

October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the first half term of the new school year, I thought it would be a good opportunity to share some of the highlights to date, as well as providing reminders and information about upcoming events in the busy period up to Christmas.

Year 7 September 2025 Admissions

It has been our pleasure to welcome new students into Year 7. We are really pleased with how well they have settled into school. It has also been lovely to see our older students being such excellent role models and supporting new students to find their way around, as well as facilitating some of our extra-curricular activities. We know that there is always a lot of information to take in when starting at a new school, so if you have any questions or worries, please get in touch with one of the team. Mrs Crookes is the Head of Year 7, supported by Mrs Wykez, our Assistant Head of Year 7. For general enquiries or support, you can also contact Miss Chesterman, our Parental Involvement Officer.

Year 6 Choices Evening – September 2026

It was fantastic to see so many prospective students for September 2026, and their parents, at our choices evening which was held this month. Feedback from the evening was excellent with some wonderful comments about our staff and students. Thank you to all of our current students who supported these events and made them so successful, they were a credit to parents and the school.

Enrichment Programme

Our lunchtime and enrichment programme is now well underway. We have had over 20 clubs taking place this half term, with students enjoying a wide range of options including mountain biking, singing, and drama, among many other exciting activities. We would encourage students to play a full and active part in life at Appleton and enjoy everything we have to offer. Our enrichment timetable can be found on the school website and student sign up for the clubs that will be operating next half term will start immediately when we return to school.

Careers Events

We are delighted to be continuing our careers programme for all year groups, with a particular focus this half term on Year 11 and their next steps. We have hosted visits in school with a number of Sixth Form and College providers, who have come in to school to speak to our students about what they can offer. We also held an information and revision workshop event for students and parents, along with a mini careers fair, which had a range of college and sixth form providers in attendance. This was well received by parents, carers and students.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our uniform standards remain high. The overwhelming majority of our students look very smart and are a credit to you and the school. Unfortunately, we still have a small number of students who do not meet our uniform standards. Please can we remind you that hoodies and non-school jumpers are not permitted. Blazers are a mandatory item of uniform and the expectation is that these are worn at all times, unless otherwise directed by staff. Thank you too to parents and carers for supporting our no facial piercing rule. Where students do not comply with our expectations, we will continue to impose sanctions, which will escalate if non-compliance persists. As the cold weather arrives, it is also important that students bring a coat to school as they will spend some of their break and lunchtime outside.

Mobile Phones

The introduction of our phone pouches has been an overwhelming success and students have commented on how they have appreciated the lack of distraction during school time. We would also like to thank parents and carers for supporting this initiative, it really has made a significant difference to the wellbeing of our students. It is thanks to you supporting this (and you letting your children know that this is the case), that students have bought into this so quickly.

Attendance

Improving attendance is continuing to be a significant priority for us, as there are still too many children with poor and intermittent school attendance. Regular school attendance is essential for your children if they are to maintain and develop their friendship groups, and to leave school with good qualifications. It is unfortunately the case that if your child is not in school, they struggle to keep up with friendships when they return, which often leads to social problems. Poor attendance is a common factor in every case where parents raise concerns about their child and their social times.

Please read the guidance on our website around attendance and support us in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and on time. Some parents may feel that we over-communicate about attendance, whether that be in a negative or positive way. However, it is important that parents are aware of their child's attendance over time, so that should issues arise we can work together to address them quickly. We will be writing to all parents with an end of half term update on their child's attendance and would ask that if you have any queries you direct them to the Attendance Team by emailing these to attendanceteam@appletonacademy.co.uk in the first instance.

Catering and School Meals

It is lovely to see so many of our students choosing to eat with us at break and lunch time. Please remember that students can access free chilled water in our dining room and we encourage students to bring a refillable bottle with them. As the cold weather arrives, please remind students to bring coats as some of their lunchtime will be spent outside.

Newsletters

We are delighted to share our first newsletter with you, which provides an overview of the events that have taken place in secondary this half term. The link to the newsletter can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yzhc4v7y> and you can read this on our website.

We will aim to share a newsletter once per half term, which will provide insights into daily life at the Academy, along with good news stories about the wonderful opportunities our children have had over the term. As part of our newsletter, we would like to have an alumni feature where we share what students who have attended Appleton in the past are doing now and celebrate their achievements with them. If you know someone who attended Appleton Academy and would be interested in coming to visit school or share their story in our newsletter, please get in touch via info@appletonacademy.co.uk. We would love to hear from them.

Forthcoming Events

The second half term of the school year is always full of exciting events in the run up to Christmas. As ever, full details will be circulated closer to each event and information will also be found on our website. However, please find a list of some of these events below:

Friday 14 November 2025 – Children in Need wear something yellow/spotty and bring 50p

Monday 17 November 2025 – Year 11 mocks begin for two weeks (mock timetable available on the website and emailed to parents and students)

Monday 1 December 2025 – 14 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge begins

Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Year 11 (Summer 2025 Leavers) Awards Evening

Monday 8 December 2025 – Flu vaccines

Thursday 11 December 2025 – Christmas Jumper Day

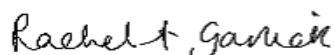
Wednesday 17 December 2025 – Year 11 Families Evening and Reports.

Thursday 18 December 2025 – Secondary Panto

Thursday 18 December 2025 – Last Day of School Term

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break next week and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to work hard over the next half term.

Yours faithfully

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

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary