

May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final examination period, I am writing to clarify our position regarding study leave and to outline the support in place for your child during these crucial weeks.

In line with current government guidance, traditional study leave is no longer standard practice. Students are expected to remain in school throughout the examination period, where they can continue to benefit from structured teaching, targeted revision, and expert guidance from their teachers. Evidence from high-performing schools consistently shows that students achieve stronger outcomes when they remain in school for longer, receiving focused support right up to their final examinations.

That said, we retain flexibility in specific circumstances. For example, where students are following alternative pathways, have completed the majority of their courses (particularly after half-term), or where there are medical considerations, individual arrangements may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child continues to attend school throughout this period. This is where we can have the greatest impact—providing last-minute clarification, refining exam technique, and building confidence.

Following positive parental feedback and the success of last year's approach, we will once again be running "drop-down" sessions. These will take place either on the day before, or the morning of, each examination, and are designed to give students focused, subject-specific input at the point it matters most. The timetable for these sessions is attached (last page of this letter).

All remaining lessons will now be fully dedicated to revision, exam preparation, and exam technique, ensuring that every lesson counts in supporting your child to achieve their very best.

By Monday 8th June, the vast majority of students will have completed most of their examinations. From this point onwards, students will be permitted to sign out and leave the school site after they have completed an exam, provided they do not have another timetabled exam or session that day.

Additionally, a reminder that parents and carers are invited to submit a short "good luck" message for their child. These messages will be shared with students on Wednesday 6th May as a final boost of encouragement before their exams begin. Messages can be submitted here: [Parent Feedback – Fill in form](#)

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

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We would also like to remind parents of the required exam equipment, particularly a scientific calculator. There are multiple examinations where a calculator is permitted, and not having one will place students at a significant disadvantage.

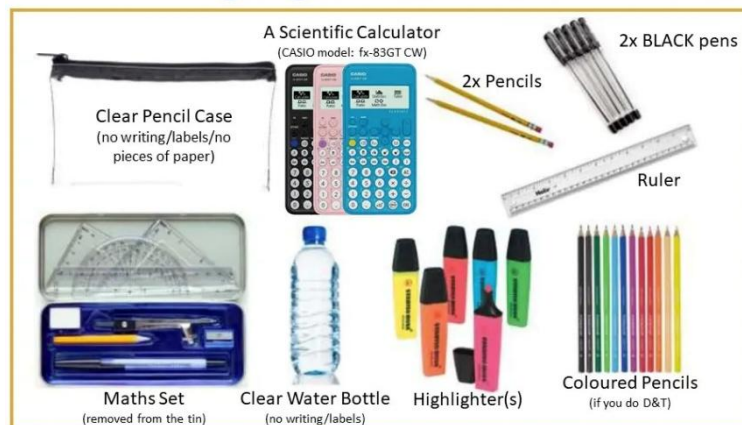
While the school holds a small number of spare calculators for genuine emergencies, we do not have sufficient numbers to meet current demand. It is therefore essential that all students come fully equipped.

To support this, please note the proportion of mathematical content within key subjects:

- Maths Paper 2 – required for the full paper
- Maths Paper 3 – required for the full paper
- Physics (Combined and Separate) – 40%
- Chemistry (Combined and Separate) – 30%
- Biology (Combined and Separate) – 20%
- Geography – 10%
- Business Studies – 10%
- Food Preparation and Nutrition – 10%
- Physical Education – 10%

As you can see, having a calculator can make a significant difference to outcomes.

Exam Equipment Essentials



Should you have any concerns regarding equipment, please email info@theappletonschool.org marked FAO Mr Hannan. We will do everything we can to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

Finally, on Thursday 18th June, we will host a special morning session for Year 11 students. This will provide an opportunity to sign shirts, say goodbye to staff, and return any textbooks, calculators, or revision guides.

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Students should arrive at the normal school start time of 8:30am. A Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will take place, after which students will leave the site at approximately 9:20am. No other year groups will be on site, allowing students the space to mark the end of their time with us.

The celebrations will conclude with the Year 11 Prom the following evening—a fitting way to recognise their hard work and achievements.

Finally, I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support over the past five years. Supporting young people through the challenges of adolescence and examinations is no small task. We are incredibly proud of the young adults they have become, and I have no doubt you are too.

We wish all of our students the very best of luck and hope they achieve outcomes that truly reflect their hard work.

Good luck, Year 11!

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Hannan
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

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Official start date of the Summer 2026 examiantion season - Thursday 7 May 2026

07/05/2026	1h 30m	Sport	Pearson	BSP03/01	Developing Fitness in Sport and Physical Activity	AM	L2 BTEC
	One hour	German		Revision	Higher tier	Period 1	GCSE
	One hour	German		Revision	Foundation tier	Period 2	GCSE
07/05/2026	0h 45m	German	Pearson	1GN1 2F	Paper 2: Listening and understanding Foundation	PM	GCSE
	1h 00m	German	Pearson	1GN1 2H	Paper 2: Listening and understanding Higher	PM	GCSE
08/05/2026	2hr	Drama		Revision	Performance and response - Written Paper	Period 1 and Period 2	GCSE
08/05/2026	1h 30m	Drama	OCR	J316/04	Drama: Performance and response - Written Paper	PM	GCSE
	2hr	English Literature		Revision	Paper 1	Period 4 and Period 5	GCSE
11/05/2026	1h 45m	English Literature	AQA	8702/1	English Literature Paper 1	AM	GCSE
11/05/2026	2hr	Business		Revision	Paper 1: Investigating Small Business	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
	1h 45m	Business	Pearson	1BS0 01	Paper 1: Investigating Small Business	PM	GCSE
	2hr	Religious Studies		Revision	Paper 1	Period 5 and Period 6	GCSE
12/05/2026	1h 45m	Religious Studies A	AQA	17/11/8062	Religious Studies A Paper 1	AM	GCSE
	2hr	Geography		Revision	Paper 1	Period 1 and Period 2	GCSE
	2hr	Biology (seps and Comb sci)		Revision	Paper 1	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
12/05/2026	1h 15m	Combined Science	AQA	8464/B/1F&1H	Combined Science - Biology Paper 1 (both tiers)	PM	GCSE
	1h 45m	Biology	AQA	8461/1F&1H	Biology Paper 1 (both tiers)	PM	GCSE
13/05/2026	1h 30m	Geography	AQA	8035/1	Geography Paper 1	AM	GCSE
13/05/2026	2hr	Computer Science		Revision	Paper 1	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
	1h 30m	Computer Science	OCR	J277/01	Computer Systems - Written Paper	PM	GCSE
	2hr	Mathematics		Revision	Paper 1	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
14/05/2026	1h 30m	Mathematics	Pearson	1MA1 1F	Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) Foundation Tier	AM	GCSE
	1h 30m	Mathematics	Pearson	1MA1 1H	Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) Higher Tier	AM	GCSE
14/05/2026	2hr	History		Revision	Paper 1	Period 1 and Period 2	GCSE
	2hr	Ancient History		Revision	Paper 1	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
	1hr	German		Revision	Higher tier	Period 3	GCSE
	1hr	German		Revision	Foundation tier	Period 4	GCSE
	2h 00m	Ancient History	OCR	J198/01	Greece and Persia - Written Paper	PM	GCSE
	0h 45m	German	Pearson	1GN1 3F	Paper 3: Reading and understanding Found Tier	PM	GCSE
	1h 00m	German	Pearson	1GN1 3H	Paper 3: Reading and understanding Higher Tier	PM	GCSE
15/05/2026	1h 20m	History	Pearson	1HI0 10-13	Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment	AM	GCSE
	2hr	Chem (seps and comb sci)		Revision	Paper 1	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
18/05/2026	1h 15m	Combined Science	AQA	8464/C/1F&1H	Combined Science - Chemistry Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	GCSE
	1h 45m	Chemistry	AQA	8462/1F&1H	Chemistry Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	GCSE
18/05/2026	2hr	English Literature		Revision	Paper 2	Period 4 and Period 5	GCSE
19/05/2026	2h 15m	English Literature	AQA	8702/2	English Literature Paper 2	AM	GCSE
	2hr	Computer Science		Revision	Computational thinking, algorithms & programming	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
19/05/2026	1h 30m	Computer Science	OCR	J277/02	Computational thinking, algorithms & programming	PM	GCSE
	2hr	French		Revision	Listening and Understanding	Period 3 and Period 5	GCSE
	2hr	Religious Studies		Revision	Paper 2	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
20/05/2026	0h 45m	French	Pearson	1FR1 2F	Paper 2: Listening and understanding Found Tier	AM	GCSE
	1h 00m	French	Pearson	1FR1 2H	Paper 2: Listening and understanding Higher Tier	AM	GCSE
20/05/2026	2hr	Enterprise & Marketing		Revision	Paper 2	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
	1h 15m	Enterprise & Marketing	OCR	R067/01	Enterprise and marketing concepts:Written Paper	PM	Camb Nat
	1h 45m	Religious Studies A	AQA	8062/2A	Religious Studies A Paper 2	PM	GCSE
	2hr	English Language		Revision	Paper 1	Period 4 and Period 5	GCSE
21/05/2026	1h 45m	English Language	AQA	8700/1	English Language Paper 1	AM	GCSE
	2hr	Business		Revision	Paper 2: Building a Business	Period 3 and Period 4	GCSE
	2hr	Physical Education		Revision	Physical Education Paper 1	Period 4 and Period 5	GCSE
	2hr	Ancient History		Revision	Rome and its neighbours - Written Paper	Period 4 and Period 5	GCSE
21/05/2026	1h 45m	Business	Pearson	1BS0 02	Paper 2: Building a Business	PM	GCSE
22/05/2026	2h 00m	Ancient History	OCR	J198/02	Rome and its neighbours - Written Paper	AM	GCSE
	2h 00m	Ancient History	OCR	J198/03	Rome and its neighbours - Written Paper	AM	GCSE

HALF TERM - Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026

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