



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin

Newsletter Date 23rd June 2023

Key Dates

W/B 26th March
Y12 Mock Exams

W/B 3rd July
Y12 Work Experience

3rd July
Year 10 NHS Careers Expo

6th July
Y8 Consultative

12th July
School Production—Dress Rehearsal

13th—15th July
School Production
Wizard of Oz

20th July
Last day of term

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	11977
Nightingale	10419
Tull	9430
Turing	11894
Grand Total	43720

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.

ESSEX AUTISM PROJECT

NHS ESSEX AUTISM PROJECT



KIDS is working with the NHS in Essex to create an exciting new support service for young autistic people and their families. We'll be working hand-in-hand with young people, families, and community groups across Essex, Southend and Thurrock over the coming year to create a service that works for everyone.



Over the next 12 months we want to work with young people and families all over Essex to coproduce an engaging accessible website and support webinars created by and for people with lived experience and **we need your help!**

Want to join us or find out more?

Are you an autistic young person?
Or a family member or local organisation working with autistic young people or their families?
We would love for you to be involved.

Call us and leave a message on
01206 414 934

Text us on 07361 587 876
or visit

www.kids.org.uk/essexautism

And we will be in touch
with more details





School Production –The Wizard of Oz

We are excited to announce our School Production of 'The Wizard of Oz' will be running on Thursday 13th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th July 2023.

Tickets will be available to be purchased via Parent Mail from Monday 19th June 2023. Adult tickets cost £6 and Concession tickets (under 18s and OAP) cost £3.

Tickets will remain on sale until Friday 7th July 2023 after which tickets will be distributed via pupils.

On the evening of the performance, doors will open at 7 pm where you will have the opportunity to purchase refreshments before the show. The show will begin promptly at 7.30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Performing Arts Team

There's no place like home!


THE WIZARD of OZ

WILL YOU JOIN US
AND FOLLOW THE
YELLOW BRICK
ROAD?

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
VIA PARENTMAIL**

ADULTS £6.00
CONCESSIONS £3.00

PERFORMANCES
THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2023
FRIDAY 14TH JULY 2023
SATURDAY 15TH JULY 2023
7:30PM

 The
Appleton
School



Project branding experience for a young Canvey resident

Essex County Council are seeking a young person living on Canvey to **brand and shape a new Essex-wide youth movement**. The 16-25-year-old will use their social media and networking skills to help other young people with their next life and career steps.

The lucky young person will receive **free access to a business mentor and professional social media training**. Travel costs will be covered and there will be help with access to devices if necessary. This is an opportunity to gain experience while also making a difference to other people's lives.

Find a flyer attached with further details. To become an Essex Hero contact Louise.Fry@essex.gov.uk

Email Louise.Fry@essex.gov.uk or call 03330 322591

[#volunteering](#)
[#youthempowerment](#) [#youthvoice](#) [#youthengagement](#) [#canvey](#)
[#schoolstudents](#) [#colleges](#) [#essexyouth](#) [#youthservices](#)

School Uniform / Recycle & Save The Planet

Do you have any good quality Appleton School uniform or PE Kit to donate?

All uniform items are welcome, but please ensure they are clean and in good condition.

Please can you send it in with your child or place in the uniform box that is located in our Reception

Thank you for your continued support.





AIR CADETS RECRUITING EVENING

Calling all aspiring cadets (year 8 and above)

If you're interested in joining then come on down to our recruitment evening on the 29th of June to meet our cadets, the staff, and see what it is we do.

Now is your chance to learn new skills, make new friends, and find out if you've got any hidden talents.

Do more, be more.

#ventureadventure #RAFAC #essexwing #cadets #aircadets #dukeofedinburghaward #adventuretraining #gliding #archery

1341 (Thundersley) SQN

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS the next generation

80

JOIN US #REACHINGFORTHESTARS

Recruitment evening
29/06/23 @19:30hrs
If you're year 8 or above and are interested
in joining us. Please visit our website,
or email us @
adj.1341@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Scan me to join!

Year 12 Mock Exams—Reminder

The Year 12 mock examination period is this upcoming week, **26th June - 30th June 2023**.

If any student is awarded a U grade for any subject in the Year 12 end of year exams 2023 they must be prepared for a **resit examination upon their return in September** for the relevant examination(s). Following the resit result there will be a discussion with students and parents to finalise the student's future curriculum pathway; either continuation to Year 13 curriculum or resitting Year 12. The purpose of this is to ensure we are fully supporting the needs of our students.

The mock exam timetable that will be sent home has been organised into morning and afternoon sessions, following the same format of their external summer examinations next year, meaning that some students school day will finish later than normal. Given this increase in the school day, and to support student wellbeing, the school timetable has been adapted. Between the morning and afternoon examination sessions, students should have their lunch if they have two exams on the same day, or use this time to engage in revision, with staff available in their regular timetabled classrooms to provide additional support.

All teachers will set materials to support revision and this is expected to be completed in the Sixth Form block, one of the study rooms or at home.



Polite Message from School Nurse

If your child suffers from Hayfever, please ensure they have taken their Hayfever medication before school.

