



The  
**Appleton**  
School

# **Headteacher's Bulletin to Parents**

**March 2023**

## Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the exam season can I remind parents that intervention sessions are well underway in all subjects for students in Years 11 & 13. Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As you will be aware, 1<sup>st</sup> March was National Offer Day when primary students were notified of their secondary school places. We are delighted to inform you that once more the school will be full with 270 places offered, a large waiting list, and many student appeals.

Although a short term, we have still managed to pack in a rich variety of activities and seen our students excel on a county-wide and national level. Superb success in the National Maths Challenges to our sporting success; our students continue to show resilience and determination, and demonstrate what it is to be an Appleton Student. A huge congratulations to all students that have been involved in competitions this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of one of our Year 7 students, Jessica Verlander in 702, who has had 11 full positive Expectation cards since half term. Positive marks are achieved by students who contribute positively to the school community, whether it be picking up litter, holding doors, or generally being helpful. Well done Jessica and to all students that have had full positive cards.

We wish all of our students, parents, and staff a restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

***Ms S Cox***  
***Headteacher***

## AMSP MATHS FEAST



Following the individual Maths challenge that students took part in at the beginning of February, eight of our Year 10 students were selected to take part in the “Maths Feast” led by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. This took place at The King John School.

Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of four students were tested for their maths skills with an ‘all-you-can-eat feast’ of problems.

It was a real privilege to see how our students were capable of not only solving the problems but also working so well as teams to explain their thinking to each other. No calculators or equipment were permitted for most of the rounds and students had to rely on sheer brain power. This year, both teams scored exactly the same score. A lot of tension in the room as each team wanted to ‘out do’ the other.

Well done to the following students who took part: Lloyd Hare, Aiden Coleman, Jake Judge, Oreoluwa Oguntuga, Samuel Wallington, Jacob Whittaker, Bobby Wells, Alissa Cutler. Thank you also to Ewan Guarnieri in Year 12 who participated as a Supervisor.



## UKMT INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGES



This term, the **UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge** took place. This challenge is aimed at students in the top maths sets in Years 9, 10 and 11. Congratulations to Daniel O'Neill, Lloyd Hare and Finn Wightman.

Finn Wightman (Year 9) achieved a Silver Award as well as "Best in Year". As this challenge is aimed at students in Years 9-11, a Silver is a huge achievement for someone in Year 9. Finn also went on to sit the **Grey Kangaroo Challenge**. This challenge is more difficult than the Intermediate Maths Challenge and is aimed at Year 9 students only. Finn is also the first Appleton student to sit this challenge.

Lloyd Hare (Year 10) achieved a Gold Award as well as "Best in Year". Again, a huge well done. To obtain this in a challenge that is also aimed at Year 11 students is a massive achievement.

Daniel O'Neill (Year 11) has achieved a Gold Award and "Best in School". Daniel also went on to sit the **Pink Kangaroo Challenge**. This challenge is more difficult than the Intermediate Maths Challenge and is aimed at students in Years 10 or 11. Daniel obtained the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Gold" certificate of qualification. A huge well done to Daniel. Daniel has also obtained a Bronze Award this year for the Senior Maths Challenge; this challenge is normally only for students in Years 12 or 13 who are taking 'A' Level Maths. We look forward to seeing how Daniel performs in future Senior Maths Challenges.



## RECEPTION - EASTER HOLIDAYS



Please note that the school's Reception will be open on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 9am to midday and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 9am to midday.

## JACK PETCHEY/WHOLE SCHOOL REWARDS



### Jack Petchey

The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE to inspire and celebrate young people. Since 1999, over £143 million has been invested in programmes to benefit young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex.

Last year we celebrated 10 students winning awards from the foundation. This included one of our first ever Sixth Form awards. I would like to extend our congratulations to the following students that had won awards and were celebrated at the event evening in December 2022. Huge congratulations to: Lucy Bellenie-Pope, Ben Coomber, Aiden Coleman, Brunno Barbosa, Finlay Mclean, Alissa Cochrane, Serisha Gray, Serena Hounsell, Reuben Fox and Oliver Burman.

Jack Petchey is about recognising achievement from all our young people. If you are aware of any of our students that have done something inspiring in our local community, please contact us, as we would love parents, along with our teachers, to nominate our students who deserve that additional credit.

### School House System.

Throughout this year our students in Years 7 and 8 have been competing with one another in their Houses: Austin, Turing, Tull and Nightingale to be successful in achievement of the most points and participating in whole school events. Each term we have had Year winners and overall winners. Currently House Turing are leading the school going into our final term. The scores so far as follows:

House	Year 7	Year 8	Grand Total
Turing	6,030	2,589	8,619
Austen	4,631	3,524	8,155
Nightingale	5,229	2,041	7,270
Tull	3,007	3,756	6,763
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18,897</b>	<b>11,910</b>	<b>30,807</b>

#### Subject Badges



It has been amazing to see so many students looking to achieve recognition from individual subjects, through being awarded Subject Badges. Subject Badges can be earned over an eight-week period and cards can be collected from student services. We currently have 686 badges that have been awarded through Years 7 – 11 and I would encourage all students to challenge themselves to earn one in their subjects.

#### Head Teacher Badges



Finally, we are looking to reward our Key Stage 3, Years 7, 8 & 9 students with our Headteacher's Award. Students can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold Crest awards respectively during the Summer Term. In order to achieve the Headteacher's crest students are required to meet certain criteria, such as outstanding attendance and punctuality. Students must also be a role model and their behaviour needs to be exemplary in all their lessons.

### BTSA



Please see separate attachments

## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### Year 13 Mock Examination Week

Year 13 have now fully completed their final mock week in preparation for A-Level examinations, which officially starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. We wish all our students the very best during the forthcoming examination period and would like to congratulate them on their hard work, effort and determination so far. Intervention has been up and running since January along with a spare study timetable. Our Sixth Form counsellor is available every Monday for drop in sessions and we have also introduced a wellbeing and mindset programme that students can sign up to during enrichment.

### UCAS Update

Our 'Horizons' programme officially started on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February for our Year 12 students interested in pursuing their next steps at University. Students were given the opportunity to sign up to this programme during their enrichment on a Wednesday period 6. They have covered a number of topics so far such as; the UCAS process, Unifrog, Widening Participation, Oxbridge etc. All Year 13 students that were wishing to apply to university have successfully submitted their applications and some have already received offers.

### Sixth Form Charity Week

On the week commencing the 6<sup>th</sup> February the Sixth Form council planned and run the Sixth Form Charity Week with all proceeds going to the British Heart Foundation. There were a number of fundraising activities which included; selling of sweets and roses, staff vs students badminton match, soak the teacher and a cake sale etc. We are extremely proud of all our students involved and we are delighted to say that we raised an impressive £719.

### Sixth Form Applications

This year we again have had an increase in the number of applications we have received to attend our Sixth Form. All students that apply complete a guidance interview with a member of the Sixth Form team to ensure they receive support and get all their necessary questions answered. All interviews have now been conducted and offer letters have been sent out. We are now looking forward to our induction days that are being held later this year.

### Jodrell Bank Trip

Year 13 Physicists had a long journey on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, up to Manchester for a day trip to see the impressive Radio Telescope at Jodrell Bank. As part of the A-Level Physics course, students study Cosmology and Astrophysics, this trip

allowed them to get a better understanding of the use of a range of wavelengths used in observing the Universe and determining some of its great mysteries!



## CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

### Careers Guidance

We are currently working with Year 11 and Year 13 students to ensure they have post 16 and post 18 plans in place. If your child does not have a plan in place for September or is unsure about their next steps and would like some extra support and guidance please send an email to [jhilliker@theappletonschool.org](mailto:jhilliker@theappletonschool.org).

### Year 12 Work Experience – Call for Help!

Year 12 students will undertake a one-week work experience placement from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This is an important part of career planning for our students, whether they want to stay in education or look for an apprenticeship/employment as it shows they have considered what they want to do. It allows them to gain an insight into possible careers, and develop relevant skills and experience which will enhance their CV and Personal Statement giving them a better chance of securing the job or degree course of their choice. If any of our parents/carers are able to offer a work experience placement please do contact Mrs Julie Hilliker, [jhilliker@theappletonschool.org](mailto:jhilliker@theappletonschool.org).

