

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 have made an excellent start to the year with us at Appleton Academy and have demonstrated a strong and purposeful attitude to their learning.

We are writing to you with some key information about this academic year, which will be useful for you in supporting your child. We want to ensure, as you do, that your child achieves the very best grades possible over the next two years.

Key Dates for Year 10:

Week Beginning Monday 23 November 2026	Report 1 – Attitude to Learning
Tuesday 2 March 2027	Families; Evening Report 2 will be given out on this evening (Attitude to Learning and Attainment data)
Monday 7 June 2027	Mock Examinations Begin
Week Beginning Monday 12 July 2027	Report 3 – Attitude to Learning and Attainment Data

Homework

At Appleton Academy, homework is an important part of students' learning. It provides valuable opportunities for students to practise and consolidate their learning, develop their independence and take greater responsibility for their studies.

The Benefits of Homework

Homework can support students in many ways:

- Consolidate learning – revisit and practise knowledge and skills taught in lessons.
- Improve understanding – give students additional opportunities to work on areas they may find challenging.
- Develop independence – encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and become more confident working independently.
- Develop good study habits – help students develop the organisation, time management and self-discipline needed for successful study.
- Prepare for future learning – introduce students to topics, concepts or skills that they will explore further in lessons.
- Build confidence – regular practice can help students feel more secure and confident in their knowledge and abilities.
- Support academic progress – completing homework consistently can help students make stronger progress over time.
- Involve parents and carers – provide opportunities for families to take an interest in and support their child's learning.

Homework Expectations

- Students should spend 30–45 minutes on homework for each subject.

- A variety of homework tasks will be set, including written work, research, revision, project work and preparation for future learning.
- All students will be given a pocket planner this year, which they can use to record their homework. We strongly encourage all students to use their planner to help them stay organised and remember what they need to complete.
- All homework will be set on Arbor and will be accessible to students and families. Please ensure you have access to the Arbor app to see what has been set. Homework may be computer or paper based but Arbor will be where you can view homework details.
- To make good progress in their learning, it is essential that students complete their homework to the best of their ability. Parents and carers are encouraged to talk to their child about their homework and support them in organising their time so that work is completed and handed in on time.
- If students need support with their homework, they should speak to their subject teacher.
- If parents or carers have any concerns about homework, these should be raised in the first instance with the relevant subject teacher.

Please find details below of the homework that will be set for each subject this year.

Mock Exams

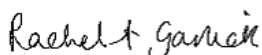
Towards the end of Year 10, students will sit their first set of mock examinations in school. These are designed to prepare students for their final GCSE examinations by providing them and their class teachers with valuable information about any gaps in their understanding or misconceptions they may have. Teachers will then use this to inform their teaching and to support your child in plugging those gaps. Mock exams also provide students with their first experience of the exam process, enabling them to familiarise themselves with this new environment prior to the final examinations at the end of Year 11. Mock examinations will commence on Monday 7 June 2027 and go on until the first week of July 2027. We will provide a mock exams timetable nearer the time.

Attendance

Attendance is particularly important in Year 10 as students are now studying their GCSE courses and covering content that is essential for their final examinations. Regular attendance ensures students do not fall behind, as missing even one or two lessons can make it difficult to keep up with the curriculum. For example, students have English every day and Maths on most days, so being absent for lessons can mean they miss key learning needed to access the next lesson. Being in school every day and maintaining positive attendance is therefore essential to success.

Through all of us working together, we know that your children, our students, will have a positive year and will make the progress their hard work deserves. Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Garlick".

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary

Miss Douglas
Head of Year 10

Subject	Task Type	Frequency
English	GCSEPod	Once a week
Maths	Past GCSE questions or GCSEPod	Once a week
Science	GCSEPod	Once a week
History	GCSEPod/ practice questions	Once a week
Geography	GCSEPod and homework sheet	One per week
Spanish	SentenceBuilders.com and worksheet	Once a fortnight
Music	Listening log/Task Completion and Preparation for controlled assessment	Once a fortnight
Drama	Task Completion and Preparation for controlled assessment	Once a fortnight
iMedia / ICT	Completion of Class Notebook lessons	Once a fortnight
Computer Science	Programming - sololearn.com Theory - GCSEPod	Once a week
DT, art and photography	Worksheets and tasks set. Subject tasks	Once a fortnight
Hospitality & catering	Worksheets and tasks set. Subject tasks	Once a fortnight
Health and Social Care, BTEC Sport and Child Development	Department Tasks set on Arbor	Half termly