

Our ref: MMC/NWI

6 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The Christmas spirit has truly arrived at STWA this week! Our Christmas Song has been launched, tutors are busily preparing their Christmas Hampers for Tickhill Road Hospice, and the tree is up!

Last year we made a commitment that we would ensure all young people experience a trip to the theatre whilst with us, over 500 students experienced 'Beauty and the Beast' at CAST theatre in Doncaster City Centre. This year over 200 year 7 students will visit CAST to watch 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. These trips are culturally enriching, and we do not charge students, we believe that these experiences create positive memories and help to develop good young people.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

Trial examinations for our year 13 students continued throughout this week and have now concluded. All students displayed a positive attitude, were focused and well prepared for their examinations. Students will receive their results in class next week after teaching staff have had time to complete marking.

Tassomai

Last week, students in years 10 and 11 continued to showcase their impressive excellence in Tassomai, as they completed over 68,000 questions on the revision app to test their knowledge in English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science. Alongside our ongoing weekly queue jump pass reward, we have now selected 10 students across both year groups to participate in the first round of STWA Driving School on Tuesday 10 December. These students are being rewarded in recognition of their consistently high performance on Tassomai since we launched the app in September.

Sparx

This week, students have been excelling in different uses of the Sparx platform. 57 students demonstrated improved recall on their times tables, students in year 8 averaged over 1000 XP each on their skills boosts and year 9 showed the biggest jump in completion with 30% extra on last week. Well done to all students who took part in improving their mathematics skills, and congratulations to students who have won this week's queue jumps.

Enrichment

Our enrichment offer continues to provide students with an afterschool activity every day of the week. Students can now earn 20 house points each time they attend an enrichment club. So far this year, we have awarded 9055 house points for attendance at enrichment clubs. Please see information in tutor time on Monday for a list of enrichment opportunities and the days they are run.



Events

Christmas Bake Off Competition

On Monday 2 December we held our Christmas Bake Off competition and were overwhelmed by the number of wonderful entries; there were **115 in total!** 72 entries from year 7 students alone. The effort, dedication and attention to detail was incredible – everyone should be so very proud of themselves.

Better Learners Better Worker

On Wednesday 4 December several of our year 9 students attended the NHS Project Launch. This year, the students will be creating a campaign with the goal of encouraging more young people to be physically active and improving young people's awareness of the benefits of physical activity. The students will be presenting their campaigns at Sheffield Hallam University's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre in February.

Geography Trip

On Thursday 5 December our year 11 Geography students visited York as part of their fieldwork requirement. During the day, students carried out a range of data collection activities which they will be able to refer to in their terminal examinations. The focus of the day was to judge whether York is just a typical CBD shopping centre. The information collected will allow students to determine whether they agree with the hypothesis or not.

The day also allowed us to consider the flood defences and impacts that flooding has on York, which fits in very nicely with another element of the taught GCSE course. Students have now seen a range of flood defences to mitigate flooding and other features that show how York has adapted to take consideration of potential flood events.

Photography Trip

On Thursday 5 December our year 11 Photography students visited York, where they explored various areas of the city, including historic landmarks, scenic views and urban landscapes. Photography was seamlessly incorporated into their experience, as they captured images that reflected the diverse environments of York. These photos will now be developed using a range of Photoshop techniques, allowing the students to refine their artistic vision, while demonstrating their skills and understanding in photography. The students were a true credit to the academy during their joint trip with the Geography department.

Rewards

Golden Ticket

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 will be able to access a Golden Ticket event if they have gained a net of 180 reward points and have a minimum of 92% attendance. Students who have attained the necessary number of reward points and attendance percentage will receive a message via ClassCharts 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.



Attendance

What we need YOU to do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8:30 am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway, as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Careers

Our year 10 students have continued their work experience preparations this week during tutor time and period four. They are continuing to look at work experience providers and are linking the content to real world situations. Over the coming weeks, with the support of their tutor, students will craft a well put together letter/email which will be typed and ready to send to prospective work placement providers.

More information regarding our vision for year 10 work experience will follow shortly in the coming weeks from Mr Woodhouse and Mr Martin. We are excited to be in a position to take our careers provision to the next step and really equip our young people with the skills necessary to be successful in the world of work.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

