

Our ref: MMC/GHR

8 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

A superb week at the academy where students have engaged brilliantly with everything that we offer. The World Book Day was a lovely event that reminded me of the reason we continually push reading for pleasure and the need to grow a love of reading.

I personally visited the Careers fair at the racecourse and have to say that, although I am biased, our students stood out as smart and personable, I hope that they all enjoyed the event.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 Trial Exams

Our Year 11 students have continued to demonstrate their investment throughout the second week of their trial examinations, which will continue next week as we move onto practical examinations, including French Speaking, Food and Music. Students will also experience a live performance of *Macbeth* to aid with their English Literature studies. In addition, our Photography students will visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park as they prepare for their examination. Year 11 attendance this term has been the highest of the year and we look forward to seeing all our students continuing this trend throughout the remainder of their trials over the next two weeks.

Events and Enrichment

World Book Week

We celebrated all things reading with World Book Week this week, culminating with World Book Day on Thursday 7 March. Students have been completing an activity booklet for their chance to win house points, writing short stories for a chance to win a Kindle, and engaging with reading for pleasure activities. Our most invested readers from KS3 were treated to hot chocolates and fun activities in the library throughout World Book Day. Following the great success of World Book Day, it is fantastic to be able to say that here at STWA, we believe that reading is for life, not just to be enjoyed on one day of the year. Our commitment to promoting the love of reading is evident across the academy in every subject and with every member of staff. We know that everything we do to promote reading every day is going to ensure that our students achieve remarkable things, after all, 'The world belongs to those who read' (Rick Holland, author)



Doncaster Careers Fair

This week, all Year 10 students visited the Doncaster Careers Fair held at the Racecourse. The morning was spent gathering information from a range of future employers, colleges, and training providers which enabled students to make informed choices about their own future careers.

Students had the opportunity to:

- Learn about the types of careers and industries which exist in the local area.
- Meet potential future employers.
- Ask questions about different careers and pathways.
- Take part in 'have a go' activities to give them an insight into different sectors.

Our many thanks to Polypipe who sponsored the cost of the coaches to enable all students to attend.

Sheffield Hallam University Outreach

On Tuesday this week, a number of our Year 9 students visited Sheffield Hallam University as part of the Higher Education Progression Partnership. All students gained an understanding of what life is like at university and discovered what courses are available to them. They took in a tour of the campus, completed some activities, and engaged with information about student loans, finances, and accessibility.

Our students were engaged and respectful throughout their time at SHU, asking leading questions to develop their understanding of universities. There was even the bonus of a free book and printed short stories from the university library!

An Audience with Louise Bloor

We are proud to announce our next 'An Audience with...' Event. Louise Bloor, Olympic athlete, and Senior Women's Performance Nutritionist for The Football Association will be coming to STWA on Wednesday 20 March to talk to our Year 9 and 10 students who are either studying Food Technology or BTEC Sport already or have chosen it as a GCSE option. Providing inspiration and aspiration is at the heart of what we do as an Academy, and this event embodies that vision completely. We cannot wait to welcome Louise to STWA to inspire our students.

Tickets for Matilda the Musical Jr.

Tickets for STWA's production of Matilda the Musical Jr. are available to purchase on ParentPay at a cost of £5 per ticket. There are two evenings to choose from to see the show: Wednesday 27 March and Thursday 28 March - please make sure you choose the right one for you to ensure we have the correct numbers. The cast cannot wait to perform this production and have been working hard to perfect their performances ready for an audience.

House Updates

Students in all houses have massively increased their participation in house activities this week which has led to Cusworth leaping into the lead with 11,788 points. To ensure that there is fair participation for all students, we have capped our weekly win entries to five per student. There are still a variety of challenges which students can take part in to earn house points to secure the win for their house to attend our house trip to Xscape on 17 July.



Golden Ticket Events

The second round of Golden Ticket Events will be held prior to the end of this half term. Students attaining 360 net points and who have a minimum of 92% attendance will receive a Class Charts message in the coming weeks, which will contain a link allowing students and parents to give their first, second and third event choices. We will accommodate as many first choices as possible.

The Golden Ticket events that students will be able to choose between are:

- Bowling and a Burger
- Ready Steady Cook
- Easter School Cinema

Post 16

Year 12&13 Parent's Consultation Evening

Tuesday 12 March is our second parent's consultation evening for our Post 16 students. This evening will be held online, and instructions have been sent to parent's via ClassCharts. Parents can make appointments with teachers from both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy where students have lessons across both sites.

Year 12&13 Trial Exams

The exam timetable has been shared with students for the upcoming trials. For Year 12 students, this will be their first set of trials as a Post 16 student, and these will commence in the week beginning 18 March, with the majority of their trial exams being week beginning 25 March. Year 13 students will sit their final round of trial exams before their formal summer examinations. This will be a key opportunity to identify areas for development ahead of these assessments. Year 13 trial exams will commence 13 March, with most exams taking place the week beginning 18 March.

Year 12 Visit to St John's College Cambridge

On 11 March, selected Year 12 students will visit St John's College at the University of Cambridge where they will have the opportunity to speak with admissions staff and current students about applying to and studying at Oxbridge. The students will also receive a student-led tour of the college and academic enrichment sessions.

Year 12 Sheffield University Careers Fair

On 14 March, all Year 12 students will attend Sheffield University to attend a careers fair tailored towards Post 18 pathways. This event will host representatives from various universities, degree apprenticeships and employers to provide students an insight into opportunities upon completion of their Level 3 qualifications.

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

