

Our ref: MMC/NWI

7 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you had a very enjoyable half term break. We are nearing the final stages of our examination period and we could not be prouder of the students at this academy. We are resolute in our ambition for your children and seeing students feeling so well-prepared gives us confidence in the strategies that we have in place. Of course, exams are only one part of what matters, we often talk about them opening doors but it being a person's character that really matters, so alongside this busy period, the finishing touches are being placed on the Year 11 Prom, Academy Awards Ceremony and the School Sports Day; these events matter to us because they give students memories that last a lifetime.

Examinations

Year 11

This week, students have completed examinations in Mathematics, History, Geography, Business Studies, English Language and Biology, with students continuing to display excellent levels of investment throughout Prepare to Achieve sessions, pre-examination briefings and during the examinations themselves. Another week of examinations awaits next week, but the majority of students will complete their examinations on Friday 14 June, with the exception of students who study Food Technology and Music, which will continue into the following week. I would like to thank parents, carers and staff, as well as the students themselves, for their ongoing support to ensure all students are able to perform to the best of their abilities in these important examinations. As part of our year 11 celebrations, students will have an opportunity to sign shirts during Period 4 on Thursday 13 June.

Year 13

Examinations have also resumed for our year 13 students this week with a busy schedule of examinations across Geography, Psychology, Maths, Sociology, Media Studies, English, Product Design, Criminology, Physics, Business, Economics and History. Students have approached their exams with tenacity, following half-term Achieve sessions across the curriculum and a real focus in their revision during study periods. As many students are now drawing a close to their studies at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy over the coming week, we begin to look ahead to celebrating their time with us.

Details of celebration events for students in both years 11 and 13 will be shared in due course.

Teaching and Learning

Thank you to all those who participated in last half term's safeguarding survey. Following your feedback, we have initiated a website update to provide contact links for each year group; this will enable you to easily reach your child's Student Welfare Manager and/or Student Achievement Leader.

This half term, we'd like to gain an overview of your views on a range of school issues to inform our planning for the next academic year.



As an incentive to participate, every parent/carer that completes each survey will be entered into a prize draw for a £40 ASDA voucher. Winners will be announced, along with the preliminary findings of the survey, within ten days after the survey has closed.

Next week the survey opens for two weeks for completion. It will be sent out via ClassCharts and shared on our social media channels. It takes no longer than four minutes to complete and will be hugely informative as we reflect and refine our practice. As part of the survey, you will be asked whether you give permission for us to contact you for a follow up discussion. We will select a sample of parents and carers from those who give permission for a qualitative follow-up conversation to clarify and further explore lines of enquiry raised by the survey.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Transition

Primary School Visits

Miss Preston, our transition leader, has commenced her annual visits to primary schools this week, starting with a visit to year 6 pupils at Balby Central Primary School. The students were impeccably behaved and engaged in their learning and we are looking forward to welcoming them to the academy as year 7 students in September. Primary visits will continue up to our three year 6 Induction Days on the 10, 11 and 12 July; more information will be sent out to year 6 parents in the upcoming weeks.

Standards

Please can you ensure that your child is set and ready for school each morning with the correct equipment and uniform for learning. We have seen an increase in the amount of uniform we are lending to students each morning.

If we lend uniform to students, this is to allow them to enter lesson with the correct uniform for the day and not miss any learning. Please can you then ensure that your child returns the borrowed uniform to us when you have replaced their lost item. Any pieces of borrowed uniform not returned, will be charged to student accounts on ParentPay. If for any reason buying new uniform is an issue, please contact us and we will look to supporting in certain cases.

Attendance

Attendance at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is improving, which is something we are proud of. We have less students who are below the persistent absence figure which is set at 90% by the DfE. We encourage all parents/carers to ensure that students aim to be in school every day. Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

House Updates

As we head into the final half term of the year, there are still an array of opportunities where students can earn those all-important house points which will contribute towards the end of year house trip! In July, we will be taking the winning house on a trip to Xscape, where they can participate in LaserQuest and 4D Mini-Golf. Students who have contributed to their overall house total through participation in house competitions will be invited to attend the trip. Before then, students can still take part in: weekly wins, box tasks, online quizzes and their character education sessions on John the Bear.

Additionally, on Friday 21 June, we are hosting our annual Sports Day competition, where students will be able to raise money for their chosen house charities and earn more house points. On the day, students and staff will be competing to earn thousands of house points, which will impact the overall house standings.



Currently, we have Cusworth in first place, being closely followed by Brodsworth, Chatsworth and Wentworth. Everything is still to play for over the final six weeks of term!

D-Day Commemoration Ceremony

On Thursday 6 June, members of our Student Parliament and our students who are members of the Cadets attended the D-Day Commemoration Ceremony at Edlington Cenotaph, where students were invited to a lay wreath to show their respect. Students behaved in an impeccable manner and were a credit to the academy. There was the opportunity for students to interact with political figures within the local community and to discuss the importance of the D-Day Commemoration; members of the public praised students on their outstanding conduct and presence at the service.

Rewards

Golden Ticket Events

Students now have only four weeks to collect all their achievement points to meet the golden ticket criteria. Keep working hard and be in school to ensure you get your ticket!

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

