



The
Appleton
School

Headteacher's Bulletin To Parents

July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the **final parental bulletin of The Appleton School** and it has been truly wonderful to look back at the many achievements of our community across the year. It was a real pleasure to attend the Year 13 Prom at Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club on 22nd May and the Year 11 Appleton Grand Ball, which this year took place on Friday 19th June at Stockbrook Manor. Our Year 11 students arrived at the venue and were greeted by a large crowd including parents, grandparents and fellow students, as they walked the red-carpet. Students thoroughly enjoyed the (very warm) evening and have left the school with many lasting memories, although we will welcome many of them back to the Sixth Form in September. Special thanks go to Mr Sultana and Mrs Tilbury in Year 11 and Miss Aucklah and the Sixth Form leadership team in Sixth Form for all their hard work organising such an enjoyable evening for our students.

We have also celebrated the breadth of students' talents in our recent Summer Production performances of *Frozen* on Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th July. This was a wonderful showcase of our amazing young people in acting, dancing, singing, backstage and technical production as well as demonstrated their musical talents in the orchestra, from the youngest performer aged 11 in Year 7 right up to 18 years old in Year 13, they have without exception, worked together as a fantastic team.

None of this is possible without a huge amount of work and commitment. Students and staff from our incredible Performing Arts department have been working exceptionally hard over the last few months to bring together these performances and we would wish to thank our talented and dedicated staff and congratulate them all in this very fitting celebratory end to the school year.

The end of term is a time when we also say goodbye to a number of staff and it would be remiss of me not to mention a number of staff who have worked here for a very long period of time. Mrs Claydon, Mrs Howard, Mrs Beard and Mrs Bowles who joined us in 2001, 2016, 2017 and 2019 respectively with an incredible **51 years of service** to The Appleton School between them, other notable staff mentions include retiree Mrs Love who joined us in 2019, but has over 30 years of service to education across her career. We would also like to thank Mr Harmsworth who is going onto promoted post within the local area as well as Mr Norman, Miss Sangha and Miss Riley, who all joined us in 2022.

We thank all of these staff for their contribution to our school over many years.

Thank you also to all of our parents and carers for their understanding, kindness and support this year – it has been really appreciated by our school team. Finally, I wish you all a

very good break and remind you that our school returns in an exciting new chapter as Harris Academy Benfleet for Year 7 and 12 on Monday 7th September and Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 on Tuesday 8th September.

Ms S Cox

Headteacher

SCHOOL PRODUCTION



We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding success of Appleton School's production of *Frozen*, which enchanted audiences across three unforgettable performances.

This spectacular production showcased the incredible talent, dedication, and enthusiasm of our students. From the principal cast to the ensemble and backstage crew, everyone played a vital role in bringing this much-loved story to life with confidence, creativity, and professionalism.

Behind the scenes, months of hard work and commitment ensured every aspect of the production was of the highest standard. The Performing Arts department, alongside staff and students, devoted countless hours—including evenings and weekends—to rehearsals, choreography, music, set construction, costume preparation, and technical production. A special thank you goes to Miss Riley in the Art Department for her outstanding creative support and to Mr Easter, our technical expert, whose expertise helped create a truly magical theatrical experience.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff who guided, encouraged, and supported our students throughout this journey: Mrs Edwards, Miss Gough, Miss O'Leary, Mr Sargeant, Miss Green, and Mr Norman. Their dedication, encouragement, and belief in our students have been instrumental in making this production such a memorable success.

Finally, thank you to our families and the wider Appleton School community for your continued support and for filling the auditorium with such warmth and enthusiasm. This production has not only celebrated the extraordinary creativity and talent within our school but has also demonstrated the power of teamwork, resilience, and community spirit. We are immensely proud of everyone

involved and look forward to many more unforgettable performances in the years to come.

MATHS CLUB

This year, Maths Club have looked into a variety of maths problems from all around the world and throughout the history of maths! Stand-out favourites were puzzle games from Japan, such as Futoshiki, and the Josephus Problem. With this latter problem, students reenacted soldiers being besieged in a cave by a Roman army from 67AD, using their maths skills to work out who would be the last soldier standing!

Maths Club attendees also fine-tuned their construction skills to create a knot from a seed of life and I was blown away by both their creativity and precision. We looked at seasonal origami, such as creating paper bats for Halloween! Halloween also saw us using our logic skills to solve a murder mystery. Props such as giant inflatable dice were thrown around the classroom to create a sample space diagram, representing dice roll outcomes in a table to spot patterns.

Maths Club revealed themselves to be natural code-breakers, forming and solving equations to reveal three-digit codes. We have some budding cryptographers in the making! We also have some illusionists in the making, with students using nothing more than parallel lines and black marker pens to create the "Cafe Wall" illusion. Maths Club have also looked into the digital roots of numbers to read minds... No, it is not a Jedi mind trick, but a maths trick!

What I was most impressed by was the club's encouragement and support of one another, with students often asking to lead sessions. We had several KS3 students teach other students A-level Maths content, such as polynomial division. The dedication and excitement for maths on a Wednesday afternoon in S12 always made my week! Thank you, Maths Club! Never stop maths-ing!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



We have had another successful year, with 27 students working on their Bronze Award in Year 10, and 2 students successfully completing their Gold award, and visiting Buckingham Palace in May.

Thank you to Mr Wood, Miss Dixon, Mrs Rush and Mr Clout for once again volunteering during their weekend to supervise the Bronze Expedition.

JACK PETCHEY/REWARDS

Headteacher's Award



The Headteacher's award has been awarded to students that have conducted themselves exceptionally in line with the Appleton schools code of conduct. These students have great attendance and punctuality, have outstanding behaviour and respect for our staff and their peers. We have also recognised their participations in not only our community but the wider through clubs and volunteering work that they have completed.

We are proud to be awarding this year:

- 57 Bronze awards
- 27 Silver awards
- 20 Gold awards

Subject Badges



Throughout the Year students have been working towards collecting their subject badges. Each student has the opportunity to complete a subject badge in 8 weeks through collecting a signature each week for impressing in the subject. This year through the main school we are delighted to see so many students picking up badges and as the year draws to an end are delighted that we have awarded 991 in total to our current students throughout their time at the Appleton School.

Jack Petchey Awards.



Over the year, we have had a considerable number of nominations for our students where our community have wanted to praise students for overcoming significant difficult challenges, have helped out with clubs and supporting others and for exceeding expectations to challenge themselves to obtain the best results possible.

Congratulations to all the Jack Petchey Award winners listed below:

Main School

Jazmin Abbott – Jazmin also a keen athlete gave money to the PE department.

Hope Ridden – Hope with her passion for music asked for the money to support the music department and opted to get equipment.

Ethan Smith – Ethan excels in DT and looked to support pupils where possible, the Jack Petchey funding has allowed for new equipment to be purchased which can be used by all year group.

Sixth Form

Jaelle and Joelle Afunyah – Two amazing young pupils that do so much for the community they continued these kind gestures by spending the money on revision resources for the whole of the sixth form, we were able to purchase some subscriptions and other resources that can help pupils during private study.

Sports Day

Congratulations to Tull who were the overall winners of our Key Stage 3 Sports Day, which was held on 10th July.



A huge well done to everyone that took part.

House Cup

Throughout the year we have been running our House Cup competition for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. Points have been awarded for student participation in various events. Points have also been awarded for achievement points, department competitions, subject badges and being awarded a Headteacher's Award.

It was lovely to see that, across the year groups, each House has been a winner, with the results as follows:

The final points tally has been counted and the overall 2026 House Winner is...



Congratulations to House Austen.

SIXTH FORM NEWS



UCAS Superfair – Wednesday 10th June 2026

Year 12 students recently visited the UCAS Superfair at the University of Essex, Colchester. Students were able to meet representatives from a wide range of universities in order to discuss their future plans.

All students left with bags of prospectuses and ideas for future careers, courses and university destinations. UCAS also had an apprenticeship section where a few university stands explained how they provided Apprenticeship and traditional University routes. This has focused and supported their research and preparation for the UCAS application process. Students have followed up on this experience with personal statement and apprenticeship workshops held during the week of the 13th July.

Sixth Form Induction Days – week commencing 29th June 2026

During this week, the Sixth Form team held Year 10 Taster Days with students that applied to participate and the Year 11 induction days to prepare and welcome our new potential applicants.

We had over 100 students confirm their attendance to both events where they got to experience hour

long taster subject lessons, team building events, enrichment activities, assemblies and preparing for Year 12 workshops. Students thoroughly enjoyed the Sixth Form specific days and provided some extremely positive feedback. We look forward to greeting and welcoming the new year 12 intake in September 2026 and also receiving applications for the 2027 intake.

Work Experience – week commencing 29th June 2026

Year 12 students organised their own work experience placements this year in their chosen industry during the week of the 29th June 2026. We had a wide variety of placements taking place such as students working for NatWest, Aon, Mace, Worldline IT Services, iFAST Global Bank, Ford Dunton and Basildon Hospital. Students that were unable to find a work experience placement engaged in a virtual work experience programme. Both Year 12 students and the employers provided extremely positive feedback on their experience, and students have said that the opportunity has helped to shape their decisions on imminent UCAS applications next year.

