



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin

Newsletter Date: 6th November 2023

Key Dates

- W/C 9th October—Yr7 & Yr12 Photos (Date TBC)
- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Inset Day—20.10.23

Communication

Please follow us online for up-to-date information.

[The Appleton School](#)



[The Appleton School](#)



RAAC Update

We are incredibly pleased to announce that the school is fully open from Monday. As a community we've been waiting for this news and we're just happy that this positive news came this side of half term so we can get on with the business of supporting the students.

FAQs

Is there a plan for extra support?

As you can imagine our priority has been to chase up the surveyor reports and getting the site ready for all students on Monday. Our next steps will be to look at what extra support can be put in place, prioritising the students with limited time in school i.e. our exam years, and then working back through the school. We hope to have more information on this shortly. The Headteacher will continue to meet with representatives from the DfE to champion this cause.

Will practical subjects be able to resume quickly?

Yes. No-one is chomping at the bit more than our practical subject teachers!

Will the extra-curricular timetable resume in full?

Yes, that is being pulled together now and will be communicated shortly.

Will you be covering online material, again in class?

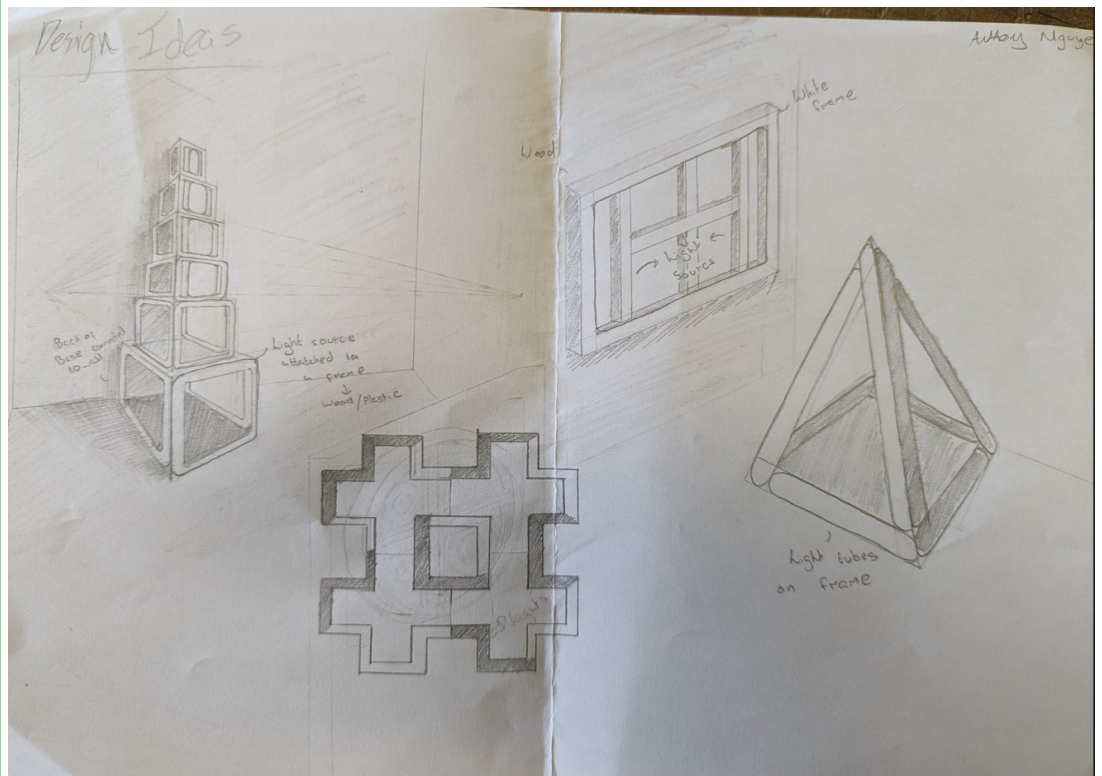
Not necessarily. The curriculum is designed to have regular revision of material built into it, to help students break down revision and support long-term retention.

We also have assessment windows coming up in the school calendars; assessments are a very useful teaching tool, they help us to understand issues with individual student understanding and the whole class.

If an assessment identifies an area that needs to be revisited this will then be addressed by the classroom teacher. Heads of Faculty also review assessment data, if they identify an area of concern across the year group they will then centrally put a plan in place to support the students.



Shoutouts!



DT

Ms Bowles would like to give a huge congratulations to the Design and Technology Group 10B, who have all worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks at home. With special praise to the following students for the high standard of work they have completed already.

Anthony Nguyen
Jake Humphries
Taylor Parmenter
Lexi Roth

SCIENCE

Mr Hannan would like to give a shout out to Jake Judge, who has been excellent in Physics and trying incredibly hard every lesson!





Shoutouts!

ENGLISH Ms N Cox

Jack Allen

Jessica Verlander

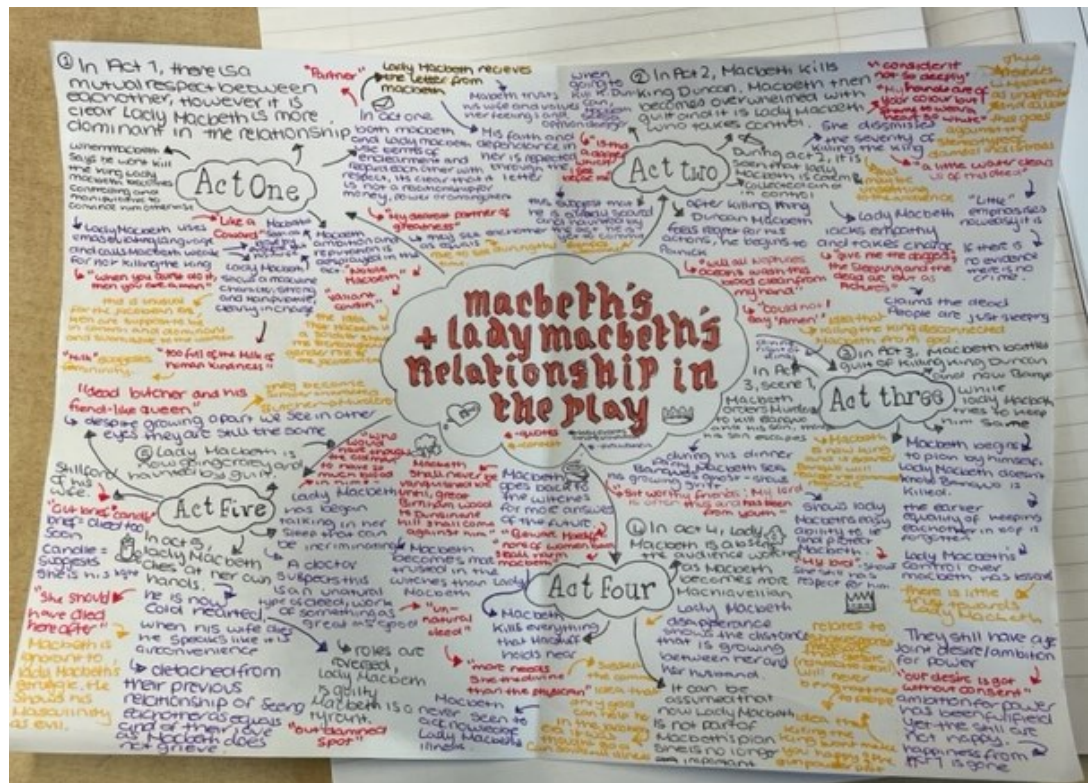
Both for fantastic work and outstanding effort in lessons

Emmy Coldham

Zane-Joel Lewis

Both having high aspirations in English

Ms Levey would like to Shout out to Megan Peacock in y11 for this fabulous piece of Macbeth homework please!





