

July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As your child prepares to transition into Year 11, we are excited to share with you some key academic dates for the upcoming school year. Year 11 is a crucial and transformative time, and we are committed to supporting every student through a successful and rewarding final year of Key Stage 4.

To help you plan ahead and stay informed, please find below the key dates to note in your diary:

Key Dates for Year 11 (2025-2026)

- Year 11 Curriculum Evening – 30th September 2025
- Sixth form open evening – 23rd October 2025
- First set of Year 11 PPEs (Pre-Public Exams) – *Two-week cycle begins week commencing 3rd November 2025*
- Year 11 Reports Sent Home – 10th December 2025
- Year 11 Consultative Evening – 11th December 2025
- Curriculum & Revision Skills Evening – 5th January 2026
(An evening to explore the curriculum in depth and provide powerful revision strategies – further details to follow)
- Second set of PPEs – Weeks commencing 9th and 23rd February 2026
- Year 11 Reports Sent Home – 18th March 2026
- Art GCSE Practical Exams – Week commencing 20th April 2026
- MFL Speaking Exams – Week commencing 27th April 2026
- GCSE Exam Season Begins – Week commencing 7th May 2026
- Sixth Form Induction Days – 2nd and 3rd July 2026

Throughout the year, we will also be hosting a number of Curriculum Workshops for parents/guardians, designed to give you a clear insight into subject-specific content and practical strategies to support your child at home.

In addition, your child will be offered a rich programme of before-school and after-school intervention sessions, alongside opportunities to participate in WTM (Walking Talking Mocks). These guided exam sessions are a powerful tool to build confidence and develop effective exam techniques.

Students should work through the booklets below to help retain and reinforce their knowledge over the break. For further information about the Year 11 curriculum or support with revision, please visit:

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

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We hope this calendar of key events helps you and your child prepare for what promises to be an exciting and important year ahead. Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to working with you to ensure your child thrives in Year 11.

Additionally, Sixth Form application deadline 17th November (for more information see <https://www.theappletonschool.org/sixth-form/admission-and-prospectus>)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Reay', with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Dr R Reay
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 into Year 11 Summer Home Learning Booklet

Consolidating Knowledge | Preparing for Success

Dear Students,

As you move into Year 11, it's important to keep your knowledge fresh and build on what you've already learned. This summer home learning booklet is designed to help you consolidate a few key topics from Year 10.

Please aim to complete all sections by the start of the new term in September. Once completed please forward to Dr Reay so that 10 rewards points can be added to your account for September 2025. We look forward to welcoming you back in Year 11.

English Tasks

Task 1: Literature Review

Choose one of the following texts studied in Year 10 and complete:

- List 5 key quotes
- Summarise the plot in no more than 200 words
- Identify 3 key themes

Texts: Macbeth / An Inspector Calls / A Christmas Carol

Task 2: Language Paper Practice

Read a short article or extract from a news source or fiction text. Answer:

- What is the writer's purpose?
- How is language used to create effect?
- Write a summary comparing two viewpoints.

Task 3: Creative Writing

Choose one:

- Write a descriptive piece titled **“The Forgotten Place”**
- Write a persuasive letter arguing against excessive screen time for teenagers

12 **34** Maths Tasks

Task 1: Algebra Review

Solve the following:

- Expand and simplify: $(x + 3)(x - 4)$
- Solve: $3x + 5 = 2x + 9$
- Factorise: $x^2 + 7x + 10$

Task 2: Problem Solving

You buy 3 pencils and 2 pens for £1.80.

You buy 4 pencils and 3 pens for £2.50.

Find the cost of one pencil and one pen.

Task 3: Fractions – Arithmetic and Simplifying

Amir spends $\frac{2}{5}$ of his money on a book and $\frac{1}{3}$ on a game.

What fraction of his money does he have left?

Give your answer in its **simplest form**.

(3 marks)

Science Tasks

In order to access some of the materials, you may wish to join the Transition Classroom:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njcxcjc=p4zr4nt5>

Remember we also have our other course specific Google Classrooms too if you wish to look ahead at Year 11 content!

