

September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 have made an excellent start with us at Appleton Academy, their attitude to learning is strong and they have had a very purposeful beginning to the new school year.

We are now writing to you to provide some key information about this academic year, which will be useful for you in supporting your child. We want to ensure, as you do, that your child makes as much progress as possible with us in school this year.

### **Year 11 Period 6 Sessions**

Period 6 sessions are designed to provide your child with further support during Year 11. Staff will be planning sessions focused on exam technique and areas of weakness identified through the mock examinations. GCSE exams will be going ahead as normal in summer 2025 and we will send you the summer exam timetable later this term. Period 6 lessons will commence on **Monday 30 September 2024** and will run from the end of the normal school day until 4:15pm. These sessions are compulsory for students who are invited and we will provide more information later this week about these sessions specifically, outlining which of these your child is required to attend.

These arrangements may change throughout the year and we will update you when this is due to occur. If you feel your child should be attending a session that they have not been invited to, please email their class teacher to discuss this further.

### **Year 11 Mock Examinations**

At the start of week commencing **Monday 18 November 2024**, we will be holding our first set of Year 11 mock examinations, which will last for two weeks. Mock exams are a good indicator of a student's progress towards their end of year grades. They will also provide your child's class teachers with vital information about their strengths and areas for development and will allow them to adapt their teaching to ensure these gaps are closed prior to the examinations in the summer. Your child will shortly be receiving a mock exam timetable and revision lists and it is vital that they begin the preparation for their mock exams now by doing their own revision at home, working hard in class and attending the Period 6 sessions. Mock exam results are also often used by colleges and Post 16 providers, so it is essential that students demonstrate their full potential. There will also be an additional mock examinations week during the school year, which begins on **Monday 24 February 2025**.

### **Year 11 Information Evening**

To help you support your child throughout this year, we are inviting you to a Year 11 information evening on **Monday 7 October 2024**. The evening will allow you to visit a variety of short workshops led by specialist staff covering topics such as learning habits, resources to aid study, reporting, stress management, keeping a balance and Post 16 options. In addition to this, representatives from our local colleges will be attending the evening, which will enable you and your child to ask questions and gather information about options for further education. At the end of the evening, you will have the opportunity to speak to Mr Bellwood and Miss Derrington to ask any questions that you may have about this year.

### **Families Evening**

Families evening will be held on **Wednesday 8 January 2025**. It is vital for your child's progress this year that you attend this event. Students' most recent school report and mock exam grades will be given out on the evening. In addition to this planned evening, there will be other opportunities during the year for students to meet with the school leadership team following data collection points.

### Homework

At Appleton Academy, homework is seen as a valuable way of revising and extending work undertaken in school, discovering information not available in school, involving parents and carers in their children's studies and of developing the self-discipline essential for good habits of study. The Year 11 Homework Timetable for this half term will be provided to your child and can also be found on our website by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3fjdftxp>. This will be updated after October half term.

### Holidays

Please be aware that GCSEs cannot be rearranged, so if a student misses an exam, they will not be able to re-sit this during the summer series. We would respectfully but firmly ask, therefore, that you please do not book any holidays during term time and particularly in May or June, as these may potentially clash with external examinations. If your child misses an exam in the summer, they will gain no credit for this exam, and this may potentially lead to them failing this subject.

### Year 11 Prom

We will be holding a Year 11 prom in the summer term, after the completion of your child's GCSE examinations. We would love all students to attend this, however, the prom is a reward for hard work and positive attitudes to learning and behaviour and so there will be some criteria surrounding whether your child will be invited to do so. The criteria will be based on the expectations outlined below:

- Good attendance of school
- Good punctuality, so please ensure your child is on time to school
- Positive behaviour around the Academy
- Attendance of Period 6 sessions and lessons
- Engagement and behaviour in lessons

Students who do not consistently meet the expectations of the Academy will not be invited to attend prom. We will not be considering any previous behaviour or attendance issues from prior years, so this is a great chance for your child to have a fresh start and hopefully celebrate with us and their friends at the end of Year 11. Please be aware that we are setting out the criteria for attendance of prom now to give your child the best possible chance of attending and to inform parents and carers of the requirements for their child doing so. We look forward to your support with this but must advise you that we will not enter into any discussion or appeal if a student does not meet these expectations and is, therefore, not invited to attend prom.

Through all of us working together, we know that your children, our students, will have a positive year and will make the progress that their hard work deserves. Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk) in the first instance if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Garlick  
Head of Secondary

Mr Bellwood  
Head of Year 11