

Our ref: MMC/NWI

22 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a fantastically positive week here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, with many of our students being rewarded for their investment and their attendance, as well as receiving positive praise messages home for their exemplary conduct in lessons and around the academy. Our year 11 students have started their trial examinations with a great attitude and are all demonstrating just how fully invested they are in their futures.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Trial Examinations

Year 13 trial examinations begin next week on Friday 29 November and will continue into the first week of December. Students will be handed an individual exam timetable at the beginning of next week. All students have been provided with revision materials to use in preparing for these exams as well as revision advice in lessons.

Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 students have commenced trial examinations in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, History, French, Geography, Computer Science and Business this week. The investment of students throughout the week has been impeccable and it has been great to see the vast majority of students attending the Pre-Achieve sessions each morning from 7:30 am to access additional support from subject teachers and to ensure they are fuelled with tea and toast. 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.

We also continue to 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. The trial examinations will continue next week, with students receiving their results in the final week of this half term.

Tassomai

Year 10 and year 11 students continue to show incredible investment in Tassomai, our GCSE revision app for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science. Students continue to be rewarded with house points and queue jump passes, with a further reward scheduled for Tuesday 10 December, when our most invested students in December will participate in our first round of Driving School!

Sparx

This week, we have continued 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 2000 hours of independent practise; this a great milestone and a testament to the dedication of the hardest working pupils in Doncaster.

Enrichment

Block two of the Electives began this week and despite the cold weather, students made a great start! Over the coming weeks, more electives will go off site - if you haven't already, please check you have completed the offsite acknowledgment sent via ClassCharts.

Enrichment clubs continue to be offered after-school to supplement our elective offer and it is great to see numbers increasing week on week. The after-school enrichment offer is shared every week during tutor time.

Sports Fixtures

Monday saw our girls Netball teams travel to Hungerhill School for fixtures. We took two year 7 teams this time, with both teams winning! Our year 8 and year 9 teams were not so lucky and although played well, were up against really strong opposition. Next week, our training will focus on attacking play once in possession of the ball. Our next fixture is against Campsmount Academy at home in December.

On Thursday, Mr Webb took a group of KS4 students to Laurel Academy for the first round of Doncaster schools KS4 Badminton league. Our team of students played 32 matches and won 24, ensuring that we are leading the pool! Last year the KS4 students were Doncaster Champions and we are hoping for the same outcome again this year.

On Friday, Mr Webb took four BTEC dance students to Tickhill Estfeld Primary school to deliver a dance workshop to their year 3 students. Our students: Ellie, Grace, Niamh and Freya were absolutely fantastic throughout. They have worked hard this week to choreograph their own routines and to then deliver it to the students in pairs. The year 3's, understandably, loved it!

Events

MP Visit

On Friday, Mr Healey, MP/Secretary of State for Defence visited Sir Thomas Wharton Academy to meet our Student Parliament. Mr Healey was blown away by our Student Parliament presentations, question and answer session and commented on the fantastic inclusive culture we have developed as he toured the academy. Mr Healey has subsequently invited the Student Parliament down to Westminster to visit the Houses of Parliament.

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>.

Golden Ticket Reward

We will be holding our Golden Ticket events, including our festive gingerbread-making event, at the end of this half term to reward students for their ongoing hard work and excellent behaviour. Students who have attained the necessary number of reward points and attendance percentage will receive a message via Class Charts to their parent accounts. A link will be provided in the message to a Microsoft Form in which you can select your preferred event. Thank you once again for your support.

House Updates

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

