

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to inform you that your child has been invited to take part in the Northern Ballet Schools Programme: *Gentleman Jack*. This is a fantastic opportunity offered to a selected group of Year 8 and 9 students in recognition of their enthusiasm and commitment to the creative arts.

The programme is inspired by *Gentleman Jack*, a ballet based on the life of Anne Lister, and will give students the opportunity to work with professional artists from Northern Ballet, take part in a range of creative workshops, and attend a live performance of the ballet.

### What will the programme involve?

Throughout the programme, students will:

- Take part in creative writing, art and dance workshops
- Explore how stories and characters are brought to life through dance
- Develop confidence, creativity, teamwork and communication skills
- Experience a live professional ballet performance
- Reflect on and review a professional production

All activities will take place during the school day. Students will be supervised by Appleton Academy staff at all times.

### Programme Schedule

Please find below an outline of the workshops and events included in the programme:

Workshop / Event	Date
Northern Ballet – <i>Gentleman Jack</i> Introduction	Thursday 5 February
Northern Ballet – <i>Gentleman Jack</i> Creative Writing	Thursday 12 February
Northern Ballet – <i>Gentleman Jack</i> Art & Dance	Wednesday 11 March
Northern Ballet – <i>Gentleman Jack</i> Live Performance	Thursday 12 March
Northern Ballet – <i>Gentleman Jack</i> Review Workshop	Thursday 19 March

Further details regarding timings and locations will be shared with students closer to each session.

As this programme has been carefully designed by Northern Ballet to build students' understanding and skills over time, it is important that students attend all sessions. Each workshop connects to the next and missing a session may limit students' ability to fully engage with the creative process and gain the maximum benefit from this exciting opportunity.



**What should students wear?**

On workshop days, students will be required to wear school PE kit and appropriate footwear to ensure they can take part safely and comfortably in all activities, particularly the dance-based sessions. Footwear should be suitable for movement and provide adequate support. This will help reduce the risk of injury and allow students to fully engage with the practical elements of the programme.

**Why is this opportunity valuable?**

Participation in this programme allows students to:

- Work with industry professionals
- Access high-quality cultural experiences
- Strengthen links between Performing Arts, English, Art and PSHE
- Build confidence and cultural awareness through the arts

We are extremely proud to be able to offer this opportunity and are confident it will be an inspiring and memorable experience for all students involved.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs K Jowett**

Assistant Lead for Health, Fitness and Creative Arts