

Our ref: MMC/GHR

15 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has been a busy one at the academy in all the best ways. We have had students attending sporting championships, a theatre production in school, and our Post 16 students visiting prestigious universities to experience what it would be like to study there in the future.

On Wednesday, I was proud to welcome over 70 CEO's, Headteachers and Local Authority staff into Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. They arrived and were escorted through the building by our Student Parliament members who confidently engaged in conversation with them. They were all impressed with what they saw here at STWA and were very complimentary about the calm atmosphere around school, our learning environment, and indeed our students.

Teaching and Learning

While our formal trial examinations finished last week, Year 11 students moved on to practical examinations. This has seen students perform phenomenally well in a range of subjects, including French Speaking, English Speaking, ICT and Food. Our Year 11 photographers have also participated in a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park in preparation for their examination. Next week, Food practical examinations will continue alongside our Music performances. We look forward to celebrating students' success in these trial examinations during the Year 11 Results Evening on Tuesday 26 March (5.30-6.30pm).

Events and Enrichment

Badminton Trip

STWA students had a brilliant day at the All-England Badminton Championships in Birmingham. We saw the world number 1 in both male and female players, got signatures from numerous professionals and cheered on the England men's doubles team. The students were impeccably behaved throughout the day and enjoyed a day of sport at the very top level, hopefully inspiring the next generation of badminton players.

Macbeth Production

On Tuesday, we were delighted to offer Year 11 students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, thanks to a thrilling production by Quantum Theatre. As one of the core texts for GCSE English Literature, securing students' knowledge of the plot and characters of the Scottish play is essential, so it was great to see the text being brought to life.



Road Safety Assembly

On Thursday and Friday, Year 8 and Year 7 watched a presentation by the Riot Act during assembly time as part of their Life Skills curriculum. The key messages were on road safety, peer pressure and peer influence. We hope everyone will take the information on board and keep themselves and others safe when they are out and about.

Photography Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

All Year 11 students currently studying GCSE Photography enjoyed a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park on Thursday this week to produce a body of work which will contribute significantly towards their GCSE Exam unit. All students visited different areas within the sculpture park and took hundreds of brilliant photographs to create their body of work. All students represented the academy brilliantly and got a great deal out of the day to support their studies.

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

Everything is still to play for as we head into the final two weeks of this half term. Students in Cusworth are still leading the way with nearly 9000 house points, followed closely by the other houses. Next week, we have our half term four house assemblies where students will be able to come together as a house and celebrate their achievements over the last half term.

Standards

As we have previously communicated through the newsletter, we are introducing a new 2-hour detention which will be taking place on a Monday and Friday. This detention will be for any student who has missed a previous 60-minute detention. To prevent students having to attend this detention, please can we encourage parents/carers to check ClassCharts each day and remind students if they do have a detention that they must attend.

Post 16

Year 12&13 Parent's Consultation Evening

Thank you to parents and carers who were able to attend our Post 16 parent's consultation evening on Tuesday 12 March. This evening was a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to meet with teachers from both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy to speak with them about their student's progress and discuss their next steps towards Post 18 destinations.

Year 12&13 Trial Exams

Some of the trial exams began this week for Year 12 students. These trials are their first set of trials as a Post 16 student, with most of their trial exams being week beginning 25 March. Students are conducting themselves in a mature manner and are fully aware of the importance of these trial exams. 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 Monday, selected Year 12 students visited St John's College at the University of Cambridge where they attended academic taster sessions and a college tour. Students had the opportunity to speak with admissions staff and current students about life at the university and the Oxbridge application process. The students had a fantastic time and were a credit to the Post 16 team.

Year 12 Sheffield University Careers Fair

On Thursday, all Year 12 students visited the University of Sheffield for the UK University and Apprenticeship Search event. Students had the opportunity to speak to countless universities and apprenticeship providers about the courses they offer. Students were also able to attend various seminars about UCAS, Student Finance and Apprenticeships. The staff were impressed with how well the students took advantage of this opportunity to find out more about their Post 18 options.

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

