

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are pleased to welcome Year 11 students back to school after the summer break and look forward to a busy but productive year.

We are writing to you with some key information about this year, which will be useful in enabling you to support your child. We want to ensure, as you do, that your child achieves the very best grades possible next summer to give them as many options for further education, training or employment after Year 11.

Y11 Period 6 Lessons

Period 6 lessons are designed to provide your child with further support during Year 11. Staff will be planning sessions focused on exam technique and areas that require strengthening, which have been identified through mock examinations. We will send you the GCSE summer exams timetable at some point during this first term. Period 6 lessons will begin on **Monday 14 September 2026** and will run until 4:15pm. These lessons are compulsory for students who are invited, and your child's sessions will be added to Arbor so that you can see when they will be required to attend. This will change throughout the year, and we will keep you updated. If you feel your child should be attending a session that they have not been invited to, then please do email their class teacher.

Year 11 Mock Exams

During week beginning **Monday 16 November 2026**, we will be holding our first set of Year 11 mock exams, which will take place across two weeks. Mock exams are a good indicator of a student's progress towards their end of year grades. They will also provide your child's class teachers with vital information about their strengths and areas for development and will allow them to adapt their teaching to ensure these gaps are plugged prior to the examinations in the summer.

Your child will shortly be receiving a mock exam timetable and revision lists and it is vital that they begin the preparation for their mock exams now by doing their own revision at home, working hard in class and attending Period 6 sessions. Mock results are often used by colleges and Post 16 providers, so it is essential students demonstrate their full potential in these examinations. There will be an additional set of mock examinations taking place during week beginning **Monday 22 February 2027**.

Year 11 Information Evening

To help you support your child throughout this year, we are inviting you to a Year 11 information evening on **Tuesday 6 October 2026**. The evening will allow you to visit a variety of short workshops led by specialist staff covering topics such as learning habits, resources to aid study, reporting, stress management, keeping a balance and Post 16 options. In addition to these workshops, there will also be sessions run by our Heads of Maths and English to support your child's preparation for these subjects. At the end of the evening, you will have the opportunity to speak to Mr Bellwood and Miss Derrington to ask any questions that you may have about this year.

Families' Evening

Families' evening will be held on **Tuesday 15 December 2026**. It is vital for your child's progress this year that you attend. Students' most recent school report and mock grades will be provided to you on the evening. In addition to this event, there will be other points in the year during which students will meet with the Year 11 leadership team following data collection points.

Homework

At Appleton Academy, homework is seen as a valuable way of revising and extending work undertaken in school, of discovering information not available in school, of involving parents/carers in their children's studies and of developing the self-discipline essential for good habits of study. All homework will be set on Arbor and be accessible to students and families. Please ensure you have access to the app to see what has been set. Homework may be computer or paper-based and you will find a table showing the frequency of homework for each subject at the end of this letter.

Attendance

Attendance is particularly important in Year 11 as students are 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 Maths and English every day, so missing 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.

Holidays

Please be aware that GCSEs cannot be rearranged, so if a student misses an exam, they will not be able to re-sit this during the summer series. Therefore, we ask that you please do not book any holidays during term time and particularly in May or June, as these may potentially clash with external examinations. If your child misses an exam in the summer, they will gain no credit for this exam, and this may potentially lead to them failing this subject.

Year 11 Prom

We will be holding a Year 11 Prom in the summer term after the completion of your child's GCSE examinations. We would love all students to attend this; however, there will be some criteria which determine whether your child will be invited or not. This is based on the following:

- Good attendance of school
- Good punctuality, so please ensure your child is on time to school
- Positive behaviour around school
- Attendance of Period 6 lessons
- Engagement and behaviour in lessons

Students who consistently fail to meet the expectations of the Academy will not be invited to attend Prom. We provide parents and students with fair warning of this possibility and will keep you updated with their progress and any concerns that may mean them missing out on end of year rewards such as the Prom. We will not be considering any previous behaviour or attendance issues from prior years, so this is a great opportunity for your child to make a fresh start, commit themselves to learning and behaving positively in school and hopefully celebrating with us and their friends at the end of Year 11. It can seem a long time away but the reward of applying themselves and achieving these rewards is always evident by the amazing time students have and the great efforts they go to in enjoying the end of the school year with us, particularly at Prom.

We will continue to write to you throughout the year to remind you of key information and dates. Through all of us working together, we know that your children, our students, will have a positive year and make the progress their hard work deserves. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Garlick

Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary

Mr Bellwood
Head of Year 11

Homework Frequency

Subject	Task Type	Frequency
English	GCSEPod	Once a week
Maths	Past GCSE Questions or GCSEPod	Once a week
Science	Past GCSE Questions or GCSEPod	Once a week
History	GCSEPod/SENECA/Practice questions	Once a week
Geography	GCSEPod and homework booklet	Once a week
Spanish	SentenceBuilders.com and worksheet	Once a week
Music	Music Industry Work Booklet and then onto Task completion/preparation for controlled assessment.	Once a fortnight
Drama	Task completion/preparation for controlled assessments.	Once a fortnight
iMedia / ICT	ICT - completion of Class Notebook lessons for exam & bumper revision guide / iMedia - recap quizzes in Teams and Knowitallninja.com	Once a fortnight
Computer Science	Past GCSE Questions on paper or Programming - sololearn.com Theory - GCSEPod	Once a week
DT, art, textiles and photography	Worksheets and tasks set	Once a fortnight
Hospitality & catering	Worksheets and tasks set	Once a fortnight
Health and Social Care, BTEC Sport and Child Development	Department Tasks set on Arbor	Independent tasks