Year 12 Honours Assembly - Friday 10th July 2026

On Friday 10th July an end of year Honours assembly was held for Year 12 to celebrate and congratulate the students on their hard work throughout the course of the year. There were a number of certificates awarded, staff speeches and refreshments and a quiz that students participated in. It was a great atmosphere and nice to spend time rewarding our students.

Year 12 Post 18 Support

On Tuesday 14th July and Wednesday 15th July, the Sixth Form team held personal statement workshops for all students that were intending to apply to university. This was to allow them time to understand what needs to be included in their personal statement and be provided with the time to make a start.

A Level Results day – Thursday 13th August 2026

The Sixth Form team will be available from 9:00am until 12pm on Thursday 13th August. The school's website will have further details.

CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY

Careers Guidance

It has been another incredibly busy and successful term for Careers at The Appleton School, with students across the school taking part in a wide range of activities designed to inspire, inform and prepare them for their future pathways. From meeting employers and developing employability skills

to experiencing the workplace first-hand, our students have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and maturity.

Throughout the term, students have participated in a variety of careers events and enrichment activities, including:

- Year 12 UCAS Discovery Fair at the University of Essex
- Year 12 Work Experience
- Year 12 Pathways to Employment
- Year 12 Personal Statement Workshops
- Year 12 Mock Interview Day
- Year 10 Mock Interview Day
- Year 10 Work Experience
- 2026 Careers Fair

Careers Fair 2026

Our annual Careers Fair was once again a tremendous success, providing students in Years 10–13 with the opportunity to meet employers, universities, apprenticeship providers and training organisations from a wide range of sectors.

Students engaged confidently with exhibitors, asking thoughtful questions about career pathways, qualifications and future opportunities. Events such as these play a vital role in broadening horizons, raising aspirations and helping students make informed decisions about their next steps. We are incredibly grateful to all of the organisations that gave their time to support our students.

Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Interview Days

A particular highlight this term was our Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Interview Days. Thanks to the support of local employers and business volunteers, students experienced realistic interview situations and received personalised feedback on their communication skills, confidence and interview technique.

The professionalism shown by our students was exceptional, with many interviewers commenting on their enthusiasm, preparation and positive attitude. These experiences are invaluable in helping students prepare for future applications for sixth form, university, apprenticeships and employment.

Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have completed some truly fantastic work experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work while developing essential employability skills.

Our Year 10 students represented the school brilliantly in placements with a wide variety of organisations, including Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, Transport for London, the City of London Police, British Transport Police, Bank of America, Barclays, Basildon Hospital and Northern Trust. Some students even had the unique opportunity to shadow doctors during ward rounds at Basildon Hospital, providing a fascinating insight into careers within the NHS.

Our Year 12 students also secured excellent placements with organisations including NatWest, Worldline IT Services, iFAST Global Bank, Ford Dunton and Basildon Hospital. These experiences have enabled students to explore careers linked to their future ambitions while building the confidence, knowledge and skills that employers and universities value.

We have received wonderful feedback from employers, who praised our students for their professionalism, enthusiasm and willingness to learn. It has been a pleasure to see so many students stepping outside their comfort zones, making positive impressions and embracing new challenges.

A huge thank you goes to all of the employers who generously welcomed our students into their workplaces and helped make these experiences so meaningful. Their support plays a vital role in preparing our young people for successful futures.

As another successful year of careers education draws to a close, we are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved. We look forward to continuing to provide exciting opportunities that inspire ambition, raise aspirations and equip every student with the skills and confidence they need for their future.

CHILD PROTECTION

The safety and wellbeing of students is our paramount concern. As part of our curriculum we have continued to focus on wellbeing and relevant safeguarding issues in our weekly CAPE lessons. This covers issues such as anxiety, relationships and health as well as contextual safeguarding issues such as exploitation, drug/alcohol misuse, domestic violence along with other areas. This academic year we have further enhanced our '**CAPE**' - **Citizenship and Achieving Personal Excellence** lessons in order to ensure that we cover as many of the required topics around all aspects of safeguarding. There

have also been a number of assemblies in order to further enhance some of these topics covered.

Any child protection concerns should be reported as soon as possible to the Designated Person for Child Protection or his Deputies:-

Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mr Stockdale
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mrs Salisbury
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Miss Green
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mrs Whitehead
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Miss Wright
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mrs Jones

Alternatively, parents/students can email the safeguarding team during term times between 8am-5pm:

safeguarding@theappletonschool.org

The school has continued to utilise another means of both students and parents reporting any concerns they may have. This is on the school website, called, NEVER ACCEPTABLE. This can be used anonymously.

The school have continued to publish an online/e-safety notice for parents/students that is included in the whole school Parent Bulletin. In addition to this there is also a half-termly online safeguarding bulletin for parents. We have also continued a termly safeguarding bulletin. All these give parents an up-to-date notice covering all aspects of safeguarding.

The school recognises that during the holiday periods, young people are even more vulnerable than normal due to the possible extended times that they are online or out in the community. Please refer to the school website for various contact information regarding safeguarding and child protection.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Over the summer period we appreciate parents may be replacing items of school uniform or footwear. Please see below a reminder of our expectations for school uniform. We highly recommend referring to our uniform page on the school website for further details before purchasing any items of uniform as well.

From September 2026 our main school uniform supplier is Khalsa Schoolwear:

Khalsa Schoolwear Dagenham Store, Unit 1 Cromwell Centre, Selinas Lane, Dagenham RM8 1QH.

A reminder that we have our uniform pop ups scheduled from 27th-29th August 2026. The supplier has now also

confirmed the option of free delivery for any orders to the school site during term times.

(<https://khalaschoolwear.co.uk/school/harris-academy-benfleet/>)



Acceptable shoes:



Unacceptable shoes:



CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PERSONAL DETAILS

Please could I remind parents/carers to advise the school by letter or email info@theappletonschoolorg regarding any change of address, personal details, contact telephone numbers (including when there is a change to work telephone numbers) and email addresses.

PE REPORT

PE and Sporting Success

It has been another outstanding period of sporting achievement for The Appleton School, with our students continuing to excel in Athletics.

At the Castle Point and Rochford Junior District Athletics Championships, The Appleton School finished an excellent 3rd overall, with students producing exceptional performances across both track and field events.

Our athletes secured an impressive haul of medals, including 10 District Champions, 11 Silver Medallists and 12 Bronze Medallists. A particular highlight was one of our Year 9 students who not only won the Pole Vault but also set a new District Record. He has since gone on to represent the Essex Athletics Team in Pole Vault, placing 3rd in the country, a significant and well-deserved achievement.

Success has also continued in the English Schools Athletics competitions. All four English Schools Athletics teams qualified for the Regional B Finals, demonstrating the strength and depth of Athletics across the school. The Junior Boys narrowly missed qualification for the Regional A Final by just one point. However, they responded in outstanding fashion by achieving a new school record, scoring 421 points—an outstanding achievement that reflects their commitment, talent and determination.

The school's sporting success extended beyond Athletics, with students also competing in the **Castle Point and Rochford**

District Tennis Competition. Our **Senior Girls' team** performed exceptionally well throughout the tournament, finishing as **District Runners-up** with an impressive **2nd place** finish.

Our girls have also enjoyed outstanding success in the Castle Point and Rochford District Rounders Competition. A particular congratulations goes to the Year 7 team, who progressed all the way to the final. After a closely contested match, they narrowly missed out on the title, finishing as District Runners-up. The Year 9 team also impressed, narrowly losing their semi-final by just one rounder in another highly competitive contest. Meanwhile, our Senior Girls were crowned District Champions

TIMING OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Further to our previous parental letters, please see table below which details again the timings of the school day from September 2026.

Time	KS4/5	KS3
8:30 – 9:50	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
9:50 – 9:55	Transition	Transition
9:55 – 11:15	Lesson 2	Lesson 2
11:15 – 11:35	Break	Break
11:35 – 12:55	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
12:55 – 1:25	Lunch	Elevate Programme *
1:25 – 1:55	Elevate Programme *	Lunch
1:55 – 3:15	Lesson 4	Lesson 4
3:15 – 4:15	Practice Makes Progress	Enrichment

Attendance

Just a reminder that our target for attendance is 97%. Annual data collected from DfE for all schools show that students with no absence are 1.6 x more likely to achieve a grade 4 or above and 4.7 x more likely to achieve a grade 5 or above, than students that missed 15-20% of all sessions. The Department for Education guidelines issued in August 2024 are designed to help all students attend school regularly and on time. As a school, **we are under a statutory duty** to follow this guidance and, for those students that have poor attendance or punctuality, there will be closer monitoring, support to improve and - where these are not successful in improving attendance or punctuality - increased fines and possible prosecution. Our aim will always be to avoid the latter as much as possible, by working with Parents/Carers to help student attendance improve.

