



May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The Head of Secondary wrote to Year 11 parents recently to advise of the plans we are making for students who are coming to the end of their time at Appleton Academy.

Disappointingly, since examinations commenced, we have seen a number of cases of students regularly not turning up to school and parents asking for students to be absented from school when they are not sitting exams. Some parents have also personally come into school reception asking for students to be allowed to go home after exams, taking colleagues away from other important work they should be doing. In some instances, we have even seen attempts to advise us of what now know to have been bogus appointments in an effort to have children leave school after sitting certain exam papers.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the commencement of GCSE examinations does not in itself signify the end of compulsory education for students in Year 11. Students are expected to continue to attend school and follow the normal school day and timetable that is in place for them. It is not acceptable for students to only attend school for exams, or for them to attempt to leave school early after they have sat exam papers.

I would also reiterate that the end of year celebrations we have planned for Year 11 students are contingent on their attendance and behaviour at school. More importantly, when students leave the Academy to go on to further education or enter the world of work, those institutions are likely to seek references from the Academy for your child. Any absence they take at this stage of the year simply to avoid being in school between exams will be marked as unauthorised and this will be reflected in any references we are asked to provide.

We understand that the end of Year 11 and the start of examinations presents a very challenging time for our young people. However, the Academy is providing vital education and preparation for exams in school and students are expected to continue to attend as normal until their official leave date in a number of weeks' time. It would be incredibly shortsighted of students to risk their success in examinations, and the reference school provides for them when they leave, for the sake of a few extra days out of school at a time when their focus should be on achieving as much as they are able to in the period they have remaining at Appleton Academy.

We would respectfully ask that parents reiterate these messages at home with your children and that you support the Academy by ensuring that they attend school as normal and that you do not seek to absent them without good reason to do so.

Yours faithfully

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

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher