



# The Appleton School Parent Bulletin – Autumn Term

## Key Dates

- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Sixth Form Application Deadline**
- **W/B 10<sup>th</sup> November Year 13 Pre-Public Exams week 2**
- **28<sup>th</sup> November – INSET day (students not on site).**

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

What have we been up to?

On Tuesday we celebrated coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Castle Point and Rochford District Cross Country which is our highest place finish. An excellent performance by our students!

This week we have seen the end of our PPE examinations for Year 11 and the midpoint for our Year 13, we want to congratulate our Year 11s and wish good luck to the Year 13 for their remaining exams.

This week we also had our Children in Need non-uniform day where our Senior Prefects also sold Child in Need merchandise so we raised £1715 in total a record breaking amount for our school, so thank you to everyone in our community for your support for such a worthy cause.

Further to this our community gave a respectful representation on Remembrance Day, including our annual cross laying ceremony. We also hold our two-minute silence during break (one of the few schools to do so) but our students were absolutely silent at 11am showing incredible respect to the fallen. We are so proud of our students.



## PE Fixtures

### Monday 17/11

U12 Girls Essex Cup Football v King John (H)

### Tuesday 18/11

U15 National Cup

### Wednesday 19/11

Lee Valley Athletics 8/9 combined (2 boys/2 girls' teams)

### Thursday 20/11

Year 7 Essex Rugby Brentwood

## Attendance

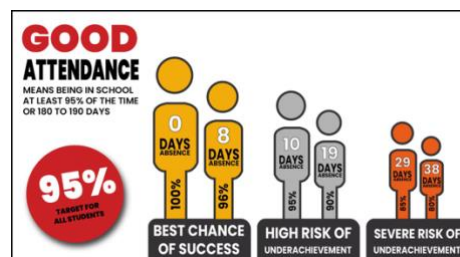
Congratulations to the following form group for the best attendance this week:

708  
804  
903  
1003  
1104

## 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





# Notices

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.



### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!



### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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# Notices



## Congratulations to Our Half-Term EduCake Champions!

We are thrilled to celebrate the dedication and effort of our top EduCake performers from the first half term. These pupils have demonstrated fantastic commitment to their Computer Science studies – well done to all!

- **Year 7:** Janelle Amponsah (7N1)
- **Year 8:** Ruby Woodward (8T2/Cp2)
- **Year 9:** Isabella Ungureanu (9T1)
- **Year 10:** Jensen Winchester
- **Year 11:** Harry Curtis

Keep up the excellent work and let's see who will take the top spot next half term!

Mr Gillooly



# Shout Outs

Mrs Dowle would like to share some of her year 10 Geography students work

Wendy Dawley

## Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan occurred on November 8, 2013 which made landfall in the Philippines

- 6300 were killed
- 2 20,000 displaced / Homeless
- Waves up to 5m storm surge
- 281.9mm of Rainfall

Typhoon Haiyan was among one of the most intense storms ever recorded. It had winds of 230km/h. It happened due to warm ocean temp and low pressure. These conditions allowed the storm to intensify rapidly.

International government and aid agencies were set up with food, aid and water. Homes have been built away from coastal areas. Over 1200 evacuation centers set up.

Primary Effects	Secondary Effects
~ 600,000 people were displaced	~ 6 million people lost their source of income
~ 30,000 fishing boats were destroyed	~ looting and violence broke out
~ Tacloban airport terminal was damaged	~ spread of disease
~ Power lines and crops were destroyed	~ Flooding knocked over Power Lines causing an oil spill affecting mangrove ecosystems
~ Wide spread	~ Schools destroyed affecting education
	~ flooding caused landslides

## TYPHOON HAIYAN

Typhoon Haiyan was an extremely powerful and catastrophic tropical cyclone. It occurred on the 3 November - 11 November 2013.

It took place in the southeast of Asia. It devastated many countries, particularly the Philippines.

Typhoon Haiyan happened due to a combination of natural factors and human influences.

Typhoon Haiyan formed from an area of low pressure in the western Pacific that developed on Nov. 2, 2013 due to warm sea surface pressure and high humidity.

long term responses - rebuilding damaged infrastructure, establishing livelihoods and improving disaster preparedness.

immediate responses - mass evacuations, search and rescue.

