



The Appleton School Parent Bulletin

Newsletter Date 21st April 2023

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	8254
Nightingale	7358
Tull	6892
Turing	8823
Grand Total	31327

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 Days

Letters have gone home today regarding our plans for the industrial action days planned for Thursday 27th April and 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.

Expectation Cards and toilet use

Expectation cards are changing slightly in appearance. They will appear as an A5 folded piece of card, the front side used for the community rewards, to promote positivity first.

On the inside there will be a log of toilet use and code of conduct for using the toilet. We will continue to allow students to use toilet during lesson, however, not for the first or last 10 minutes as these are important points of the lessons to introduce or conclude learning. The log is merely to allow us to monitor those that are using the toilet multiple times in a day, to review lost learning time, this would not include those with a medical need.

On the back of the card will be the usual referral for poor conduct or behaviour.

Students will get their new expectation cards on Monday.

General Notices

The coronation bank holiday on Monday 8th May will mean that the school will be closed, we wish everyone an enjoyable bank holiday.

Government Emergency Alert System

On Sunday 23rd April at 3pm the government will test their new alert system. This will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phones when lives are in danger. An emergency alert is a loud, siren-like sound with a message on your mobile phone or tablet screen.



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 Moore's 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



IPECO Engineering - Apprenticeship Programme

IPECO are a world leader in aircraft crew seating and executive jet passenger seating. They are currently recruiting for their Apprenticeship Programme starting September 2023.

They are holding their final open event on Thursday 27th April from 4pm. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

www.ipeco.com

Clear Thinking

Clear Thinking are a local company who offer communication and IT solutions to help transform businesses, helping to move forward productivity securely and compliantly.

They are currently recruiting for an IT Apprenticeship and an Accounts Apprentice. Please see leaflets attached for more information.



CLEAR THINKING
SOLUTIONS

www.clearthinking.co.uk

GSK Virtual Virtual Work Experience

GSK are offering some excellent virtual work experience events, registration links are below

First Step (years 7, 8, 9) - Wednesday 26th April at 4.30pm – [GSK live online career challenge](#) – The Next big discovery! – [Register to attend](#)

Next Step (years 10,11,12,13) - Wednesday 3rd May at 5pm – [GSK live online career challenge](#) – calling all patients!! - [Register to attend](#)

Career panel - Thursday 11th May at 6.30pm - [GSK live online career panel](#) - We invite students, career leaders and parents to attend this live session to learn about placement and apprenticeship opportunities.



Careers Newsletter

Subject Spotlight

Do you like Biology? Biology is the study of living things, from tiny micro-organisms, plants and animals to human beings. Biology is an important subject for careers in the science and health sectors, but there are many other career routes you can take with this subject. Interested? Log into your Unifrog account and go to the Careers or Subjects Library to research further.

BIOLOGY

DID YOU KNOW THAT BIOLOGY CAN LEAD TO ...

Jobs

- Biotechnologist
- Dentist
- Higher education lecturer
- Microbiologist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Physician associate
- Research scientist
- Soil scientist
- Zoologist
- Midwife

"Biology opens up exciting career possibilities. From conservation to cancer research, biologists are tackling important 21st century challenges, and we need skilled young people to be part of this"

David Lambert-Fleming, Director of Education and Training at the Society of Biology

Skills

- Communication written and aural
- Teamworking through group projects and seminars
- Organisational ability
- Analyse and draw conclusions from diverse data
- Problem-solving, project and time management
- Self-reliance, initiative and business awareness

Higher Education

- BSc (Hons) in Human Biology
- BA (Hons) in Biological Sciences
- BSc (Hons) in Marine Biology
- BSc (Hons) in Physiology
- BSc (Hons) in Zoology
- BSc (Hons) in Nursing Studies
- BSc (Hons) in Midwifery
- BSc (Hons) in Sport Rehabilitation
- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy
- BA (Hons) in Medical Science

CAREERSINC

THE APPLETON SCHOOL



Safeguarding—FORTNITE CHAPTER 4

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 FORTNITE CHAPTER 4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, Playstation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who *Geralt* from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular releases help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game; make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on iFuturist's list including PC and Tech Radar.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@natonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/natonlinesafety) [@national_online_safety](https://youtube.com/national_online_safety)

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Safeguarding—ECHO CHAMBERS

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

Digital echo chambers have become increasingly prevalent over the last half decade. Formed by a combination of social media algorithms designed to promote engagement and the basic human urge to be correct, these online environments reinforce the opinions that people already have – such as particular political ideologies – in a perpetual loop. The danger is that exposure to this constant bias can gradually nudge users towards more extreme views. That's certainly a potential hazard for young people, who tend to be more impressionable and easily influenced by things they see and read online – especially if it reflects a view they already agree with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREME IDEOLOGIES

Echo chambers can offer routes to harmful extreme worldviews. A typically teenage distrust of authority, for example, could spiral into a full-blown belief in conspiracy theories – sometimes rooted in ideas which are antisemitic, racist or misogynistic. For impressionable individuals who may be feeling disillusioned with life, echo chambers can often function as a gateway to radicalisation.

