



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin – Summer Term

Key Dates

- 18th June – Year 11 Leavers' Day
- 18th June – Year 6 into Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening
- 25th June - Year 8 parents evening
- 23rd and 24th June – Welcome Days for Year 6 into Year 7
- 29th June to 3rd July – Year 12 Work Experience
- 6th - 10th July – Year 10 Work Experience

Friday 5th June 2026

We have a wide range of events taking place this week, including Geography and Art trips to Daws Hall and the Harry Potter studios respectively, Athletics and cricket events in addition to KS2 liaison with one of our feeder primaries.

A huge thank you to the large number of staff and students involved.

PE Fixtures

Wednesday
-Year 7 Cricket @ FitzWimarc

Thursday
-Year 9/10 Cricket @ FitzWimarc

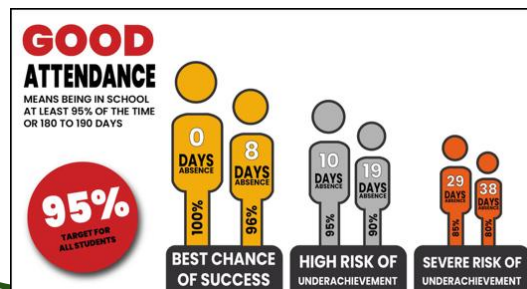
Attendance

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

701
807
907
1003
1107

Week 1 School Lunches

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Tikka with Basmati rice	Roast of the Day	Sweet chilli chicken	Beef Lasagne	Chicken / Beef Burger
Vegetable Burger	Vegetarian Quiche	Vegetable Chow Mein	Vegetable Pizza / Veg Pasta Bake	Vegetable Tagliatella
Parmentier Potatoes	Roast Potatoes, Cauliflower Cheese	Potato Wedges	Parmentier Potatoes	Potato Wedges
Sweetcorn & Broccoli	Roast Parsnips, Carrots and Green Beans	Egg Fried Rice	Broccoli & Carrots	Sweetcorn & Green Beans
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





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<https://www.instagram.com/theappletonschool?igsh=MXEzdzY2bnQ5bzI6Zw==>



On Monday 18th May, the Dance Department was delighted to welcome acclaimed professional dancer Antione Thomas-Sturge to lead an inspiring workshop with our Year 10 students.

Antione has built an impressive career within the performing arts industry, most recently performing alongside Harry Styles at the Brit Awards. His outstanding professional achievements also include appearances in Zara Larsson's music video for *State Side*, performing with Cher at the Royal Variety Performance, and featuring in *Wonka* alongside Timothée Chalamet.

Throughout the day, students had the exciting opportunity to learn professional choreography from Harry Styles' performance of *Aperture*, as well as routines from PinkPantheress music videos and other commercial dance pieces. The workshop was an unforgettable experience, giving students valuable insight into the professional dance industry while challenging and inspiring them creatively.



Harry Styles Brit Awards



State Side Music Video

French Language Day – Montgomerie School



Our Year 9 and 10 students helped with celebrating the French language by sharing their passion for languages through taster sessions on French vocabulary and culture, emphasizing active learning and peer interaction.

They were fantastic ambassadors and we had fabulous feedback from the younger students and their staff. Congratulations to all involved.



Year 11's,

We are incredibly proud of the Year 11 students, who have made a fantastic start to their examinations. They have approached this important period with maturity, determination and resilience, and it has been wonderful to see their positive attitude and focus across the school. We would also like to thank parents and carers for the continued support and encouragement you are providing at home. We wish all of our students the very best as they continue through the exam season.

Miss Tilbury, Mr Sultana & Mr Morrison

Year 13 Students,

The Sixth Form team and teachers would just like to mention how exceptionally proud we are of our Year 13 students, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to their final exams. They have approached this stage of their academic journey with maturity and a strong sense of purpose. Their focus in lessons and determination to excel have been evident across the school and it has been inspiring to see the high standards they continue to set for themselves.

This cohort has shown remarkable resilience throughout their time in Sixth Form, and the way they have risen to the demands of their studies reflects both their hard work and their growth as young adults. We are confident that these qualities will serve them well not only in the exam hall, but in the exciting next steps they will soon take beyond school.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to parents and carers for the ongoing support, encouragement and guidance you provide at home. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping students achieve their best.

We wish all of our Year 13 students every success as they continue through the exam season and move towards the completion of their Sixth Form journey.

Miss Sweeney, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Clifforth and the rest of the Sixth Form team.

The Computer Science department recently took a group of Year 8 and Year 9 girls to the Cisco Girls in IT event in Cambridge. The visit provided pupils with an exciting opportunity to explore the rapidly developing world of technology and artificial intelligence.

During the day, pupils attended a university-style lecture focused on AI, listened to inspiring guest speakers currently working within the Computer Science and technology industries, and took part in a team competition where they were challenged to design and pitch a concept for a brand-new AI model.

The event aimed to encourage more young women to consider future careers within Computer Science, technology, engineering and related STEM fields. Pupils represented the school exceptionally well throughout the visit, demonstrating enthusiasm, creativity and excellent teamwork.

Some of the feedback from pupils included:

“The AI challenge was really fun because we had to think creatively and solve real-world problems as a team.”

“Listening to women already working in the industry was really inspiring. It made technology careers feel much more achievable.”

The Computer Science department would like to thank all pupils involved for their excellent conduct and engagement throughout the day.



Cadent Gas Works – London Road

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please be aware that we have been informed by the Local Authority that there will be gas works taking place on the London Road **from Monday 25th May for 14 weeks.**

Further details, including details of lane closures, can be found via the QR code on the attached poster from Cadent.

Cadent will also be holding a drop-in event with a Cadent gazebo, for any businesses or residents who wish to talk to them. The gazebo event will be held outside of Nisa Extra, 117 London Road, South Benfleet, SS7 5UH on Tuesday 26th May from 1pm – 4pm.

Students who travel to/from school via London Road may need to allow additional time for their journey. **This is particularly important for all students sitting exams between 25th May and the end of the summer term.**

We are in communication with Cadent regarding road closures in the summer holiday period. We will write to parents/carers of Year 11 & 13 students nearer the time to detail arrangements for students coming into school to collect exam results on Thursday 13th August, (A-level results day) and Thursday 20th August, (GCSE results day).

Cadent
Your Gas Network

Essential gas works

London Road, Benfleet

- 25 May 2026 for 14 weeks
- We're working in your area to upgrade the ageing gas pipes
- These works will keep you **safe, warm and connected**
- Please plan extra time for your journeys
- Thank you for your patience
- Find out more: cadentgas.com/benfleet

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Year of
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All 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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOWNSHIP



Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly aggressive strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 18, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 10 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with casual (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a limited payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site @@Recon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new games and tools, he's also a parent who prioritises online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.androidcentral.com/news/parents-should-know-about-township>, <https://www.techradar.com/news/games/parents-should-know-about-township>, <https://www.ign.com/articles/parents-should-know-about-township>

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H.O.M.E HUB

HELPING • OVERCOMING • MOTIVATING • EXPLORING

SEN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY MONDAY 7 - 9 P M

HOME Hub, 88 Brook Road, South Benfleet Playing Fields, SS7 5JF



Join us every Monday evening in a warm, welcoming space to talk with others who truly understand. Connect with people in similar situations, make new friends, join in some light games, unwind, or just simply be.

- Free Parking.
- Hot & Cold Drinks Available.
- Monthly Guest Speakers.



Essex County Council

Important update for schools: Changes to support funds for families

Dear All,

We are writing to update you on national changes to household support funding and to outline how Essex County Council will continue supporting families across the county.

As you will be aware, the Government has ended the Household Support Fund (HSF) with effect from March 2026. This means the food voucher scheme previously funded through HSF has now closed, and no further food vouchers will be issued under this programme.

We recognise that this change may raise questions from families, and we want to reassure you that support for vulnerable households will continue and will be delivered through new arrangements and via a new fund.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will launch on 1 April 2026. This fund is designed to support low-income households facing sudden financial pressures.

It also aims to help build long term financial resilience across communities.

The CRF will include:

- crisis payments for urgent, unexpected financial pressures
- housing payments to support households with shortfalls in housing costs
- resilience services including financial guidance, money management support and access to wider community services

Details on how families will be able to apply for support will be shared with schools before the scheme launches in April.



Essex County Council

Support for families during school holidays

Although national voucher funding has ended, Essex County Council is expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

This means more eligible children will have access to:

- free and enriching holiday activities
- free nutritious food
- opportunities to socialise, be active and learn new skills

Booking details will continue to be issued to eligible families via schools and HAF providers.

