

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 have made an excellent and purposeful start to the year with us at Appleton Academy, demonstrating a strong attitude to learning.

We are writing to you with 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 this year with us in school.

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 gaps in understanding that were identified through the mock examinations. GCSE exams will take place during Summer Term 2026 and we will send you the GCSE Exam Timetable later this term.

Period 6 sessions will commence on **Monday 8 September 2025** and will run from the end of the normal school day until 4:15pm. Attendance of these sessions after school is 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 continue to update you of any changes. 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 Tutor Groups

In order to support students in both Maths and English, and to ensure their time in school is used to maximum effect; we have moved to Maths and English tutor groups for Year 11. Students will alternate weekly between Maths and English sessions. From **Monday 8 September 2025**, Year 11 students will now start school at **8:30am** to access this additional support. They should enter via the sports hall doors, where the Year 11 team will be ready to welcome them.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

At the start of week commencing **Monday 17 November 2025**, 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. This term, your child will receive a mock exam timetable and revision lists and it is vital that they begin the preparation for their mock exams 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 examination week later in the school year, which begins on **Monday 23 February 2026**.

Year 11 Information Evening

To help you support your child throughout this year, we are inviting you to a Year 11 information evening on **Wednesday 8 October 2025**. 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 17 December 2025**. It is essential 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

- Students should spend 30-45 minutes on each subject's homework per week minimum
- A variety of homework tasks will be set including written work, research, revision, project work and preparation for future work.
- To make good progress in their learning it is essential that students complete homework to the best of their ability. Please talk to your child about their homework and support them in organising their time to ensure homework is handed in on time.
- If students need support with homework, please encourage them to talk to their subject teacher.
- If you have concerns about homework, you should refer these in the first instance to the subject teacher.

Year 11 homework is set weekly at Appleton Academy to support your child with their progress. This will be set on GCSEPOD or be paper based. All homework will contribute to your child's knowledge ahead of their final GCSE examinations and it is essential they complete this. The homework plan for this year can be found below:

Subject	Task Type	Frequency
English	GCSEPOD	Once a week
Maths	Past GCSE Questions or GCSEPod	Once a week
Science	Past GCSE Questions or GCSEPod	Once a week
History	GCSEPOD/SENECA/Practice questions	Once a week
Geography	GCSE Pod and homework booklet	Once a week
Spanish	SentenceBuilders.com and worksheet	Once a week
Music	Music Industry Work Booklet and then onto Task completion/preparation for controlled assessment.	Fortnightly
Drama	Task completion/preparation for controlled assessments.	Fortnightly
iMedia / ICT	ICT - completion of Class Notebook lessons for exam & bumper revision guide / iMedia - recap quizzes in Teams and Knowitallninja.com	Fortnightly
Computer Science	Past GCSE Questions on paper or Programming - sololearn.com Theory - GCSEPOD	Once a week
DT, art, textiles and photography	Worksheets and tasks set	Fortnightly
Hospitality & catering	Worksheets and tasks set	Fortnightly
Health and Social Care, BTEC Sport and Child Development	Department Tasks set on Arbor	Once a week



Head of Year

Your child's Head of Year is Mr Bellwood. Mr Bellwood led our previous class of Year 11 and currently teaches many in this new year group. He spent the end of Year 10 supporting students as they prepared to enter Year 11 and is looking forward to getting to know them better to enable him to support them through the year ahead. Mr Hargreaves will continue in his role as Assistant Head of Year, providing valuable continuity and support. A full handover has taken place to ensure a smooth transition and to maintain the strong pastoral care your child receives and ensure they can succeed this year.

Through all of us working together, we know that your children, our students, will have a positive year and will make the progress their hard work deserves. If you have any questions or concerns, please email info@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance and a member of staff will be in touch to discuss these.

Yours faithfully

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

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary

Mr Bellwood
Head of Yea 11