



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 have had a fantastic first term, and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved so far. Their dedication and hard work have set a strong foundation for their final year at school. We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some key highlights from this half term, as well as share important information about the next half term.

Introducing the Success Mentor Programme

At Appleton Academy, we are committed to supporting every student in achieving their academic potential and developing the skills they need for future success. To further this goal, we are delighted to introduce the Success Mentor Programme.

This programme is designed to empower our students by focusing on the importance of consistent effort and a growth mindset. Each student will have access to a staff mentor who will provide guidance, encouragement, and strategies to help unlock their academic potential. These mentors are here to support students in navigating challenges, celebrating their progress, and staying motivated as they work towards their GCSEs. All learners have been assigned to their mentors and sessions have started positively. Mentors have been meeting students and we would encourage students to be open and honest with the support they need and conversations they are having, as this will ensure they get the most from their mentoring.

Supporting Revision: GCSEPod

We have launched GCSEPod, an online revision app for a range of subjects. This can be used on all types of devices, including smart phones, making it accessible to all. Staff have begun to set work through the app but students can set their own revision too.

Students have now been using this for a number of weeks to revise and work on areas they need to improve, and we have been delighted and impressed by their engagement with this. Please encourage your child to log on and use GCSEPod if they have not already done so, as this is an invaluable resource that offers high-quality revision materials and engaging content tailored to each subject, including revision videos and questions. We encourage students to incorporate GCSEPod into their revision plans as they prepare for upcoming assessments - <https://www.gcsepod.com/>



Progress Evening

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school on Wednesday 8 January 2025 to join us for our Year 11 Progress Evening. The event will provide you with the opportunity to meet all of your child's teachers and explore their progress further. A separate letter has been sent about this.

Exceed Programme

We will be launching our Exceed Programme to all students in January 2025 and will write to you with specific details about when this starts. This is a programme that Appleton Academy has developed alongside our Trust to support and reward students' commitment, hard work and positive attitudes.

Attendance and Punctuality

As we go into the new half term, it is essential that students are in school on time every day. Form time for Year 11 students starts at 8.30am prompt, with English and Maths bitesize revision sessions to assist students with key exam preparation. Taken across each week, these sessions provide students with an additional two and a half hours' worth of revision, per subject, per fortnight. Over the course of the school year, this is one of the supportive measures we are providing to students that could make a difference to their final exam results.

These sessions are not optional and form part of their school day. We will inform you should your child not arrive on time to these sessions. Next half term, there are a number of NEA/Coursework deadlines that count towards your child's final GCSE grade. Students need to be in school each day to maximise their time with their teachers so that we can offer our full support.

Final Examination Dates and Deadlines

We have sent a separate letter with more information about exam dates and deadlines. We would be grateful if you could please read this and familiarise yourself with your child's final GCSE examinations and NEA (Coursework) deadlines, which will make up a percentage of their final grade. Please note that there are examinations that count towards final grades taking place in the first week back after the Christmas holiday, please check the calendar for dates and times. Therefore, it is imperative that students are in school from Monday 6 January 2025 to attend important planned revision sessions.

Student Mobile Phone Numbers

As students move towards final preparation for their exams, we would like to be able to contact them with reminders about important dates and times. We would like your permission to collect their mobile telephone numbers so that we can text them to provide these vital reminders and support them to be organised. We will be sending a link to parents in order to collect your consent for this.



Once again, we would like to congratulate our students on their recent endeavours in their mock exams. These assessments provide valuable insights into areas of strength and where additional focus may be needed. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by so many of our students.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure every student has the tools and encouragement they need to thrive. If you have any questions about the Succeed Mentor Programme, or you require support accessing GCSEPod, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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GCSEPod and Progress Evening – Deputy Headteacher
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Yours faithfully

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