



January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Ofsted Inspection – November 2024:

I am delighted to share with you the outcomes of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on the 19th and 20th November, 2024. There is much to celebrate in the report, as it highlights the progress we have made and the many strengths of our school.

The report differs slightly in format from previous inspections in that from September 2024 schools no longer receive a single headline grade. In making this change, Ofsted said that:

“We know that one-word judgements aren’t working for parents or schools. Ofsted research found fewer than four in 10 parents, and only 29% of teachers, support one-word judgements. We want parents to have access to a much more complete picture of how schools are performing, well beyond a single word”.

As part of this new process, the inspection team confirmed that **The Appleton School had taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection** in February 2019 when then school received a ‘Good’ grading in every category and for overall effectiveness.

The staff, governors and students are all incredibly proud of the report, which praises the care and support that staff offer to our students, our commitment to achieve high standards for all, our high-quality teaching, the breadth and quality of our curriculum offer and the positive attitudes to learning and behaviour of our students.

We would also like to thank our parental community who contacted the school with incredibly supportive messages during the inspection and for their time in completing the Ofsted Parent Survey.

I have highlighted below a few comments from the Ofsted report to give you a flavour of the findings contained within the report:

- **There is a welcoming culture in this school. Staff develop positive relationships with pupils. They know the pupils very well. This ensure the pupils are happy and feel safe here.**
- **The school has high expectations for pupils. Pupils behave well during lessons and have positive attitudes to learning.**
- **There is an ambitious curriculum for all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities. This ensures pupils achieve well and are ready for the next stage off their education.**

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- Teachers have good subject knowledge. They present information clearly. Pupils routinely complete work of a high quality.
- There is effective, bespoke reading support. This helps pupils to make improvements to their reading fluency and confidence.
- Pupils are taught to stay safe and healthy through a well-considered personal development programme. This ensures pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
- Pupils have various opportunities to contribute to the school community. The student leadership team plays a prominent role. Pupils take part in a variety of wider opportunities that develop their talents and interests.
- Students in the Sixth Form develop a deep understanding of the subject they study. This supports them develop their skills independently.
- Students in the Sixth Form enjoy the opportunity to help and support younger pupils.
- Staff make effective adaptations for pupils with SEND during lessons. Support staff work well with individuals.
- The school provides pupils with purposeful careers advice and guidance. Students in the Sixth Form receive a great deal of support for future education and employment. Students are well prepared for their next steps.
- Leaders at all levels have identified the areas where the school needs to improve. They are working effectively to address this.

There are so many highlights in the report, and I would urge you to read the whole document. This is accessible on our website and can be found under <https://www.theappletonschool.org/about-us/ofsted-reports> The document can also be viewed on the Ofsted website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their continued support and I am sure that working together will continue to allow The Appleton School community to excel.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Cox
Headteacher

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