



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin

04.10.24

Key Dates

10.10.24
Year 7 meet the tutor
evening

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House System

Congratulations to all pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 and 10 for your achievement points that you have earned since the start of the academic year.



House	Grand Total
Austen	4167
Nightingale	3842
Tull	4375
Turing	4349
Grand Total	16733

Attendance & Achievement

How much does attendance impact on achievement and success?

The school's expectation of attendance is at least 97%. The impact on good attendance on your progress is shown in the table below with 94% of students achieving their target grades at the end of year 11. The higher your attendance the best possible chance of personal success!

Attendance %	Achieve expected target grades.	You will only achieve your target grade in:
<80%	20%	2 of your subjects
80-84.9%	33%	3 of your subjects
85-89.9%	46%	4 of your subjects
		You will achieve your target grade in:
90-91.9%	53%	5 out of 9 subjects
92-95.9%	75%	7 out of 9 subjects
96%	84%	8 out of 9 subjects
97%	94%	9 out of 9 subjects



Correspondence sent out this week

Date	Letter	Year/Whole school
02.10.24	Administration of Medicines	YR7
27.09.24	Parental resource letter regarding Science	YR10 & 11





General Notices

Vision and Values

Currently, our students are reviewing the core vision and values of our school. Our vision is that we are “achieving excellence” together. Our core values help us learn important qualities and behaviours that encourage us to be responsible and kind citizens, and help us grow as individuals and in friendships.

- ⇒ **Respect:** We should appreciate everyone in our community. We are all unique and deserve kindness. We should also take care of our school family and wider community.
- ⇒ **Resilience:** It's important to face challenges bravely. We can learn from our mistakes and successes. We should be ready for changes and handle tough times calmly.
- ⇒ **Community:** We are all part of the Appleton family. Let's all work together to make our school a happy place. We should be proud of our diverse community and get involved.
- ⇒ **Aspiration:** We should aim high and always try our best. Let's work hard to do well in everything we do.

Respect

Recognise the value we all give to society. Recognise we are all different from one another and deserve respect. Care for our immediate and wider environment. With respect being fostered by our community we will **excel together**.

Resilience

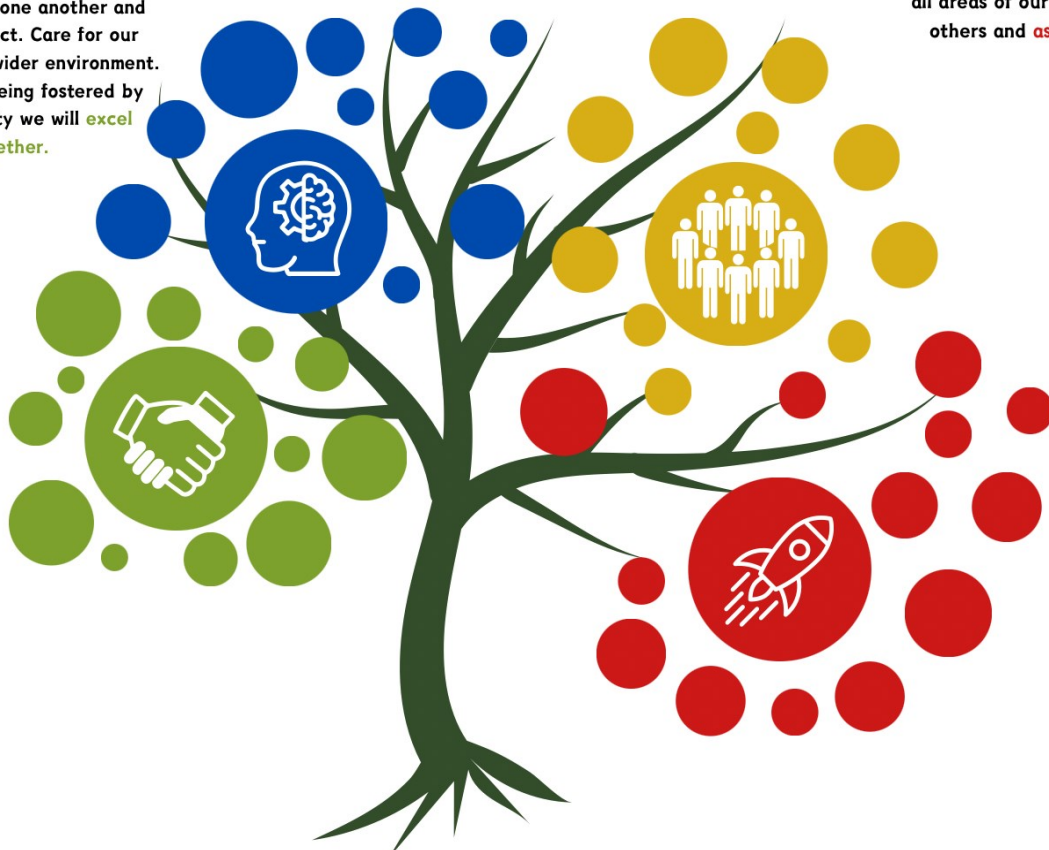
Embrace the opportunity to face challenges. Value the chance to learn and grow from both our successes and mistakes. Adapt to change and manage stress to overcome set-backs, leading to us to **persevere together**.

Community

Commit to making a positive contribution to our Appleton Family. Value and connect with our diverse community with purpose and pride. By working together we will **innovate together**.

Aspiration

Commit to ambitious individual goals and have high expectations. Demonstrate motivation to thrive in all areas of our lives. To inspire others and **aspire together**.





General Notices

Uniform

During the school term we have noticed that the students' uniform is not meeting the usual high standards and we ask for parental support in ensuring the students are meeting the expectations. Going forward we will be confiscating any items that are not part of our uniform policy, this includes jewellery and sports tops/hoodies.

In warmer weather we permit students to take off blazers but they should be on their person and a sports jacket or hoody should not be worn as a replacement.

A link to the school's uniform expectations is here: <https://theappletonschool.org/parents/uniform-and-equipment>.

If there are any issues with uniform e.g. shoes are broken, then please just send your child in with a note so an exemption pass can be issued.

FAQs

1. Why a focus on uniform?
The school represents that students are part of the Appleton Community and we want them to be proud of that fact, exactly how a sports team wear the same kit.
2. But uniform does not impact their education?
There have been various studies on this over the years, but a uniform takes off the pressure from students and parents to have the latest designer clothing to allow them to focus on their learning. Further to this, it reduces points of conflict with staff, by meeting the basic uniform expectations means that everyone can focus on the learning in a positive learning environment.



FORMAL PRACTICAL BLACK LEATHER SHOES (or faux leather alternative) which must have a heel and black laces (where applicable).

Not permitted: Sports brands, emblems or logos. Canvas shoes, flat sole style shoes, trainers, high heels or boots.

PLAIN BLACK, FORMAL TROUSERS, which go over shoes.

Not permitted: Jeans, cropped trousers, stretchy, jersey or Lycra. Skinny-fit trousers, jeggings or leggings, brushed cotton/ chino style trousers.

OR

FORMAL BLACK KILTIED SKIRT
Approved length 22 inches

Not permitted: Stretchy, Jersey, Lycra or tube style skirts



MAKE UP AND JEWELLERY

- No false eyelashes
- No nail polish or acrylic nails
- No excessive make-up
- Students are allowed one ring of sensible size, a watch and one stud earring in each ear, no other piercings are permitted.
- No other jewellery allowed

For further details visit the uniform section of The Appleton School website



General Notices

Mobile Phones

A gentle reminder to parents/carers in line with the National Government guidance for schools we have a clear policy of, 'Not seen, not heard, not taken away' across our school site throughout the school day.

If students do need to have a mobile phone to support them in their travel to and from school, we ask that when students arrive in the morning, they turn their phones off and keep them out of sight.

If students are seen using their phones during the school day, their phone will be confiscated. If a student has their phone confiscated three times, the phone will not be returned to the student; instead, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect from school in person.

Please see attached letter which was sent home at the start of the academic year regarding our school's expectations: <https://www.theappletonschool.org/user/pages/04.parents/02.letters-home/02.whole-school/September%20Welcome%20Letter%202024.pdf>

FAQs

1. Why a focus on phones?
According to the GOV.UK website by the age of 12, 97% of children have their own mobile phone, according to Ofcom. Using mobile phones in schools can lead to online bullying, distraction and classroom disruption which, in turn, can lead to lost learning time.

Reminder - the use of mobile phones are not permitted anywhere on the school site during the school day, including break time, lunch time and lesson changeover.





General Notices

Every year the Young Essex Assembly elect a Youth Council for Essex. Every two years, 75 people from all districts are elected to join the YEA.

If your child is interested in standing for election, the pack is attached to this bulletin and you can visit www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk or email yea@essex.gov.uk for further information.

YEA Candidate Pack:

[YEA Candidate Pack 2024.pdf](#)

 Essex County Council

YOUTH SERVICE

The Young Essex Assembly is the elected Youth Council for Essex representing the voice of young people.



What can you bring to the Young Essex Assembly?

If you live or go to school in Essex and are aged between 11-19 or up to 25 if you have additional needs, take your first step to have your voice heard and start your journey to influence change by reading this information pack and contacting us today using the details below.

Closing date for YEA Elections Application is Monday 31 October 2024.

Contact: email yea@essex.gov.uk  [@youngsxassembly](https://twitter.com/youngsxassembly) or visit our website www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk



PE Fixtures

Monday 7th October 2024
Year 8 Rugby Fitz (A)
Year 7 Football Fitz (H)

Tuesday 8th October 2024
U14 Essex Cup Girls Football St Cleres (A)
Year 8 Boys Football Cecil Jones (H)

Wednesday 9th October 2024
Year 7 A Boys Football King John (H)
Year 9 Boys Football King John (H)
U13 Girls Basketball Shoebury (H)
U19 Football Beuchamps (H)

Thursday 10th October 2024
U14 Netball Pre Counties
Year 10 Football King John (A)

Friday 11th October 2024
Year 9 Rugby Fitzwimarc (A)

PE SHOUTOUTS

Well done to the Year 8 Rugby Team who competed in the Rugby Festival on and have qualified for the finals in November.

Year 8 Netball - Appleton 12-5 Greensward

Well done to everyone who has represented the school this week!

Mr S Rowe
Head of Physical Education



Shoutouts

Mrs Glyn gives a shout out to her Year 7 maths group who did really well on their algebra assessments

Mr Hannan has a shout out for the 18 students doing a GCSE in Astronomy after school, he is 'over the Moon' so many have taken up the course! Further to this it looks like the Northern Lights might be visible over the weekend again—best way to see them is with a camera, even your smart phone will do it!



Kenzi Elnasher 807 went to Grantham on Saturday to train with Sensei Frank Brennan 8th Dan on a brown belt course and then herself with 11 others went into another room to try and grade. Only 8 were successful and Kenzi was one of them. She is now a black belt in shotokan karate. We are so proud of her.




**SHOUT
OUT**



Attendance

The Appleton School **Being In School, On Time Really Matters**



Did You Know... ?

If your attendance	You would miss	you are likely to achieve your target grade in
was 97%	5 days of school	9 out of 9 GCSEs
was 95%	9 days of school	7 out of 9 GCSEs
was 92%	15 days of school	5 out of 9 GCSEs
was 90%	19 days of school	4 out of 9 GCSEs
was 85%	29 days of school	3 out of 9 GCSEs

WE WANT YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR BEST

Check your current attendance using the Edulink App

100% Attendance

The Appleton School **100%**

GOLDEN TICKET
for 100% attendance in the last week

This ticket allows the holder to skip the queue in the canteen or pod at breaktime and lunchtime for 1 week in recognition to their commitment to school

Awarded to: _____ Valid until _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Did you know that all students with 100% attendance are entered into a weekly prize draw for a Golden Ticket to jump the queue at break and lunch?

And students with 100% attendance all term receive a special attendance award!

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Matters



Research shows us that there is a direct link between pupils attendance at school and how well they achieve

Congratulations to the following tutor groups who had the best attendance in their year group this week.

704	Mr Polley	96.8%
803	Mr Campbell-Murphy	95.3%
909	Mr Kyprianou/Miss Bowles	97.6%
1007	Miss Pert	92.8%
1107	Mrs Edwards/Mrs Dowle	92.2%



Parent Support Sessions



Parent Support Sessions



Parent Support Session course delivered by Mr Clout
Starting on Tuesday 17th September the course runs for 10 weeks during term time. This course is open to all parents and covers the following topics:

- The parenting philosophy induction session.
- The tug of war!
- Active Listening.
- Praise and Encouragement
- Whose problem is it?
- Consequences!
- Good days and bad days!
- Managing the stress
- Supporting the vulnerable child

The course will run from 6.00pm - 7.30pm on the following dates in N4 at The Appleton School:

- Tuesday 17th, 24th September 2024
- Tuesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd October 2024
- Tuesday 5th, 12th 19th, 26th November

If you wish to attend please call the school and register your interest on 01268 794215 or email your interest to

info@theappletonschool.org



Safeguarding

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These trolls often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.10.2024



Talking About Transition

at The Appleton School

Expert trainers from **Talk The Talk** came into school on **Friday 4th October** to work with **Year 7** students. Talk The Talk's mission is to develop students' **oracy skills** and **communication confidence** to support positive interaction in all life situations and improved social outcomes.

Talk The Talk has trained over 115,000 students to be confident communicators across England and Wales since they began in 2013.

Talk About Transition uses oracy-based activities and strategies to help students develop greater self-confidence and resilience. Delivered as a half day workshop and packed full of engaging activities to promote students' confidence, self-esteem and help build relationships with their new peers, Talk About Transition supports students in a successful transition from primary to secondary school.

Transition to secondary school involves changes that can be both exciting and a cause of concern to students. Successful transition is vital to the development of students' self-confidence, self-esteem and academic competence. Moving on from the safe haven of primary school - one classroom and often one teacher - to a much larger school and the feeling of being a 'small fish in a large pond' can cause worry and anxiety. Our programme embraces this change and allows students to talk about their concerns and how to overcome them – but also the fantastic opportunities that await them – and how best to embrace these.

Talk The Talk

These **Talk About Transition** workshops are part funded by the **Jack Petchey Foundation**.

We really hope that our selected Year 7 students enjoyed participating in the workshop, and can't wait to see how they use their improved communication skills and confidence to help them in other aspects of school life! Well done Year 7.

Talk The Talk
CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE



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Quick Links

[Arbor](#)

[ParentMail](#)

[Google Drive](#)

[Satchel One](#)

[Microsoft Teams](#)

[Never Acceptable](#)

Autumn Term Dates

Friday 20th September **Non-pupil day**

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November **Half term**

Friday 20th December **Last day of term**

GCSE Revision Resources

We have provided a wide range of resources to aid your child 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>

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

The whole school and PE extra-curricular timetables have now been updated.

You can find these time tables on our website.

Please click on the following link to go direct to the site:

<https://www.theappletonschool.org/parents/clubs-and-activities>

Alternatively, you can access the time tables directly via the following links:

https://www.theappletonschool.org/user/pages/04.parents/19.clubs-and-activities/Extra_Curricular_Clubs_and_Activities_Autumn_Term_2024.pdf

https://www.theappletonschool.org/user/pages/04.parents/19.clubs-and-activities/Extra-Curricular_PE_Autumn_Timetable.pdf