

Appleton Academy

Autumn 1 October 2025

Featuring:

- In the press!
- Mainstream+
- Careers update
- Y11 Scholars celebration evening
- Trips and visits
- Sports fixtures and results
- Art and DT showcase

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.



Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! This is a bumper edition as we have done so much in this first half term.

We featured in the local newspapers for our approach to mobile phone use in school and have been delighted to share our work with other local schools who came to visit to see how it's done. We also held our Year 6 open evening which was a roaring success with some lovely comments from parents.

We have had so many exciting things happening for our students this term from visitors to school, visits out, fabulous creative arts opportunities, careers events and even more and I know that the content in here is only scratching the surface of what we have accomplished in this first term. We have to remind ourselves that none of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff who put in an incredible amount of hard work to organise these events.

We wish all our families a restful and safe summer break and look forward to the new academic year with even more exciting events planned.

If you have things you would like to see featured in the newsletter let us know.

Mrs Garlick
Head of Secondary



Appleton Academy's new phone policy has "transformed school!"



At Appleton Academy we are delighted to have been featured in the Telegraph and Argus featuring our new mobile phone policy that came into place in September this year.

"We're really noticing a sense of calm around our young people - they seem to be in a better place, they seem to be happier".

Students are now physically unable to access their phones during the school day as they are placed in special pouches which can only be unlocked by pupils at home time.

It came after teachers noted a significant rise in issues brought about by young people using their phones and accessing social media while at school. "We saw such a big rise in phone and social media use which was having a negative impact within the school and leading to well-being issues.

"It was having a very significant impact on the general well-being of our young people, so we realised this couldn't go on and we needed to make a change."

After carrying out research, staff learned about a company called Phone Locker, which supplies special pouches for mobiles with the intention of helping pupils to "maintain focus and achieve more" at school, according to its website.

"This new policy is giving pupils a six-hour break from the noise and the harms that come from social media."

"Many pupils tell us they feel happier and they're having fewer social issues.

"They've adapted very quickly, so we'd like to say a big well done to them.

"Staff members are really enjoying the change too.



Appleton Academy's Y6 Choices Evening



Last week, our school buzzed with excitement as we welcomed Year 6 students and their families to our annual Choices Evening—a vibrant showcase of what lies ahead in secondary school life. From the moment guests arrived, the atmosphere was electric. The evening kicked off with an inspiring speech from our Headteacher, who spoke passionately about the journey ahead and the many opportunities awaiting our future learners. In the Science department, bubbling experiments and hands-on activities drew curious minds, while the Maths team challenged students and parents alike with interactive quizzes that sparked both fun and friendly competition.



Over in the library, our artist-in-residence Chris Mould captivated imaginations with live drawing sessions, inviting students to explore creativity through illustration. Meanwhile, the History department took a fascinating dive into the world of medicine through the ages, blending storytelling with discovery. And of course, no Choices Evening would be complete without a slice of something delicious—our visiting y6 children prepared an incredible 300 pizzas, ensuring no one left hungry! Thank you to all staff, students, and families who made the evening such a success. We can't wait to welcome our new cohort and see where their choices take them!

Art at Appleton

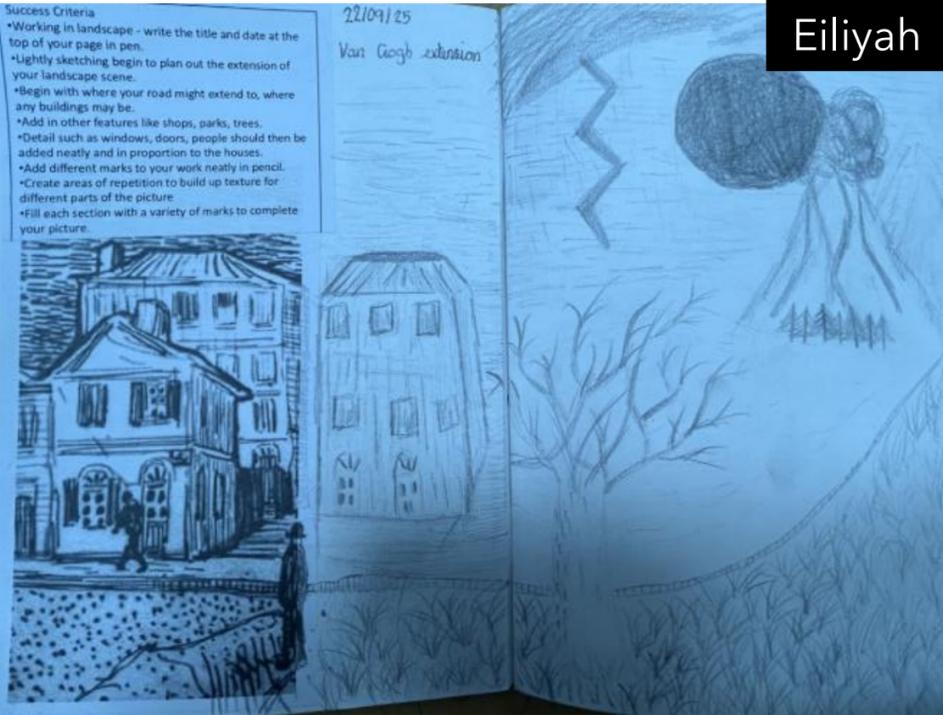
Each newsletter we feature amazing artwork created by our students