### Year 10 Young Enterprise Company Programme

We have a small group of Year 10 students who are taking part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. The students have done exceptionally well throughout the year and won the Best Trade Stand Award at the Christmas Trade Fair and Best Trade Stand and Best Overall Company at the

Easter Trade Fair. They have worked extremely hard selling their products and have already made a profit for their shareholders which they plan to increase further by the end of the year. They are currently busy preparing their Interim Company Report in preparation for the Area Finals on 2<sup>nd</sup> May where they will be competing against teams from Schools in the local area.

### Year 7 School Stationery Shop

We have a very dedicated team of Year 7 students who have been busy setting up the School Stationery Shop which is based in N1a. These students give up their break and lunchtime to run the shop so that all students have access to the essential supplies needed for their lessons.

This also gives the students involved the opportunity to develop business awareness and important employability skills that will be of benefit to them in the future such as communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

The shop is open from 8.15am to 8.40am and every break and lunchtime and we sell all essential stationery items at cost price.

### Year 9/10 Anglia Ruskin Amplify Your Talent Programme

We have partnered with Anglia Ruskin University to deliver the Amplify Your Talent Programme for selected students in years 9 and 10. This is a Maths based programme whereby students apply their GCSE Maths learning in the classroom to real life situations with a particular focus on preparing for life as a university student. Students have been working together to prepare a recipe for a dinner party on a student budget, they have had to calculate the ingredients they would need, shop around for the products within a set budget, applying percentages, fractions and ratios where necessary. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February we took all students taking part in the programme to the Braxted Cookery School where they worked in teams to make their recipe under the guidance of a professional chef. The feedback from students was extremely positive and some interesting recipes were produced.

All students involved, and their parents/carers, will be invited to the Anglia Ruskin University Celebration Evening on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to recognise the hard work and commitment all students have shown throughout the programme.

### The Young Reporter Scheme

Six of our students in years 10 and 12 have been taking part in the Young Reporter Scheme which is being run by Newsquest. As part of the programme they have had to write 8 articles on topics of their choice since September 2022 and each one has been published on the Newsquest website.

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 – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

On 9<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

#### **Royal Navy Ready, Steady, Cook Workshop – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 20 of our Year 10 Food Tech students took part in a Ready, Steady, Cook Challenge hosted by the Royal Navy. It was a fun, interactive “Master Chef” style workshop. Students were presented with a box of ingredients for two dishes and they had to create both a main and a dessert within a set time frame with the support of representatives from the Royal Navy. All students rose to the challenge and produced some very impressive dishes!

#### **Year 10 Mock Interview Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February we had 35 business volunteers come into school to work with our students, developing their interview skills in preparation for future college/job applications. All students produced a CV and Cover Letter which the volunteers used for the basis of the interview. Volunteers gave feedback to students which they can use to help them improve for future interviews.

We had 8 past students from our Alumni Group and it was lovely to have them come back into school to support our current students. We received some very positive feedback from the volunteers on the confidence and maturity of our students so well done to all involved.

#### **Kings College K+ Programme**

The Kings College K+ Programme is a two year programme designed for year 12 and 13 students with all the support and guidance they need to go to one of the best universities in the country. This year we have had 12 students selected to take part and they have been attending various online and in person events and activities since September 2022. Students select which subject stream they are interested in and then explore what student life might be like at university, attend taster lectures and seminars and learn about student finance and budgeting.

#### **Oxbridge Next Steps Programme**

A number of students in Year 11 and 12 have been taking part in the Oxbridge Next Steps Programme hosted by representatives from both Cambridge and Oxford Universities. The programme consists of a number of online

workshops designed to give students the tools to make a competitive application to Oxford or Cambridge University.

### **RED NOSE DAY / COMIC RELIEF**



The Senior Prefect Team held a non-uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March as part of the school’s annual Charity Day. The theme was ‘Wear something red’ to tie in with Comic Relief’s Red Nose Day theme

The total monies raised on the day was £799.84 which will be donated to the Red Nose Charity.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

The safety and wellbeing of students is our paramount concern. As part of our curriculum we continue to focus on wellbeing in CAPE Lessons on Wednesdays period 3 and in assemblies. This covers issues such as mental health, relationships and sex education as well as safeguarding concerns. In the Summer term the school will be commissioning ‘Changing Pathways’ to deliver to all students the message about healthy relationships and domestic violence/abuse.