NO CRITICAL THINKING

While critical thinking skills are sometimes taught in schools, they are rarely domain specific. A lack of experience in thinking critically – for example, about things we see when browsing the Internet – places young people at risk of falling prey to misinformation, untruths and false narratives, which are sometimes deliberately designed to mislead them and influence their thinking.

A VALUES VACUUM

If schools struggle to deliver on a clear ethos, founded in British values as outlined in the national curriculum, it leaves a space within which other ideologies have potential to flourish. Teaching about British values in more spaced experiences, such as PSHE lessons, doesn't always effectively convey the key notions: tolerance, democratic values, individual liberty and the rule of law.

UNDETECTABLE INDOCTRINATION

Many people enter online echo chambers every day without realising. It's easy to simply consume whatever's placed in front of us as we keep scrolling, unaware that we're being funnelled down a particular route. Not recognising that their daily digital diet could in fact be deeply biased in favour of one side or the other can accelerate a young person's journey towards more extreme ideologies.

LACK OF BALANCE

It's challenging to reflect on your own beliefs and opinions, and question whether you might have got things wrong. That's why most of us naturally lean towards consuming information which reinforces and underlines what we thought to begin with. The long-term consequence of this is general close-mindedness and, potentially, intolerance of a more diverse set of perspectives.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES

It could be helpful to explain to your child that, in general, people like to find evidence to strengthen their existing beliefs and prefer to ignore anything which supports an opposing perspective. Emphasise that it's OK if someone (politely) challenges what they think occasionally, and that any criticism of their view is purely that – a criticism of their opinion, not of them as a person.

DEBATE CAN BE GREAT

Encourage any interest your child shows in debating – whether at home, at school, or in clubs or societies. Debates require people to assess the merits of an opposing argument, so they can counter it. Putting themselves in the shoes of someone who has a different point of view is a useful way for children to approach new ideas that may contradict what they previously believed.

DISCUSS 'UNHEALTHY FEEDS'

Help your child understand how online algorithms shape which information is presented to them each day: ask them to consider why things appear in their feed on platforms like TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. Explain that it benefits social media companies' advertising revenue to keep people coming back by showing them content which, generally, reinforces their existing world view.

THE VALUE OF VALUES

It can be hugely beneficial if your child recognises the importance of a core set of principles, such as the British values. By regularly tying their online experiences back to those essential ideas of democracy, tolerance and kindness towards others, understanding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties, you'll be helping them grow into a more resilient and robust future citizen.

VARY THEIR DIGITAL DIET

Sitting down to read online news stories with your child is an excellent way to demonstrate to them why it's important not to always get their information from just one place. Comparing how the same story is reported across popular mainstream publications – and talking about the political biases each may have – will highlight the importance of regularly checking a wide range of online sources.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that these new tools remain a useful educational tool rather than a misadventure.

Source: https://www.org/details/cognitive-140908/news/page/7%3Fmedia_tag=117401333252&ref=www.org/141116-1353176628000/012622
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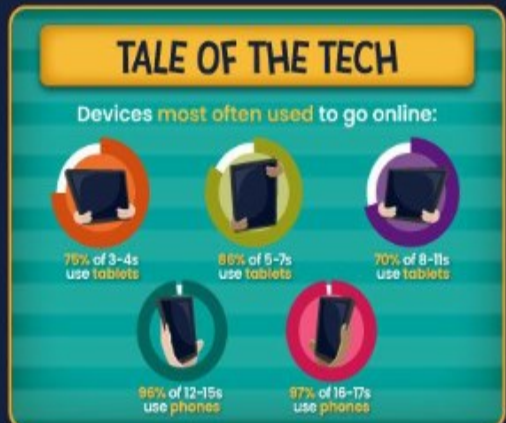
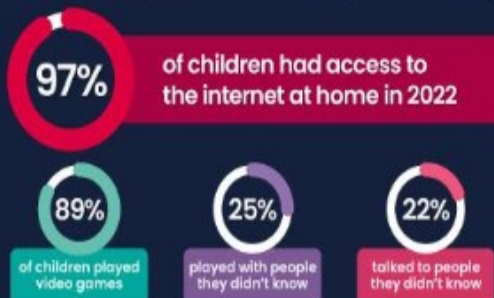


Safeguarding

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OFCOM'S 'CHILDREN AND PARENTS: MEDIA USE AND ATTITUDES' REPORT 2023

Each year, Ofcom – Britain's regulatory body for communications – produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences across the previous year. The latest version has just been released, and we've pulled out some of the report's most thought-provoking findings which relate to online safety ...





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
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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.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>