Transition Support	Year 10 – Year 11
Biology	<p>Combined Science and Separate (additional content is stated as SEPS ONLY)</p> <p>You may wish to Recall Core Knowledge to strengthening your memory pathways by reviewing what you've learned via a question a day or making flashcards and personalised mind maps.</p> <p>To help you to do this we have:</p> <p>Detailed paper 1 notes are below to help you review content that has already been covered:</p> <p>https://classroom.google.com/w/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njcxcjc=Nzg3Mzk3OTk5NDQz</p> <p>Prefer Flashcards? Visit Kuzical – KS4 AQA Biology and refine by the topics you wish to revisit.</p> <p>Try a questions a day, five ten or more.....</p> <p>https://kuizical.com/</p> <p>If you want to Practice Skills by embedding your learning through practice and reviewing exam questions/answers, visit Study Minds. They have exam questions by topic and mark schemes with varying difficulty: <i>Easy, Moderate and Hard</i>.</p> <p>Paper 1 Topics are:</p> <p>Topic 1 Cell Biology; Topic 2 Organisation; Topic 3 Infection and Response and Topic 4 Bioenergetics.</p> <p>https://studymind.co.uk/resource/aqa-biology/</p> <p>**Some or part of these topics might be 'Separates only' please refer to your subject checklists and kerboodle text books.</p>
Chemistry	<p>Combined Science and Separate (additional content is stated as SEPS ONLY)</p> <p>You may wish to Recall Core Knowledge to strengthening your memory pathways by reviewing what you've learned via a question a day or making flashcards and personalised mind maps.</p>

	<p>To help you to do this we have:</p> <p>Detailed paper 1 notes are below to help you review content that has already been covered: https://classroom.google.com/w/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njc5tc/Nzg3Mzk5MzlyNDU2</p> <p>Prefer Flashcards? Visit Kuzical – KS4 AQA Chemistry and refine by the topics you wish to revisit.</p> <p>Try a questions a day, five ten or more..... https://kuizical.com/</p> <p>If you want to Practice Skills by embedding your learning through practice and reviewing exam questions/answers, visit Study Minds. They have exam questions by topic and mark schemes with varying difficulty: <i>Easy, Moderate and Hard</i>.</p> <p>Paper 1 Topics are:</p> <p>Topic 1 Atomic structure and the periodic table; Topic 2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Topic 3 Quantitative chemistry; Topic 4 Chemical changes and Topic 5 Energy changes.</p> <p>https://studymind.co.uk/resource/aqa-chemistry/</p> <p>**Some or part of these topics might be 'Separates only' please refer to your subject checklists and kerboodle text books.</p>
Physics	<p>Combined Science and Separate (additional content is stated as SEPS ONLY)</p> <p>You may wish to Recall Core Knowledge to strengthening your memory pathways by reviewing what you've learned via a question a day or making flashcards and personalised mind maps.</p> <p>To help you to do this we have:</p> <p>Detailed paper 1 notes are below to help you review content that has already been covered: https://classroom.google.com/w/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njc5tc/Nzg3Mzk5NTQ3NTE2</p> <p>Prefer Flashcards? Visit Kuzical – KS4 AQA Physics and refine by the topics you wish to revisit.</p> <p>Try a questions a day, five ten or more..... https://kuizical.com/</p> <p>If you want to Practice Skills by embedding your learning through practice and reviewing exam questions/answers, visit Study Minds. They have exam questions by topic and mark schemes with varying difficulty: <i>Easy, Moderate and Hard</i>.</p>

	<p>Paper 1 Topics are:</p> <p>Topic 1 Energy; Topic 2 Electricity; Topic 3 Particle Model of Matter and Topic 4 Atomic Structure</p> <p>https://studymind.co.uk/resource/aqa-physics/</p> <p>**Some or part of these topics might be 'Separates only' please refer to your subject checklists and kerboodle text books.</p>	
Required Practical	Prefer to watch and learn? Revisit Paper 1 RP's	
	<p>Biology: https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/gcse-biology-paper-1/biology-paper-1-required-practicals/</p> <p>Chemistry: https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/gcse-chemistry-paper-1/chemistry-paper-1-required-practicals/</p> <p>Physics: https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/gcse-physics-paper-1/physics-paper-1-required-practicals/</p>	
PiXL	Revision Guide	
	<p>We remember what we think about so having an active revision strategy will really help you learn more. Find out more here:</p> <p>https://classroom.google.com/c/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njcx/m/Nzg3NDAYMDczMzkw/details</p> <p>Not sure how to revise?</p> <p>https://classroom.google.com/c/NzY5Njc5OTA3Njcx/m/NzY5Njg2MDY4NTly/details</p>	
Google Classroom	Links to our GCSE Classrooms specific to your course and level	
	<p>AQA Separates Higher Revision Link to Classroom Class code: mulh4du</p> <p>AQA Separated Foundation Revision Link to Classroom Class code: d3psvkn</p>	<p>AQA Combined Science Higher Revision Link to Classroom Class code: dz2yxif</p> <p>AQA Combined Science Foundation Revision Link to Classroom Class code: fu6mtdi</p>

Humanities

Geography

Summer reading challenge.