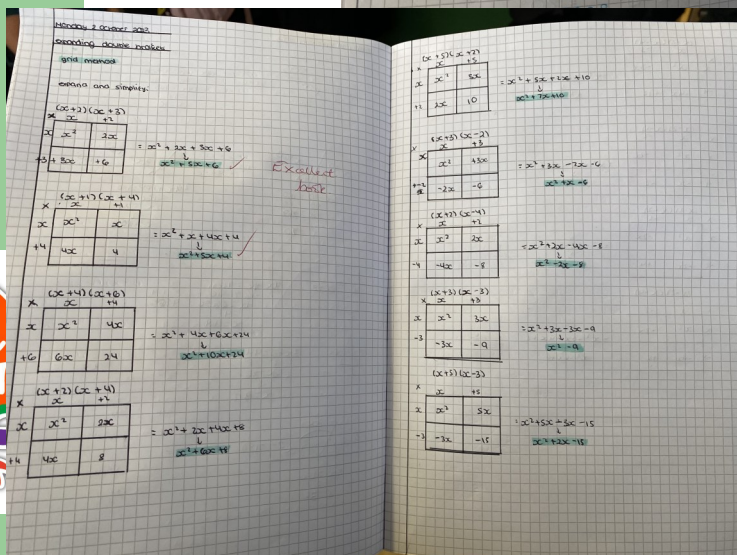
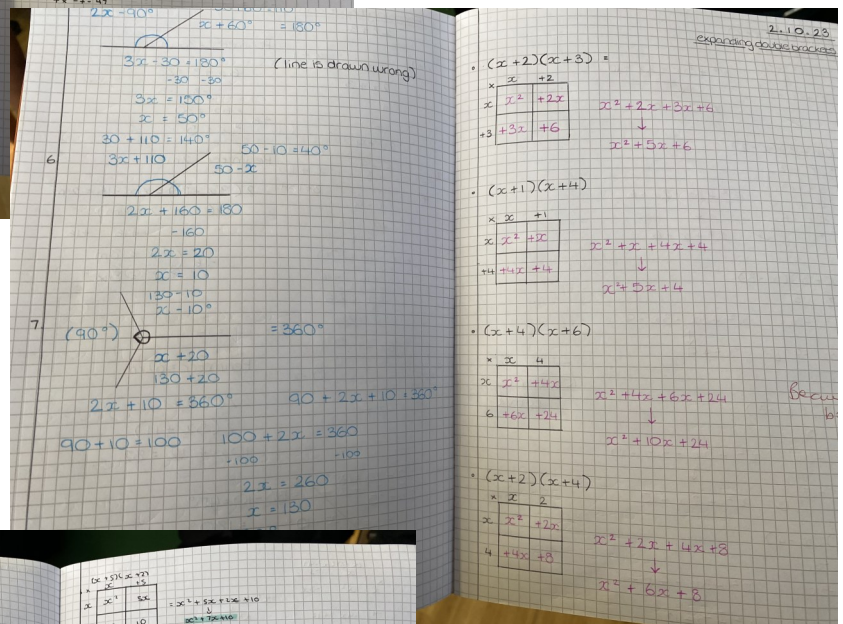
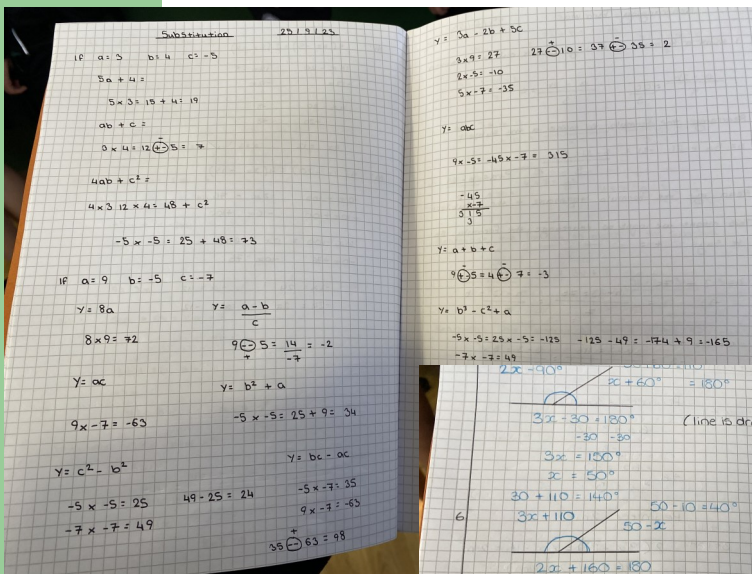
Shoutouts!

MATHS

Ms S Cohen

Would like to praise the following students for having such incredibly neat books and working so hard in lessons. These students were encouraged to show their books to Mr Hannan at breaktime who was very impressed!!

Well done: Ryley Cheesman, Stephany Sandu, and Alicia Morton





Sports Achievement

Just wanted to give a shout out to our U16 Netball Squad who have been together mostly since Year 7 (and trained all through COVID despite not having matches).

They played in the county qualifying tournament today and beat Belfairs, Westcliff High and King John to go through to the County Champs. This hasn't happened for a fair number of years.

Many of the year 11 girls regularly helped with the younger years' training and a couple have umpired at district rallies for the younger girls.

Year 11

Elise Bryant
Olivia Conway
Issy Hilz
Matilda Wright
Lilly Wright
Urte Sabulyte
Ava Goodwin
Erykah Haggar

Year 10

Lexi Dobroch
Jess Stafford





Christmas Card House Competition

Following the success of last year's design, the Christmas card House competition where two of our students' cards was our official Christmas card and sent out to over 100 associates of the school. We are delighted to announce that we will be running this competition again this year with an entry deadline of Wednesday 18th October 2023. This is open to all students in Key Stage Three. If your child is a keen artist and would like to enter this competition please encourage them to design a card of either A4 or A5 and hand this to the Art Department teachers either Mr Barry or Miss Riley we will then judge the winner and announce them at the end of Term. The winner and runners-up will receive House Points and a reward.





Essex Local Offer Roadshows



 Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

Essex Local Offer Roadshows

Are you the parent/carer or family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Do you have questions about accessing support in your area or questions about SEND support available in Essex through Health, Education and Social Care? Would you like to link up with other parents in your area?

If you do, please come along and see us at the Roadshow. There will be representatives from Essex Family Forum, SENDIASS, health, social care as well as representatives from the education teams, SEND Navigation Leads and local support groups. The roadshow is a drop-in event with no need to book.

This term for South Essex we will be at:


Ingatstone Community Centre, 7 High Street, Ingatstone, Essex, CM4 9ED

Thursday 2 November
9am to 12.30pm

Please go to the Essex Local Offer to find out addresses and more (QR and link below).

In Partnership with



 SCAN ME

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



Performing Arts Extra Curricular during remote teaching

Drama Club, Wednesday Afterschool. Offered to any students on site. 3pm-4pm in the gym.

Harmonics, Thursday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Harmonics can attend even if working from home on this day. Harmonics will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in i2.

Dynamix, Thursday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Dynamix can attend even if working from home on this day. Dynamix will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in the gym.

Session Band, Friday Afterschool. Students who have been invited to Session Band can attend even if working from home on this day. Session Band will start at a later time of 3.30pm-4.30pm to allow for travel and take place in i3.

Any questions please contact Mrs Edwards-Ricketts, Head of Performing Arts

Update: One-to-one Instrumental lessons (with Essex Music Service)

I would like to inform all instrumental pupils that their one-to-one instrumental lessons will still be delivered this term, and will be following the format below:

For pupils who are working from home - your lesson will be as timetabled online with your instrumental tutor.

You will be sent to your tutor's Zoom Room details to join the meeting. (This will be sent to the appropriate parents/carers through SpeedAdmin).

For pupils who are in school, your lesson will be rearranged to a later date.

Your missed lessons will be made up across the term by your individual tutors and you will still be getting your 10 lessons for the term.

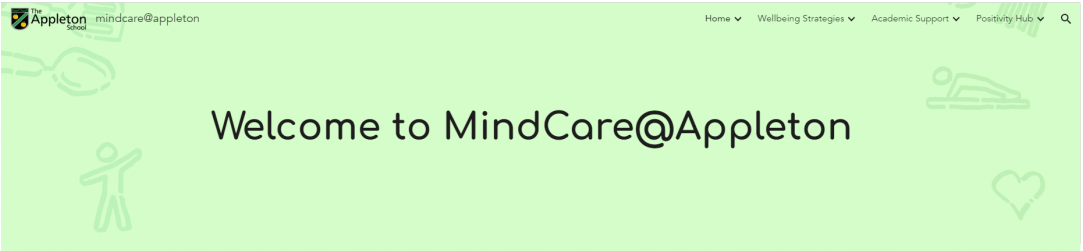
We are hoping that this setup will only be temporary till we are able to work out spacing within the school. Thank you once again for your patience and support through this arrangement.

