

16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great regret and sadness that I am writing to inform you that Oscar, a much-loved Year 10 student at The Appleton School, passed away following a brave battle with cancer. Oscar's family describe him as a 'warrior' throughout his illness and someone who 'fought his best against the cancer but grew his wings before his time'. We as a school are incredibly saddened by this tragic news and our thoughts and condolences are with his family, friends and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.

Oscar was a hugely popular and talented student. Oscar was a great all-rounder who really enjoyed Maths and Science and was exceptionally talented in PE – he loved all things football, representing both the school as well as West Ham's youth academy as a talented Goalkeeper. He will be hugely missed, but will always remain an integral member of The Appleton School's family community.

As a school, we will be doing all we can to support those impacted. Our staff have been informed and we wanted to make sure that you were aware so that you had the opportunity to speak with your child tonight. We have also informed Year 10 and 11 students of the news today via special assemblies. All students have been made aware of the pastoral counselling support available at the school as well as external bereavement resources including Winston's Wish, Child Bereavement UK at [childbereavementuk.org](http://childbereavementuk.org) or ChildLine, which can be reached on 0800 1111 or at [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk), should you need to support your child at home. The expression of feelings resulting from bereavement is an essential part of the grieving process and so we would like to reassure parents that students will be given time and space to process what has happened, where required, and we will support those with any questions they may have.

More information will follow shortly on how we plan to commemorate Oscar's life, in conjunction with his family. In the meantime, if you or your child requires any support, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's tutor to let them know.

I know that at this very sad time we will all pull together as the strong community we are, as we continue to be inspired by, and remember, Oscar.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Sarah Cox  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)  
Croft Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN **Tel:** 01268 794215  
**Email:** [info@theappletonschool.org](mailto:info@theappletonschool.org) **Website:** [www.theappletonschool.org](http://www.theappletonschool.org)