Recognising Positive Attendance

For those students who attend school regularly and punctually, there are several incentives and rewards on offer:

- Half-termly emails home to students with 100% attendance.
- Termly badges awarded for 100% attendance.
- Fast-track 'Golden Ticket' passes to the canteen for students with weekly 100% attendance, selected by a tombola system.
- Weekly emails celebrating 100% attendance with an Amazon gift voucher at the end of the half term, selected by a tombola system
- During the year targeted student group initiatives.
- Yearly celebration of students who achieve 100% attendance with a certificate, 100% badge, and an Oxygen gift voucher selected by a tombola system
- During the last weeks of the summer term, 'Fab Friday' ice lollies for students with 100% weekly attendance.

Mobile phones



A reminder that following on from government guidance, mobile devices, including phones are banned across the entire school site. Mobile phones should be switched off and in school bags – they must not be seen or heard on the school site at any time (this includes before and after school, social time & lesson changeovers, listening to music via airpods/headphones, looking at the

time from their phone, checking timetables or responding to calls or messages from others). If mobile devices are seen or heard, they will be confiscated and further sanctions applied as detailed in our March bulletin.

If there is a family emergency, we ask that you contact the school Main Office, rather than texting or calling your child directly. Firstly, this means we are around to support your child should they need it, and secondly, they will not fall foul of this policy.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A reminder that from September 2026, The School Social media sites will be changing. This will continue to include news and updates via our school social Instagram and facebook pages. We would encourage you to like and share these new pages within our school community – the new site links will be sent with the first parental bulletin in September.

Please note that the accounts listed above are the only official pages managed by the School. Whilst we are aware of a number of other social media pages which may bear the name of our school, it is important to note that we are not

affiliated with those accounts and cannot, therefore, verify the accuracy of any comments contained therein.

'MY CHILD AT SCHOOL' COMMUNICATIONS

Just a reminder although we use Arbor for our Management Information System **this will also be changing next term to Bromcom with the accompanying parent portal app My child at school (MCAS)**. We will be sending a full guide of how parents can download and register for this new service in preparation for next academic year at the end of August. This new system will continue to allow get immediate notifications of any emails etc.

STUDENT SHOUT OUTS

Shoutout! 🇬🇧

Mr Dris would like to give a huge shoutout to **Bella Fullard, Gracie-May Baldwin and Anna Wood** for their brilliant performance delivering a French song during the Reward Assembly. They represented Year 7 exceptionally well and should be very proud of their hard work, confidence and enthusiasm.

He would also like to give a special shoutout to **Lexie Still** for all the effort and commitment she put into preparing for the performance. Unfortunately, she was unable to take part on the day, but her hard work and dedication were greatly appreciated and played an important part in getting the group ready.

Well done to all four students!

Shoutout! 🇬🇧

I was absolutely delighted to meet and congratulate **Honey Cross** earlier this week for her outstanding achievement at the Dance World Cup in Dublin with her Dance team last weekend.

To reach this stage is a remarkable accomplishment in itself. After successfully auditioning for a place at the Dance World Cup and qualifying to compete against some of the best teams from around the world, she demonstrated extraordinary dedication, commitment, and talent.

Honey and her team competed in the Street Dance category against 18 teams from countries including Germany, Portugal, Canada, the Canary Islands, and many others. They were rewarded with an impressive Gold Medal and 1st Place, achieving a phenomenal score of 90.1%.



Honey is pictured above with her individual medal and the team trophy. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating her on this incredible achievement.

Shoutout! 🇬🇧

I also met with **Emily-Rose Parry** this week to congratulate her on the incredible difference she is making in our community through volunteering work at Basildon Hospital.

It is truly inspiring to hear about the time she has been spending alongside her mum and younger sister supporting families on the children's ward through Florentina's Footsteps. Their dedication to raising money for pizzas and delivering them on Friday evenings to families staying with their poorly children is a wonderful act of kindness.



We are very proud of her achievements and wish her every success as she continues her wonderful work with Florentina's Footsteps.

Shoutout! 🇬🇧

Miss Cooper would like to shoutout Owen Smith for this amazing piece of Art homework:



Well done Owen!

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, 17th July 2026	End of Term 13.00hrs
SUMMER HOLIDAYS  Wishing our students, parents, carers and staff a fun filled Summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back into school in September. We will be following our Week A timetable on our return.	
Thursday, 3rd September 2026	Inset Day
Friday, 4th September 2026	Inset Day
Monday, 7th September 2026	<u>New Year 7 Students</u> start at 10.30am and <u>Year 12 Students</u> start at 11.30am
Tuesday, 8th September 2026	Whole School returns at 08.30am