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

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

The school continues to have an online reporting system where students are able to anonymously report any concern they may have regarding themselves or other students.

Since October there have been e-safety reminders/tips and advice for parents in the Parent Bulletin. In the Autumn term parents also received the first issue of the school's Online Safety Bulletin and at the end of the Spring term, will be receiving our termly Safeguarding Newsletter. These all provide parents/families the relevant support and advice on a variety of Safeguarding topics.

## YOUNG CARERS



It was lovely to see a number of our members of staff wearing their snazzy socks on "Silly Socks Day" which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> March in order to show support for "National Young Carers Action Day". Thank you so much to all who participated to raise awareness for such an important and yet silent group of young people.

Research suggests that there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK but many do not realise they are a young carer and do not seek out support. Wearing silly socks has been a way of shining a light on this very important group of young people and to highlight that there is support available both in and outside of school.

If you are the parent of a Young Carer who is not yet known to us at The Appleton School, please do get in touch with us by emailing in using this email address: [info@theappletonschool.org](mailto:info@theappletonschool.org)

Here are some contact details for further information should you want to find out more:

Essex Young Carers website: [www.youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-carers/](http://www.youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-carers/)

Koolcarers (located in Basildon) website: [www.koolcarers.co.uk/about/](http://www.koolcarers.co.uk/about/)

Young Carers Club at the Whitehouse in Thundersley website: [www.carerschoices.org/young-carers](http://www.carerschoices.org/young-carers)

## BATON TWIRLING SUCCESS

One of our Year 8 students recently competed in the National Championships for Baton Twirling. The competition took place over 3 days. Alena Pattle (pictured below with her trophies) placed in all of her regional finals to win her place at Nationals. She did exceptionally well to place 2nd in her solo event to become National Champion for her age group. She also placed in her group events and received three 2nd places and a 3rd. Well done Alena!



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PERSONAL DETAILS

Please could I remind parents/carers to advise the school by letter or email [info@theappletonschool.org](mailto: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.

## PE REPORT



### PE Success's

The Year 7 Boys Football team recently competed in the Castle Point and Rochford District Cup Final against Sweyne Park. It was an extremely close match, which was won on penalties, after the game went to extra-time and finished 1-1. As a result the team were crowned Year 7 District Champions. This now means that the Appleton Year 7's hold both the Boys and Girls District titles for football this year! The girls were featured in a Parental Bulletin earlier in the year.

The winning boys team (**Ollie Norton, Liam Coleman, Bobby Pearcey, Louis Clark, Robert Smith, Billy O'Rourke, Louie Hambleton, Jack Facey, Jamie Sinfield, Ronan Tomkins, Hayden Martin, Taylor Raymond**) are pictured below. A massive well done to all of them.



The Year 8 Football team made the South East Essex Cup Final. After taking an early lead through a Baxter E goal they conceded later on in the game for the game to finish 1-1. After extra-time the game eventually went to penalties, where unfortunately, the team lost 5-4. The boys played exceptionally well and penalties was a tough way to lose the final.

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Athletics Team who qualified and competed in the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Schools Cup B Final. Qualifying for this final was a great achievement and to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> place was fantastic!

Congratulations must also go to the Year 7 Boys and Girls Sports Hall Athletics teams who competed in the Sports Hall

Athletics Essex Final last week. The students performed exceptionally well with the boy's placing 4<sup>th</sup> in Essex and the girl's 9<sup>th</sup>.

These performances show the excellent work and commitment the year 7 students have been demonstrating during training, The hard work must now continue into the summer athletics season starting after the Easter holidays.

Early this half term the Year 7 Basketball team performed exceptionally well at the District Basketball first round qualifying for the final. Unfortunately, the team lost 47-33 in the Castle Point and Rochford District Final. However, it is a great achievement for the team to make the final.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday,**  
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**End of Term**  
**13.00 hrs**

## SPRING HOLIDAY

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 to**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Monday,**  
**17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Students return 08.40hrs**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> &**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
**2023**

**Year 9 HPV 2 immunisations**

**Thursday,**  
**20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Year 7 Consultative**



