



The
Appleton
School

Headteacher's Bulletin To Parents

December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We come to the end of what has been a very busy term, with new Year 7 and Year 12 students settling quickly into the school. It was also a pleasure to welcome students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on 20th October. The evening was a huge success, with comments from students and parents extremely complimentary. Year 11 prospective Sixth Formers have also attended KS5 masterclasses in a diverse array of subjects such as Criminology, Psychology, Maths, Law, Science, English, Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages and as part of their post-16 preparations.

The deadline for secondary applications has now passed and I thought you would be interested to know that we have had over 800 applications for Year 7 entry to The Appleton School next year. At the time of writing we have also had over 200 applications for Year 12 Sixth Form entry for September 2023.

I am also delighted to show parents and carers our winning entry for The Appleton School Christmas card design competition. It was very difficult to judge as we had so many high quality entries. Congratulations go to Candy-Rose Butler and Jaiden Robinson in Year 7 for their wonderful design.



May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year and wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and my best wishes for 2023.

Ms Cox
Headteacher

REMEMBRANCE



During the week commencing 7th November the theme of our morning assemblies was Remembrance, paying tribute to all those fallen soldiers from World War 1 onwards. Our Senior Prefects joined assemblies to read a number of poems to students, including 'In Flanders Fields'. To mark their respects, our Year 7 students were involved in creating a remembrance garden of poppy crosses in the school's Inner Quad. A number of students wore clothing to represent their uniformed organisations for our two minute act of Remembrance on 11th November.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



After two years of virtual arrangements, the Performing Arts department are delighted to announce our Christmas Concert will be returning to normal on Monday 19th December. This is a variety performance based on musical bands, dancing, singing and acting, performed by students from all year groups. It is a wonderful way to start festivities and encourage as many students, parents and teachers to come and support our school community.

Tickets went on sale from Monday 12th December, and can be purchased from the main office.

Adult tickets are £4, student and concession £2. We look forward to seeing you there.

Merry Christmas, from Mrs Edwards-Ricketts

NON-UNIFORM DAY



Well done to The Appleton School's Charity Committee who organised a non-uniform day on Friday 18th November which raised the sum of £1288.40 for the Children in Need charity.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD NEWS



Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The 2022-2023 academic year marks 10 years of the Duke of Edinburgh's award at The Appleton School. In that time we have had 275 students complete either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

We have had a fantastic uptake in Year 10 with over 40 students starting their Bronze DofE journey and 17 Year 11 students starting their Silver journey. We have also started to offer the DofE award to the Sixth form within the enrichment period.

After christmas we shall be meeting on a Thursday in the Resource Centre once a fortnight (week A) to upload evidence of all of the different activities that the students are working on.

Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening

Dr Hunt has now received the Bronze and Silver certificates for the current Year 11 and 12 students and will be organising an Awards Evening in January. Further details will be sent out soon to all of those that have completed their full Bronze and Silver awards.

This year we have so far had 34 students achieve the Bronze Award and 3 Silver Awards.

SAFEGUARDING - CAPE

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our Citizenship and Personal Excellence (CAPE) course. This looks at many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical health, emotional health, abuse, safeguarding and living in the wider world. The aim of the CAPE course is to help our pupils make safe and informed decisions during their school years and beyond.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an important part of the CAPE course. We have been teaching lessons about SRE throughout the year and has included topics such as (*puberty; relationships and communication skills; pregnancy; contraceptives; prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; prevention of sexual abuse; FGM; body image; sexting and social media; pornography; gender inequality and consent.*). The aim of the course is to educate our students in making the right choices.

As part of our commitment to this very important part of the curriculum, we will be continuing to enhance the learning of our students through external agencies and relevant staff in school presenting on some of these topics through assemblies. We will be looking to invite other providers in the future as part of our on-going commitment to this important element of a child's education.

Since September we have been providing parents/students with important online safety tips from National Online Safety. We have also recently sent all parents the first copy of our Safeguarding Newsletter, which focused on national issues with social media this term.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework is an integral part of education at The Appleton School as it allows students to extend their learning and to develop independent skills. We set homework frequently for all year groups, and monitor the standard to which it is completed.

In order to provide support to our students who are unable to complete the homework, either because they need further support or do not have access to the technology, Homework Club has been provided in the Resource centre every Monday and Thursday after school from 2.45 pm to 3.30 pm.

Resource centre is also available to your child during mornings from 8.00 am to 8.30 am, as well as break time and lunch times (except on Wednesday). A range of clubs are available to students before school, during lunch time and after school, which they can join by registering on Edu link on their phone.