Year 7 Art

Willow



Eilayah



Iris



Lacey-



Alfie

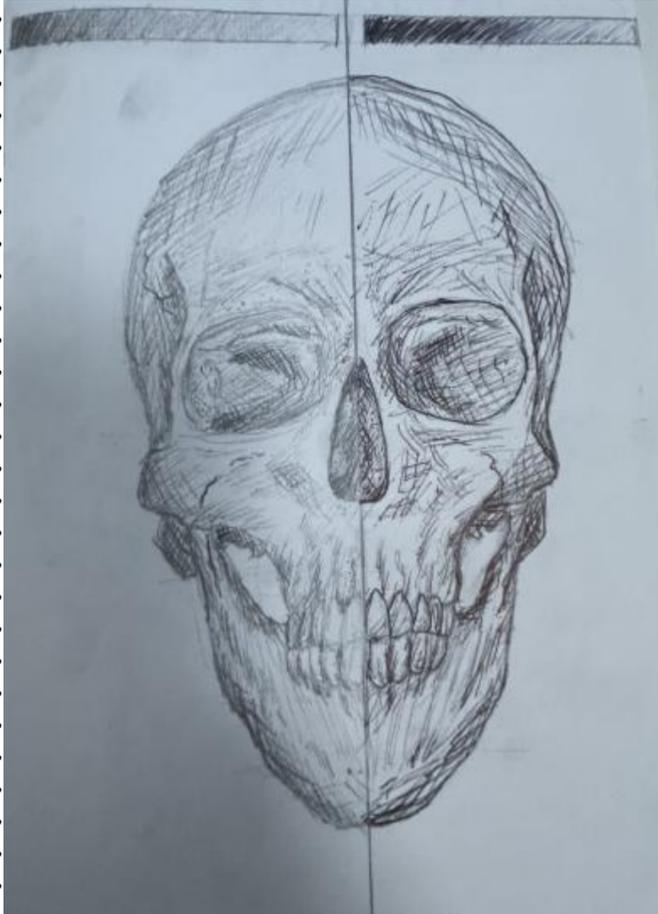


Niamh

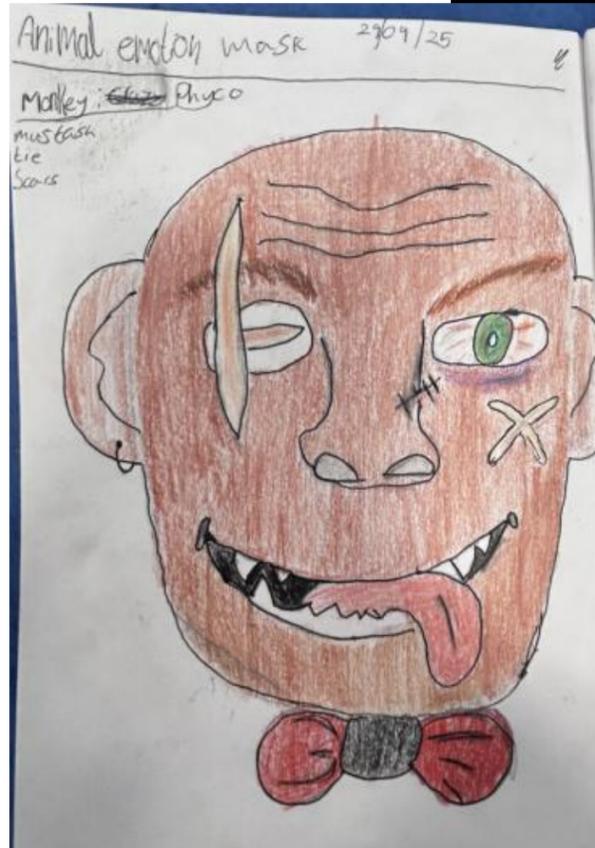


This Term, Year 7 have been focusing on line and tone by 'taking a line for a walk', extending work by Vincent Van Gogh and creating tonal fruit drawings. They have explored how artists use different types of line to express movement and emotion, and how varying pressure can create depth and contrast in tonal work. Students have developed their observational drawing skills and improved their control of pencil to produce detailed outcomes.

Year 8 Art and Design



Demie



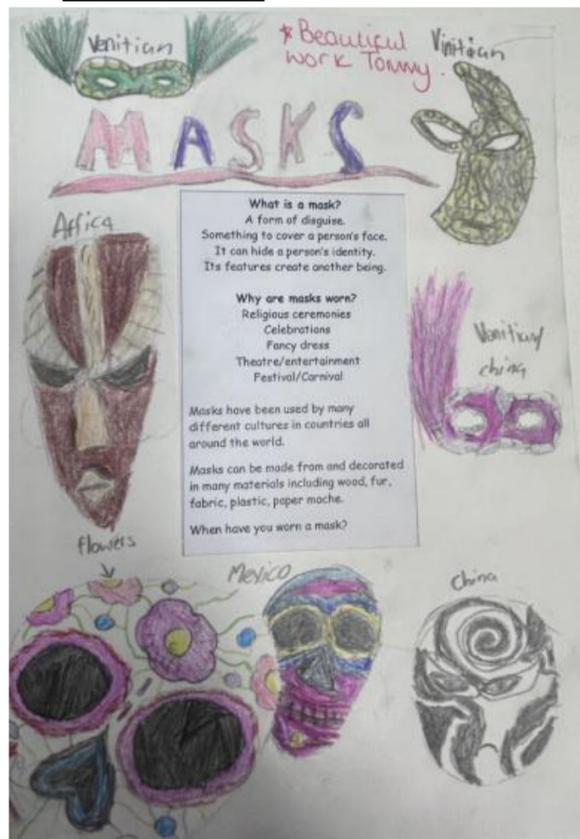
Aryana



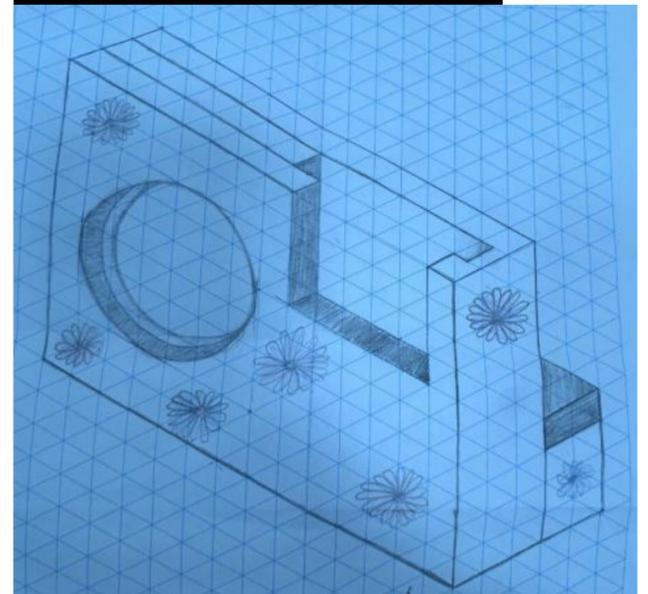
Pantita



Tommy

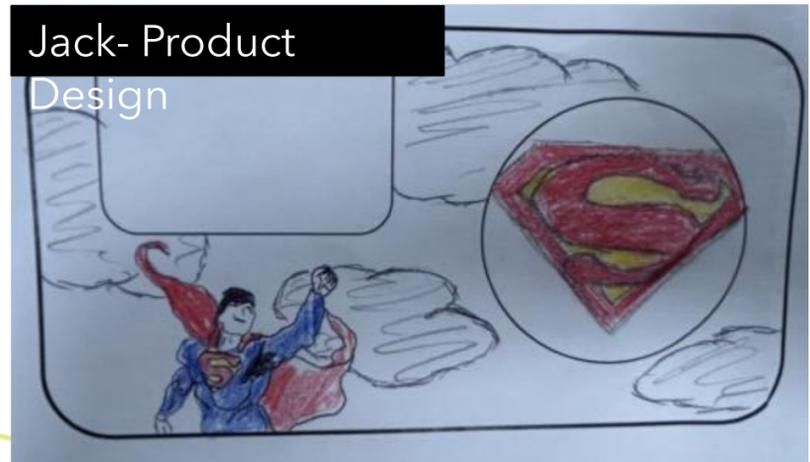


Paige - Product



Keegan

Jack- Product Design



This term, Year 8 have been focusing on masks in Art, exploring how facial features and expressions can be exaggerated to convey different emotions. They have created imaginative animal emotion mask designs and developed their understanding of tone through detailed skull drawings, improving their shading and observational skills.