Any questions please contact Miss Thai, Head of Music





Wellbeing and Mental Health



We are delighted to invite you to a special space dedicated entirely to your well-being and happiness – the Appleton MindCare Hub. This page has been thoughtfully crafted with your needs in mind, offering practical strategies and valuable resources to support your physical, emotional, and psychological well-being.

Here, you'll discover strategies, tips, and insights to cultivate a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Whether it's dealing with stress, managing emotions, or finding ways to stay active and positive, we've got you covered.

It's also a place to access essential resources and information shared for significant wellbeing events that matter to our Appleton community. Whether it's exam preparation, or wellness campaigns, you'll find timely updates and helpful resources right here.

Remember, your well-being is of utmost importance, and we are committed to providing you with the tools and knowledge you need to flourish. Together, let's make Appleton a place where every student shines brightly!

©

We are excited to launch the new MindCare@Appleton website, spearhead by Ms Sangha our Head of Wellbeing and support. This webpage is for our students to help their wellbeing and mental health, and it is informed by the results from the Student Surveys conducted last term.

Please click [here](#) to access it. students will need to log in using their school google accounts to access it.

At the Appleton School, your child's emotional wellbeing is important to us.

With the current situation in school, we understand that your child may be experiencing some anxiety, or have some worries adapting to some of the temporary changes we have had to make in school.

If, you feel your child may need some support with their wellbeing, or would benefit from further intervention, then please feel free to contact me at the following email address: info@theappletonschool.org where it can then be forwarded onto Mrs Benson.

Where appropriate, Mrs Benson will work with your child, either remotely or in person in order to support them. If necessary, Mrs Benson is able to signpost parents/carers to other members of staff or external organisations.

May we remind you that if you have any Safeguarding concerns, then these should be directed to the school Safeguarding Team, in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy. This information can be found on the school website.



Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games 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 AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially gristlier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site 505Games and has worked in the gaming media for several years. A regular visitor to the app store lobby and newsbooks, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. He blogs regularly about tech and games. His articles have been published on an infographic about breaking 100 and the 100th issue.



[@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 of their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023



Anyone for Tennis?

24TH & 25TH OCTOBER
KIDS OCTOBER CAMPS
HADLEIGH PARK LAWN
TENNIS CLUB

Looking for an activity for your kids over the school holidays?

Why not join us and sign them up for a tennis camp?



10 AM - 2PM MINI RED & ORANGE (4-9 YEARS)

10AM - 2PM JUNIOR GREEN & YELLOW (10+ YEARS)

Prices:

Member - £20 per day

Non Member - £22 per day

For more information or to book a place, please contact Graham on
07745 943403



Careers Newsletter

News Spotlight



You're invited to the Digital Hub Launch Event!

Join us 17-18th October at ACL Colchester for the launch of our new Digital Hub!

Book your FREE digital taster or visit us between 9am – 8pm to view the new building, receive a goody bag, and to enrol on a course.

Find us at: ACL Colchester, Barrack St, Colchester CO1 2LR

[Digital Hub - ACL Essex](#)

Find careers guidance...



Read the magazine

Essex Careers Magazine

An all-age magazine to help you find a job, change roles or secure a new training opportunity in Essex.

Edition 2 available

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/852446630/>

Series 3 Episode 5 available now!

In October 2023, the nation's number one apprenticeship employer, the British Army, celebrates 100 years of offering apprenticeships – but what does an apprenticeship in the British Army look like? What options are available? And how do you go about getting on an Army apprenticeship?