TEACHER TRAINING RECRUITMENT EVENTS



Train to be an outstanding Primary or Secondary teacher with BTSA

Are you thinking about training to be a teacher?

If you are a graduate and want to get into teaching, join our recruitment event to answer all of your questions about Teacher Training for September 2023

We offer places for the following subjects:

Art & Design	Biology
Business Studies	Chemistry
Computer Science	Design & Technology
Drama	English
Geography	History
Mathematics	Modern Foreign Languages
Music	Physics
Primary	Physical Education
Religious Studies	Physical Education with EBacc

Recruitment events will be held on the following dates:

12th December 2022 at 7.00pm via zoom

Events also to be held on:
(location/time to be advised)

11th January 2023

6th February 2023

8th March 2023

17th April 2023

10th May 2023

12th June 2023

To book your space email mhoward@theappletonschool.org
or call 01268 794215 Ext. 210



The Appleton School Sixth Form Applications

Details of the subjects on offer and the admissions process are available to view and/or download from the school's website www.theappletonschool.org by clicking on the Sixth Form Tab. Online applications can be emailed to: sixthformapplications@theappletonschool.org. Paper Application Forms should be addressed to Miss J Brice, Sixth Form Administrator, The Appleton School.

Important Dates

9 th December 2022	Closing date for applications
20 th February 2023	Individual guidance interviews begin
17 th March 2023	Final date for conditional offers of Sixth Form places
6 th and 7 th July 2023	Sixth Form Induction

Sixth Form News – Student Council

Every Wednesday lunchtime, the Sixth Form student council meet to plan events and discuss student voice. During these meetings the team have successfully run a Christmas Jumper Day, started planning for the Year 13 Prom and have also been preparing for the Sixth Form Charity week, which is being held on the week commencing the 6th February 2023.

Sixth Form News – Curriculum Pathways Evening

On Tuesday 22nd November, the Sixth Form held an important information evening which provided the students with necessary information about their next steps post 18. This was an event that was open to both year 12 and year 13 and provided both students and parents with the opportunity to listen and ask questions to external speakers in regards to university, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and work experience. This evening was not only very informative to both parents and students but was very valuable in getting students to consider their next steps, what they are working towards and why and also where they can get further help and advice in relation to this.

Sixth Form News – University Applications

The deadline for Year 13 University applications is in mid-January and good progress is being made with personal statements now being finalised for all students and a number of UCAS applications being sent off. The deadline for Oxbridge and Medicine applications has passed and we have two students who have applied for medicine, with one receiving an offer already from Queen Mary and a further student apply for dentistry. We wish all applicants the best of luck.

Upcoming Sixth Form Event - Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 will all be on a one-week placement for Work Experience from 3rd July-7th July 2023. Year 12 have started their work experience process by completing tasks during their CAPE lesson such as producing a CV, researching employers and writing enquiry emails/letters. Students will use the placement tool on Unifrog to assist with this process.

Upcoming Sixth Form Event - Year 11 Taster Day

On Monday 19th December internal applicants to the Sixth Form will be attending a Sixth Form Taster Day to allow them to experience their selected option choices for their future studies. This will give students the opportunity to attend an hour's taster of each subject they have selected and therefore ask any necessary questions and make any necessary changes to their opted choices at this stage. Year 11 students will be onsite until the end of the school day and will therefore be dismissed at 2:45.

JACK PETCHEY



During the Autumn term this year we have awarded a further four students with a Jack Petchey Award. Which we are pleased to celebrate the success of all the students with their individual outstanding achievement through their personal triumphs and outstanding efforts.

We would like to say congratulations to our three winners who are part of the main school who have opted to give their £300 grant to English and Science. Congratulations to Serisha Gray, Serena Hounsell and Reuben Fox. English have purchased materials that will assist with Year 10 GCSE's. Science have opted to purchase a thermal imaging camera which can be used for Science experiments and for the Eco Warriors Club.

The foundation has granted us an additional Bronze Award that allows us to offer an award purely to our Sixth Form, with our first winner being Oliver Burman. Oliver opted to improve the Sixth Form common room where a new TV was purchased to show the news to help students keep up with current affairs.

Our winners received their rewards at the Jack Petchey Foundation rewards evening on the 8th December 2022, where all winners from the Castle Point area were given recognition of their achievements in front of peer groups and family.

We would again like to congratulate all our winners throughout 2022 (Lucy Bellenie-Pope, Brunno Barbosa, Aiden Coleman, Ben Coomber, Finlay McLean, Alissa Cochrane, Serisha Gray, Serena Hounsell, Reuben Fox and Oliver Burman. A huge congratulations to you all.

Finally we would like to congratulate Ms Brown who has won a staff Jack Petchey award. Ms Brown is going to use the foundations money for emergency first aid resources so that we can teach our students CPR and other lifesaving skills.

Subject Badges.



Completing the achievement of a subject badge for students in a particular subject has become a real honour for students. Students' participation in each of these badges has grown especially this year. During the Autumn term we have seen 97 students achieving a subject badge. We give our congratulations to all our students currently working hard to obtain a badge and those that have been successful in completing them.

Positive Expectation Cards.

It has been fantastic to see so many students completing the positive side of their expectation card. We have taken great pleasure in sending out letters to Parents/Carers acknowledging that these students have been great ambassadors and role models through their positive attitude. 89 of our students have handed in cards and we would like to make a special mention to Jessica Verlander who has completed 14.

School House System

This term we have seen the launch of our new 'House' system that has seen Year 7 and 8 competing for points through academic achievements and through extracurricular activities. It has been amazing to see the number of points that have been achieved throughout this term and to acknowledge all the positive points.

Our Winning House this term is Turing. Well done to all students that are part of these Houses

House	Year 7	Year 8	Grand Total
Turing	3,844	1,562	5,406
Austen	2,695	2,234	4,929
Nightingale	3,101	1,282	4,383
Tull	1,869	2,298	4,167
Grand Total	11,509	7,376	18,885

This term students have been applying to be House Captains and we have taken great pleasure in awarding Form Captains to both Year 7 and 8 Students, whilst also having students from the above years looking to take on House Captain roles and responsibilities.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PERSONAL DETAILS

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

LOST PROPERTY

We make every effort to return lost property items to their owners. To assist us with this could I please ask that you ensure all clothing including coats / shoes / P E bags and kit / pencil cases etc are named. Lost Property is located in C7.

CHILD PROTECTION

The safety and wellbeing of students is our paramount concern. As part of our curriculum we are currently focusing on wellbeing in our Wednesday form slots. This covers issues such as stress as well as safeguarding concerns.

The Appleton School Safeguarding Team are here to support you. Any child protection concerns should be reported as soon as possible to the Designated Person for Child Protection or one of her Deputies:-

Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mr Stockdale
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Ms Stalker
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Miss Green
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mrs Whitehead

Please click on the link below for contact details:

<http://www.theappletonschool.org/parents/safeguarding-and-wellbeing-for-families>

CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY

Careers Guidance and Support

Year 11 students have been working with their Form Tutors over the last half term to research and finalise their post 16 plans. Please be aware that most Sixth Forms have a specific deadline for applications which is normally in December and most colleges operate a first come first serve basis.

If you feel your child needs any help or support with their plans please contact Mrs Hilliker on the school telephone number or via email, jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.

The Appleton School Careers Portal

All students have access to the online Careers Portal which provides a wide range of online and in person events and activities that enable students to gain valuable work experience and develop a greater understanding about their future choices. The portal can be accessed from the front page of the careers section on the school's website, www.theappletonschool.org.

Year 10 Mock Interview Day

Year 10 Mock Interview Day is planned for Friday 24th February 2023. This is a crucial part of the Careers programme which is designed to help students prepare for future college, university and employment applications. Students are currently writing their CV and Cover Letter for a career they are interested in and this will be used as the basis for their Mock Interview in February.

We have a wide range of business volunteers coming into school and each student will be given a one to one simulated recruitment interview and will receive feedback on the completion of their paperwork and how they conduct themselves during their interview.

If any parents/carers would like to volunteer to support this event please contact Mrs Hilliker via email, jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.

Year 10 Young Enterprise Company Programme

We have registered one Young Enterprise team this year called Illuminate. They have been busy developing their business ideas and writing their business plan to submit to the judges. They have developed a range of candles and decorative solar lights which they will be selling to the general public.

Their first Trade Fair was held on 13th December at High Chelmer Shopping Centre in Chelmsford. The team did exceptionally well competing against Sixth Form students from the local Grammar Schools and won the Best Trade Stand Award. They also received some very positive and encouraging feedback from the judges.

If you would be interested in purchasing any of their products please email jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.



students in Years 11, 12 and 13 were given time to speak to the exhibitors to gather information to help them make a more informed decision about their post 16/18 options.

The feedback we received from the exhibitors was very positive, they were impressed with how well our students interacted with them and said they asked sensible and appropriate questions.



School Stationery Shop

We have recruited 10 very keen and enthusiastic Year 7 students to run our School Stationery Shop "Supplies 4 U". The shop is open every break and lunchtime and is based in N1a. We sell a range of essential school stationery items at wholesale prices, including: GCSE scientific calculator £11, revision cards 80p, exam pencil cases £1, as well as pens, pencils, rubbers, and most essential items.

The Young Reporter Scheme

Last year, two of our students – now in Year 11, Mia Finch and Daisy Cousins took part in the Young Reporter Scheme run by Newsquest. They had to write a total of 8 articles throughout the programme which involved having to source newsworthy stories within the local community, carry out all the necessary research, take photographs and write them up so they could be published on the Newsquest website. Both students produced some excellent work, one of Daisy's stories was even picked up by BBC Radio! Both were rewarded in assembly with certificates and school colours.

This year, six of our students in Years 10 and 12 are taking part. They will write 8 articles on topics of their choice over the next 8 months and each one will be published on the Newsquest website. They will all receive mentoring from an experienced journalist to support them with the process.

If you would like to find out more and read some of the amazing articles written by students please go to <https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/young-reporter/>.

Year 11, 12 and 13 Careers Fair – 9th November 2023

On 9th November we had 32 exhibitors come into school to help our students explore the range of career paths available to them and the qualifications required. Many of the local colleges were in attendance as well as universities, smaller training and apprenticeship providers, and employers. All

Year 12 Work Experience – 3rd to 7th July 2023 – Call for help!

Year 12 students will undertake a week of work experience from 3rd to 7th July 2023. This is a crucial part of our careers programme as it helps students to gain a greater understanding of a career they may be interested in pursuing when they leave education as well as helping them to develop relevant skills and experience that will broaden their options in the future.

Our students are currently busy contacting employers to try to secure their placements. However, this can be challenging post Covid, particularly in certain industries. If you feel your organisation may be in a position to support our students and give them an opportunity that could change their future please do get in contact and email jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.

UKMT SENIOR CHALLENGE

The Senior Maths Challenge took place in October. We entered 45 students from Years 11-13. It was a great success for the whole department as we achieved 2 gold, 2 silver and 19 bronze medals. For the first time, 2 students qualified for the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge, which only has the top 6000 mathematicians compete nationally. Congratulations to all students involved.

PE REPORT



The start of the school year has gone well with strong numbers are attending a full range of clubs.

Cross Country:

The Inter Boys team ran an outstanding first round and finished 3rd at Campion and from this result qualified for the English Schools Regional Final; held at Felsted. The field was extremely tough, but the boys ran so well and represented the school brilliantly at this level of competition. They came 9th overall as team.



Year 7 Cross Country District Champion = Louie Clarke

Ran an outstanding race in the rain and mud to become District Champion for 2022. It all came down to the sprint finish and Louie had the legs to attack on the long run into the line. Well done!

This week during the Year 7 & 8 PE lessons, students took part in our inaugural interhouse cross country tournament.

All students showed great determination to run the cross-country course, representing their house, despite challenging weather conditions. Points were awarded to all those that took part, with the top 10 runners in each band of the year group securing additional points for their house. The results of the interhouse competition are as follows:

House	Points
Turing	286
Austen	194
Nightingale	304
Tull	182

The individual winners of the interhouse cross country were Buhlebethu Hlongwa, Tayleigh Cross, Louie Clarke and Jamie Sinfield (pictured below with their achievement certificates).



Well done to all students who took part!

Football

Year 7

The year 7 football team have made a strong start winning 5 out of 7 games so far. Standout performances against Woodlands and Castle View in the Essex Cup provide massive encouragement about the team moving forward. Out of the 7 matches the team have only lost 1 against a very strong Shoebury High side, the boys have shown great in game understanding, tactical flexibility and drive that will hold them in good stead going forward.

Season break down so far:

Played 7

Won 5

Drawn 1

Lost 1

Castle View (L) 3-0 W
Swenye Park (L) 3-2 W
Cornelius (L) 2-0 W
Fitz (L) 1-1
Woodlands (Essex Cup) 3-0 W
Shoebury (SEE Cup) 4-0 L
Castle View (Essex Cup) 3-0 W

Stand out performers: Louie Clarke, Jamie Sinfield, Jack Facey

Year 8

Congratulations to the Year 8 Football Squad who have reached the 4th round of the English School's National Cup and the quarter finals of the South East Essex Cup. They are playing some extremely good football currently and have a good chance of making the South East Essex Cup Semi-final in a few weeks time.

