

July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the academic year and that the summer break is upon us. The summer term is without doubt one of the busiest in the school year. Year 11 examinations are complete and all the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by these students must be recognised and congratulated. Students can now take a well-earned break and have been able to enjoy the celebrations that come with reaching the end of their time in school. To that end, we enjoyed a fantastic Leavers Assembly and Prom to mark the end of our students' time at Appleton Academy. We wish our Year 11 students an enjoyable summer break and eagerly await their GCSE results in August and a final chance to catch up before they head off into the world of further education or work. We will miss them all but look forward to seeing what they achieve in the future.

The Summer 2024 edition of our Secondary Newsletter is now ready to read and gives you a snapshot of all the amazing events and activities our students have taken part in this term, which has been as fun filled, interesting and informative as ever. This can be found in the 'Newsletters' tab of our website or by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/47drndtk>

### **Recycling Uniform**

If you have old items of uniform or school shoes which are in good condition, please could you consider donating these to school so that we can help other families in need by passing on these items to them? Please bring any uniform you would like to donate into school and leave it with our reception staff and we will arrange for donations to go out ahead of September.

### **Support During the Summer Break**

For any students eligible for free school meals, information about Bradford Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme can be found [here](#). This programme supports families by providing healthy meals and enrichment activities for thousands of young people across the district during the Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays. We would also like to make parents aware of offers available from a variety of retailers over the summer holidays - further information can be found at the [Money Saving Central](#) website.

If your child needs support with their mental health over the summer, there are a range of agencies who can help including [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) who have advisors available to support.

### **Year 11 – 2024/2025**

Thank you to parents of students currently in Year 10 for your ongoing support at this critical time of your child's education. Our staff in school are working tirelessly to support our students with a comprehensive package of information and guidance to help them navigate their GCSE year. However, ultimately, what we see every year is that the key to success in Year 11 is a student's attitude to learning, hard work, effort and commitment. To this end, we want to support Year 10 with their transition into Year 11 and, therefore, some subjects may set a small amount of summer homework for students to complete during the break.

This is not intended to be onerous, but to help them recall key information and concepts they have already learned. If you can please encourage your child to engage with this, we believe it will be of great benefit in preparing them for the start of the new school year. Details of this summer work will be emailed directly to students. We look forward to welcoming them all back energised and ready for their final year at Appleton Academy.

### **Staff Leavers**

As is usual at this time of year, we will be saying farewell to some of our staff as they move on to new roles in other schools or new adventures in and out of the education sector. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of them for the commitment, dedication, hard work, and support they have given to all our students, in some cases over a great number of years. I wish them every success in their future careers.

We would particularly like to say a special thank you to Mrs Kate Bateman who has been an integral part of the Academy over the past five years as both a maths teacher and Deputy Headteacher. Our special thanks also go to Mr Jamie Kerrigan, Assistant Headteacher, who is heading off on an adventure to teach in Dubai. Both have been a great support to students and staff in too many ways to mention and we wish them every future success. In our first newsletter of the new academic year in September, I will introduce you to staff who have joined the Academy over the summer.

### **Start of Term Arrangements – September 2024**

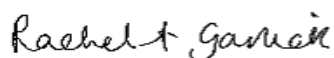
Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September 2024 are staff training days and school will be closed to students. The Academy re-opens on Wednesday 4 September 2024. However, as usual, we will have a staggered return to school in Secondary, which we have found is helpful in giving our new joiners time to settle in on their first day and also enables students already with the Academy to start the school year off in the right way and digest the large amount of information they will receive about their new year groups.

- Wednesday 4 September 2024 - Years 7 and 11 will return to school
- Thursday 5 and Friday 6 September 2024 – Years 8, 9 and 10 will make a staggered return to school.

We will write to parents again later in the summer break to share the exact date and timings for the return of each year group and ensure you have some notice of arrangements so that you and students are prepared for their return. We will then also arrange for staff to contact families again during our training days on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September, to remind you of the start dates and times for each year group.

All that remains is for me to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to parents for your continued support. I would like to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully

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

Rachel Garlick  
Head of Secondary