

August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to the Start of the School Year for Secondary Pupils

We are very much looking forward to the start of the school year and returning to a sense of normality. Although we continued to improve as a school despite the pandemic and the increasingly high infection rate in our district, we intend to return Appleton to the high standards and expectations we have always set for ourselves and our pupils.

This week, the Government has issued guidance to schools about how they want us to manage the start of the school year in September and the ongoing measures we have to take in response to the pandemic. As indicated in the letter sent to parents in July, when I advised parents that there could be changes to the start dates of our school year, there is an expectation that Secondary aged pupils will be tested twice in school prior to our full re-opening for the new year. The Government have allowed schools to delay the start of the school year to allow this to happen. While we have tried to minimise this disruption, the testing we will set up for Appleton pupils requires a large number of staff to operate it effectively and safely, which means a delay to the start of the school year for Secondary pupils is unavoidable.

The type of covid test issued to schools, which our pupils will use, is the rapid antigen test. These tests can only be used at a test centre with rigorous guidelines in place. It is different to the tests currently used and that have been used by pupils for testing at home; it is more accurate; results are clear in a shorter time frame and the sample is collected from a nasal swab only. It is likely that each test session can be completed in 30 minutes, however, we intend to invite pupils into school for a longer period of time to allow preparation for the start of the year. Details of how this will work are outlined in more detail later in this letter and in a table for each year group on the last two pages. Between the first test and the new official start date for your child, remote learning will be in place when necessary to allow pupils to be getting on with work at home. To avoid ongoing or further disruption, the second test will take place during the school day, once pupils formally start their school year – pupils will take their second test at an assigned time and then remain in school that day (unless they test positive for covid).

When pupils return to school, masks will no longer be required unless there is advice from Public Health England or the Local Authority that these should be reinstated, for instance in response to rising case rates in our district. We will have some measures in place to minimise contact between pupils but there is no longer a requirement to operate a system of bubbles. This also means that pupils will not have to self-isolate if we have a case in school unless they are identified as a close contact of a positive case by NHS Test and Trace. In these instances, the test and trace team will inform pupils and parents of what they should do next and the length of any period of self-isolation required. The Academy will have contingency plans in place to manage increased cases amongst pupils and will follow the advice of public health authorities if there is a requirement to reintroduce measures to prevent further spread of the virus.



Revised Start of the School Year

YEAR 7 PUPILS

Pupils starting in Year 7 at Appleton Academy are required to attend school on **Tuesday 7 September 2021 between 9:30am until 12.00pm**. During this time, pupils will be tested, meet their form tutor and begin their induction. This will include learning how to use the planner, how the timetable works, finding their way around the building and an introduction to the expectations at Appleton Academy. Pupils should attend in uniform.

Pupils will then spend Wednesday 8 September 2021 at home accessing online learning.

The first full school day for Year 7 pupils will then be **Thursday 9 September 2021 starting at 8:45am**. The morning will be spent in form groups with lessons starting after lunch. Pupils will also have their photographs and fingerprints taken so that they can be given access to our cashless systems, which they will need to use at break and lunch times to purchase food and drink or use their free school meal allowance.

YEAR 8 PUPILS (these pupils were Year 7 last academic year)

Pupils will not be in school on Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8 & Friday 10 September 2021 (online learning will be available on Friday 10 September 2021).

All Year 8 pupils should attend school on **Thursday 9 September 2021 between 12.00pm & 2.00pm** in their school uniform.

During this time, they will take their covid test, attend an assembly and a form session to collect their planner and timetable. Pupils will also be advised of how to access their remote learning sessions.

The first full school day for Year 8 pupils will be **Monday 13 September 2021 starting at 8:45am**.

YEAR 9 PUPILS (these pupils were Year 8 last academic year)

Pupils will not be in school on Tuesday 7, Thursday 9 & Friday 10 September 2021 (online learning will be available for Thursday 9 & Friday 10 September 2021).

All Year 9 pupils should attend school on **Wednesday 8 September 2021 between 12.00pm & 2.00pm** in their school uniform. During this time, they will take their covid test, attend an assembly and a form session to collect their planner and timetable. Pupils will also be advised of how to access their remote learning sessions.

The first full school day for Year 9 pupils will be **Monday 13 September 2021 starting at 8:45am**.



YEAR 10 PUPILS (these pupils were Year 9 last academic year)

Pupils will not be in school on Tuesday 7, Thursday 9 & Friday 10 September 2021 (online learning will be available for Thursday 9 & Friday 10 September 2021).

All Year 10 pupils should attend school on **Wednesday 8 September 2021 between 9.30am & 11.30am** in their school uniform.

During this time, they will take their covid test, attend an assembly and a form session to collect their planner and timetable. Pupils will also be advised of how to access their remote learning sessions.

The first full school day for Year 10 pupils will be **Monday 13 September 2021 starting at 8:45am.**

YEAR 11 PUPILS (these pupils were Year 10 last academic Year)

All Year 11 pupils should attend school on **Tuesday 7 September between 12.00pm & 2.00pm** in their school uniform.

During this time, they will take their covid test, attend an assembly and a form session to collect their planner and timetable. Pupils will also be advised of how to access their remote learning sessions.

Pupils will work at home, accessing online learning, on Wednesday 8 September 2021.

The first full school day for Year 11 pupils will be **Thursday 9 September 2021 starting at 8:45am.**

If you have any questions regarding the start of the school year, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance.

We look forward to welcoming pupils and parents back to the Academy for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Jones'.

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher

WEEK 1 SCHEDULE FOR ALL SECONDARY YEAR GROUPS

YEAR 7

Tuesday 7 September 2021	In school 9.30am to 12.00pm
Wednesday 8 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Thursday 9 September 2021	Full Day in School
Friday 10 September 2021	Full Day in School

YEAR 8

Tuesday 7 September 2021	Not in School
Wednesday 8 September 2021	Not in School
Thursday 9 September 2021	In School 12.00pm to 2.00pm
Friday 10 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Monday 13 September 2021	Full Day in School

YEAR 9

Tuesday 7 September 2021	Not in School
Wednesday 8 September 2021	In School 12.00pm to 2.00pm
Thursday 9 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Friday 10 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Monday 13 September 2021	Full Day in School



YEAR 10

Tuesday 7 September 2021	Not in School
Wednesday 8 September 2021	In School 9.30am to 11.30am
Thursday 9 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Friday 10 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Monday 13 September 2021	Full Day in School

YEAR 11

Tuesday 7 September 2021	In School 12.00pm to 2.00pm
Wednesday 8 September 2021	Online Learning at Home
Thursday 9 September 2021	Full Day in School
Friday 10 September 2021	Full Day in School