



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin – Summer Term

Key Dates

W/B 15th June – Y10/12 PPEs

18th June- Year 11 Leavers' Day

18th June- Year 6 into Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening

25th June-Year 8 parents evening

23rd and 24th June – Welcome Days For Year6 into Year 7

29th June to 3rd July- Year 12 Work Experience

6th – 10th July- Year10 Work Experience

Monday 15th June 2026

As we now come to end of the Year 11 and Year 13 exam period, we now enter the Year 10 and Year 12 PPE (Pre-Public Examinations). We wish all of our Year 11 and 13 students the best of luck with their results and the Year 10 and 12 with their PPEs.

Resources to support students are here:

<https://theappletonschool.org/students/revision-resources>

On Thursday the school will have a later start to accommodate the Year 11 Clearance Morning. Then on Friday we'll celebrate the end of Year 11 with the Year 11 prom.

On Sunday some of the GCSE Astronomy students went to the Theatre with Mr Hannan, Dr Hunt and Mrs Navarro to see "The Night Sky" show, the students were impeccably behaved and it was an enjoyable night for all.

PE Fixtures

Thursday
-Junior District Athletics

School Lunches

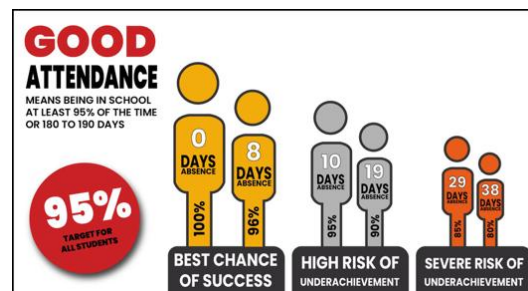
Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Roast Of the Day	Sweet Chilli Chicken	Chicken, Chorizo Rice Pot	Chicken / Beef Burger
Stuffed Peppers	Vegetarian Quiche	Vegetable Chow Mein	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Burger
Parmentier Potatoes	Roast Potatoes & Cauliflower Cheese	Potato Wedges	Parmentier Potatoes	Potato Wedges
Steamed Broccoli Florets	Roast Parsnips, Carrots & Green Beans	Egg Fried Rice	Carrots & Broccoli	Green Beans & Sweetcorn
Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
Dessert of the Day	Apple Crumble	Dessert of the Day	Apple Crumble	Dessert of the Day

Attendance

Congratulations to the following form group for the best attendance this week:

709
805
907
1009





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Instagram



<https://www.instagram.com/theappletonschool?igsh=MXEzdzY2bnQ5bzI6ZW==>



We would like to congratulate Teddy Thompson in year 7 for his incredible efforts in raising over £400 for Level Water, who use the power of swimming to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

Teddy recently took part in a 25-hour swim and completed 62 lengths of the pool — the equivalent of one mile. We are very proud of the efforts that Teddy has made to help others. He also had the opportunity to see and speak to Brock Whiston (British Paralympic gold medallist swimmer and four-time world record holder). Well done, Teddy!



Miss Gardiner gives a shout out to The Year 10 Beauty Therapy class who had an end of half term competition and the theme was 'Met Gala - All Out Glam'. Within this brief they had different categories that they had to complete too, like 'full coverage dewy or matte base'.

They did really well . Well done!



Dr Hunt went along to Buckingham Palace with one of our year 13 student Alysa Radescu and precious student Miles Housden who received their Gold medal award for the Duke Of Edinburgh congratulation to both of them.



Achieving Excellence



Rosa Brin in Year 10 went to Paargway to represent Northern Ireland for football.

The Northern Ireland team stayed in the National football hotel, whose complex included the South American Football museum (which is currently home to the World Cup - good timing) and overlooked the pitch, so not far to travel.

The girls had a full daily training schedule but also learned about commitment, discipline and social behaviour while living and working with each other as well as the other teams involved in the tournament.

On the last day of the trip, the British ambassador to Paraguay invited the Irish team to her house for a farewell BBQ. This was a once in a lifetime experience and we are incredibly proud of Rosa!





Cadent Gas Works – London Road

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please be aware that we have been informed by the Local Authority that there will be gas works taking place on the London Road **from Monday 25th May for 14 weeks.**

Further details, including details of lane closures, can be found via the QR code on the attached poster from Cadent.

Cadent will also be holding a drop-in event with a Cadent gazebo, for any businesses or residents who wish to talk to them. The gazebo event will be held outside of Nisa Extra, 117 London Road, South Benfleet, SS7 5UH on Tuesday 26th May from 1pm – 4pm.

Students who travel to/from school via London Road may need to allow additional time for their journey. **This is particularly important for all students sitting exams between 25th May and the end of the summer term.**

We are in communication with Cadent regarding road closures in the summer holiday period. We will write to parents/carers of Year 11 & 13 students nearer the time to detail arrangements for students coming into school to collect exam results on Thursday 13th August, (A-level results day) and Thursday 20th August, (GCSE results day).