We have included some links below that you may find useful and may want to share with families. We have also included some Q&As that you might find useful should you get any further questions from families.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)

Thank you for your continued support.



Q&As

1. Why are there no more free holiday food vouchers?

The holiday food vouchers were funded through the national Household Support Fund (HSF). The government fund has now ended this scheme. This means that the Council is no longer able to issue vouchers through that scheme.

The last vouchers were provided in December 2025.

Although the voucher scheme is closed, support for families has not stopped.

Essex County Council has put in place new forms of support through the government's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), launching on 1 April. The council is also increasing Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions across the county. These free clubs will offer free childcare, nutritious food and activities for children.

2. Who decided there would be no more free food vouchers?

The decision to end the vouchers was made by the UK Government.

Local councils must follow national guidance which states that issuing vouchers under this fund is not permitted.

3. I'm not happy about there being no more vouchers – who do I complain to?

You can share feedback directly with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which oversees national welfare funding.

Anyone in financial hardship and needing urgent support should visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)



4. What support is there instead of food vouchers?

Support is still available.

From April 1 people needing support can apply to the Crisis Resilience Fund for:

- **crisis payments** to help residents facing urgent financial shock
- **housing payments** for those struggling with housing costs
- **resilience services**, which offer help with budgeting, financial guidance and wider support

Expanded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions are also available via Activate.

These free clubs give eligible children access to free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

These new options aim to provide more flexible and longer-term support than vouchers alone.

5. How do I get this support?

Essex residents will be able to apply for Crisis Payments and Housing payments through a simple online application when the new scheme launches in April 2026.

Information about eligibility and how to apply will be published on the Essex County Council website.

Families whose children are eligible for HAF/Activate will receive information through their school and can book sessions online or through participating providers.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)



We need your voice!



Your experiences are key to shaping the future of mental health and wellbeing services in Essex. Young people's mental health is hugely important and you can help to change local services for the better.

If you are a child or young person up to the age of 23 (or up to 25 if you have special educational needs and disabilities), you can be involved in many different ways.



- Create videos, online blogs and respond to other digital tasks
- Share your experiences, views and opinions to help Commissioners improve and develop local mental health services
- Attend Young Mental Health Ambassador meet ups and build your network

Interested?



If you would like to apply for this great opportunity, contact our Engagement Officer, Renee Robey, on:

renee.robey@healthwatchesessex.org.uk
07483 329411



@hiddenvoiceshwe



@HWEssex



healthwatch-essex

www.healthwatchesessex.org.uk



Spring Term The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and Basildon



Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<http://www.send-essex.org.uk/think-my-child-needs-help/areas-local-offer-roadshows>

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**SEND
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An opportunity to get advice and support in a relaxed and non judgemental environment

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-diagnosed children welcome.

2nd Thursday of the month
Starting 8th January 2026
11:30 - 12:30

No need to book - Just drop in!

Little Lions Family Hub Delivery
Third Avenue, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9SU
Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Service commissioned by:



Appleton School: Student Council Members **Vacancies**

Role & Responsibilities:

- As Student Council Member, you will be a role model to other pupils, showing respect and loyalty to The Appleton School and be the best representation for the school.
- You will be the student voice to ensure that all students of Appleton School are encouraged and engaged in providing feedback express their opinions and ideas to improve students experience and learning at the Appleton school.
- Attend half-termly Student Council meetings.
- Display appropriate behaviours and attitudes at all times.
- Lead and attend various events held by Student Council Members.
- Communicate ideas from the student council to the all the members of the year group.
- Volunteer as needed to support main school events such as open evening, parents evening, etc.

Personal Skills / Qualities:

- You are expected to lead by example, be a good communicator and be confident public speaker.
- You must have good organisational skills, alongside working as part of and leading a team.
- You are expected to have excellent attendance & punctuality, and be a role model to all other pupils.
- You should demonstrate the ability to be responsible, reliable, innovative, and willingness to contribute to the school and wider community.

Applications:

- Pupils need to write a letter to Mr Harji outlining why they would like to be a Student Council Member.
- All applicants, will need to attend short interview with the Director of the Community and Enrichment, Assistant Head of Year & President of Student Council.