

August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to share arrangements for our return to school and some reminders about expectations for the beginning of the new term for students in the secondary phase.

Children in primary will start school on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at the usual time.

Secondary Start Times on Tuesday 5 September 2023

School re-opens to students on Tuesday 5 September 2023. The arrival time for each year group can be found in the table below:

Year group	Arrival time
7	8.40am
8	10.40am
9	10.40am
10	10.40am
11	8.40am

Young people who are in Years 8, 9 or 10 will not have a morning break on the first day of school due to the time of their arrival. Students in 9B will have PE on the first Tuesday when we re-open and will need to bring their PE kit with them please.

The Academy Day

There are some slight changes to the Academy day as we move to 5x lessons consisting of 60 minutes each. This will not affect the start and end times of the school day for Years 7, 8, 9 or 10. We have one lunch for all students with sittings phased throughout the lunch period and, as a result, young people will have a longer lunchtime during which to eat their food, use the toilet facilities and then return to afternoon lessons rested, refreshed and ready to learn. Part of each lunchtime will be spent outside, so it is important that students bring appropriate outdoor coats as the weather can be unpredictable.

Year 11

All students in Year 11 will have an additional lesson, which they will be required to attend from Monday to Thursday each week and this will take place between 3.20pm and 4:15pm. This additional lesson will commence from the second week of the new school term – week commencing Monday 11 September 2023. There may also be exam revision sessions which go on beyond this time, as required, and we will inform parents when these are taking place. The end of the school day will remain at 3:20pm on Fridays.

Uniform policy

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy. Secondary students are expected to wear the following:

- Appleton Academy blazer
- White shirt
- Tie (provided by the Academy)
- Charcoal grey trousers
- Black school shoes

It is important that we maintain our high standards of uniform and the expectation is that students return to school in full uniform. We will be contacting parents when uniform standards are not met.

All students will be provided with a school planner on the first day. This is a vital piece of equipment that we use as a key way to communicate with parents about your child's attendance, behaviour, reward stamps, as well as their timetable which enables them to be organised for their day and know where they are going when in school.

Attendance and Punctuality


Attendance at school continues to be a priority and, as such, it is important that students start the school year as they mean to go on by attending every day and on time. The government expectation of attendance is 96% minimum. If you have concerns regarding your child's return to school, please contact a member of the Attendance Team in the first instance via: attendanceteam@appletonacademy.co.uk. Young people who attend school regularly achieve better outcomes and are able to maintain their friendships in a positive manner.

Staff Changes

One of the issues highlighted by the recent teacher strikes relates to recruitment of staff, as the Government are not training enough teachers, and many are leaving the profession. This year is particularly challenging in all schools, with many unable to recruit enough teachers to teach the timetable. Appleton Academy saw a large number of teachers move at the end of the last academic year due to either leaving the profession, moving to other areas of the country, or in some cases abroad. A small number have also moved on to new schools locally. We will produce a list closer to the start of the school year, which will introduce our new teachers to you. I am pleased that we have been able to recruit enough teachers to teach the timetable, many of whom are more experienced than some of the colleagues they are replacing. However, we will still need to advertise to recruit to some subjects where we want to increase the numbers of experienced staff who lead the curriculum.

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming young people back refreshed and ready to work hard in September.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel + Garlick".

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary