



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin

Newsletter Date 28th April 2023

Key Dates

Bank Holiday 01/05/23

House System

Congratulations to all pupils in Year 7 and 8 for your achievement points that you have earned since the start of the academic year.



| House | Grand Total |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Austen | 8734 |
| Nightingale | 7745 |
| Tull | 7241 |
| Turing | 9200 |
| Grand Total | 32920 |

Attendance & Achievement

How much does attendance impact on achievement and success?

The school's expectation of attendance is at least 97%. The impact on good attendance on your progress is shown in the table below with 94% of students achieving their target grades at the end of year 11. The higher your attendance the best possible chance of personal success!

| Attendance % | Achieve expected target grades. | You will only achieve your target grade in: |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <80% | 20% | 2 of your subjects |
| 80-84.9% | 33% | 3 of your subjects |
| 85-89.9% | 46% | 4 of your subjects |
| | | You will achieve your target grade in: |
| 90-91.9% | 53% | 5 out of 9 subjects |
| 92-95.9% | 75% | 7 out of 9 subjects |
| 96% | 84% | 8 out of 9 subjects |
| 97% | 94% | 9 out of 9 subjects |



Online Safety

Please follow this [link](#) for some advice on keeping your child safe online. Another link to Netware can be found [here](#), which is a parents' guide to the social network's children use and how to keep them safe while using them.

Canteen Menu

Please see [here](#) for the latest menus.

Extra-Curricular

Timetable

Please see [here](#) for the listing of all our extra-curricular clubs, we encourage all students to attend at least one.

Industrial Action

Letters have gone home today regarding our plans for the industrial action days planned for Tuesday 2nd May. We will be having Year 7, 11, 12 & 13 in school on those days and further details can be found in the communications that have come home.

Year 7

7X are in activities period 1 and 2 and usual lessons periods 3-5

7Y are in usual lessons periods 1-3 and in activities periods 4 and 5.

Year 11

Period 1 and 2: Higher Maths students

Period 3 and 4: Foundation Maths Students

Year 12 and 13

Normal lessons, where teachers are not available students are expected to engage in independent learning, homework, or revision.

All other year groups

Online learning through Microsoft Teams.

For everyone else in our school community we wish you all an enjoyable and safe bank holiday weekend.



Are you a Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computing or MFL Undergraduate who is currently at University?

Benfleet Team Supporting All has the opportunity to offer STEM and MFL undergraduates in any year of their degree, an internship in a school during summer 2023.

This will take place from the 26th June completing 14th July. Interns will be in school from 8.15am until 4.00pm Monday to Friday and receive £300 per week.

This will suit someone with a genuine interest in a career in teaching and an enthusiasm for promoting STEM/MFL subjects in school, our internship programme is an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand experience in a school as well as a gateway into the profession.

Please contact Maxine Howard, Administrator, Benfleet Team Supporting All on 01268 794215 ext. # 210 or mhoward@theappletonschool.org for more information and an application pack.

Benfleet Team Supporting All website:
<http://www.btsa.uk/>



Free Revision Masterclass

Liverpool John Moores University are hosting a FREE Revision Masterclass on 10th May 2023
6.30pm to 7.30pm for Year 10 to 12 students and their parents/carers.

Free Revision Masterclass!

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

Join our online webinar to learn how you can ace your upcoming exams

10th May, 2023
18:30-19:30

Come join our Free Revision Masterclass!

Have you got your A-level and GCSE exams on the horizon?

Come to our Revision Masterclass with Liverpool John Moores University and;

- Create a personalised revision timetable,
- Learn the most effective revision techniques and,
- Get mental health advice and support during the exam period.

On: 10th May 2023 at 6.30 - 7.30pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13. Careers leaders and teachers are welcome to join.

Click the link below to register:

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/5b4f2d55-2ef6-43fb-8614-c92ecb51bea4@182a8b31-3dab-4b92-8bb8-9526911aeba0?goal=0_f09eb3b2c8-5e24d53de6-212028121&mc_cid=5e24d53de6&mc_eid=566ed81fe9



Careers Newsletter



CTM Pathway Work Experience

CTM Pathway are hosting a **Virtual Insight Event with RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute)** talking all things Town Planning for students in years 9 to 13 on 25th May 2023 from 6pm to 7pm. Students can find out more about what a career in Town Planning could look like, what it involves and how to take the next steps. RTPI are running another **Work Experience** programme in the summer too which they will be talking about including, how to apply and tips on applications for students.

Apprenticeships with the Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police are currently recruiting for their Degree Apprenticeship Programme, to find out more and apply click [here](#).

If you are interested in a career in policing and would like to find out more you can view the Amazing Apprenticeships webinar [here](#).



Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge



Selected Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge in February where they took part in a workshop designed to develop their public speaking skills. At the end of the day we selected 3 overall winners, Reese Duffield, Sienna Bayford and Serisha Gray, who went on to deliver their speeches in the year 7 and 8 assemblies this week. They all did exceptionally well but we had to select one overall winner who will go on to represent The Appleton School at the Regional Finals on 9th May. Our Jack Petchey finalist for 2023 is Serisha Gray!

Apprenticeship Parent Pack

If you would like to find out more about Apprenticeships you can access all of the Amazing Apprenticeship Resources online, including the monthly Parent & Carers Pack. This month's edition explores technician apprenticeships, logistic apprenticeships with the RAF, the new apprenticeship guide from Disability Rights UK, information about Graduate Careers Live, post-16 and 18 options and much more! Please click [here](#) to download this month's edition.





Careers Newsletter

Subject Spotlight

English can lead to a vast range of career options. Writing accurately and effectively and using a wide vocabulary will make it easy for you to communicate and pass on information. Below you can see just some of the careers you may be interested in if you enjoy English, the wide range of skills that you develop through the subject and some degrees you could study at University. If you could like to find out more log into your Unifrog account and use the Subjects Library and the Careers Library to find out more!

DID YOU KNOW THAT ENGLISH CAN LEAD TO ...

ENGLISH

Jobs

- Digital copywriter
- Editorial assistant
- Records manager
- Lexicographer
- Publishing copy-editor
- Marketing executive
- Journalist
- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Writer

"English is the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy, and tourism. Knowing English increases your chances of getting a good job in a multinational company within your home country or of finding work abroad"

BSC School of English

Skills

- Time management and organisation
- Planning and researching and written work
- Articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories
- Leading and participating in discussions
- Negotiation and teamworking to present ideas and information
- Effectively conveying arguments and opinions and thinking creatively
- Critical reasoning and analysis

Higher Education

- BA (Hons) in English Language and Linguistics
- BA (Hons) in English Literature
- BA (Hons) in English and Theatre Studies
- LLB (Hons) in Law and Politics
- BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism
- BA (Hons) in Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) in Business Entrepreneurship
- BA (Hons) in Tourism Management
- BA (Hons) in Film Studies and Screen Writing

CAREERSINC

THE APPLETON SCHOOL



Safeguarding—WIZZ

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING
Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS
Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate ages, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT
During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to snapchat' (snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

INTIMATE IMAGES
It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS
The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Critics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT
If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who they've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

BE SUPPORTIVE
When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT
It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutcliffe is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

source: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizz120&hl=en_GB&gl=US | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sexorcid/>

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) |
 [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) |
 [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety) |
 [@national_online_safety](https://www.tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.04.2023



Sporting Achievement

Congratulations to one Charles Harris, one of our Sixth Formers, who won a Bronze medal in a recent British Judo competition!

Well done Charlie!

If any parents have any student successes they wish to share, please email into info@theappletonschool.org or reply to the bulletin emails.





ECC LIBRARIES VOLUNTEER FOR AGES 14 +

As you may know, every year the Essex Library Service works with The Reading Agency to run the Summer Reading Challenge in our libraries, with the help of some amazing volunteers.

We have a fantastic opportunity for your students and staff to come and volunteer with us to help run the scheme again this year! Throughout the Summer Holidays, volunteers will come to a library of their choice and speak to children participating in the challenge about the books they read, giving out rewards as they go along.

This is a fantastic opportunity for your students aged 14+ to boost their CV, enhance their social skills, or complete the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, all whilst having fun and helping out the local community! We provide ongoing support to our volunteers throughout the summer to make sure that the experience is enjoyable and worthwhile.

We'd love for your students and staff to come and volunteer with us this summer!

You can find more information about volunteering with us, and details of how to apply, on our website here: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/volunteer-to-help-with-the-summer-reading-challenge>

You can learn more about this year's Summer Reading Challenge here: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-2023>

Essex County Council
Libraries

VOLUNTEER with us!

Come and help children take part in the
Summer Reading Challenge 2023
in libraries during the summer holidays!

talk about books

have fun chats with children

help your local community

boost your CV

Apply online at libraries.essex.gov.uk
Closing date: 30 June 2023
Apply early to secure your first choice of library.
Open to ages 14 and over



UK CHESS CHALLENGE

UK Chess Challenge (UKCC) is the largest chess competition in the UK – for young players of all ages and abilities. It is one of the most prestigious junior chess events in the world.

I am delighted to inform you that this year Essex Megafinal are organising a UKCC Megafinal in Essex. It will take place at **Colchester Town Hall** on **Sunday, 21 May 2023**. The event is supported by [Essex Junior Chess Association](#).

It's an excellent opportunity for Essex junior players to qualify for the later stages without travelling to other counties. Besides qualifications, there will be trophies and medals to win for each age year group.

Please help us spread the news among your school pupils by publishing it on your school website and/or weekly newsletter. Please see attached the tournament flyer .

**Essex
Megafinal
2023**

A Gigafinal Qualifying Event

**UK CHESS
CHALLENGE**
Proudly sponsored by Delancey

Supported by
**ESSEX
JUNIOR
CHESS**

Sunday 21st May, Colchester Town Hall, CO1 1PJ

An official UK Chess Challenge qualifying Event
for the Gigafinals

**THE APPLETON
SCHOOL**

Croft Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5RN

Phone:
01268 794215

Email:
info@theappletonschoo.org

Website:
www.theappletonschoo.org

Quick Links

[Edulink](#)

[ParentMail](#)

[Google Drive](#)

[Satchel One](#)

[Microsoft Teams](#)

[Never Acceptable](#)

Summer Term Dates

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May Bank Holiday

29th May – 2nd June Half Term

Thursday 20th July Last day of term

GCSE Revision Resources

We have provided a wide range of resources to aid your son/daughter when it comes to their revision for each of their examination subjects.

<http://www.theappletonschoo.org/students/revision-resources>

A-Level Revision Resources

We have provided a wide range of resources to aid your son/daughter when it comes to their revision for each of their examination subjects.

<http://www.theappletonschoo.org/sixth-form/student-life/ks5-resources>