

Our ref: MMC/NWI

6 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

We have had a fantastic first week back at the academy with all students being welcomed with our usual exceptional learning experiences, positive outlook, and dedicated staff team. As ever, we are continuing in our drive to achieve our academy vision of exceptional experiences, successful lives. Our students have demonstrated excellent engagement in their lessons this week and are really showing our values in their behaviour and conduct around the academy.

Our new year 7 students have been superb and should be commended by parents. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a lovely group of students now part of our academy. This year group are our largest intake ever with 260 young people joining us.

Transport

The bus service has largely run well this week even with several sets of road works and the tour of Britain closing roads. A separate communication will be sent regarding any refinements or key pieces of information we feel you may need.

To be clear, the school does not run the bus services.

Homework

Homework aims to promote learning at home as part of a well-rounded education. All homework is meaningful, purposeful and focuses on either:

1. Consolidation – Embedding knowledge, skills and understanding from previous lessons.
2. Prep Learning – Preparing students for learning in upcoming lessons.

Homework can improve the performance and outcomes of students by up to five months when it:

- Allows students to practise what they have recently learnt and improves retrieval ability.
- Prepares students for learning which they will do in the near future.
- Increases the amount of study time.
- Gives students the opportunity to work independently in their own time.
- Allows students to access resources and materials not necessarily available in lesson time.
- Helps students learn how to manage their time effectively.
- Enables parents/carers to see the kind of content that is being explored in school.

In response to your feedback, for those students completing all of their homework, we are pleased to tell you that we'll be rewarding students with:

- 10 praise points every fortnight from their Form Tutor - these will contribute to the Golden Ticket events at the end of each term.



- The chance for one student in every year group to win a fortnightly raffle for a prize worth £20 - every piece of homework submitted will equate to an entry.

Additionally, you told us in your latest feedback that you'd like some technical support to access our learning platforms, such as Satchel One, ClassCharts and ParentPay. From Monday 16 September, there will be a member of the IT Technical Department on hand to provide technical support for you. Please drop into reception with your device and we'll radio for a technician to get you online.

Enrichment

We are incredibly excited for the launch of our key stage 3 electives next Wednesday period 3. We have 27 electives running in total and from next week, students will be experiencing a range of varied and interesting activities such as archery, golf, podcasting, multicultural cookery, music production, micro processing and makeup application.

Over 100 students will also be leaving site to venues such as Allegro Dance Studio, the Doncaster Rowing Club and Edlington Pit Wood, where they will work with the rangers to ensure the space is habitable for the local wildlife and a lovely space for the community. We ask that all parents/carers complete the consent forms sent via ClassCharts this week.

Attendance

The timings of the academy day are below:

Academy Day – 2024/2025		
	Student Timings	Length
Entry Time	08:00 - 08:20	
(Late mark issued after 08:20 through SPE)		
Tutor Period	08:30 - 09:00	30 mins
Period 1	09:00 - 10:40	100 mins
Break	10:40 – 11:00	20 mins
Period 2	11:00 - 12:40	100 mins
Lunch	12:40 - 13:10	30 mins
Period 3	13:10 - 14:50	100 mins
Period 4 (Y10 & 11)	14:50 - 15:40	50 mins

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children who will be in years 5 or 6 from September 2024 and you are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening on Thursday 10 October 2024 to 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