Year 10

The Year 10 football squad continue to display the same passion and commitment as they did in Year 9. They had an outstanding win over a very strong St Thomas More side in the Essex Cup; St Thomas More were finalists last year.

Rugby

Year 7

With all new sports, for the majority it is about developing an interest, learning new skills and then getting out and using these skills in games. On the 14th October the Appleton School hosted its annual Year 7 introduction to rugby tournament when students are invited to play and experience the game of rugby, whilst receiving coaching and guidance from teachers. Over 100 boys participated in the tournament from Appleton, Fitzwimarc, King John, Sweyne Park, Eastwood and Cornelius schools. The Appleton team played well and developed their skills, confidence and understanding as the games progressed. They have more games coming up in the next weeks and months.

Year 8

The boys have had a number of games rearranged so will play them later in the year, but the team have really progressed well since year 7 and played some very good games against Castle View and narrowly lost.

Senior Rugby

The boys have played a few games this year and as a collective team played really well against Fitzwimarc; narrowly on the wrong side of the score sheet! They have played Castle View and won, and also King John and lost. They have KES, Cornelius, Sweyne and Chase High to play once the light returns.

Netball:

U16 girls – 5th place in the re-county rally

U16 girls – 3rd round qualification in the Essex Cup after some strong performances

Year 7 - won first game against Castle View with a strong promising team. They are getting ready for the netball district rallies.

Girls Football

The numbers of girls now playing for the school teams has grown significantly with new faces getting involved; not only in the lower school, but in the Seniors as well.

Year 7

District Champions

On Wednesday 9th November the Year 7 girls were crowned District football champions. They played in a series of matches at a tournament held at Castle View School. In the final, the girls scored an extra time winner to make it 1-0. The girls beat all the schools in the Castle Point & Rochford District to become 2022 champions! A massive Well done to all the year 7 girls involved!



EXAMINATION RESULTS 2022

I wrote to Parents/Carers in September regarding student exam performance in the Summer term, but wanted to include the updated Year 13 information in this first edition of the Headteacher's Bulletin for this academic year.

In terms of our Sixth Form our Applied General Results were once more amongst the top 10% in the country, with an average grade of Distinction+. Our latest figures show 45 students in our Sixth Form applied to University and 42 were successful in gaining their top University places and this number continues to grow, with 22% securing places at Russell Group Universities. A further 49 students went directly into further training, employment or gained apprenticeships, including accountancy, project and programme management and engineering.

The highest performers were Natasha Cooper who gained A* grades in three of her subjects; English, Psychology and Sociology as well as an A grade in History and gained a place at Queen Mary University of London to study Law, Reece Howard who gained A* grades in Physics, Maths and Further Maths, Loren Pardoe who gained A* in Psychology and Sociology and an A in English Language, Ioana Gordea who gained an A* in Business, two A grades in German and Psychology and a grade B in English and is going on to study Management at the University of St Andrews, Alastair Munday achieved three A* grades in Business, Law and Psychology and is going on to study Anthropology at Durham University and Samuel Jessen who gained an A* grade in Psychology and two A grades in Sociology and Government and Politics and gained a place at Law at Swansea University.

The highest performing BTEC students were Oliver Whittaker who gained 3 Distinction stars in BTEC Business Extended Diploma and Amy Rose and Amie Waller who both achieved Distinction* Distinction* Distinction in their BTEC Sport Extended Diploma. We had students entering university this year to study Law, Economics, Anthropology, Psychology, English Literature, Robotics, Chemistry and Zoology to name just a few courses. Well done to all our Sixth Form students. We wish them well with the next stage in their careers.

SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Whilst we very rarely need to close the school, given the wintry weather earlier this week please could I remind parents that should there be an emergency closure or delayed start of the school due to severe weather, parents and guardians can access information about school closures via a live feed on the Essex County Council website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

This feed will continue to update as notifications of all school closures are received. The page will refresh at 6pm each evening and closure lists for the next day will then go live.

We perform site inspections at 6:30am and will make a decision about any arrangements by 7:30am. Parents and students will be notified via Edulink.

The school will also display closure or delayed start arrangements on our website www.theappletonschool.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, 19 th December 2022	Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
Tuesday, 20 th December 2022	School Ends : Year 12/13 dismissed at 12.15hrs Years 7 – 10 dismissed at 13.00hrs
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Wednesday 21 st December 2022 to Wednesday 4 th January 2023	
Thursday, 5 th January, 2023	8.40am All Year groups return
Thursday, 12 th January 2023	Flu vaccine for Year 7 - 9

Merry Christmas
and
a
Happy New Year
from
staff and students
at
The Appleton School

