

Our ref: MMC/GHR

23 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely half term; students have made a fantastic return to the academy. I would like to place on record my thanks to staff who delivered sessions to Year 11 students during the half term, these sessions were very well attended, and I am thankful to staff who give up their time to support our students during non-compulsory sessions; it really is an example of doing whatever it takes.

Welcoming the National Theatre to Edlington was a real 'wow' moment and the production was superb; it certainly gave the Matilda cast something aspirational to live up to!

A final thanks should go to the 300 Parents and Carers who supported our Gym and Dance Spectacular event. The audience really does matter and helps to create those memories that last a lifetime.

### **Events and Enrichment**

#### **Jekyll and Hyde**

On 22nd February, the National Theatre brought their touring production of Jekyll & Hyde to our school. This was an incredible opportunity to raise cultural capital for several of our students. The whole of Year 9 were invited for the first performance followed by a collaborative audience of Performing Arts student from Y10-13 from our school and Maltby Academy.

In a mash up of Victorian England and the modern day, the story explores how the repression of female voices was as prevalent in the 19th century as it is today. Centring around two new protagonists – Hattie, Jekyll's widow, and Florence, a young blogger in the 21st century – these new narratives confront the power the internet holds to unleash our own inner Hyde.

It was a privilege to have such a prestigious theatre company in our school and our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

#### **Gym and Dance Spectacular**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the re-arranged Gym and Dance finally happened! Students have been working hard learning routines in lessons and during dance clubs in preparation for demonstrating their skill and determination to an audience of 265 people.

There were a range of different acts throughout the night, starting with Mr Webb's vault jumpers and ending with an outstanding BTEC dance solo with moves from Charleston to acrobatics and everything in between.

It takes a lot of courage to perform in front of such a large crowd, but the students certainly knew how to put on a show! The PE team are so proud of the hard the students worked in preparation and how well they performed on the night.

#### **Paris Trip**

Last week, students from Years 10-13 enjoyed a trip to Paris to support with their studies of English Language and French. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience the astounding sights and incredible landmarks of Paris, including: the Eiffel Tower, a riverboat cruise along the Seine, a tour around the Louvre, exploration of the Sacre-Coeur, a visit to the highest viewpoint in Paris up the Montparnasse tower and a day in Disneyland! All students were able to practice their linguistic talents and have made wonderful memories whilst exploring Paris.



## Cricket Club

As part of our extensive enrichment programme, Cricket Club starts on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February after school with Mr. Walker and Mr. Jarvis in the P.E. department. The club offers exciting opportunities for Year 7/8/9/10 students to develop their skills, hitting boundaries and taking wickets! The aim is to compete against other schools in the South Yorkshire area in games across the summer term, so join us to help put STWA on the map in the cricket scene! We will also be looking to arrange trips to watch local professional cricket teams.

## House Updates

As we reach the end of the first week of this half term, Cusworth have made it into pole position with an astounding 6000 house points! Students can earn house points by completing weekly wins, box tasks, engaging with Character Education in Tutor Time, and completing activities that go towards their pledges.

This week, we have also started to launch our online house quizzes which is another opportunity for students to earn house points. These will be set for all students on Satchel:One; if a student completes the quizzes, they will earn participation house points for their house. As well as this, there will be a book-based quiz of the week on the whiteboard in the Library each Monday. If students bring the correct answers to Mrs. Harris-Boldy in the Library, they will earn participation points for their house too!

To provide members of our Student Parliament autonomy over various aspects of school life, we have held Student Parliament elections for Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. The votes are currently being counted; keep your eyes peeled for the grand reveal!

## Standards

We have held our behaviour and standards assemblies this week for students as we do each half term on our return from a school holiday. Our focus for this half term has been culture. We believe that every student has the right to a clean and welcoming school environment. We have been instilling into students the importance of working as a community to keep the school looking good. This means that we all work hard to look after our facilities and ensure that litter is always but in the bin.

## Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB)

Be a part of shaping our school's continuous improvement journey by joining our PCAB at the next meeting on Wednesday 28th February from 5:00pm – 6:00pm at STWA.

The agenda will be as follows:

- The new enrichment model
- Planners
- Detention system

You can register your interest on this form <https://forms.office.com/e/vek7YVUXv1>

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