In Product Design, Year 8 have been working on designing sound amplifiers. They have explored how form and function work together, using creative design thinking to produce innovative concepts.

Year 9 Art



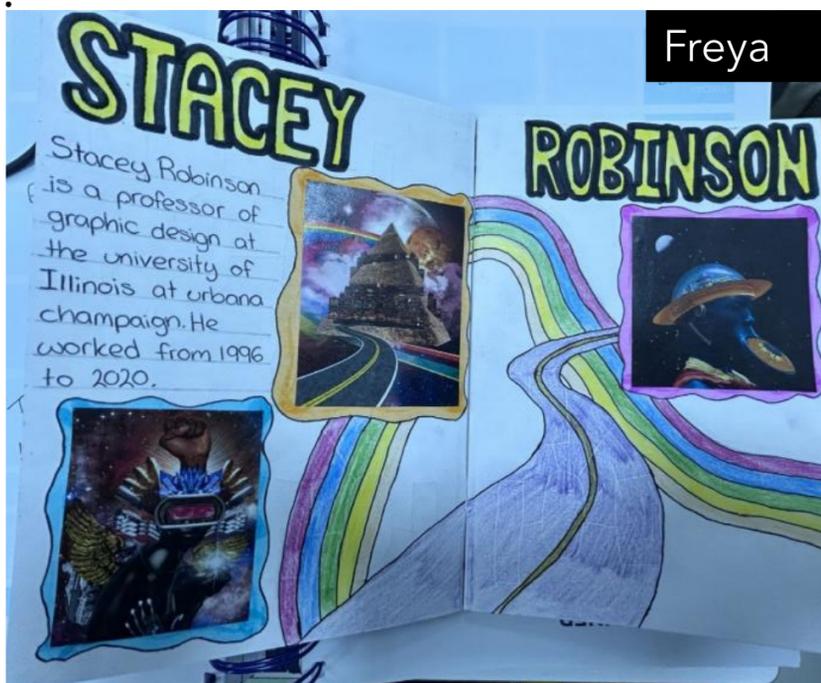
Holly-Ann



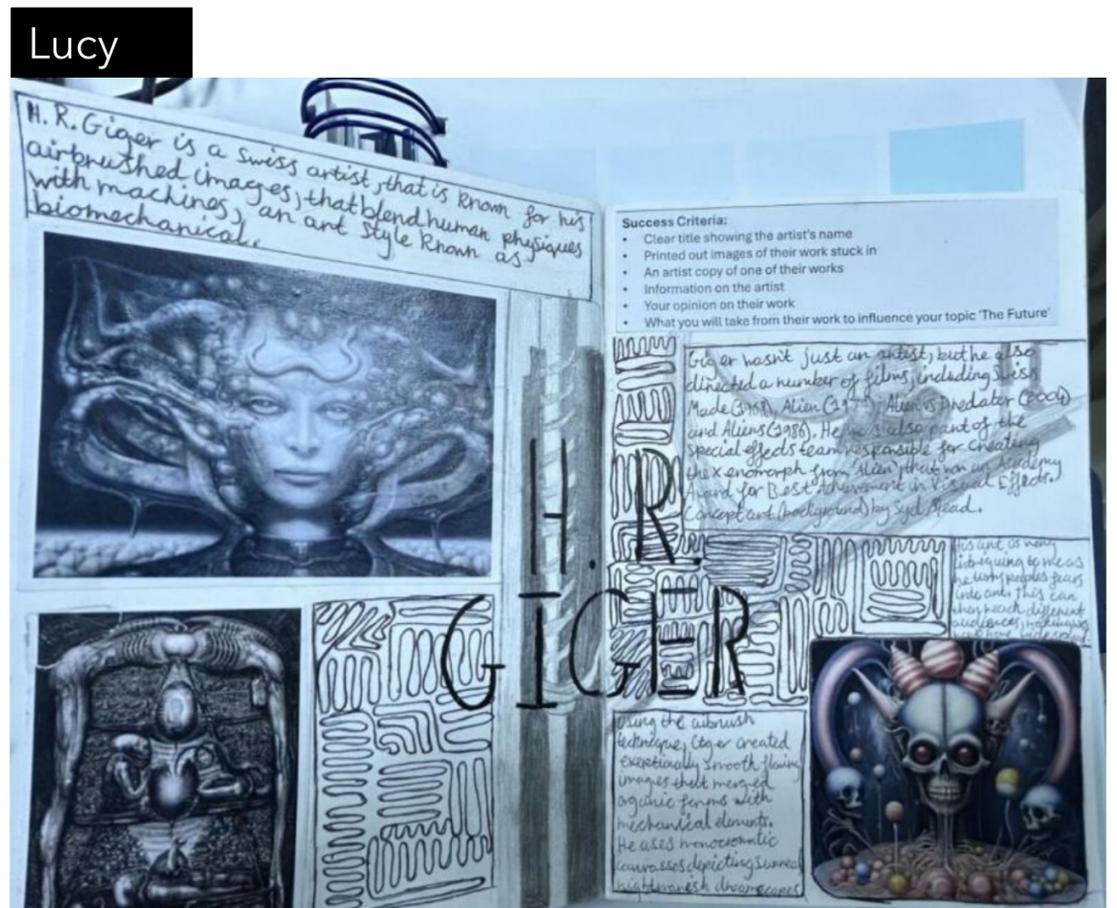
Alan



Julia



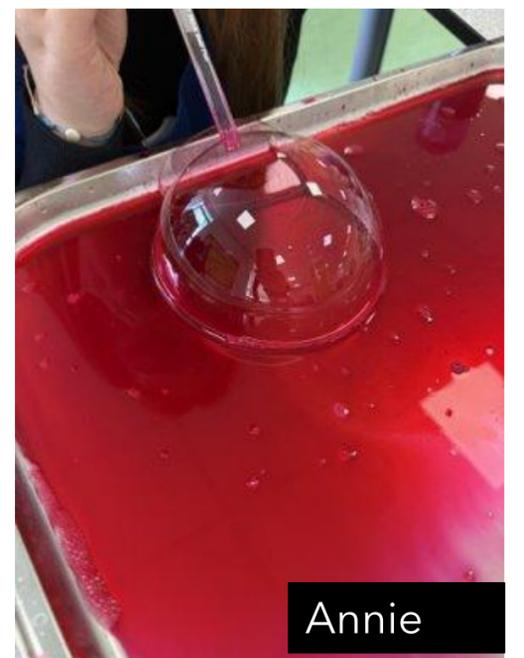
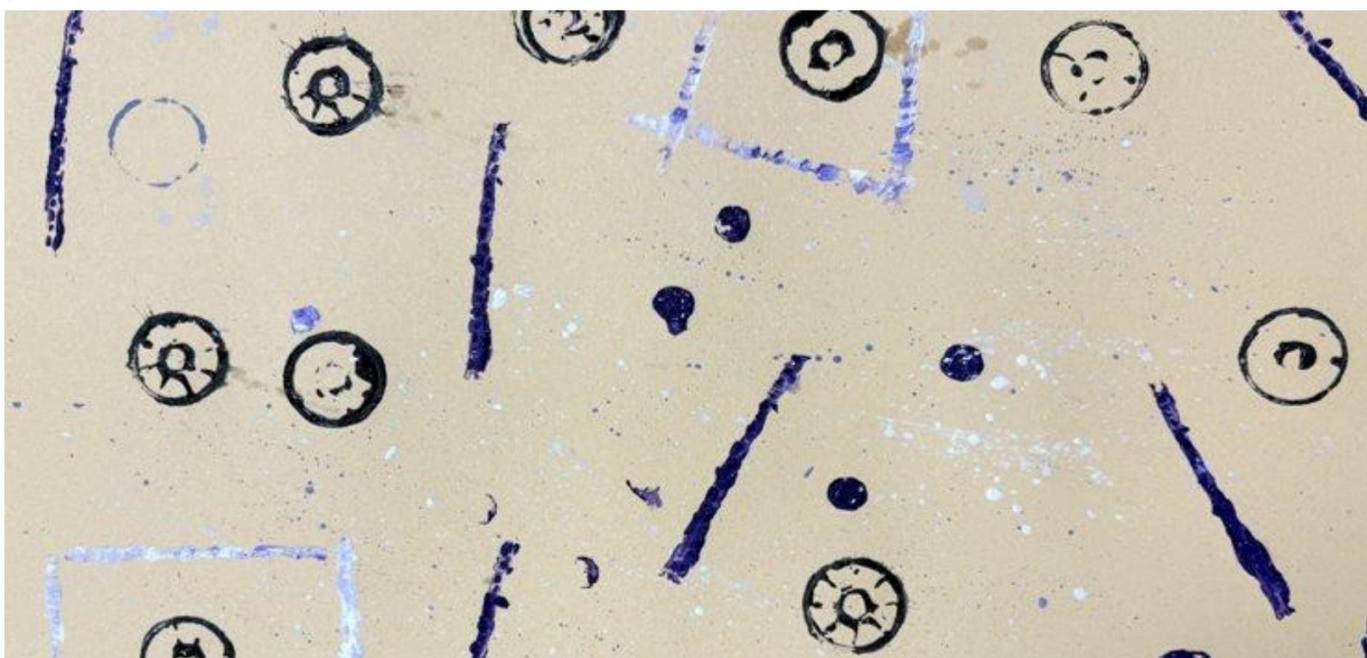
Freya



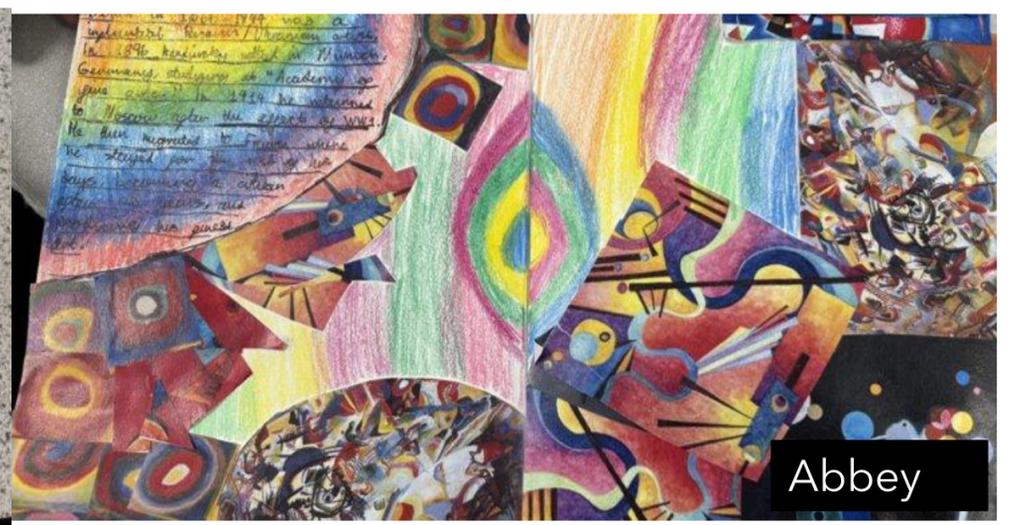
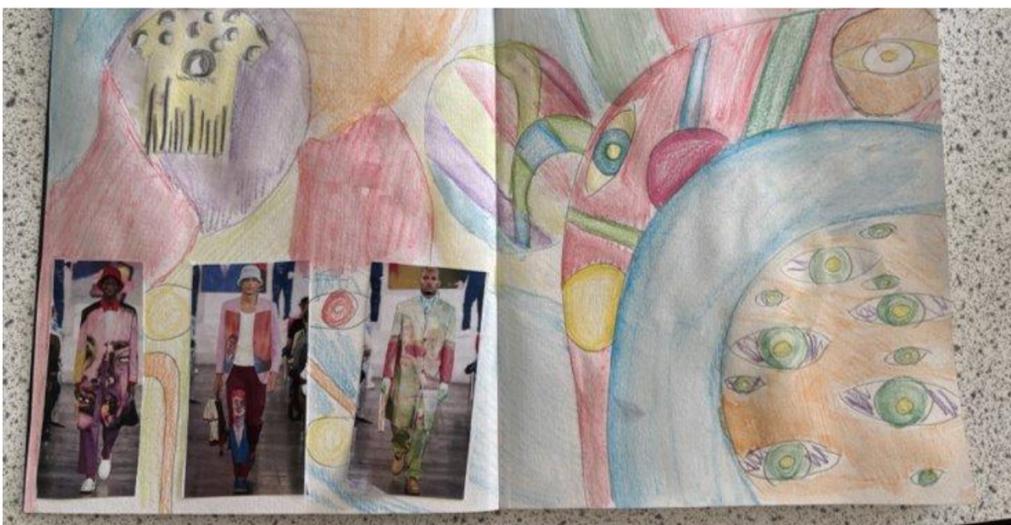
Lucy

This term, Year 9 have been exploring the question, "What are my hopes and predictions for the future?" as they prepare to create a collaborative final piece. They have researched a range of artists to inspire their ideas, analysing different techniques and styles to inform their own creative responses. Students have begun developing their final design ideas, experimenting with composition, colour, and symbolism to express their personal visions for the future within the collaborative artwork.

Textiles



Annie



Abbey

This half term, our Year 9 students have been diving into the world of surface design through their *Shorts Project*, taking inspiration from the innovative design studio KidSuper. They've explored expressive mark-making techniques and worked hard on presenting their sketchbooks to a high standard, guided by some impressive examples from GCSE students.

Meanwhile, Year 8 have made an excellent start on their Kandinsky-inspired bag project. Their sketchbooks are already filling up with vibrant artist research pages and exciting experiments using a range of dyeing techniques. We're looking forward to seeing how their ideas develop in the coming weeks!



Rhythm and Peace performer Donovan Christopher visited our school as part of our Black History Month reflections. He performed poetry from his anthology 'Read aloud proudly' and led a discussion with a group of Year 9 students.



The Garden

The garden wasn't far from me, just a few steps away. Tiny speckles flying around the trees. At first, I thought they were insects until I noticed dainty, china doll-like faces and dresses sewn from petals. Gossamer wings, thinner than cold air. Swirls of whimsical little people waltzed around me. Moving closer, unnoticed. Could I grab one quickly.

Do they speak?

My hand reached out gently...

Amelia, Year 11

Creative Club with our in-house artist, Chris Mould and our writer, Nik Perring have focused on group illustrations and favourite places

The theme was 'Does the past control the present or does the present control the past?'

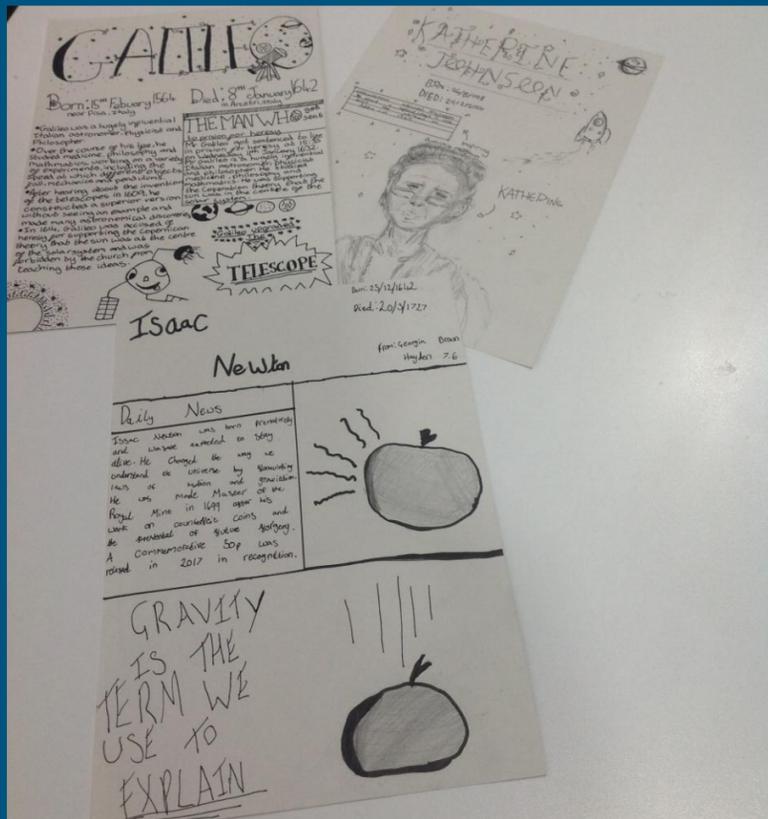


Library and Science Update



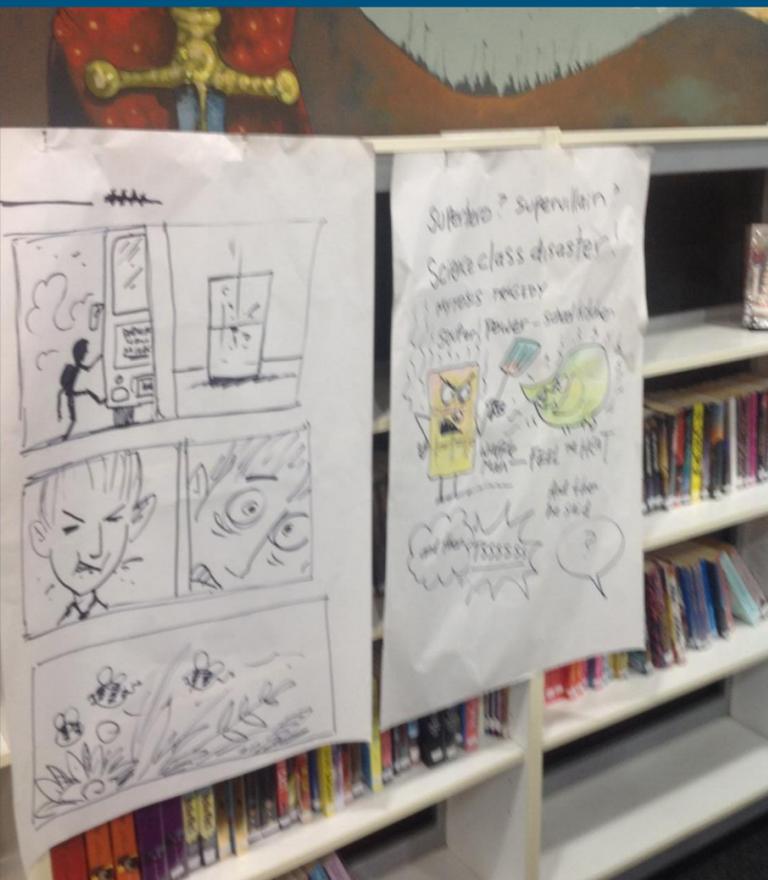
Writer and Artist in Residence Workshops

Our Artist, Chris Mould and writer, Nik Perring have been working on a scientists through time project with students from Years 7 and 8. They researched scientists, created posters and news articles and their work is displayed on the science corridors.

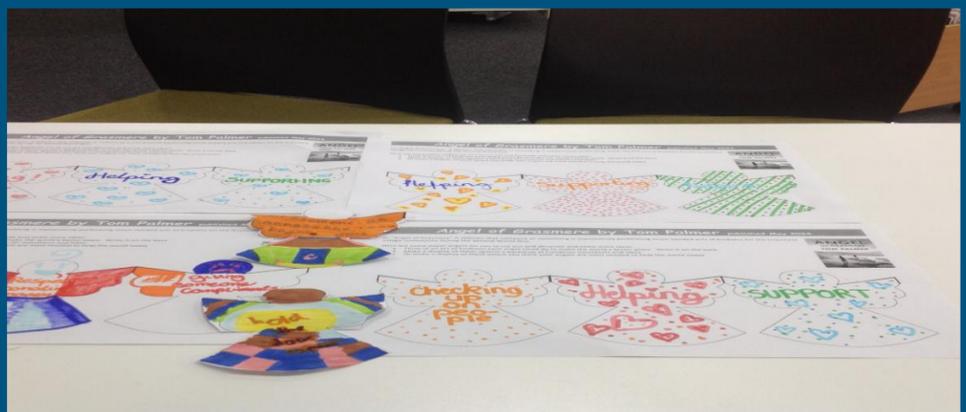


Creative Writing and Sketchbook Club

Our clubs have continued this term, and students have enjoyed creating their own Superheroes and Villains using character descriptions and cartoon ideas.



Our Year 7 library sessions have featured Tom Palmer's latest book, 'Angel of Grasmere'. Students have listened to extracts from the book and created their own 'kindness angels'



English



This year the Theme for National Poetry Day was 'Play.' We celebrated by creating poems in form time inspired by Brian Bilson. 8.6 wrote this fantastic poem about being a cat:

Meow meow, I want food, I hate dogs, I'm always in a mood
Meow meow, I sleep all day, I want treats, I don't want to play
Meow meow, I clean myself, I claw the door, I jump on shelf
Meow meow, I chase the rat, I want snacks, I'm a cat

We also celebrated by staff sharing their favourite poems, Mr Smith, Mr Eden, Mr Pianigiani, Miss Berrow and Mr Sunderland were videoed reading their poems aloud and students watched them in class.

The Problem of Writing Poems in the Shape of Deciduous Trees

the problem of writing
poems in the shape of deciduous
trees is that when there arrives the
first stirrings of a new autumn's breeze,
the poems shake themselves gently
until their words loosen
like leaves
and
then
start
to
fall
down
turning slow to much sooner the rains odd ground.

Brian Bilson

READING for Pleasure

We are continuing to explore reading for fun and enjoyment across the school.

This half term, students who have won the Read to Achieve challenge in form time have been awarded tickets to see a performance of Matilda at the Alhambra - look out for more fabulous Read to Achieve prizes in the next few half terms!

We have also spotted members of staff from across the school at the reading table in the canteen! Come and join them, choose a book from the book box, or bring your own book to enjoy.



Children and young people who read in their free time said it helps them:

56.6%
to relax

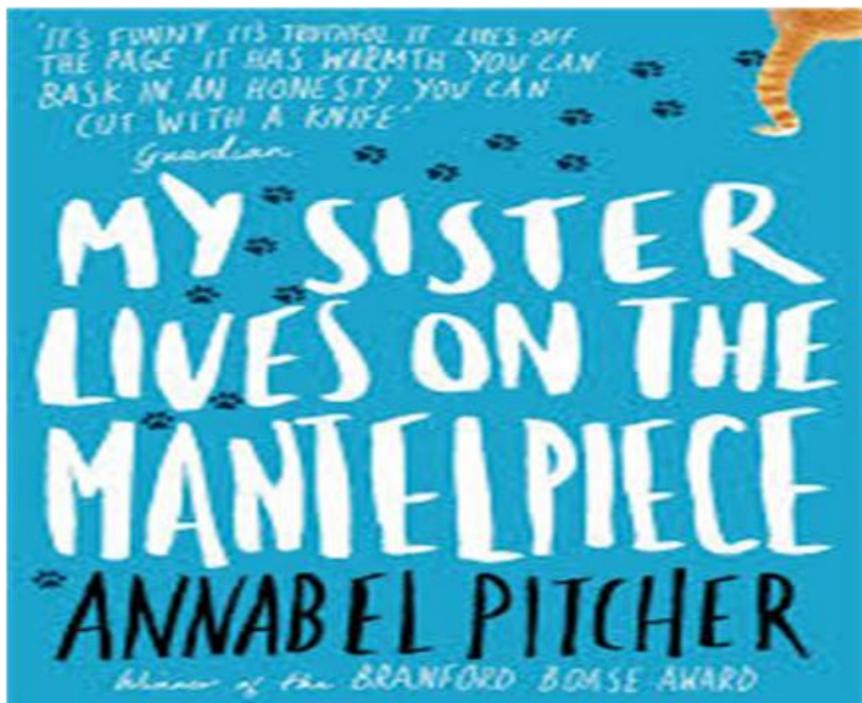
41.0%
feel happy

50.9%
learn new things

32.8%
understand the
views of others...

32.8%
...and about
other cultures

26.0%
to be confident



Two groups of Year 7 students were invited to meet Annabel Pitcher. Annabel is the author of *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*. Year 7 have been reading the book as part of their English topic this half term. Annabel told students about her reasons for writing the book and gave them a creative writing masterclass.



Rhythm and Peace Poet Donovan Christopher worked with Year 9 History students, looking at colonialism.

Sport at Appleton

Rugby

Our students have taken part in their first events of the year at Carlton Bolling school. Our Year 9 players found the opposition very tough and failed to win any matches, but they did score tries in every game and Mr Young was very proud of their efforts. Charlie was the captain of the team for the first time and Ellis, playing up and age group from Year 8, was the player of the day.

Our Year 8 students were outstanding in their first tournament reaching the semi-finals stage and only just missing out on the final but a last second Beckfoot try. They had amazing results against Hanson School and Immanuel in the group stages to secure the semi-final spot. Joseph was the captain for the first time this year and Ronnie was the brilliant player of the day.

If your child is interested in learning how to play rugby at Appleton Academy or is already playing outside of school and wants to play in more competitions, please ask them to see Mr Young or Mr Sunderland.



Football

Our Year 7, 9 and 11 football teams have all made a start to their seasons. Our Year 9s played in the first round of the National Schools cup away at North Halifax Grammar School. It was a tough loss but a great learning experience. Lewis was the captain and Marakai took player of the day with two good goals.

Our first successes of the year came from our Year 11 team beating Beckfoot Upper Heaton 1-0 and our Year 8 boys beating Trinity Bradford 4-2. Our Year 7s had their first league fixture against Trinity Bradford losing 6-1. Well done to everyone involved in the games so far for your effort levels.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Duke of Edinburgh

A large number of Year 9 students took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze selection day on Monday 6th October. Students took part in activities such as teamwork challenges and sleeping bag races. Students also got the chance to learn how to pack rucksacks filled with the equipment they would need for expedition. Navigation skills were tested when students took part in an orienteering task within the school grounds. Successful students were then invited to sign up for the Award.

Enrichment

Year 7 have been learning to climb on our fantastic climbing wall afterschool on Tuesdays. All of our club members have made it to the top of the wall on numerous occasions. The club also focuses on covering key safety practices to ensure our students are gaining skills in areas other than just climbing. The climbing club is hoping to have a climbing trip to an external venue next term.

Year 7 have been taking part in mountain bike club on Monday and Wednesday afterschool. All equipment is provided including helmets, bike, gloves and jackets. Students get to cycle on the purpose-built facilities here at Appleton. This involves a pump track and two separate mountain bike trails which offer over 2 kilometres of trails. Some of our students will be taking part in an offsite biking trip to the local area to test out the skills they have learned in club.



Appleton

SCHOLARS



October 2025

The Scholars programme at Appleton Academy provides opportunities for stretching and challenging students with a variety of experiences in order to prepare them with the skills and confidence required to succeed in the very best universities or higher-level apprenticeships.

Scholars Work experience July 2025

As part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond Appleton, our Year 10 scholars recently took part in a week-long work experience placement in a setting of their choice. This valuable opportunity allowed them to gain first-hand insight into the realities of the workplace.

Nimrit and Olivia gave us an insight.



Olivia-Grace Galloway

For my work experience I got the opportunity to work at Consort Equine Therapies. This is a small rehabilitation centre that holds around 14 horses, which have all had various injuries, surgeries and other issues that they need specialist care to recover from. Throughout my week there I got to observe many veterinary treatments, acupuncture, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy all on various horses. I learnt how pain is managed and recovery is optimised as well as processes that help speed this up. In my experience I was made aware of various illnesses, conditions, how to spot them, treat them and stop the spread. This was hugely beneficial to my future career aspirations as well as educating me further and allowing me to gain lots of advice from different professionals.

Nimrit Dhillon:

In July, I was given the opportunity to complete a week of work experience at a local Dental Practice. I got to watch different dentists treat patients with everything from regular checkups to bigger treatments. I was also able to complete some admin work and help sterilize instruments. It was really interesting to see how each member of the team contributed during appointments. Going to the Dental Practice for my work experience has helped me to realise that to get to that point I need to start working hard now. It has also really motivated and pushed me to work hard to get to that stage as it is something I am very interested in and committed to work towards.



Appleton

SCHOLARS



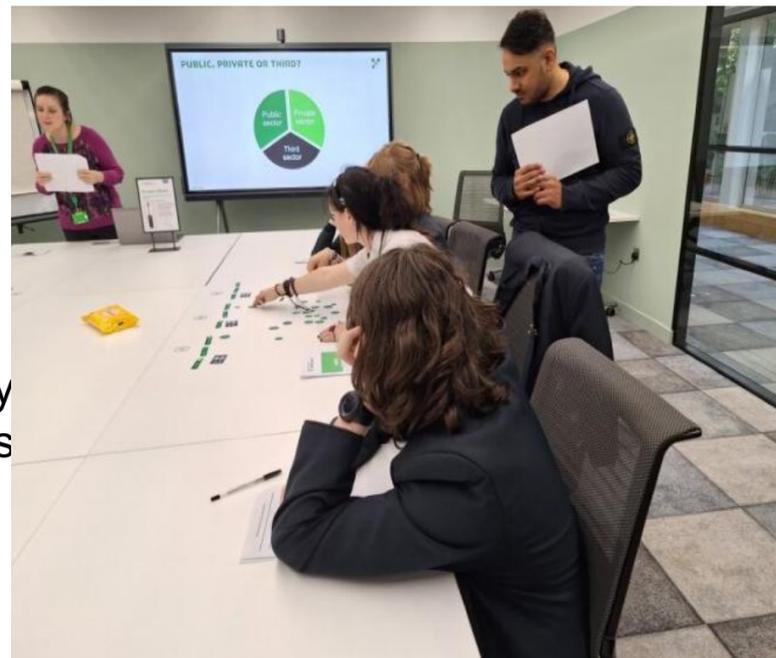
October 2025



Year 10 Scholars Experience the World of Work at Yorkshire Building Society

This half term, our Year 10 Scholars took part in a valuable Work Immersion Day at Yorkshire Building Society's head office in Bradford. The visit offered a unique insight into the professional world, helping students understand what employers are looking for and how to develop key transferable skills.

Throughout the day, students toured the business, took part in interactive workshops focused on problem-solving, customer service, and the job market, and gained first-hand advice from a careers panel made up of YBS staff from different departments. The experience not only raised aspirations but also gave students a clearer understanding of the skills needed for future success. We're grateful to Yorkshire Building Society for their support in helping our students connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities.





October 2025

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Scholars' Presentation Evening

This evening, we celebrated the achievements of our Year 11 Scholars as they concluded their journey through the Scholars Programme.

Designed to offer enriching and inspiring experiences, the programme aims to foster personal growth by developing character strengths, enhancing understanding of brain function, and building confidence and communication skills. It also encourages curiosity and critical thinking, helping students unlock their academic potential. The two-year programme combines classroom-based learning with a variety of enrichment opportunities such as visits to universities, employers such as Deloitte and a week's work experience.

Tonight's presentation evening marked the culmination of their hard work and learning, and our students truly rose to the occasion. Each presentation was thoughtfully prepared and confidently delivered, showcasing the progress they've made.

We were incredibly proud to share this milestone with them and their families and wish our scholars every success as they approach their upcoming mock exams—equipped with the tools and mindset to truly thrive.



THE LION THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Appleton Academy Year 11 students step into Narnia at the Alhambra

Appleton Academy's Year 11 Performing Arts students were whisked away to the snowy world of Narnia during a trip to see *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* at the Bradford Alhambra.

From the moment the lights went down, the students were hooked. The stage was transformed into C.S. Lewis' magical world with an incredible set, clever props, and a truly imaginative design that brought every scene to life. Students were particularly impressed with how creative the staging was, and how smoothly the production moved from one scene to the next.

One thing that really stood out was the live music performed on stage throughout the performance. The music added so much atmosphere and energy, and the students were amazed at the professionalism of the musicians who were so involved in the action.

Experiences like this remind us how powerful theatre can be — not just as entertainment, but as a way to spark imagination, build confidence, and deepen our understanding of storytelling and performance.

It's safe to say that our students came away inspired, excited, and maybe even dreaming of the stage themselves.





Appleton Singers Shine at Bradford's "Swing Low, Big Sing" Event

What an incredible morning for the Appleton Academy Singers! On Monday 20th October, our talented group took part in the "Swing Low, Big Sing" at St George's Hall, Bradford, joining hundreds of students from across the city for a joyful celebration of music, culture, and community.