Typhoon Haiyan infrared image (approx)

ISSUE 1, 2013      YOUR DAILY FAVOURITE      Philippines

# NEWSPAPER

• The Daily News    • The Daily News    • The Daily News    • The Daily News

## Typhoon Haiyan causes devastation across the Philippines!

Yesterday, a huge typhoon broke free and headed straight to the Philippines.

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 will be a day many people will not forget. At 4:40am the category 5 typhoon hit, being one of the most powerful typhoons to ever affect the Philippines. Wind speeds of up to 240km per hour (150 miles per hour).

Some primary effects caused by typhoon Haiyan were that people were made homeless due to their homes being destroyed. Many people lost loved ones too during this horrific natural disaster. The main airport in the Philippines was demolished leading to local people not being able to evacuate safely.

The death rate so far is known to be around 6200 with many more severely injured and families still searching for loved ones.

The overall estimated damage is around \$13 billion and will take many months if not many years to return to a normal civilization.

## Typhoon Haiyan Chaos!

It has been reported that if local community does not act quickly then infections and diseases could begin to spread due to contaminated surfaces and ground water. Power supplies were lost and will be affected for quite some time, education at most schools have been destroyed.

Food will be expected to rise in price because there will now be very limited food supplies.

The government issued a special warning to the local people preparing them for the after effects of the event and making sure that people are evacuating quickly and safely.

Over 1200 evacuation centers have been set up to help the people who have lost their homes and to keep them safe from the flooding that has occurred.

The devastation from this disaster will continue for many years.



**Appleton has raised an amazing  
£1715 so far today for Children in Need**

**Pudsey thinks we are awesome!**





# LOGO COMPETITION

Yellow Door



## Be part of Canvey's transformation

Over the next 10 years, £20 million of investment will help transform Canvey Island — creating new opportunities and spaces shaped by local people. We're inviting young people aged 11–25 to design the official Canvey Neighbourhood Board logo.

## Your Challenge

- Create a logo using digital, hand-drawn, or mixed media.
- Include the words "Canvey Neighbourhood Board".
- Your design should reflect Canvey's identity, creativity, and community spirit.

## How to Enter

- Send or hand in your logo design to CYP Yellow Door, Yellow Door Youth Hub, Poplar Road, Canvey, SS8 7BN
- Digital: email to [alex@cyp-yellowdoor.org.uk](mailto:alex@cyp-yellowdoor.org.uk)
- Include your name and contact details (and parent/guardian contact if under 16).

**PRIZE: £100 AMAZON  
VOUCHER**

## COMPETITION RULES :

- Open to young people aged 11–25 who live, study, or spend time on Canvey Island.
- All entries must be original work created by the entrant.
- By entering, participants agree that the Canvey Neighbourhood Board may use, reproduce, and adapt their design for publicity, promotion, and official branding purposes.
- The winning design will become the official logo of the Board.
- If the entrant is under 16, a parent or guardian must provide consent.
- Entries must be submitted by Monday, 24th November 2025.
- The judging panel's decision is final.
- The winner will receive a £100 Amazon voucher and be publicly announced by the end of November 2025.

Get your designs to us by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November**



*Achieving Excellence*



### Computer Science Home Learning – Using EduCake

This term, all Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils have been completing their Computer Science home learning through **EduCake**. EduCake is an interactive online platform that allows pupils to practise exam-style questions, receive instant feedback and track their own progress. It's designed to help pupils consolidate their learning in manageable chunks, improving both knowledge recall and exam confidence.

Parents and carers can support their child by checking that weekly EduCake tasks are completed. All Computer Science homework is set and monitored via **Satchel One**, where you can view due dates and completion status. This makes it easy to stay informed and encourage good study habits at home.

### Year 7 Take on the Bebras Computing Challenge!

Over the next two weeks, our Year 7 pupils will be taking part in the **Bebras Computing Challenge**, an international event designed to introduce young people to **computational thinking** — the logical problem-solving skills at the heart of computer science.

The challenge is run **online**, with pupils completing a series of short, interactive puzzles that test their ability to think creatively, logically and systematically. The questions don't require any prior programming knowledge; instead, they encourage pupils to use reasoning, pattern recognition and problem-solving strategies.

Each pupil completes the challenge individually under test conditions, using a school computer. It lasts **45 minutes** and consists of three sections of increasing difficulty.

