

MMC/GHR

14th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has seen us continue with our high expectations; we will continue working until the final lesson next Friday, striving to make every lesson count for the full academic year. Our new Year 7 cohort joined us for three days this week and it was lovely to see the academy full of a new year group ready to embark on their journey at STWA. The new Year 7 cohort is our largest one yet with over 240 students and a further 80 on a waiting list wanting to attend this exceptional school.

Teaching and Learning

Year 10 Results Assembly

This morning, Year 10 students received their results from the recent trial examinations. With just under a year until their final GCSE examinations commence, students responded to these results with an impressive display of maturity by celebrating their successes and achievements but also targeting areas to improve. The closing the gap process is already taking place in lessons, so students are fully aware of the steps they need to take to improve their performance in the November trial examinations in Year 11. We are also pleased to reward twelve students for their embodiment of our key drivers and investment throughout the trial examination period with a free drink from the Grumpy Mule each day next week.

Year 6 Transition Days

From Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th July, we ran our Year 6 Transition days to Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. The students were placed in their form groups, had the chance to meet their form tutors and trialled many lessons, meeting lots of their new teachers as well as their new peers! Closing our final transition day on Wednesday was a fantastic Gym and Dance Spectacular performance, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On Thursday 13th July, we held our Parents' Information Evening which had a fantastic attendance of over 300 parents and carers all finding out all the essential information they need to know before their child starts in September.

Events/Enrichment

Sports Day

On Monday 17th July, we are holding our annual traditional Sports Day. Students have already selected the events they would like to compete in, and we are looking forward to a fantastic day of inter house competition. All students are expected to attend the academy in full STWA PE kit on this day. This consists of the STWA PE t-shirt, STWA PE hoodie (optional), plain black tracksuit bottoms/leggings, or black shorts of a reasonable length/ knee length cycling shorts, and trainers. No other sports wear should be worn. Students are advised to bring water bottles to stay hydrated and bring sun cream if required.

Better Learners, Better Workers Graduation

The Better Learners, Better Workers programme came to an end for 2023 Ambassadors with a Graduation Ceremony at the fabulous Cutlers Hall in Sheffield. They have completed a year of events that included working with the NHS, Construction Industry, site visits, financial planning, and the final event of a team building /skills day at Wentworth house with the Army. All the Ambassadors have developed new skills, grown in confidence, met a range of employers and have gained new ideas for their future career planning. They were presented with their certificates by Dame Julie Kelly the Master Cutler in front of a large audience that included their immensely proud parents and carers. Congratulations to all our students for completing the course and graduating in style.

South Yorkshire Careers Hub Conference

The South Yorkshire Careers Hub - Leading the Way - conference for 2023 was a highly attended event with the Chief Executive of the Careers and Enterprise Company delivering the keynote speech, followed by Employers speaking about the value of Business and Education Links. This was followed by an awards ceremony where we are proud to say that Layla Young, our Enterprise Adviser from Polypipe, was presented with the award for the most engaged business in education, Layla has supported our Academy with passion and is driven to improve the life choices of our students and is now very much a part of our Academy community. Mrs Brooke, our Careers Leader, was also presented with a special acknowledgement award for the contribution to the Careers Hub in Doncaster and her collaboration with the Enterprise Adviser resulting in positive outcomes for the students at Sir Thomas Wharton.

Golden Ticket Event

This week, we celebrated the achievements of over 150 students as they enjoyed time out of lessons on our inflatable assault course, it was so pleasing to see so many happy faces and the enjoyment of the event from our young people. Across this academic year over 700 students have accessed a golden ticket event or have been entered into the investment and attendance raffle which is a fantastic indication of the positive behaviour our young people demonstrate daily. We will continue to celebrate next week with the drawing of the final Investment and Attendance raffle where student have the chance to win a smart tv, a laptop, or Amazon shopping vouchers.

We are extremely proud of our rewards system here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and will continue to ensure that every student who displays our Key Drivers and embodies our PRIDE criteria will receive a reward that they truly value.

Berlin Trip

Some of our GCSE and A-Level History students are currently taking part in the exceptional learning experiences offered by a residential trip to Berlin. Whilst there, these students will visit a range of important historical sites in and around the city including the Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial, and the Berlin Wall Memorial. The students will also be going on a coach excursion to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp to further enhance their understanding of the history that they have studied. Parents and carers of students who are on the trip have been sent a link so that they are able to track where the students are during their visit.

Standards

This week leaders have been giving reminder notes out to students about the start time next year. This has been done to give as much notice as possible on the process next year. Any student arriving after 8:20 will be late from September and the reminder slips this week along with assembly presentations have been done to overcommunicate this change.

Year 5 & 6 Open Evening

If you have children who will be in Years 5 or 6 from September 2023 and you are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our Year 5 & 6 Open Evening on 5th October 2023 from 5-8pm and see the exceptional learning experiences on offer at STWA. This evening will be a fantastic opportunity for prospective parents to see the Academy and to meet the dedicated team of staff before making the important decision of which secondary school is right for their child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

