

MMC/GHR

19th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy week here at the academy, not least for our invested year 11 students who have started their GCSE examinations this week. The dedication, drive, and determination to succeed has exuded from our students every morning, and I have no doubt that this will translate into the results that these students deserve. Read on to find out more about the exceptional learning experiences taking place here at STWA.

Teaching and Learning

This week, Year 11 have made a phenomenal start to their first week of GCSE examinations, which have covered subjects including Biology, English Literature, History, Business Studies, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Health and Social Care. Throughout the week, students have displayed levels of investment that have blown us away, with students attending Prepare to Achieve breakfast sessions from 7.30am and many opting to stay for Period 5 sessions beyond the normal school day. We know that the coming weeks will be the culmination of years of work, but it makes us incredibly proud to see our students taking advantage of every marginal gain available to them.

Over the weekend, the Academy will be open for Achieve sessions focused on Chemistry (Saturday) and Geography (Sunday) to provide additional opportunities for students to prepare for Monday's examinations. However, we also strongly encourage our students to have a well-earned break over the weekend and advise them to spend time outdoors, chat to family and friends, and enjoy their regular hobbies.

Events/Enrichment

Bridging Project

This week in the academy, we had our second session of the Bridging Project. This project welcomes Year 6 pupils from our feeder primary schools into the academy. This was the second of five sessions where our future students can experience what it is like to be a pupil at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. Miss Bott had a superb morning with our soon to be Year 7 cohort and was blown away by the enthusiasm and positive learning behaviours of the group. Miss Bott tasked the group with improving Postman Pat's delivery methods. This involved looking at the blades of his helicopter and investigating how to ensure they were as aerodynamic as possible. Naturally, this involved lots of practical experimentation and fun. Helicopters with varying blade lengths were launched from an array of locations within the classroom. The group hypothesised that the larger the blades were on the helicopter, the longer the helicopter would take to fall. Thus, learning key concepts around air resistance and Newton's laws. Miss Bott conveyed her delight by informing the students that they were all budding young scientists who picked up the key concepts of scientific investigation with ease. Our third instalment of the Bridging Project is on the 23rd of May where students will explore a drama extravaganza with Miss Preston.

Sports Fixtures

The cricket season began this week with the first KS3 cricket team match taking place against Armthorpe Academy, and it was a great start to the season! Mr. Walker has seen great interest from the pupils of STWA at the training sessions, so it was a tough decision to select the squad for this game. The fixture went down to the last few balls of the game and despite some outstanding performances batting, bowling, and fielding, Armthorpe won the fixture by 6 runs. The next fixture will take place on Thursday 25th May 2023 at Hayfield School, where we will be participating in the first Doncaster Schools Tournament of the year. If there are any pupils that wish to come and give cricket a go, training takes place after school on Mondays.

This week saw our first rounders fixture of the season with Hayfield and Hall Cross coming to STWA to play against our KS3 team. It was a great evening in the sunshine and there were some fantastic performances by all teams in attendance. Our girls won against Hayfield 8-6! A great opening game, maximising our last few bats and taking lots of risks out on the field. Unfortunately, we lost by one rounder to Hall Cross 7-8. They saved their best batter until last, who hit the ball over the heads of our fielders to score the winning rounder. Two great games of Rounders were played, and we are now excited to play our next game against Laurel next Wednesday at home.

Standards

Students have had their lesson start slightly altered in PE lessons to ensure they avoid the Sports Hall where exams are taking place. The exams team would like to thank the students for their exemplary conduct walking out to PE in silence so as not to disturb the exams, there has been amazing respect shown by our younger years towards our GCSE cohort.

Adult Learning Opportunities

In conjunction with the South Yorkshire Combined Authority, we will be offering parents, carers, and the wider community two free courses: ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages,) and Functional Skills. Both courses will start on Monday 22nd May at STWA at 5.30pm.

If you have any further questions, please email g.harris@stwacademy.com

PCAB (Parents and Community Advisory Board)

Our next PCAB meeting is being held at STWA on Wednesday 12th July from 5-6.30pm. This meeting is your opportunity to find out more about the exceptional learning opportunities on offer at STWA, as well as give your feedback on anything concerning the improvement journey that the academy is on.

Please register your interest with g.harris@stwacademy.com or complete the form on this link <https://forms.office.com/e/8GHUDgd4Vf>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

