



Appleton Academy

Autumn 2 December 2025

Featuring:

- In the press!
- Library update
- Careers update
- Talent showcase
- Trips and visits
- Sports fixtures and results
- Art and DT showcase

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.



Welcome

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

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.

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 Christmas 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, please let us know.

Mrs Garlick
Head of Secondary



Library Update



Created by National Poetry Centre in partnership with National Literacy Trust, and supported by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, the Young Poet Laureate programme provides children and young people with new opportunities to explore and discover poetry in their schools and communities. Students from Year 7 were given the chance to get excited about poetry with a visit from Bradford poet Sharena Lee Satti. Our students will also work with our writer in residence; Nik Perring and we will be entering some of our students' work to the next round of the programme in January.



Year 7 student, Lawson McLoughlin was a recipient of a signed book from local author Tom Palmer. Tom gifts books to students every Christmas and we nominated Lawson as he is an avid Tom Palmer reader!

APPLETON ACADEMY STUDENTS SHINE AT BRADFORD SCHOOLS EXTRAVAGANZA

Thirty excited Key Stage 3 students from Appleton Academy took centre stage this November as they proudly represented the school at the **Bradford Schools Extravaganza**. The event brought together 3000 pupils from across the district for a spectacular celebration of music, rhythm and performance. Appleton's students had a **brilliant time**, taking part in massed music activities and contributing to **two official world records**:

- **World's Largest Air Drumming Ensemble**
- **World's Largest Body Percussion Ensemble**

A memorable highlight of the day was the chance to **work with Bantam of the Opera**, Bradford's much-loved musical mascot. Their energy and humour kept the atmosphere lively and helped inspire students as they prepared for their record-breaking performances.

The excitement continued as the entire event was **featured on BBC Look North**, giving students the thrill of seeing themselves on television. Adding to the joy, students were also delighted to see **Pudsey Bear**, who appeared in support of Children in Need.



Staff praised the pupils for their enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent behaviour. Appleton Academy is incredibly proud of all who took part and looks forward to creating even more unforgettable experiences at future events.



BRILLIANT TALENT ON SHOW AT APPLETON ACADEMY'S WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

Appleton Academy proudly celebrated its first Winter Arts Festival, an evening bursting with creativity, talent and festive spirit.

The night opened with outstanding performances from our Year 10 GCSE musicians, whose professionalism and musical skill impressed the audience. Year 11's Tanesha Chihota shone with a stunning performance of *Santa Tell Me*, while Emily Green captivated the entire room with her expressive and emotive reading of her own creative writing.

The KS3 Dance group lit up the stage with their energy, and the Appleton Band brought fantastic charisma and confidence as they rocked the room with *Buddy Holly* and *Another One Bites the Dust*.

Our Year 7 and 8 drama students performed their assessment pieces with real skill, focus and enthusiasm, demonstrating growing confidence and dedication to their craft. Year 8's samba group filled the hall with vibrant rhythm and excitement, creating one of the most uplifting moments of the evening. The Appleton Singers delivered beautifully polished performances, bringing warmth and emotion to the hall with their renditions of *Somewhere Only We Know* and *Perfect Christmas*.



Beyond the stage, our students continued to shine. The technical team managed lighting and staging with professionalism, while Food Technology students treated guests to hot chocolate and handmade ginger biscuits, adding the perfect festive touch.

The Art and Design Department proudly showcased an impressive exhibition of Key Stage 3 and 4 work, celebrating creativity through expressive drawings, innovative designs and imaginative mixed-media pieces.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all staff and students whose hard work made the evening such a success. We couldn't be prouder of our young performers, artists and technicians.



Change our Story

A creative writing task devised by the creators of Matilda: The Musical

In conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), Year 9 students had the chance to take part in a workshop, where they were able to practice RSC techniques that the actors themselves used.

As part of the workshop, the children were set a challenge by Matilda: The Musical writer, Dennis Kelly. The challenge asked the students to reimagine a scene in the musical where Nigel is accused of putting treacle on Miss Trunchbull's chair. The students produced some wonderful pieces of creative writing. The winning responses, written by Berenice Ofuifeme and Alfie Stewart were sent to the RSC, which were very impressed with their innovative writing.

The students also had the incredible opportunity of meeting an actor from the production, Adam Stafford (Mr. Wormwood). The children learnt about Adam's life and how he became an actor and were able to feed into their curiosity and ask him questions... including the classic "Who's the most famous person you've ever met?".



"The pupils involved were absolutely amazing and really impressed Adam with their engagement" - Miss Searle



Duke of Edinburgh's Award



All our Year 9 Bronze students are now registered for their Bronze Award and have been working independently on their physical section. Some of our Year 9 students have chosen to take part in the outdoor adventure climbing club afterschool for this section. Other students are taking part in a wide variety of activities including badminton, football, swimming, rugby, dance, horse-riding, karate and ice hockey to mention a few.



For their volunteering section, students will be visiting Harewood Estate to take part in some environmental tasks. These trips are due to take part in January and February and will see students heading off site in our school minibuses for a full day on the estate. Harewood Estate is in North Leeds and has been home to the Lascelles family since 1738. In recent times it has changed into a leisure and lifestyle destination and is home to a very successful conservation project that involved the release of Red Kite's in the area. Students will have a chance to see these fantastic birds of prey.

Our Silver students will be returning to Harewood Estate in the February half term to complete their volunteering section. They will be taking part in some dry-stone walling activities. Students are already completing their physical sections and busy logging their evidence on their DofE accounts.

Both our Bronze and Silver students are now in groups for their expeditions, and the dates have been confirmed:

Bronze: Sat 28th – Sun 29th March 2026 & Tues 31st March – Wed 1st April 2026
We will be camping at Bramhope Scout campsite for our overnight camping

Silver: Training expedition Friday 24th – Sunday 26th April 2026
Assessed expedition Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th July 2026

We will be exploring the Yorkshire Dales for Silver and will be based at Kettlewell Camping for both our trips.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Bronze and Silver DofE students attended a first aid course during the October half term over 3 days. Students learned a wide range of skills to help deal with any situations they come across at home, in the community or on their expedition section of their DofE.

All students learned how to perform CPR on a casualty that was unconscious and not breathing. This is also involved learning how to use a defibrillator, phone the emergency services, manage the area and keep everyone else safe. Students also learnt how to put an unconscious but breathing casualty into the recovery position.

Students covered how to recognise symptoms and help a casualty with several common medical conditions. This involved learning how to assist someone or administer an epi-pen, using an inhaler or taking other forms of medication needed.

Students looked in detail about how exposure to different temperatures can affect people on their DofE expedition section. We looked at how to recognise and treat the symptoms of too much sun / heat and when people had been exposed to the cold and wet. In addition, students learned about burns, choking, how to immobilise injured limbs with bandages and slings and the contents of a first aid kit.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Archery Club Y7

This half term students from Year 7 have been attending an archery club every Monday. During this club, students have been taught the correct technique to shoot arrows safely using a bow and how to safely retrieve these from the target. In addition to this, the group has improved their skill level and accuracy through a variety of different games and competitions. The OAA department has been impressed with the level of concentration and skill developed by this Year 7 group.



Climbing Club Year 8 & 9

Students from Year 8 & 9 have been attending a weekly climbing club to build their skills. They have gained during climbing in PE lessons. The group have developed various climbing techniques alongside stepping out of their comfort zones on some of the more challenging routes the Appleton Climbing Wall has to offer. The students have been learning how to keep each other safe on the wall and how to put on and safely use equipment. Some of the Year 9 students are using climbing for the physical section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and regular attendees will be offered an outdoor climbing trip later in the year.



Students from Year 7, 8 and 9 have been busy taking part in Outdoor Adventurous Activities in their core PE lessons this term. Students have been taking part in a range of teambuilding challenges, climbing and orienteering.

These activities are aimed at pushing students out of their comfort zones to develop skills such as problem solving, leadership, communication and self-confidence.

Mr Green

Football

We have had a brilliant half-term of football, and our teams are dominating the Bradford schools league tables. We had a winning streak of 5 games including Years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Our results this half term have included our Year 10s beating Beckfoot Thornton 3-1, our Year 9s beating BBEC 4-3 and our Year 8s beating Beckfoot Thornton 4-1. Our Year 7 boys lost to Beckfoot Thornton but are improving all the time and we now have a Year 7 girls' football team who are training well.



Badminton

We have had a brilliant half term of badminton at Appleton Academy with our Key Stage 3 boys, Key Stage 3 girls and Key Stage 4 boys teams all becoming Bradford team champions and qualifying for the West Yorkshire round of the national school's championships in January. We have also hosted Queen Elizabeth Grammar School from Wakefield in a friendly match that involved 23 of our students taking part. We drew the upper half 6-6 and lost the lower half 12-7. Well done to all of our amazing players



AUSTRALIAN RUGBY FIXTURE



At the start of the outdoor rugby league season, Wyke were contacted by the RFL with an exciting opportunity to apply to host a game as part of the Aussie Wanderers' tour. The Australian team is made up of young players from community rugby clubs across Australia, who come together to tour the world and play rugby, sharing their talent, passion and sporting culture with teams across different countries. This invitation was a fantastic honour for our school and created a real buzz among students and staff alike.

Over 400 people attended to watch the game at Odsal Stadium, creating an electric atmosphere that made the occasion truly memorable. Eleven of our rugby students from Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in the match, proudly representing Wyke on such a significant stage and showing great teamwork and resilience throughout the game. Ishmeal was even chosen as a player of the day, a remarkable achievement that highlights his dedication and skill.

We are so proud of our students for their sporting efforts outside of school, and for the way they conducted themselves during this special event. Opportunities like this not only showcase their ability on the pitch but also help build confidence, character and lifelong memories.



Year 11 Mock Interview Day – December

In December, our Year 11 students took part in a Mock Interview Day, giving them a valuable opportunity to refine their interview skills ahead of their upcoming post-16 college, sixth form and apprenticeship interviews.

We were delighted to welcome interviewers from several of our external partners, including Bradford New College, Deloitte, Hays Recruitment, and the University of Bradford. Their professionalism and expertise offered students realistic interview experiences and constructive feedback to help them prepare with confidence.

Many students were understandably nervous as they arrived for their interviews, but all left feeling proud of their achievements, having received excellent feedback from their interviewers to support them with their next steps after Appleton.

The day was a great success, and we are incredibly proud of how maturely and thoughtfully our students approached each interview.



Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Scholars Programme Launch – November

Last month, we were delighted to launch our Scholars Programme to students in Years 8 and 9. We welcomed students and their parents into school to learn more about the aims of the programme and to receive their first Scholars reading book.

While the programme places a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure, its focus extends far beyond this. The Scholar's Programme is designed to develop a wide range of academic, cultural and personal skills that contribute to students' long-term success.

We were also privileged to be joined by Andy Griffith, renowned educational writer and originator of the Scholars Programme at a school in Liverpool. His work has contributed to significant improvements in student outcomes and post-Year 11 destinations, and we were excited for our families to hear directly from him about the vision and impact of the programme.



A particular highlight of the evening was hearing from our Year 11 Scholars Programme alumni, who delivered an inspiring presentation about their work experience, what motivates them, and how they approach revision. Their insight and honesty provided our new scholars with valuable guidance as they begin their own journey.

Throughout the programme, from Year 8 to Year 11, students will also can experience a wide range of enrichment activities, including visits to cultural destinations, universities, and employers. These opportunities aim to broaden horizons, raise aspirations, and support students in making informed choices about their future.

We look forward to seeing our new scholars grow in ambition, confidence, and curiosity as the programme continues

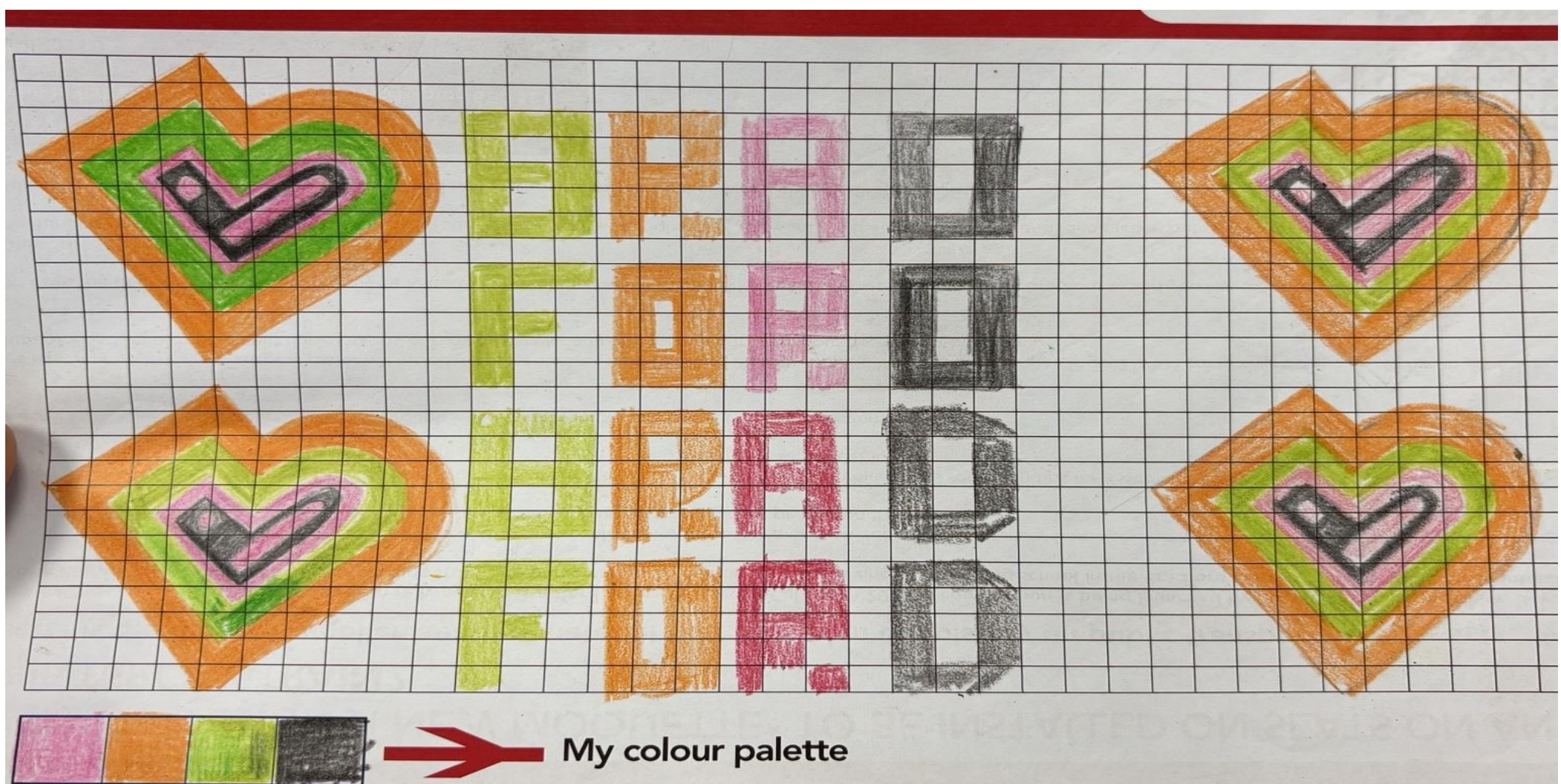
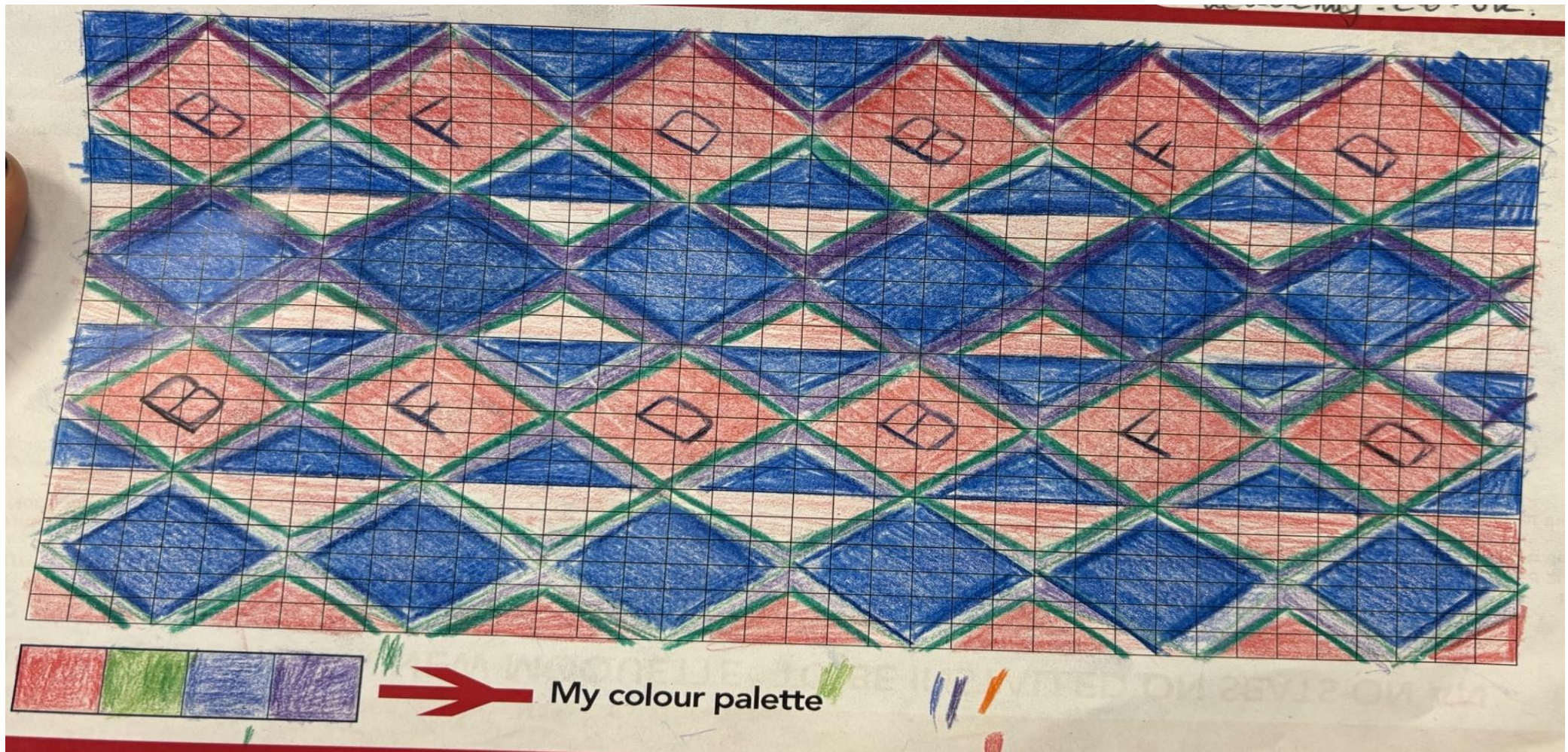
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Year 10 Food



Year 10 students have been making a variety of different dishes to show different skills in preparation for their NEA after Christmas. They have also been looking at a variety of ways to present their dishes. Some dishes they have made are profiteroles with a chocolate sauce and spun sugar, Butternut squash and chilli soup, doughnuts, chocolate yule log, Eton mess and sweet and sour chicken,

LNER Seat-y of Culture Competition



In lesson, students were asked to design a seat cover for a new LNER train operating in Bradford. The designs had to reflect key elements of Bradfords culture. These are some of the submissions..

Christmas card Competition



Harley F YR 8



Melody M YR 8



Jessica L YR 8



Sofia M YR 8

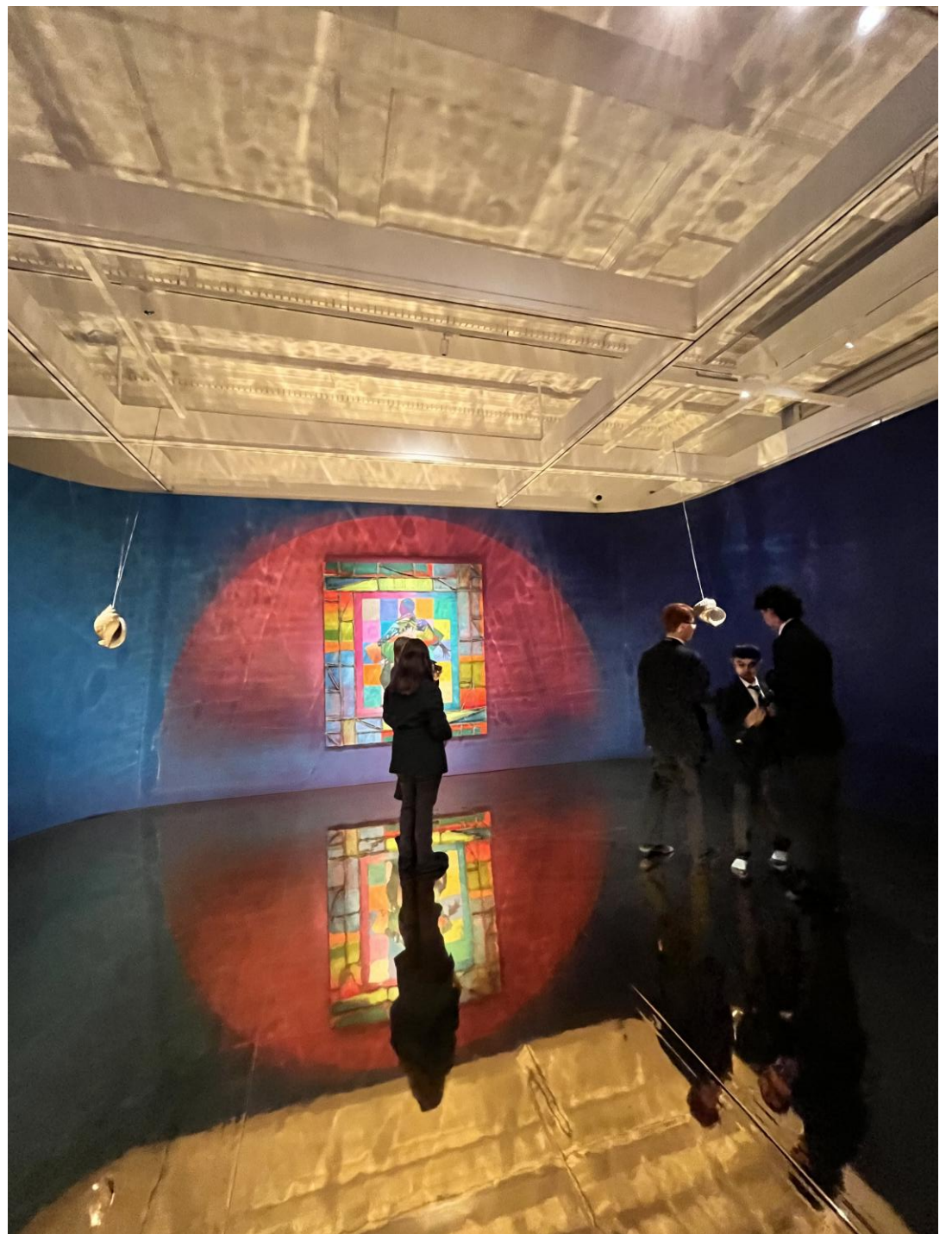


Sophia C YR 8

Students were asked to design a Christmas card with the theme of a child's Christmas but with no text. This could have been anything from a winter landscape to a portrait of a festive theme or anything from their imagination. Here are some of the year 8 entries.

Photography at Appleton

Y10 Photography Trip to Cartwright Hall



Students were asked to design a Christmas card with the theme of a child's Christmas but with no text. This could have been anything from a winter landscape to a portrait of a festive theme or anything from their imagination. Here are some of the year 8 entries.

Photography at Appleton

Y10 Photography Trip to Cartwright Hall



This year, the prestigious Turner Prize comes to Bradford!
In the lead-up to the winner being announced on 9th December, the shortlisted artists are showcasing their work at Cartwright Hall.
A group of our Year 10 Photography students visited, making for a day that was as inspiring as it was enjoyable.
As Bradford's Capital of Culture celebrations draw to a close, it was inspiring to see our students actively engaging with these contemporary artworks and experiencing firsthand the creativity shaping the national art scene.

Y10 Textiles Workshop with Chris Mould

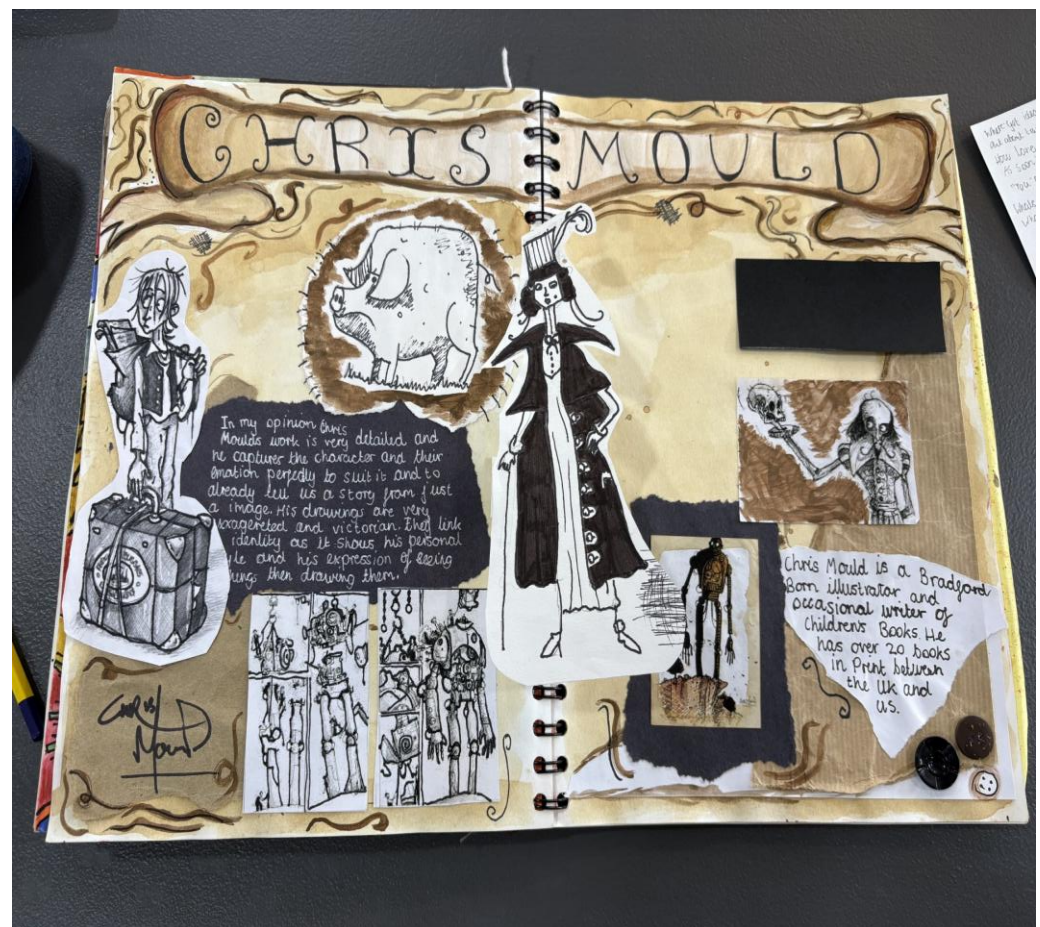
Our Year 10 GCSE Textiles students were thrilled to take part in a special illustration workshop led by award-winning illustrator Chris Mould, best known for his work on *The Iron Man*, *Animal farm* and numerous other children's books.

During the session, Chris shared fascinating insights into his creative process, from initial sketches to the development of his distinctive characters. Students learned about how he is approaching his current project illustrating *A Christmas Carol*, exploring the dark, atmospheric tones and detailed pen work that bring Dickens' classic to life.

Chris also discussed the impact of AI in the creative industries — raising important questions about copyright and originality. He spoke candidly about how some of his artwork has been pirated by AI systems, but also highlighted how technology can be used positively, such as researching historical details and character references to inform his illustrations.

The workshop included a lively draw-along activity, where students practised sketching the human figure in proportion, guided by Chris's tips and demonstrations. Everyone enjoyed developing their confidence and skills while gaining a deeper understanding of illustration as a career and its links with local creative industries.

The Year 10 group left feeling inspired, with sketchbooks full of new ide





In November, Year 7 took part in an engaging and thought-provoking Road Safety Theatre presentation. Split Second is a public education initiative that uses interactive theatre, real-life scenarios, and student participation to highlight the importance of making safe choices on the road. The performance focused on how quickly a situation can change due to a moment of distraction or an impulsive decision, such as checking a mobile phone, not wearing a seatbelt, or misjudging traffic. Throughout the session, students were encouraged to reflect on the potential short- and long-term consequences of these actions—not only for themselves but also for passengers, drivers, and pedestrians. After the performance, all students completed an online feedback sheet where they shared what they had learned about road safety and the impact of risky behaviour. Many students commented on how powerful the scenarios were and how the interactive format helped them understand the real-life consequences of making unsafe choices. The presentation aimed to equip young people with the awareness and confidence to make responsible decisions, reminding them that a single split second can make all the difference.





Y9 Positive Choices Day

In November, Year 9 took part in the Positive Choices event. This is organised and delivered by the Leeds United Foundation. All students took part in different workshops that covered the following topics, Gang Culture, Mental Health, Money Management, Joint Enterprise, Grooming and Exploitation, Substance Misuse, Healthy Relationships and the Realities of Prison. The sessions were delivered by speakers who had made poor choices in previous years, and they spoke passionately about the negative impact these choices have had in their lives. The sessions were very informative, and the students found them interesting. Appleton's students were complimented by the speakers for their excellent behaviour throughout the event.



GCSE Geography Field Trip to Leeds South Bank

4th - 5th December

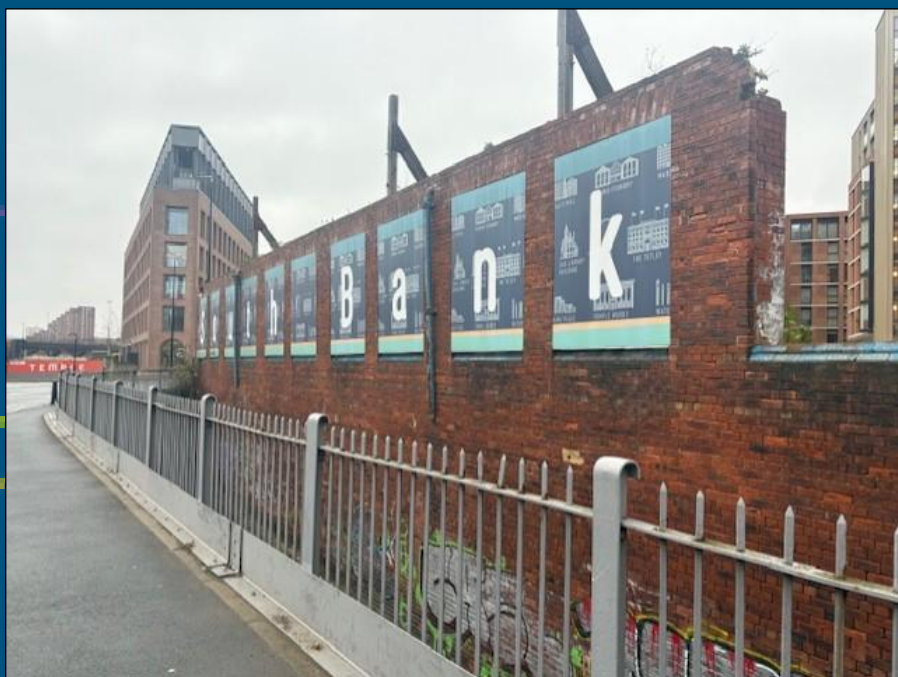
On the 4th and 5th of December, our Year 11 GCSE Geography students ventured out on a two-day field trip to Leeds South Bank as part of their preparation for the Paper 3 exam. The visit focused on investigating urban regeneration, giving students the chance to see first-hand how this once industrial area is being transformed into a modern, vibrant part of the city. Throughout the trip, students collected a range of data for the human geography element of their course. This included environmental quality surveys and litter counts. By gathering and analysing this information, students gained valuable insights into how regeneration can reshape communities, attract new businesses, and improve the quality of urban environments.

Leeds South Bank provided an excellent case study, with its mix of redeveloped waterfront areas, new residential spaces, and creative industry hubs. Students were able to link what they observed directly to topics they have been studying in class.

Despite cold winds and even the added challenge of a cancelled train on the way home, our students were brilliant. Their resilience, teamwork and positive attitudes shone through, and staff were incredibly proud of how they handled every part of the trip.

The data gathered over the two days will play a key role in supporting their Paper 3 exam this summer—but more than that, the visit gave students a deeper understanding of how geography shapes the world around them. Well done to everyone who took part!

Miss Turnbull, Mrs Broadhurst, Ms Helliwell and Mr Young.





Peerscroller

BY yipiyap

**Meet your child's new role model.
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Peerscroller puts **essential life skills** into **bitesized TikTok-style videos** - all delivered by relatable role models close in age to the user.

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

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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

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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>