From the moment they arrived, our singers were full of energy and enthusiasm. They approached rehearsals with smiles, confidence, and a wonderful sense of teamwork, which shone through in every performance.

Teachers and event organisers praised the group for their focus, positivity, and excellent behaviour throughout the morning. Their voices blended beautifully with the massed choir, filling the hall with warmth and harmony during inspiring performances of *Swing Low*, *Sweet Chariot*, *Stand By Me*, *Something Inside So Strong*, and many other songs celebrating Black heritage and unity.

We couldn't be prouder of how our students represented Appleton Academy. It was a fantastic opportunity to come together with The Celebration Choir and schools from across Bradford to mark Black History Month through the power of music.





Mainstream+ Provision

Introducing Mainstream Plus+ at Appleton Academy

This September, Appleton Academy proudly launched its first internal provision: **Mainstream Plus+**. Designed to meet the diverse needs of our students, Mainstream Plus+ offers a bespoke teaching and learning timetable alongside a carefully planned package of care and intervention. Each young person has a timetable that highlights their strengths and creates opportunities for success.



At its heart, Mainstream Plus+ is a specialised unit supporting behavioural, emotional, and learning needs. What makes it unique is its commitment to creating an environment that feels **welcoming, nurturing, and calm**. The smaller class sizes ensure that each student benefits from tailored lessons, individualised attention, and a supportive space that fosters confidence and growth.



The classroom itself has been carefully thought out to encourage a positive mindset and an active approach to learning. It is divided into distinct areas for:

- Learning** – focused academic engagement
- Reading** – quiet time to build literacy and concentration
- Regulation** – a safe space for emotional support and reflection
- Social and Play** – encouraging teamwork and communication
- Dining** – promoting routine and positive social interaction



Daily targets are set for pupils and are clearly visible, helping them take ownership of their learning journey. Expectations are also clearly communicated, ensuring structure, consistency, and mutual respect.



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Peerscroller

BY YIPIYAP

Meet your child's new role model.
In class. In app. And all in two minutes' time.

Nobody does curiosity quite like teenagers - but we know they don't always get their info from the right source.

That's where Peerscroller comes in.

How does Peerscroller work?

Peerscroller puts **essential life skills** into **bitesized TikTok-style videos** - all delivered by relatable role models close in age to the user.

It looks and feels like social media - but all our videos are **made and fact-checked by Yipiyap** to address key topics, from relationships and digital wellbeing to career planning and financial literacy.

And because our peer tutors speak your child's language, you can be confident they've got a **trustworthy source of knowledge**, in an **accessible and engaging** format.



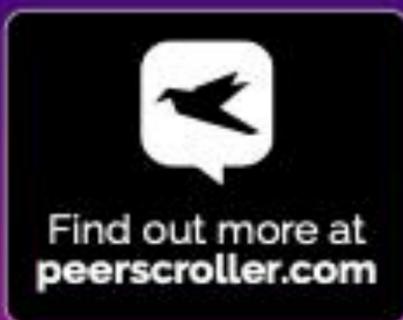
How can you use Peerscroller?

Students, parents and carers all get access to Peerscroller - so you can find videos to support your child and start important conversations.

Download the app now from the App Store or Play Store to get started. Just enter your school or college's **unique 6-digit code** or **scan your QR code** in app to **create your account**.

And **teachers** can access Peerscroller in their **lessons and form time** - so learning continues in and out of the classroom.

Happy scrolling!



You could train to teach at this school



Contact Exceed SCITT for more info on:

07717 312530



| www.exceedscitt.co.uk



Are you passionate about shaping young minds and making a difference in education?

Our school, in partnership with Exceed SCITT, offers an exceptional opportunity for aspiring teachers to train and gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). You would also achieve a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at the end of the programme.

There are lots of ways you could train with us and Exceed SCITT, including part-time options and the Teacher Apprenticeship. We will support you to become a great teacher, so what are you waiting for?

Entry Requirements

Primary

A first degree (normally 2:2 or above).

GCSE Grade C (4) or above in **English, Maths, and Science** or equivalent

Secondary

A first degree in the subject applied for (normally 2:2 or above).

If not subject-specific: at least 50% relevant modules + ideally an A-Level at Grade C or above.

Degrees older than 5 years may require a **Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE)**.

GCSE Grade C (4) or above in **English and Maths** or equivalent

Interested in finding out more? Then visit our website: www.exceedscitt.co.uk

Email: exceed.scitt@exceedacademiestrust.co.uk

Telephone: 01274 622002 / 07717 312 530

Start your teaching journey with us and inspire the next generation!

Parent and community feedback

I'd like to thank Mr Young for his outstanding passion to create teams for students. I can't speak highly enough of the lads in Year 10 who have joined our team and they been an absolute joy.

Aaron, Coach of Wyke Rugby club

Thank you so very much for the fantastic personal and academic care you have taken with our daughter over the last five years. Your intelligence, kindness, empathy, patience and hard work has helped shape her future. We cannot thank you enough for assisting our girl so wonderfully along the path of her life. She, like us, shall never forget what you have helped her achieve and the generosity of spirit you gave along the way.

"As our son comes to the end of his school journey, our hearts are full of gratitude for everything you've done for him. You've been more than a teachers you've been a steady guide, a kind encourager, and a source of strength during times when he needed it most. Your belief in him helped shape the young man he is today, and for that, we are deeply thankful. It's hard to put into words how much your care, patience, and dedication have meant to our family. You've left a mark on his heart that he'll carry with him always."

The students have been exceptionally well behaved, everyone I've spoken to so far has commented on how great they all are 😊

You're welcome back anytime- and I don't say that to all schools!

Jo Bottomley, community manager

Yorkshire Building Society

What a school! Although this year has been trying for my daughter in general I can't and won't fault the staff on their dedication to ensure my daughter succeeds best she can in her final year of education. She's had rough days to which school have been told and they have involved themselves to ensure she's ok, left a door open for her should she need it and met her requirements as a teenage girl with her mental well being and health. Amazing school ... glad all my children have attended and I've one more left there before I say my final goodbyes. Great teachers, great receptionists - couldn't ask for more! Thank you to every one of you 💖

If you are interested in leaving us feedback please email info@appletonacademy.co.uk

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Looking to the future: Alumni appeal



At Appleton Academy we highly value our connections with former students. We like to celebrate their achievements and experiences with students, staff and the local community.

We would love to hear from former students and hope to be able to work with them, in the capacity of volunteer, mentor and/or inspirational speakers. If you are a former student and would like to be contacted about the possibility of working with us, please complete the form on the link below or alternatively contact info@appletonacademy.co.uk and state alumnae in the subject.

<https://forms.office.com/e/uxFvJNr54E>

