

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year, there has been much to celebrate, despite the obvious difficulties that Covid still poses. It has been fantastic to see our young people return to some sense of normality. An overwhelming number of pupils have had an exemplary start to the school year and have displayed a positive attitude to their lessons and school in general.

There are a few areas where we feel a minority can still improve. We would like to be in a position to move away from conversations and potential confrontations around the basic expectations set for young people in the Academy, and instead focus on celebrating successes. Please support us in addressing these issues over the half term break ready for a fresh start next term.

As stated in Academy policies, pupil planners and in letters sent home in the summer, these are our expectations:

- Footwear; students must wear black formal shoes, not trainers, leisure shoes or canvas type shoes. We acknowledge that shoes can become worn, or too small, or misplaced. In such instances, students will be expected to borrow Academy shoes until theirs have been replaced.
- Trousers should be grey, not black, and not tailored leggings. They must be loose fitting and not fit tightly around the bottom or legs. Again, like shoes, if a pupil is in incorrect clothing, the expectation is that they will borrow the correct uniform from the Academy.
- Mobile phones, earphones, and air pods are not allowed to be used within the Academy, and this includes during social times. If a pupil is caught with one of these devices, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day in the first instance. If it happens a second time, the device will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent or carer. This is non-negotiable.
- Contraband Items such as energy drinks, fizzy drinks, chewing gum, multipacks of sweets etc are not allowed and will be confiscated and disposed of.
- Piercings; in line with Academy policy we will allow one small stud in each ear. With regard to nose piercings, we do not allow the wearing of metal nose piercings or those made to appear as a diamond. However, to prevent any piercings healing, if we are aware of a pupil who already has a nose piercing, we will allow them to wear a clear plastic stud, providing the remainder of their uniform is correct. No other pupils will be permitted to wear nose piercings.
- Nails need to be short and whilst we appreciate some of our young people like to wear nail polish, it needs to be a subtle colour or a French manicure and of a suitable length.
- PE is a compulsory subject at Appleton Academy and PE uniform expectations are also clear. Pupils without the correct PE uniform will be expected to borrow spare kit to wear for their lesson. Unless a young person has a Care Plan, with a specific reason for other arrangements, they are expected to get changed in the PE changing rooms as has always been the case.



All pupils have been advised of all the above in year group assemblies this week and the expectations are in planners. Pupils have also been made aware of the consequences of not adhering to these rules. If a detention is issued it will be for half an hour initially. If the pupil receives two detentions in a day, it will be an hour in total duration. If they fail to attend, it will be an hour the following day. Failure to attend a detention in these circumstances will result in a one-hour SLT detention on Friday. If the pupil fails to attend this, a parent meeting will be arranged to discuss this and further sanctions that may be put in place. Furthermore, pupils refusing to do detentions will have the privilege of using the dining hall and 3G pitch at lunchtime removed. We will also be making contact with parents or carers during the first week back in school after half term in cases where pupils are not following the expectations as outlined above.

All our external reviewers this half term have commented on the calm, purposeful learning environment and judged behaviour to be very good. I am sure you will agree that these are minor issues, and it is now just a small minority of our young people who are not demonstrating the positive behaviour we expect at Appleton Academy. Expectations such as those outlined in this letter not only prepare our young people for working life, but they are also there to promote the safety and wellbeing of your child while they are in school. If you are struggling to purchase shoes or any items of uniform due to financial difficulties, please let us know so that we can support you where we can. If you have any concerns or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk) in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Hirst  
Acting Leader for Behaviour and Expectations