This is our **first year** taking part in Bebras and we're excited to see how our pupils rise to the challenge! It's a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their confidence and enjoy the fun side of computational thinking.

Mr Gillooly



# Sparx Homework

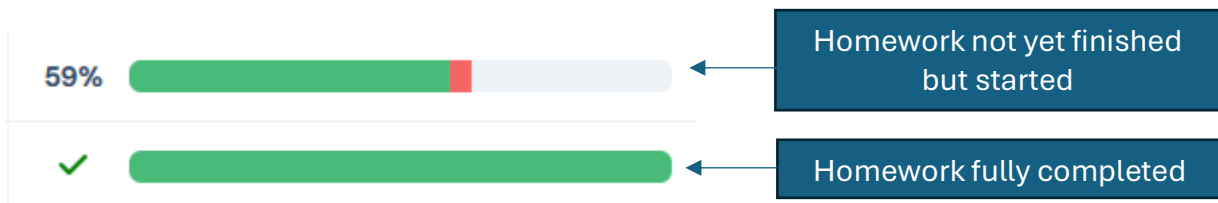


As a school we have bought into the Sparx Learning package. For the last year we have been using SparxReader, SparxMaths, and this year we are introducing SparxScience.

Sparx is an intuitive piece of software that allows students to work through questions, with support when needed, and the questions adapt to a student's ability – the quicker they work through questions correctly then the system will then make the next questions more challenging and vice versa.

Along the way Sparx will also ask students about an answer to a previous question, this is because the system works best if students write down the answers in their exercise book alongside the online portal to help writing practice and retention.

The homework percentage is a completion rate not a score.



## FAQs

### Why are you using Sparx?

Sparx has been shown to improve student outcomes with regular use, the students with the highest grades last academic year were the ones with the highest Sparx use. It helps students to plug gaps and ensure they are challenged.

### How can I know when they've been set homework?

We still use the Satchel One platform for recording homework which all parents have access to. If you are unsure at all please contact the school

[info@theappletonschool.org](mailto:info@theappletonschool.org)



### **Why is so much homework online?**

Online homework allows for immediate feedback to students to prevent the embedding of their progress.

### **My child spent so long on their homework but still did not complete 100%**

Please do not worry, this will flag to a teacher, they can see the amount completed and the time spent on the homework so will realise there is an issue and will intervene.

### **I suspect my child is doing the homework far too quickly, are they cheating?**

We suggest taking away their phone during their homework, there is a new tool on AI where they can film/take photos of the question and it will give them a solution. However, it also means they complete the homework quickly and that will be noticed by the teacher – although best to keep the phone away!

### **Do I get a notification about incomplete homework?**

Sparx automatically notifies parents on a Sunday about any outstanding homework and feedback on what has been completed.

## **Year 7 Homework**

### **Maths:**

Sparx homework is set on a Tuesday morning, due the following Monday at 5pm.

The expectation is that homework is completed at 90% or above. If the student is struggling with that week's topic and can't reach 90%, then we need to see at least an hour spent on the homework.

If students are struggling with a question, they can watch the video attached to each question, or see their class teacher before the deadline, or attend homework club in the resource centre, Mon-Thurs 3.00-3.45pm. Even though the homework is online, students are to show their working out in their exercise books. Sparx will do a "bookwork accuracy check" to make sure they are doing this.

Achievement points are given to those that complete the homework on time. Negative points are given to those that do not complete the homework on time. A second chance is given to students to do the homework, and if it still isn't done by the second deadline, then a teacher detention is set.

Failure to attend a teacher detention will mean a HOF detention.

**English:**

Students should be primarily being set SPARX Reader which is then checked in class by the teacher on a weekly basis for achievement points and an interactive leaderboard.

They also should have a reading journal which is checked by one of their teachers each week.

The more points they get will result in whole school reading rewards such as certificates, badges and books.

On top of this they should be getting spelling homework for weekly tests in class.

**Science -**

Science set Sparx homework on a Wednesday and is due in on a Tuesday. It is expected to be 100% completed.

Auto marking- students receive feedback immediately, algorithm adapts to students, provides opportunity to repeat questions which challenge students, set every Wednesday and due the following Tuesday.

Students need to score 100% for HW to be completed