Cadent
Your Gas Network

Essential gas works *London Road, Benfleet*

- 25 May 2026 for 14 weeks
- We're working in your area to upgrade the ageing gas pipes
- These works will keep you safe, warm and connected
- Please plan extra time for your journeys
- Thank you for your patience
- Find out more: cadentgas.com/benfleet

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Achieving Excellence



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#rebuildthelibrary

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Achieving Excellence



The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back! National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 17th June!

Celebrate the amazing people who support your young person every day.

SAVE THE DATE

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
TEACHERS AND SUPPORT
STAFF ACROSS THE UK**



Send a Free Personalised Card → thankateacher.co.uk

Want to make someone's day? If you know a special teacher, dedicated support staff member or even a whole school team, let them know how grateful you are by sending a free e-card on the Thank a Teacher website using the link below:





Although online safety, as defined in our existing advice, covers and trusted adults with the intention to hold children and young people accountable about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which can be a trusted adult should be aware of. Please refer to our national advice on online safety for more information on other issues.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LOOT BOXES

Marketed as increasing a player's enjoyment of a game, loot boxes are usually purchased or given as rewards. When opened, they unlock items for use in the game, such as better weapons or new characters to play as. Loot boxes feature in many games and are therefore available to various age groups. They have often been criticised for enabling gambling: the odds of unlocking certain items can seem astronomical, while the money being spent is often high compared to the potential reward. It's imperative that trusted adults understand the risks that loot boxes can pose.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MOUNTING COSTS

Loot boxes can be bought with in-game currency or earned as rewards for completing tasks, but many of them are paid for with real money. Prices vary from game to game, and purchases can stack up quickly. It's easy for children to spend on loot boxes, especially if they really want the items on offer – a recent survey found that 27% of young gamers were unaware loot boxes actually had a cost at all.

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

The sense of anticipation, and the feeling of joy when unearthing a rare or highly wanted item, can make opening loot boxes very addictive. As the boxes give out such random items which vary in usefulness or rarity, players often end up striving for the less common items – as well as chasing the 'buzz' of finding one. Loot boxes can be compared to scratch cards, delivering similar highs and lows.

NORMALISING GAMBLING

Because loot boxes cost money for the chance – but no guarantee – of unearthing a big reward, it's easy to see the link to gambling. If you spend a set amount of money, with no idea of what they'll get in return once the loot box is open, it could be the best item in the game, or the worst. Many gamers are beginning to phrase out loot boxes completely in avoid gambling loot.

ADVANCED SCAMS

Most games don't let players trade the items they get in loot boxes, but a few offer up a few exceptions with other players. This could lead to young gamers being tricked or harassed into trading items they paid for or won fairly. Some items from some games can be quite valuable and are bought and sold on the 'grey market', using online sites – leaving children vulnerable to being scammed.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER THE ODDS

It's a smart move to check the odds on the items in the loot boxes, so you know how likely it is to find a particular reward. Show your child and explain to them whether it's likely for them to find that they'll find the item they want inside the box. Of course, there's a sizeable element of chance – but if an item says it's likely to drop once out of every 10,000 boxes, it's wise to adjust your child's expectations.

RESTRICT SPENDING

Even if you're happy for your child to purchase loot boxes, it's not to restrict how much they can spend. Options include setting a temporary payment method, or making sure they ask permission first. If a credit or debit card is linked to the gaming account, careful young players could soon run up an eye-watering bill. Ensure your child recognises how much each box costs and understands that they're using real money.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most video gaming consoles, as well as the individual games, allow parents and carers to place purchasing restrictions on the child's account. This is an effective way to avoid overspending or prevent children from buying any loot boxes in the first place, but all games offer this feature, so it's best to investigate your options on each new game before your child starts playing it.

DISCUSS THE RISKS

Be open with your child about how much loot boxes (and individual item purchases) cost, and how the system works in terms of probability. If a child realises it's unlikely they'll get that rare reward, they may prefer to spend their money on a guaranteed item – like a skin in the olden days – instead of gambling on a loot box. Outline how other people might try to exploit online trading systems to steal their valuable items.

Meet Our Expert

David Spence is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written IT guides for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Minecraft, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With weekly daily updates on the news, social, mobile games and Web3, he has reviewed more than 10 games and products over the past year.





H.O.M.E HUB

HELPING • OVERCOMING • MOTIVATING • EXPLORING

SEN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY MONDAY 7 - 9 P M

HOME Hub, 88 Brook Road, South Benfleet Playing Fields, SS7 5JF



Join us every Monday evening in a warm, welcoming space to talk with others who truly understand. Connect with people in similar situations, make new friends, join in some light games, unwind, or just simply be.

