

Our ref: MMC/NWI

4 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an exciting week at the academy with our year 5 and 6 Open Evening taking place on Thursday. This event saw us open up the academy and welcome over 650 prospective students with their families to experience the exceptional learning experiences that take place here on a daily basis. It was fantastic to see the looks on people's faces as they walked around the building taking in the inspirational book-themed areas and figuring out which book each department was representing. Events like this one really give us the opportunity to show-off all what we are about at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, and I would like to thank all those that came to visit us on the night and look forward to welcoming prospective students next academic year.

Y7 Transition Survey

Our Transition survey is open for one more week : [Transition Survey for Parents/Carers of Y7](#). Complete it for a chance to win a £40 ASDA voucher.

The survey takes no longer than **three minutes to complete** and will be hugely informative as we reflect and refine our practice. The deadline for the survey is **Friday 11 October**.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Homework

One of the most powerful influences in supporting students to complete their homework is investment from parents/carers. To allow you to monitor your child's completion of homework, it's possible to download the Satchel One app and stay abreast of your child's independent learning. Support for logging in can be found on our website: [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - HOMEWORK \(stwacademy.com\)](#). If you're struggling to access this at home, please pop into reception where our trained receptionists are on hand to help you.

Sparx

Sparx mathematics homework is set for all students in years 7 to 11 on a Friday at 9:00 am and due in on a Thursday at 7:00 am. The majority of computers and tablets will be fine for use, including laptops, desktops, iPads and other tablets, but they do need to be connected to the internet. All students should aim for 100% completion; watching the available videos when needed. If required, a guide showing how to log in has been sent out via ClassCharts early this week. If you have any issues with accessing Sparx, please contact m.harvey@stwacademy.com.

Tassomai

Last week was another impressive week for year 10 and year 11 in terms of Tassomai investment, with over 92% of students accessing the revision app to achieve their weekly goals in English, Science, Geography, History and Science. Year 11 were the highest performers out of the two year groups, as they quizzed for a combined total of 163 hours, which is 50 hours more than last week. Over time, students' performance on these quizzes helps teachers to build up a picture of students' strengths and areas for development, which then informs future lessons.



Sports Fixtures

- Our year 8 boys went to Don Valley for the national cup. They won 4-2 and have progressed into round three!
- Our year 7 girls played absolutely brilliantly to beat XP 5-3 in their first ever Netball fixture.
- Our year 8 girls also played a fabulous game of netball against XP to win 7-1.

We are over the moon with the investment of the year 7 and year 8 students in extra curricular clubs. It has been a really hard decision to choose teams as we have had so many students turn up which is a brilliant problem to have!

Enrichment

We've had a fantastic few weeks of the new electives program on a Wednesday afternoon. Students have assisted in a mock roadside accident at the Edlington Fire Station, they have supported students with their reading at Hill Top Primary School, they have been out rowing on the River Don, they have taken part in first aid training as part of their prep for their Duke of Edinburgh award and students have been busy clearing shrub areas with the DMBC Rangers on the Edlington Pit Wood. It is an absolute pleasure to walk around the academy and the off-site venues on a Wednesday and see invested students, building relationships, learning new skills and growing in confidence.

After-school Enrichment continues to go from strength to strength, a particular highlight this week was our Dance Enrichment. We had over 40 students attend the club and their commitment and skill was fantastic. After-school Enrichment runs from 2:50 pm until 3:40 pm, we have a wide range of clubs on offer every single day.

Events

Year 11 Revision Guide Evening

We look forward to welcoming year 11 students and their parents/carers to our year 11 Revision Guide Evening on Tuesday 15 October. The event will last approximately one hour, starting with a presentation at either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm, which is then followed by a revision workshop with form tutors. All students will also receive a bespoke set of revision guides worth over £100.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be strong at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and it is great to see students in the academy each day working so hard and being taught by fantastic subject specialists. This is why attendance is one of the largest and most key areas to success in school for young people. Each year we can so clearly track the difference between students with high and low attendance and the progress they are making. Every day really does count in education!

House Updates

Following our house relaunch last week, Cusworth have stormed into the lead with an incredible 140 house points! Students have been completing the weekly wins, box tasks and extended house project in order to earn their points. During Monday's tutor sessions, students will be able to see their house point total and their standings in the house leaderboard.

On Friday, our Student Parliament attended a plaque memorial celebration in honour of Ron Flowers MBE. Students behaved in an impeccable manner and were able to represent the academy at this event. Ron Flowers was a professional footballer for England, who was born in Edlington. The plaque is featured within the Martinwells Centre; students were able to attend a service that commemorated Ron Flowers' contributions to their local community.



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 be on Thursday 17 October from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

