

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your ongoing support this half term. It has been lovely to see our Year 11 students working so hard and showing real commitment to their studies. As we move into a very important period of the year, we wanted to share some key information ahead of the next half term.

Mock Examinations

Mock exams begin in the first week back on **Monday 23 February 2026**. The first exam starts at 8.45am on Monday 23 February 2026 and it is crucial that students arrive on time.

It is vital that students revise as they would for their final GCSE examinations. All students have access to past papers and GCSEPod, which is proving to be an incredibly useful revision resource for many of our Year 11 students.

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time each day. Morning exams start at 8.45am. Being punctual allows them to settle before exams begin and helps reduce unnecessary stress or anxiety. We have a set window at the beginning of each examination and if a student is late, they are at risk of not being able to sit the examination.

Period 6 (P6)

If your child has been selected for Period 6, it is essential that they attend. These sessions have been carefully planned to cover key concepts, consolidate learning and close any remaining gaps in the lead-up to their final exams.

Punctuality

A reminder that Year 11 students start school at **8:30am NOT 8.45am**. This is 30 mins additional learning per day in their core subjects which equates to 2.5 hours extra of maths and English per fortnight. This earlier start ensures they can attend their Maths and English form groups, where staff deliver targeted support without interrupting learning time in other subjects. Teachers plan activities during these sessions to deepen understanding and strengthen knowledge in preparation for exams.

Summer GCSE Examinations

The summer examination series begins on **Tuesday 5 May 2026** and runs until **Wednesday 24 June 2026**. The examination timetable can be found here: <https://appletonacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Summer-2026-Y11-Exam-Timetable.pdf>

Your child must be available for the full duration of this period, so please avoid booking holidays during these dates. Exam boards do not allow examinations to be rearranged. A further exams letter will be sent after the mock exams with more details about the final GCSE timetable and arrangements for collecting results.

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom will be held on **Friday 26 June 2026**. Students must meet the set criteria to attend, and letters have been sent throughout the year informing students if they are on track. The criteria include:

- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Attendance of Period 6
- Behaviour

Key Dates

- **2 March 2026** – Food Practical Week
- **23 & 24 March 2026** – Art and 3D Design Practical exam
- **25 & 26 March 2026** – Photography & Textiles Practical exam

Education Records Service

The DfE has now launched a national pilot of the Education Record. The Education Record is a secure, mobile app that gives pupils lifelong access to verified data about their education, like GCSE results - starting at schools attended and expanding as they progress through further education.

Education records provide pupils with all their essential educational information in one place, supporting application and enrolment to post-16 education and employment settings. Having lifelong, mobile access to their GCSE results and vocational awards is a major step forward in ensuring they are not disadvantaged during post-16 enrolment.

Early next term we will be writing to you about the Education Records Service.

A Well-Deserved Congratulations

To reiterate, we want to congratulate our students on their recent endeavours. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by so many of our students. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure every student has the tools and encouragement they need to thrive. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Miss A Derrington
Deputy Headteacher