

Please go to the Essex Local Offer to find out addresses and more (QR and link below).

https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows
Performing Arts Extra Curricular during remote teaching

**Drama Club**, Wednesday Afterschool. Offered to any students on site. 3pm-4pm in the gym.

**Harmonics**, Thursday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Harmonics can attend even if working from home on this day. Harmonics will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in i2.

**Dynamix**, Thursday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Dynamix can attend even if working from home on this day. Dynamix will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in the gym.

**Session Band**, Friday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Session Band can attend even if working from home on this day. Session Band will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in i3.

Any questions please contact Mrs Edwards-Ricketts, Head of Performing Arts

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Update: One-to-one Instrumental lessons (with Essex Music Service)

I would like to inform all instrumental pupils that their one-to-one instrumental lessons will still be delivered this term, and will be following the format below:

**For pupils who are working from home - your lesson will be as timetabled online with your instrumental tutor.**
You will be sent to your tutor’s Zoom Room details to join the meeting. (This will be sent to the appropriate parents/carers through SpeedAdmin).

**For pupils who are in school, your lesson will be rearranged to a later date.**
Your missed lessons will be made up across the term by your individual tutors and you will still be getting your 10 lessons for the term.

We are hoping that this setup will only be temporary till we are able to work out spacing within the school. Thank you once again for your patience and support through this arrangement.

Any questions please contact Miss Thai, Head of Music
We are excited to launch the new MindCare@Appleton website, spearheaded by Ms Sangha, our Head of Wellbeing and support. This webpage is for our students to help their wellbeing and mental health, and is informed by the results from the Student Surveys conducted last term.

Please click here to access it. Students will need to log in using their school Google accounts to access it.

At the Appleton School, your child’s emotional wellbeing is important to us.

With the current situation in school, we understand that your child may be experiencing some anxiety, or have some worries adapting to some of the temporary changes we have had to make in school.

If, you feel your child may need some support with their wellbeing, or would benefit from further intervention, then please feel free to contact me at the following email address: info@theappletonschool.org where it can then be forwarded onto Mrs Benson.

Where appropriate, Mrs Benson will work with your child, either remotely or in person in order to support them. If necessary, Mrs Benson is able to signpost parents/carers to other members of staff or external organisations.

May we remind you that if you have any safeguarding concerns, then these should be directed to the school Safeguarding Team, in accordance with the school’s Safeguarding Policy. This information can be found on the school website.
Safeguarding

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
AMONG US

A multiplayer social deduction game set in space, Among Us has grown in popularity in recent years and has since been marketed to younger audiences. The game involves players working together or against each other to complete tasks and identify impostors. While the game can be enjoyed by players of all ages, it is important for parents and carers to be aware of the potential risks and strategies to help ensure a safe and enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are randomly designated to be alien impostors, tasked with murdering their colleagues and making the majority of the players believe they are working towards a common goal. The difficulty of the game can be adjusted to make it more or less challenging, depending on the player's age and skill level.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The game's premade characters may be embarrassing and inappropriate to sensitive players, including those with conditions such as autism. The game does not have a robust system to prevent inappropriate comments or harassment.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 40 people participating in each game, it is possible for players to use foul language or engage in inappropriate or offensive behavior. If your child is participating, it is important to monitor their screen time and set rules for appropriate behavior.

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us has an appealing gameplay, many parents may prefer more family-friendly games. There are a variety of safe and engaging games available that can help children develop important social skills.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might want to let your child know that some people might be engaged in inappropriate or offensive behavior during gameplay. It is important to discuss appropriate behavior and set rules for acceptable online interactions.

DISCUSS DISCORD

Among Us has its own chat room called Discord. It is important to discuss the rules and consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior, including inappropriate comments or harassment.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a variety of games, including Among Us. It is important to monitor your child's screen time and set rules for appropriate behavior during online interactions.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child engaging in inappropriate or harmful online interactions, you can set up a secure email server for them to use. This will help prevent them from being exposed to inappropriate content or making inappropriate purchases.

Meet Our Expert

Jeff Greenfield is a Safeguarding Expert who advises parents and guardians on appropriate and safe online gaming practices.
Anyone for Tennis?

24TH & 25TH OCTOBER
KIDS OCTOBER CAMPS
HADLEIGH PARK LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Looking for an activity for your kids over the school holidays? Why not join us and sign them up for a tennis camp?

10 AM – 2PM MINI RED & ORANGE (4–9 YEARS)
10AM – 2PM JUNIOR GREEN & YELLOW (10+ YEARS)

Prices:
Member – £20 per day
Non Member – £22 per day

For more information or to book a place, please contact Graham on 07745 943403
News Spotlight

You're invited to the Digital Hub Launch Event!

Join us 17-18th October at ACL Colchester for the launch of our new Digital Hub! Book your FREE digital taster or visit us between 9am – 8pm to view the new building, receive a goody bag, and to enrol on a course.

Find us at: ACL Colchester, Barrack St, Colchester CO1 2LR

Digital Hub - ACL Essex

Find careers guidance...

Essex Careers Magazine
An all-age magazine to help you find a job, change roles or secure a new training opportunity in Essex.

Edition 2 available
https://online.flippingbook.com/view/852446650/

Series 3 Episode 5 available now!

In October 2023, the nation’s number one apprenticeship employer, the British Army, celebrates 100 years of offering apprenticeships – but what does an apprenticeship in the British Army look like? What options are available? And how do you go about getting on an Army apprenticeship?

To answer those questions and plenty more, host Rachel Burden is joined by Colonel Craig Terblanche, who is part of the Education Training Services team in the British Army and Deputy Assistant to the Chief of Staff within Education.

https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/
Subject Spotlight

WHY STUDY...

ART & DESIGN

Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

JOBS

Art Therapist
Digital Marketer
Artist
Photographer
Multimedia Programmer
Graphic Designer
Interior Designer
Museum/Gallery
Exhibitions Officer

SKILLS

- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Contextual Interpretation
- Presentation
- Written Communication
- Teamwork

PATHWAYS

APPRENTICESHIPS

- Head Chef
- Live Event Manager
- Broadband Production
- Advertising and Marketing
- Craft and technical role in Film and TV
- Creative Craft
- Costume and Wardrobe
- Interactive Design
- Digital Learning Design
- Animation

FURTHER EDUCATION

- A-Level - Art and Design
- A-Level - Graphics
- A-Level - Design Technology
- T-Level - Craft and Design
- T-Level - Digital Production, Design and Development
- T-Level - Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- BTEC - Art and Design
- BTEC - Design Technology
- BTEC - Media Studies

GREATER ESSEX CAREERS HUB

CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY
Interested in Training to be a Teacher?

Join us at our virtual recruitment event to find out more about our training programme from September 2024

16th October at 7pm, via Zoom

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/BTSA-Oct23

In Partnership with TES Institute
South Essex College — SEN Open Event & Newsletter

South Essex College Group would like to invite students and their parents/guardians to their SEN Open event at Southend College on Thursday 12th October between 5-7pm.

Please follow the link to access this article and their newsletter: https://southessexcollege.cm/7e-ttt45a-nzthjley-b/

Love Your Library Day - Event Hadleigh Library

On Saturday October 7th Hadleigh Library are hosting Love your Library Day for Teens to raise awareness of the many free services they can access simply by having a library card.

In addition, there will be a drop-in creative writing session which if successful could become a regular group held in the library.

Hadleigh Library is a welcoming and safe space for young people offering study space, free WiFi and computer access, free access to audio and e-books, and of course access to thousands of print items from over 200 libraries.

We’re books
But we’re not just books
Find out how we help teens at your local library on Saturday 7 October for Love Your Library Day!

Calling all young creative writers!

• Are you a budding writer at secondary school?
• Do you love writing stories, scripts, poems, or just scribbling down thoughts?
• Want to develop your skills and meet others who love to write?
• Scribblers is a safe and supportive session for young creative writers of any genre.

Drop in Session
12-2pm
Saturday 7th October
Hadleigh Library
SEE YOU THERE!
Autumn Term Dates

Friday 20th October non pupil day  
Monday 23rd October – 27th October Half Term  
Wednesday 20th December last day of term

Spring Term Dates

Thursday 4th January 24 students return  
Monday 19th February – 23rd February Half Term  
Friday 8th March  non pupil day  
Thursday 28th March  last day of term

Summer Term Dates

Monday 15th April  students return  
Monday 6th May Bank Holiday  
Monday 27th May-31st May Half Term  
Friday 19th July last day of term

GCSE Revision Resources

We have provided a wide range of resources to aid your son/daughter when it comes to their revision for each of their examination subjects.  
http://www.theappletonschool.org/students/revision-resources

A-Level Revision Resources

We have provided a wide range of resources to aid your son/daughter when it comes to their revision for each of their examination subjects.  
http://www.theappletonschool.org/sixth-form/student-life/ks5-resources