Choose one of these books, and enjoy over the summer. Write a review of the book once you have read it.

1. **How Bad Are Bananas? – Mike Berners-Lee**
Explains the carbon footprint of everyday items in an easy, humorous way.
2. **There Is No Planet B – Mike Berners-Lee**
A practical guide to sustainability and climate change – links well to environmental management.
3. **The Power of the Sea – Bruce Parker**
Deep dive into tsunamis, storms, and sea-level hazards – connects to natural hazards.
4. **The Water Knife – Paolo Bacigalupi**
A dystopian novel exploring water scarcity – connects to resource management themes.

Developing geographical skills

Global Patterns of Urban Change

Focus: Understand how and why the world is becoming increasingly urbanised.

Instructions:

- Research the global pattern of urbanisation using your class notes and online resources (e.g., UN urbanisation data, BBC Bitesize).
- Create a **world map** (printed or drawn) and **shade regions** based on their urbanisation rates:
 - High urbanisation (>80%)
 - Medium urbanisation (40–80%)
 - Low urbanisation (<40%)
- Write a short explanation (150 words) of **why urbanisation rates differ between HICs and LICs/NEEs**, including at least **one example for each**.

History and Ancient History

Summer reading challenge.

Choose one of these books, and enjoy over the summer. Write a review of the book once you have read it.

History

- The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper by Hallie Rubenhold (A modern feminist study of Jack the Ripper's victims)
- Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by Dee Brown (A History of the American West from the perspective of the indigenous Americans)
- The American West by Dee Brown (A good overview of the American West)
- The Watchers- A Secret History of the Reign of Elizabeth I by Stephen Alford (A good overview of the reign of Elizabeth I from the perspective of her spy network)
- All His Spies: The Secret World of Robert Cecil by Stephen Alford (A history of Elizabeth I's and James I's spymaster- covering Elizabeth's plots and the Gunpowder Plot)

- The Holocaust: A New History by Laurence Reeve (A good overview of the rise of the Nazis and the Holocaust)
- The Nazi Mind: Twelve Warnings From History by Laurence Reeve (A good overview of the Nazis)

Ancient History

- Persian Fire: The First World Empire, Battle for the West by Tom Holland (A history of the Persian Wars- focusing on battles like Marathon, Thermopylae and Salamis)
- Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Republic by Tom Holland (A history of how the Republic came about and how Julius Caesar challenged this)
- Persians: The Age of The Great Kings by Lloyd Llewyn Jones (A great overview of our four Persian Kings from a Persian perspective)
- In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great by Michael Wood (A historian goes on an adventure to follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great- an exciting and short overview of Alexander)
- Philip and Alexander: Kings and Conquerors by Adrian Goldsworthy (A look at the lives of father and son- a good overview of Alexander the Great)
- Alexander the Great by Robin Lane Fox (Some would argue this is the definitive book on Alexander the Great)
- SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome by Mary Beard (A good overview of Rome- covering our early Roman Kings)

Languages

As we approach the school holidays, I wanted to highlight the importance of continuing French practice during the summer holidays. Alongside enjoyment and relaxation, a little time dedicated to language skills can make a significant difference for our students as they prepare for their GCSE examinations.

We recognise that some students did not put the required time and focus into their revision for their recent PPE French exams. To help address this, practising French during the holidays can be a valuable opportunity for your child to improve their listening, speaking, and writing skills in a relaxed environment.

As you know, achieving proficiency in a language requires consistent practice and engagement. Encouraging your child to practise French during the holiday period can significantly enhance their skills and confidence, which will ultimately contribute to their success in next year's GCSE exams.

I will share homework on Satchel One to help your child keep up with their French during their holidays and I am confident that your support plays an essential role in motivating your child and reinforcing the learning strategies we use in class.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. If you have any questions or need further resources, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer holiday!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sandu

Study Skills and Wellbeing

- Create a revision timetable for September
- Set 3 academic and 2 personal goals for Year 11

Day \ Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9am							
10am							
11am							
12noon							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							