To answer those questions and plenty more, host Rachel Burden is joined by Colonel Craig Terblanche, who is part of the Education Training Services team in the British Army and Deputy Assistant to the Chief of Staff within Education.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>





Subject Spotlight

WHY STUDY... ART & DESIGN

Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

SKILLS



Creativity



Problem Solving



Contextual Interpretation



Presentation



Visual Communication



Teamwork

PATHWAYS

APPRENTICESHIPS

- Visual Effects
- Live Event Rigger
- Broadcast Production
- Advertising and Marketing
- Craft and technical roles in Film and TV
- Creative Craft
- Costume and Wardrobe
- Interactive Design
- Digital Learning Design
- Journalism

FURTHER EDUCATION

- A Level - Art and Design
- A Level - Graphics
- A Level - Design Technology
- T Level - Craft and Design
- T Level - Digital Production, Design and Development
- T Level - Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- BTEC - Art and Design
- BTEC - Design Technology
- BTEC - Media Studies

HIGHER EDUCATION

- BA (Hons) in Art & Design
- BA (Hons) in Fine Art
- BA (Hons) in Graphic Design
- BA (Hons) in Design for Art Direction
- BA (Hons) in Scenography and Theatre Design
- BA (Hons) History of Art and Design
- BA (Hons) in Fashion Design
- BA (Hons) in Digital Creative Industries
- BA (Hons) in Popular Music Studies
- BA (Hons) in Music Technology
- BA (Hons) in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Games Development

SCAN ME
TO FIND OUT MORE



JOBS

- Art Therapist
- Digital Marketer
- Artist
- Photographer
- Multimedia Programmer
- Graphic Designer
- Interior Designer
- Museum/Gallery Exhibitions Officer





BTSA Recruitment



Interested in Training to be a Teacher?



Join us at our virtual recruitment event to
find out more about our training programme
from September 2024

16th October at 7pm, via Zoom

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/BTSA-Oct23>



tes
institute

In Partnership with
TES Institute



South Essex College — SEN Open Event & Newsletter



South Essex College Group would like to invite students and their parents/guardians to their **SEN Open event at Southend College on Thursday 12th October between 5-7pm.**

Please follow the link to access this article and their newsletter: <https://southessexcollege.cmail20.com/t/r-e-ttujlya-nzthjley-h/>

Love Your Library Day - Event Hadleigh Library

On Saturday October 7th Hadleigh Library are hosting Love your Library Day for Teens to raise awareness of the many free services they can access simply by having a library card.

In addition, there will be a drop-in creative writing session which if successful could become a regular group held in the library.

Hadleigh Library is a welcoming and safe space for young people offering study space, free WiFi and computer access, free access to audio and e-books, and of course access to thousands of print items from over 200 libraries.

Essex County Council Libraries

We're books

But we're not just books

Find out how we help teens
at your local library on
Saturday 7 October
for Love Your Library Day!

Find your community!
Enjoy learning!
Unlock free stuff!

Free Event!

Libraries can be anything you want

Creative Writing Sessions
Scribblers 12-16

Calling all young creative writers!

- Are you a budding writer at secondary school?
- Do you love writing stories, scripts, poems, or just scribbling down thoughts?
- Want to develop your skills and meet others who love to write?
- Scribblers is a safe and supportive session for young creative writers of any genre.

Drop in Session
12-2pm
Saturday 7th October
Hadleigh Library
SEE YOU THERE!

**THE APPLETON
SCHOOL**

Croft Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5RN

Phone:
01268 794215

Email:
info@theappletonschool.org

Website:
www.theappletonschool.org

Quick Links

[Edulink](#)

[ParentMail](#)

[Google Drive](#)

[Satchel One](#)

[Microsoft Teams](#)

[Never Acceptable](#)

Autumn Term Dates

Friday 20th October non pupil day

Monday 23rd October– 27th October Half Term

Wednesday 20th December last day of term

Spring Term Dates

Thursday 4th January 24 students return

Monday 19th February –23rd February Half Term

Friday 8th March non pupil day

Thursday 28th march last day of term

Summer Term Dates

Monday 15th April students return

Monday 6th May Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May-31st May Half Term

Friday 19th 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.theappletonschool.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.theappletonschool.org/sixth-form/student-life/ks5-resources>