

Our ref: MMC/NWI

23 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support of the academy and for the important role you play in your children's education. The academy remains a hive of activity, with students across all year groups demonstrating commitment, resilience and a positive attitude to learning. We are particularly encouraged by the strong efforts of our examination cohorts and the growing confidence we are seeing in lessons, enrichment and wider academy life. Improved outcomes, increasing post-16 participation and the breadth of opportunities available to students all point to the positive momentum we are building together, and this progress would not be possible without the partnership we share with families.

### **Teaching and Learning**

#### Year 13 UCAS Deadline

As of last week, all applications have now been processed by the sixth form team and have been submitted to UCAS ahead of the equal consideration deadline. We wish students the best of luck in securing university offers! We know some students have already heard back from their choices, however many still have not. We'd like to take this opportunity to reassure parents and students that this is completely normal as universities consider all applications received.

#### Tassomai

Students' investment in Tassomai continues to go above and beyond, with students in years 10 and 11 completing over 300 hours of quizzing and answering over 90,000 questions last week! French has also been added to our range of Tassomai subjects to support students' learning.

In year 11, we are running a number of rewards linked to Tassomai:

- If students answer 200,000 questions this month, they will win a photo booth at their Prom.
- The student who gains the most points between January and May will win a Prom VIP table.
- Students who achieve 1,000 points on Tassomai this week will be rewarded with the Ms Shaw Bookworm acadimal.

#### Sparx

As an academy, we have completed over 5,000 hours of personalised learning, answered a half a million questions correctly and over 270 students have improved their times table fluency this year. We thank every parent for their support and encouragement in completing Sparx mathematics tasks.

For years 7 to 10, homework is set every Friday and due the following Thursday.



## Careers

Year 9 took part in their first activity day on Thursday 22 January, as part of the Access to Sheffield Programme. These students went on a visit to the University of Sheffield Campus. Through a campus tour, students started to understand the difference between a campus and city centre university. They used the 'Skills Builder' framework to develop themselves, as well as, learning about the 'Meta Method' utilising their metacognition to learn how they learn and think how they think, to better know themselves. This was a useful day that helped the students learn about their future potential.

ASK Apprenticeship visited the academy on Friday 23 January to support and inform students in year 11 to learn what apprenticeships are and what the different levels mean, as well as, the types of apprenticeships available and how to apply. This was a very informative event that will allow students in year 11 to make well informed decisions about their future.

## Personal Development

### Enrichment Electives

You will have received the block 3 elective booklet this week via ClassCharts. Please discuss the exciting electives on offer with your child as they will be making their four selections next week. As always, the offsite electives will be highlighted in pink, if you do not consent for your child to be off site, please discourage them from selecting these ones. The electives are a fantastic opportunity for students to gain new skills, ignite new passions and create fantastic lifelong memories.

### Enrichment Clubs

Please see the academy website for the updated extra-curricular offer. We have over 30 enrichment opportunities for our students over the course of the week.

### Badminton Premier League

We have recently been **crowned Doncaster Badminton champions for the third year in a row**. Well done to Mr Webb and the students who have dedicated every lunchtime and Tuesday after school, to practice and have now reaped the rewards - We are very proud of them all!

## Events

### NEXUS 2026

On Thursday 29 January, 16 students from our Dance Club will be performing two routines at the Nexus Dance Festival, hosted at Hall Cross Academy.

If you would like to come along and support our students, tickets are available via the link below:

[NEXUS 2026 at Hall Cross Academy Upper School Main Hall event tickets from TicketSource](#)

### An Audience With

On Friday 6 February we will be hosting our next An Audience With event for all year 7 students. We will be welcoming Sally Nicholls, **a prize-winning children's British author; Sally's first novel won the Waterstone's book prize** and she has additionally been shortlisted for several other awards with The Guardian, Costa and the Carnegie Medal. We have yet to have an author visit us for An Audience With, let alone a prize-winning one, so this will be a **great opportunity to invigorate both reading and writing** for all of our year 7 students! Sally will be delivering an inspiring talk, followed by a writing workshop for a smaller group of students based on her book: Things A Bright Girl Can Do.



## Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase

On Thursday 12 February, STWA will be holding its annual Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase - 'The Icons.' Students are working exceptionally hard, both in and out of lessons, to ensure their routines are flawless and I am sure they would appreciate your support! Tickets will go on sale next week for those who plan on coming to watch.

## **House Updates**

Wentworth have managed to maintain their lead in the house system this week with almost 30,000 house points. This term, we have launched the third instalment of our Extended House Project which focuses on Misty Copeland. Throughout the week, students can earn their house points for entering into our: weekly wins, box tasks, online quizzes, awareness days and participating in our house sporting events.

For our term two house reward, students will be invited to attend a matinee performance of STWA's very own Little Shop of Horrors. In order to be eligible for this event, students in the winning house must have a minimum of 40 house points and less than 50 negatives.

Students are competing to earn a place on our end of year house trip to Alton Towers! Students can still take part in all of our house competitions to earn those all-important house points!

## **Attendance**

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in students' success, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Every lesson counts, and even short periods of absence can have a significant impact on learning, confidence, and progress over time.

Being in school every day helps students build strong routines, maintain positive relationships with staff and peers, and fully engage with the curriculum. Good attendance is also closely linked to improved outcomes, particularly at key stages and during exam years.

We understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable, and we appreciate families keeping us informed. When challenges arise, we encourage early communication with the academy so we can work together to provide support where needed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students attend regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

## **Standards**

Arriving to lessons on time is an important part of a positive learning culture. When students are late, they miss vital instructions, disrupt learning for others, and can find it harder to settle and engage fully in the lesson.

Being punctual helps students develop good habits that will benefit them both in school and beyond. It shows respect for learning, for staff, and for peers, and ensures that every lesson can start calmly and purposefully.

Please continue to monitor students' ClassCharts accounts closely to ensure that any **L (Lateness)** marks are identified and discussed at home. Students who arrive late to a lesson will receive a lateness detention, which will also be logged on ClassCharts for parents and carers to view.

## **Parents and Community Advisory Board (PCAB)**

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our academy, our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meet once per term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team. Our next PCAB meeting will be held at STWA on Tuesday 3 March from 5:00 until 6:00 pm – we hope you can join us.



As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