Unfortunately due to the numbers of pupils requiring antihistamines I cannot supply these on a daily basis. However, if you can provide a pack of One a Day Antihistamine or a Bottle of Piriton (Chlorphenamine) I'm happy to keep this in the medical room solely for your child's use.

Also I would like to highlight the importance of bringing a Water Bottle into school. This helps them stay hydrated throughout the day. Especially now as the weather is going to hopefully get warmer. Please note that they will have to ask to leave the room in a Science lab to take a drink due to Health and Safety legislation.

Majority of the pupils headaches and feeling sick I see here at school, is because they are dehydrated.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Sheppard
School Nurse (RGN)

Message from Student Services

If you need to collect your child during the school day please can you insure you inform student services by 8.30am either by Edulink or phone. If it is for a medical appointment please can you provide evidence.

School Uniform

During the warm weather it is not required for students to wear blazers but they should still have their expectations card on them.

Should the weather get much warmer we will enact our emergency weather procedure, where students can wear PE kit to school. Should this occur we will email all parents.



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/>



Careers Newsletter

Events Spotlight

Applying to study Medicine

On Tuesday 27th June 2023 we have one of our past students who is currently in her second year of studying Medicine coming into school to talk to aspiring medics, dentists and vets. She will be sharing her experience of the application process and giving hints and tips on how to maximise your chances of making a successful application to study one of these most competitive subjects.

If your child would like to attend please send an email to jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.



Year 11 and 13 Apprenticeship Support

On Tuesday 11th July 2023 from 12.00 to 1.30pm we will be holding an Apprenticeship Support Workshop with the Essex Apprenticeship Hub. If your child is currently in Year 11 or 13 and is hoping to secure an apprenticeship they are welcome to come along. We will be focusing on how to search and apply for current opportunities, how to tailor applications to maximise your chances of a successful application and how to prepare for interviews.

If your child would like to attend please send an email to jhilliker@theappletonschool.org.



CTM Pathway Events

CTM Pathways have a range of events taking place in the coming months to help students explore their career options. Click the link below to find out more:

<https://pathwayctm.com/events/>





Careers Newsletter

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Essex Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Essex Opportunities website features a range of local apprenticeship vacancies. Please see some of the current live vacancies below:

Role – Business Support Apprenticeship

Scheme – Apprenticeship

Location – Chelmsford

Link - <https://www.workingforessex.com/apply/business-support-apprentice-12987?source=workingforessex.com>

Role – Town Planner Apprentice

Scheme – Apprentice

Location – Remote working

Link - <https://www.workingforessex.com/apply/town-planning-apprentice-13023?source=workingforessex.com>

Role – Active Essex Intern

Scheme – Internship

Location – Essex

Link - <https://www.workingforessex.com/apply/active-essex-intern-12947?source=workingforessex.com>

All our live vacancies can be found on: www.workingforessex.com

Essex
Opportunities
Live



Careers Newsletter

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Role – Active Essex Intern

Scheme – Internship

Location – Essex

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All our live vacancies can be found on: www.workingforessex.com

Essex
Opportunities
Live



Safeguarding—AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

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 issues 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 AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-looking computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large secondary school in the UK, having provided IT support to schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

[@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: 23.06.2023



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



Summer holidays –Parents guide to help keep children safe online

Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

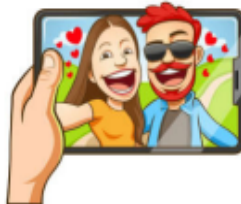
School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org
Email: info@skips.com
Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Skips

Keeping children safe online

www.skipssafetynet.org



YOUTH SERVICE - RAWR

**YOUTH
SERVICE**

Inspire
Enable
Achieve



READ . AND . WRITE . A . REVIEW



RAWR

Enter to win a
brand new Kindle



WHEN IS RAWR LAUNCHING?

RAWR will officially start on the 1st of June and end on the 1st of July 2023.

The competition is to read a book or an ebook / audiobook of your choice and write a review about it. The review can be a rap, a song, a comic, a written review, a physical review and much more. When it is completed please send it to YEA@essex.gov.uk when the competition is launched For your chance to win a brand new Kindle!

Anyone from Essex Aged 11-19 can participate, or 11 - 25 with special educational needs!

To find out more scan the QR Code or visit the Youth Service website:

[Youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-essex-assembly/the-young-essex-assembly-rawr/](https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-essex-assembly/the-young-essex-assembly-rawr/)

3 winners will be picked each receiving a Kindle!
There will also be gift cards up for grabs!





VOLUNTEERING WITH CAVS

Volunteers' Week 2023



Could You Volunteer For Us?

WE ARE RECRUITING NOW, FOR MORE PEOPLE TO
JOIN OUR CARING BEFRIENDING TEAM.

COULD YOU SPARE ANY TIME TO HELP CHANGE
SOMEONE'S LIFE FOR THE BETTER?

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

01268 214 000

VOLUNTEERING@CAVSORG.UK

WWW.CAVSORG.UK/VOLUNTEERING



#VolunteersWeek

www.cavsorg.uk | 01268 214 000 | volunteering@cavsorg.uk

CAVS Castle Point Association Of Voluntary Services

Registered Charity: 1103968

**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](#)

Summer Term Dates

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.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>