

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we head into the winter and the final weeks of our first term of the school year, we would like to say well done and thank you to the vast majority of our students who have had a fantastic year so far. We also thank our parents and carers for your support of the school and your children. We really do appreciate the 96% of our students who get it right every day and we feel it is our duty to reward them and we will provide more details of how we will do so in the coming weeks.

Moving into the remainder of this term and beyond, we will be placing a central focus on uniform, planners, jewellery and equipment standards. Uniform is an important part of the Academy's identity, and we trust you will support us in striving to have students meet these expectations. Our uniform policy can be found on the school website and consists of black polishable shoes, dark grey trousers (not leggings or tight-fitting trousers), white shirt, tie and blazer. https://appletonacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Uniform-Appearance-Policy_Appleton-Academy.-May-22.pdf

The small minority of students who are not meeting the expectations in the areas outlined above will be challenged each day and appropriate sanctions put in place. If a student arrives in incorrect uniform, they will be offered the opportunity to borrow items from the Academy stock. If they refuse this offer, they will be placed in 'removed from circulation' (RFC) sanctions. If you are experiencing any difficulties in purchasing uniform or equipment, please contact the relevant Head of Year so that we can look at any support we may be able to offer.

We also continue to focus on behaviour, attendance and punctuality. The first lesson of the school day starts at 8.45am. Arriving late to school not only puts the person who is late at a disadvantage, but it also unfairly disrupts teaching and the learning of other pupils who have arrived at school on time. Parents should also be aware that lateness, and persistent lateness in particular, has an impact on your child's attendance record. We want students to leave Appleton prepared for working life, and being punctual to school is an important part of this.

The vast majority of our students behave perfectly throughout every school day (86% of our students have yet to receive a red sanction, which would be issued in cases of poor behaviour). For the minority of students who do not always get it right, we do implement detentions after school. These are not negotiable and are usually issued after the student has continued to misbehave, despite being provided with numerous warnings about the potential consequences of their actions. We would appreciate your support in discussing such behaviour with your child after they have sat their detention. Students failing to attend detentions will be issued with an RFC sanction the following day. Please be aware, however, that the Academy does not need parental consent to place a child in detention, even after school. This is set out in the DfE guidance on school detentions, which can be found on the government website.

We would like to thank parents for your continuing support of the work we are doing at Appleton Academy to achieve the best outcomes for your children. If you have any concerns or you would like to discuss any of this information, please email info@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

D Hirst

Mr D Hirst
Leader of Behaviour, Welfare and Attitudes