

Our ref: MMC/NWI

18 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, we were thrilled to welcome over 92% of our year 11 students, along with their parents and carers, into the academy for our annual year 11 Revision Guide Evening. Ms Shaw and Mr Woodhouse shared 'the year ahead' with students, parents, and carers, including the Achieve sessions and broader support that we are offering to ensure every student is successful. This presentation was followed by research-informed revision workshops with form tutors about how to use the bespoke revision materials students were provided with, which are worth over £100. Afterwards, it was pleasing to see so many parents and carers staying to enjoy refreshments and to interact with the Sixth Form, With Me in Mind and Careers stalls to ask questions and have productive discussions about how we can continue to work together to support students.

Our Revision Guide strategy has been a significant part of our improvement journey over the last four years, and we have clear evidence that shows students who engage with revision work perform much better than those who do not.

Next half term, we will be hosting our year 10 Revision Guide Evening for students, parents, and carers – more details below.

Teaching and Learning

Sparx

More students are utilising Sparx with a 3% rise in students achieving full completion of homework tasks. As you read this, the school will have surpassed 1000 hours of personalised learning and 50,000 questions answered. A special mention is deserved to the students of 7T2 who have achieved the highest amount of XP by going above and beyond; completing XP boosts and targets work.

Tassomai

We saw another week of excellent investment in Tassomai, our GCSE revision app for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science, last week. In total, students in year 11 clocked up over 141 hours of quizzing, which is slightly more than the 139 hours of quizzing completed by our year 10 students. In addition to reward points, students will also be rewarded with weekly queue jump passes and an opportunity to qualify for STWA Driving School in December.

Enrichment

Block two of the Electives will begin on Wednesday 20 November. We have sent parents and carers a copy of the Elective brochure via ClassCharts and we're excited to launch some new elective additions including Fitness and a Level 1 Sports Leadership qualification. Students will receive, via school email, a link to the forms to select their top four choices. Selections must be made by 4 November, so please discuss the fantastic and varied Elective offer with your child.



Sports Fixtures

Next week see's the year 7, 8, 9 and 10 football squads participate in the first of the Maltby Learning Trust Games event this year; playing against both Wath Academy and Maltby Academy. The fixtures will take place on Thursday 24 October 2024 at Wath Academy. We will provide transport to and from the fixtures and if you wish to come along to support your child, you are more than welcome.

Events

Sixth Form

Last week, our year 12 students received a promotional assembly from a representative of the Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) who have encouraged applications from eligible students onto their Aspiring Professionals programme. SMF are a charity which provide careers support to students from year 12 all the way through university and employment, including work experience opportunities. The deadline for applications is Friday 13 December but students should aim to apply earlier.

SEND Coffee Morning

On Friday 11 October, we held our SEND Coffee Morning and we were pleased to see so many parent and families in attendance. We were also pleased that lots of our families were able to speak to our external agencies who attended, including our Educational Psychologist, the Behaviour Outreach Support Service, the Autism School Support Service and Doncaster Autism Service. It was a great opportunity for adults who support students with SEND, to catch up, enjoy a pastry provided by our ABM catering team and talk about the fantastic successes of so many of our students with SEND.

Restart a Heart

On Wednesday 16 October, we held the annual Restart a Heart session for our year 9 students. We had 5 amazing NHS volunteers who came in and taught our students the valuable skill of CPR, as well as how to access and use a defibrillator. 159 students were trained on the day and they were all fully invested in each of the sessions; Mrs Webster was incredibly proud!

Year 7 Investment in Learning Evening

On Tuesday 22 October, we will be holding our year 7 Investment in Learning Evening. Year 7 Parents and carers have been sent a link to sign up via ClassCharts. If you have not yet signed up, please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/EKMJ0L4uCD> to do so. The evening will commence with a presentation from the year 7 Pastoral team at either 3:45 pm or 5:00 pm, followed by a 'meet the tutor' session, where you will have the opportunity to discuss the investment of your child during their first half term, ask any questions you may have and get a real insight into the hard work that your child has put in since starting in September. After the 'meet the tutor' session, you are invited to attend the Enrichment Fayre, in which all of our Enrichment clubs will be on display. Each Enrichment club will have a stall detailing their amazing offer and students will be given an Enrichment timetable to build and the opportunity to sign up to all the after-school clubs. The launch of all Enrichment clubs will take place during half term 2.

Year 10 Revision Guide Evening

Next half term, we will be hosting our year 10 Revision Guide Evening for students, parents, and carers on Thursday 7 November to share details about how students are being supported in their GCSE and BTEC studies, especially as many subjects have upcoming assessments that contribute to students' final grades. The evening will last approximately one hour and commence with a presentation at either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm, followed by a session with form tutors. Please use this link to confirm your attendance: <https://forms.office.com/e/iKFkme35up>



Standards

Uniform

As we start to get into the colder months, please can we remind parents and carers that students wearing coats to the academy must ensure they do not have a fur hood. Any with a fur hood we will be placed in an office at students' own risk and students are not allowed to take these around the academy with them.

Attendance

This week has been one of our highest of the year so far. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in sending your child into school and supporting their learning. Our year 7 cohort hit **98%** attendance on Wednesday, which is amazing. High attendance to school will also mean that students are able to access the golden ticket awards at the end of the school term.

House Updates

Since our house launch this half term, students have been competing to earn house points which shows Cusworth currently maintaining their reign in the house competitions. They are closely followed by Wentworth in second place, Brodsworth in third and Chatsworth are currently in fourth place. There are only 200 points between each of the houses and with entries into: the extended house project, weekly wins, box tasks and the online quizzes, these will help to stir the standings.

On Monday 16 December, we will have our termly house reward of a Christmas cinema screening, where all students in the winning house, who have contributed a minimum of five house points, will be invited to attend the cinema screening.

Success Stories

We are extremely proud to announce that Ollie C, one of our year 9 students, has just claimed the regional title in kick-boxing. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating him on his amazing achievement. Ollie has now got his sights set on the English title, followed by the World Championships – all before his 18th birthday!

Parents and Community Advisory Board

On Thursday 17 October, we held our first meeting of this academic year. It was great to welcome parents into the academy and talk through our strengths and areas where we can improve even further. The meeting minutes will be uploaded to the school website for parents and careers to read through. If you would like to join our PCAB group, please contact admin@stwacademy.com

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

