

Our ref: MMC/NWI

20 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been action packed and incredibly positive within the academy. We operate a 'Golden Ticket' process for visitors who are free to visit the academy to tour our site at any time. We believe in the standards that we see day in and day out and would like to extend this offer to current parents should they wish to see how the school operates on a day-to-day basis.

Teaching and Learning

Tassomai

Both year 10 and year 11 students now have access to Tassomai, which is a GCSE revision app designed to support students' independent revision for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science. All students are expected to achieve their weekly goals in each subject for homework and this feeds into our rewards programme, with students being recognised through their position on our weekly leaderboard, queue jump passes and STWA Driving School. More information about Tassomai and how effective it is in supporting students' consolidation can be found here: [How does Tassomai work? — Tassomai](#)

Electives

This week we saw an even larger number of students visit off-site venues. A bus full of students went to Seven Studios where they made their own podcasts, a group walked to the Edlington Fire Station where they had hands-on experience with equipment such as hose jets and cutters and another group visited the Edlington Sewing workshop for a master class in stitching. In addition, the school field was alive with a variety of sports including golf, football, rugby and dodge ball and in the classrooms, students were baking, creating circuits, learning Spanish and launching rockets.

Enrichment

Please see below our after-school enrichment offer for half term one. Over the course of this half term, staff are planning and preparing even more clubs which will be added to the offer during half term two. We can't wait to provide even more opportunities for our young people. Clubs will finish at 3:40 pm.

Day of The Week	Enrichment	Rooming/Staff
Monday	Chess Club Dance Football Rowing	Thrive/MLE Dance Studio/FER Field/RWE Lower Atrium/JTI,ATI
Tuesday	Anime Drawing Board Games	BL4/NBR Thrive/KMI



Wednesday	Lego Just Dance Netball (fixtures) Football (fixtures) Robin Hood Production Set Design/Production Active Fusion Alternative Sports	Thrive/EHO BL4/GYO MUGA/JRU Field/RWE Drama Studio/EHU,DPR,BDO AL3/SCA Dance Studio/External
Thursday	Art Club Table Tennis Badminton Robin Hood Production Set Design/Production Maths Club (week A)	EG3/GSI Main Hall/JWA Sports hall/RWE Drama Studio/EHU,DPR,BDO AL3/SCA BF2/JHA
Friday	Pride Group (lunchtime)	BG6/EOG
Daily	Homework Club	BG13/CJO

Events

Year 11 Revision Guide Evening

We look forward to welcoming our year 11 students and their parents/carers to our Revision Evening on Tuesday 15 October. Over 70% of parents have already signed up, which is fantastic, but we'd like to surpass last year's attendance of over 94%, so if you haven't already done so, please use this form to register your attendance before Friday 27 September: <https://forms.office.com/e/KCweJH0xV3>

Year 6 Prospective Student Packs

We believe that forging strong relationships at the start of year 6 will help families decide that we are the school community they wish to be a part of. With this in mind, members of our senior leadership team have been out and about in all weathers this week visiting local primary schools to deliver shiny blue envelopes containing letters from the Principal and our Head Students, prospectuses, enrichment brochures, a golden ticket for a tour of the academy at any time and most excitingly, their invitation to our Open Evening Extravaganza. Every member of our senior leadership team has been involved in hand delivering these packs and they have all been blown away by the enthusiasm and excitement shown by the year 6 pupils receiving their packs.

Standards

We have a very small number of students who are wearing non-standard shoes in school due to short-term medical needs. Parents/carers must provide a medical note to show that this is required. Please can we remind parents/carers that in these cases, students need to wear plain shoes which are fully black. We have some spares in school to lend to students if this is required.

Just to remind parents/carers that the entrance gate is closed each morning at precisely 8:20 am. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before this time to avoid being marked late. It is important that all students are in the building ready for tutor time each day.

Attendance

Thank you to all parents and carers for helping us achieve another strong week of attendance. All attendance is linked to our golden ticket events which take place at the end of each term. Securing good



attendance will not only help with students' learning but also ensures they can take part in the great reward events we have at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

House Updates

Next week, we have our first vertical house assemblies for this academic year. Students from year 7 to year 13 will attend their house assembly and will meet their SLT house link, their house leader and learn the variety of ways in which they can earn house points this year.

NGRT Reading Tests

Developing students into confident, well-read readers, is a key aspect of our broad and balanced curriculum here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. To monitor and support our year 7 to 10 students, we are continuing to invest in the NGRT reading assessment test, which will generate a report about each student's reading ability. Key data from the report will be shared with all staff, so teachers can ensure they are planning and delivering lesson content which is challenging yet appropriate for our students. We will test students biannually so we can track their progress and offer specific intervention where needed. Reading tests will continue to take place until Friday 4 October 2024. As an academy, we will support your child to develop their confidence, enjoyment and reading skills through their English and reading lessons and the wider curriculum, as every teacher at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is a teacher of reading.

Parents and Community Advisory Board

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our school, our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meets once per term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team.

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to provide feedback to leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for the academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

Our first meeting will take place on Thursday 17 October from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

If you would like to join our PCAB, please email admin@stwacademy.com.

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children who are in year 5 or 6 and are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our Open Evening on Thursday 3 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. You will be able to book to see one of the presentations via the Microsoft forms link on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