- Free Parking.
- Hot & Cold Drinks Available.
- Monthly Guest Speakers.



Important update for schools: Changes to support funds for families

Dear All,

We are writing to update you on national changes to household support funding and to outline how Essex County Council will continue supporting families across the county.

As you will be aware, the Government has ended the Household Support Fund (HSF) with effect from March 2026. This means the food voucher scheme previously funded through HSF has now closed, and no further food vouchers will be issued under this programme.

We recognise that this change may raise questions from families, and we want to reassure you that support for vulnerable households will continue and will be delivered through new arrangements and via a new fund.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will launch on 1 April 2026. This fund is designed to support low-income households facing sudden financial pressures.

It also aims to help build long term financial resilience across communities.

The CRF will include:

- crisis payments for urgent, unexpected financial pressures
- housing payments to support households with shortfalls in housing costs
- resilience services including financial guidance, money management support and access to wider community services

Details on how families will be able to apply for support will be shared with schools before the scheme launches in April.



Essex County Council

Support for families during school holidays

Although national voucher funding has ended, Essex County Council is expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

This means more eligible children will have access to:

- free and enriching holiday activities
- free nutritious food
- opportunities to socialise, be active and learn new skills

Booking details will continue to be issued to eligible families via schools and HAF providers.

We have included some links below that you may find useful and may want to share with families. We have also included some Q&As that you might find useful should you get any further questions from families.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)

Thank you for your continued support.



Q&As

1. Why are there no more free holiday food vouchers?

The holiday food vouchers were funded through the national Household Support Fund (HSF). The government fund has now ended this scheme. This means that the Council is no longer able to issue vouchers through that scheme.

The last vouchers were provided in December 2025.

Although the voucher scheme is closed, support for families has not stopped.

Essex County Council has put in place new forms of support through the government's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), launching on 1 April. The council is also increasing Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions across the county. These free clubs will offer free childcare, nutritious food and activities for children.

2. Who decided there would be no more free food vouchers?

The decision to end the vouchers was made by the UK Government.

Local councils must follow national guidance which states that issuing vouchers under this fund is not permitted.

3. I'm not happy about there being no more vouchers – who do I complain to?

You can share feedback directly with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which oversees national welfare funding.

Anyone in financial hardship and needing urgent support should visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)



4. What support is there instead of food vouchers?

Support is still available.

From April 1 people needing support can apply to the Crisis Resilience Fund for:

- **crisis payments** to help residents facing urgent financial shock
- **housing payments** for those struggling with housing costs
- **resilience services**, which offer help with budgeting, financial guidance and wider support

Expanded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions are also available via Activate.

These free clubs give eligible children access to free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

These new options aim to provide more flexible and longer-term support than vouchers alone.

5. How do I get this support?

Essex residents will be able to apply for Crisis Payments and Housing payments through a simple online application when the new scheme launches in April 2026.

Information about eligibility and how to apply will be published on the Essex County Council website.

Families whose children are eligible for HAF/Activate will receive information through their school and can book sessions online or through participating providers.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)



We need your voice!



Your experiences are key to shaping the future of mental health and wellbeing services in Essex. Young people's mental health is hugely important and you can help to change local services for the better.

If you are a child or young person up to the age of 23 (or up to 25 if you have special educational needs and disabilities), you can be involved in many different ways.



- Create videos, online blogs and respond to other digital tasks
- Share your experiences, views and opinions to help Commissioners improve and develop local mental health services
- Attend Young Mental Health Ambassador meet ups and build your network

Interested?



If you would like to apply for this great opportunity, contact our Engagement Officer, Renee Robey, on:

renee.robey@healthwatchesessex.org.uk
07483 329411



@hiddenvoiceshwe



@HWEssex



healthwatch-essex

www.healthwatchesessex.org.uk



Spring Term The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.

 The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!

 Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm

 This term we are in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and Basildon



Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<http://www.send-essex.org.uk/think-my-child-needs-help/areas-local-offer-roadshows>

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AGED 11 TO 18

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ESSEX YOUTH
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£3 PER WEEK AFTER





SEND School Age Drop-in

An opportunity to get advice and support in a relaxed and non judgemental environment

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-diagnosed children welcome.

2nd Thursday of the month
Starting 8th January 2026
11:30 - 12:30

No need to book - Just drop in!

Little Lions Family Hub Delivery
Third Avenue, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9SU

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Service commissioned by:  



 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

THE BIG FUTURE

**The Children's Commissioner,
Dame Rachel de Souza, has
launched The Big Future survey.**

It's your chance to have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today - what you love, what worries you, how you have fun, and the changes you want for a better future.

There are questions about voting, school, your area, online safety, and space for you to tell her what you think is important!

**It takes less than 10 minutes to
complete the survey.**



Take part now:
childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture
#TheBigFuture @childrenscommissioner



**CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

THE BIG FUTURE

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