

Our ref: MMC/NWI

8 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we welcomed year 11 students from across Doncaster to see our Sixth Form offer at MLT. We had record attendance to the event at STWA which is pleasing, and our numbers are growing year on year. The sixth form students last year all achieved their desired 'next step' and serve as aspirational role models for our younger students. More students than ever went to university to continue their studies, and this is something we are incredibly proud of.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 Examinations

From Monday 18 November, year 11 trial examinations will commence for a two-week period. All students have been issued with their examination timetables, and when not in examinations, students will attend lessons as normal. To support students with their preparations, we invite them to attend our breakfast pre-Achieve sessions, which have been incredibly popular over the last six years. These take place in the diner from 7:30 am, with students having access to free tea and toast and resources to support their preparations, including subject teachers. During the examination window, students should enter through main reception to sign in. As part of our marginal gains programme, all students will have access to water and sweets to maximise their ability to achieve their potential.

During the trial examination window, we stress the importance of students attending every day, so they do not miss the opportunity to receive vital feedback on how they are performing in each subject. It is also essential that students are fully prepared for each day's examinations with full equipment, including a calculator, revision guides, and full uniform.

Year 10 Achieve Week

This week, year 10 have experienced our first Achieve week, during which the timetable has been reconfigured to allow students to immerse themselves in an option subject each day. The response from both students and staff has been incredibly positive, with students completing their first live trials, engaging in practical elements in subjects like Food, and exam and coursework components being completed to a high standard.

Tassomai

Last week saw another week of superb investment in Tassomai, our GCSE revision app that both years 10 and 11 use for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science, with a total of over 310 hours completed last week. Students continue to be rewarded with house points and queue jump passes, with a further reward scheduled for our most invested students in December, when we will host our first round of Driving School!

Sparx

This week we will begin to see times table practise appear on Sparx for some students. To complete this task, students will need to answer 50 questions correctly. This usually takes students just a few minutes to



complete. The system will notify them when they have completed their compulsory amount, but they can continue to work on times tables after this if they choose. Completing their practise in this way has been shown to improve students' confidence and outcomes. All other Sparx tasks should proceed as normal. This week we hit 1700 hours of independent practise, well done students!

Enrichment

Block one of the Electives came to an end this Wednesday and what a fantastic 9 weeks it has been. We have received very positive feedback from staff, students and the wider community. Here are snapshots from staff and external providers:

- 'It has been amazing to see otherwise shy and reserved students try something that they've never done before and thrive.'
- 'Students at STWA have been a pleasure to work with. We enjoy our Wednesday visits to the school.'

Student voice collated on Wednesday included:

- 'I have enjoyed getting to turn my hobby into a lesson!'
- 'It's made me more confident when speaking to other students.'
- 'It's been extremely fun, you can explore your creativity and figure out a new hobby that you take interest in.'
- 'I was so scared at the beginning, but my group made me feel really comfortable. I was terrified of performing but got lots of encouragement. It's been a great elective; I wish I could carry on with it.'

We would like to thank the local community for supporting the electives and we look forward to the provision and working relationships growing even further.

Block two of the Electives have now been confirmed and commence next week on Wednesday 20 November. A ClassCharts message will go to parents to alert them to their child's updated Wednesday timetable. If your child is going off site, please tick the acknowledgement.

Sports Fixtures

On Monday 11 November 2024 our year 9 football team welcomed Wales High School in the Third Round of the English Schools Football Competition. Despite the resilience and determination of the squad, Wales were too strong and took the victory. The focus will now turn to the Doncaster Schools Football League after the New Year; however, training continues for all year groups on Mondays after school in preparation for the up-and-coming fixtures.

We also welcomed Ridgewood school to the academy on Tuesday for KS3 Netball fixtures. STWA students played brilliantly, year 7 and year 8 winning their matches in superb fashion! Marvellous being nominated Woman of the match for year 7 and Grace being nominated for year 8. The year 9 girls started strongly but after a team change for Ridgewood, ended up drawing 12 all. Imogen N was nominated by the other team to be woman of the match.

On Thursday, we welcomed the first round of the Doncaster schools KS3 badminton tournament. Out of 18 games that STWA played, we won 16 games! Mr Webb has worked incredibly hard with the students who have been dedicated to train week in week out since the start of term. We are ready for the next round next week!

Events

An Audience With

Last week we held our first "Audience With" event of this academic year and invited the incredible Steph Hirst into the academy. Steph was blown away by the engagement of our students and how they were able to articulate answers. She shared her story of how she has become one of the highest performing



radio DJ's and shared her message of resilience, goal setting and never giving up on your dreams. We can't wait to announce our second guest speaker for half term three.

Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 19 December from 9:45 to 11:15 am, we are holding our annual Breakfast with Santa. The event is free of charge for all children in the community (under the age of 5) and their families. Children will get a visit from Santa, games, snacks and a little gift from their visit. Please confirm your attendance at the event via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=10LPXoSNZ0eNkOOgB8gy3s49e4Pm3btJpDHxOFYPOI9UNTnXTIdHWVRRSEU4QjRHSVpaTIFTS0FPRI4u>.

Festive Afternoon Tea Party

On Thursday 19 December from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, we are bringing back our annual Festive Afternoon Tea Party. We are inviting anyone from the community who would like to celebrate Christmas with us with some cake and games. Our event is aimed at ages 65+, but younger residents are welcome. If you (or someone you know) would like to attend, please confirm your attendance at the event via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=10LPXoSNZ0eNkOOgB8gy3s49e4Pm3btJpDHxOFYPOI9UNE01UDVYUIRQSE9DN1FZVUFGTThVWTJvUi4u>.

House Updates

Wentworth have held onto their lead this week with an astounding 8700 house points; they are being closely followed by Chatsworth, Cusworth and Brodsworth. We have launched the second instalment of our Extended House Project with students researching, reading and creating an object that links to Catherine Johnson. Students have until the 20 December to complete this project where they can earn up to 225 house points! In addition to this, we have our weekly wins, box tasks, online quizzes and awareness day projects which students can enter to earn their house points.

We have had two awareness day competitions this week. The first being the International Day of Science (9 November) where students have been tasked with designing their own eco-system and animal which would live there; upon completion, students are awarded 100 house points. In addition to this, to commemorate World Kindness Day (13 November) all students in the academy showed their gratitude and appreciation for their teachers by writing a series of thank you messages.

Friday 15 November marked this year's Child in Need event. Students have competed in our Row around the World to raise money for Children in Need. Throughout the day, students have been rowing against each other in their houses to see which house rowed the furthest distance. Students were collecting sponsorships over the last week; the total amount that we have raised will be announced next week!

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.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

