

Our ref: MMC/NWI

13 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As Christmas draws near, we are reminded daily of the importance of a community and togetherness. This week we have seen students busily filling Christmas hampers for those most in need and raising money for charities that we support. These events do not happen in every school, and I am thankful to the staff and parents/carers who support these endeavours.

As you will read below, there are many Christmas activities designed to bring in the festive cheer and this will culminate with our free of charge annual Family Christmas Dinner on Friday next week to enjoy games, food, songs, and festive cheer.

Teaching and Learning

Tassomai

Last week was another successful week of Tassomai investment from students in years 10 and 11, with over 70,000 questions answered on the revision app across English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science.

Sparx

As we approach the holidays, we should celebrate our students who have completed over 200,000 questions this term. This is an excellent achievement. As we track towards the break, please can students attempt any remaining homework tasks and complete XP boost and target work.

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. Students can see information in tutor time on Monday for a list of enrichment opportunities and the days they are run.

Community Fusion Youth @ STWA

We are proud to host the Active Fusion team youth sessions every Wednesday from 8 January to 26 March 2025 during term-time. Fusion Youth is more than just sports – it's a community-driven initiative tackling youth inactivity head-on and the fun, informal sports-based sessions are free of charge. Further details to follow next week.

Events

Year 11 Trial Exam Results Day

On Thursday 19 December, year 11 students will receive their trial examination results in a special assembly, as we look to celebrate students' achievements and the progress they have made since year 10. Students



have already commenced the closing the gap process in lessons and are eagerly responding to their feedback to close gaps in knowledge and refine the skills that will be essential in the summer examinations.

Christmas Jumper Day and Jumper Dash

On Friday 13 December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper day where students were invited to wear a Christmas jumper through making a donation to Save the Children. In addition to this, our year 7 cohort have also participated in our Santa Dash, where, in collaboration with Tickhill Road Hospice, our year 7 students have completed a run to raise money for Tickhill Road Hospice. For every child that participated in the run, the academy have sponsored them £1, which will be donated to the Hospice.

Christmas Carol Service

On Wednesday 11 December, students from our Musical Theatre Elective represented the academy at Edlington Town Council's carol service. In collaboration with our feeder primary schools, students performed a selection of Christmas carols to the local community. All students conducted themselves in an impeccable manner and have spread the Christmas spirit all throughout the community!

Christmas Hampers

On Tuesday 17 December, we will be busy delivering the Christmas hampers, which our students have been creating over the past couple of weeks, to our local community. Much more to come on this next week!

Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime

On Tuesday 17 December, over 200 year 7 students and STWA staff will attend the Jack and Beanstalk pantomime at Cast in Doncaster. What a wonderful way to start the festive season!

The Lecture Programme

The Lecture Programme is a series of academic lectures which aim to introduce students to new concepts and prepare them for university-style learning. Students recently had the opportunity to sign up for the first lecture of the series held on Friday 13 December. We welcomed Ben Palmer-Welch, an MPhil candidate in Linguistics at the University of Cambridge, who delivered a lecture focused on an introduction to phonetics. Students engaged brilliantly and collected valuable notes from the lecture. Students are also encouraged to submit answers to the follow-up task by Monday 6 January 2025.

Sixth Form Festive Fundraiser

On Monday 16 December, our year 12 and 13 students are encouraged to join our festive themed fundraising event organised by the sixth form Student Council. Sixth Form students are invited to come to the academy in festive clothing/pyjamas and are asked to contribute £1 towards the fundraiser. In addition to this, there are multiple events taking place throughout the day, such as, Christmas Karaoke, Hot Chocolate, Christmas Quizzes, Bingo and much more. We encourage students to bring in spare change, if possible, to take part in the activities.

Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 19 December, we are inviting local families with pre-school children into the academy to enjoy breakfast with Santa. We are hosting this free of charge event, where all attendees will receive breakfast, a gift, a photo, a visit from a special guest and festive fun. Due to such high demand, this event is now full and we are no longer able to take any further bookings.



Festive Afternoon Tea Party

On Thursday 19 December, 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 into the academy to enjoy some cake and games. Our event is aimed at ages 65+, but younger residents are also welcome. Again, due to such high demand, this event is also now full and we are no longer able to take any further bookings.

Family Christmas Dinner

This year's family dining Christmas dinner is being held on Friday 20 December. Just like in previous years, the cost of this meal is being covered by STWA as one of our exceptional experiences. We are looking forward to sharing a festive meal and a family dining experience with every single one of our students.

Year 11 Parents Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday 9 January 2025 from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Please access the link sent via ClassCharts today to book your appointments.

Rewards

Years 10 and 11 Driving School

On Thursday 10 December, over 40 students from across years 10 and 11 took part in STWA Driving School to reward them for their high attendance, investment in Tassomai or Sparx and their attendance to half term Achieve sessions. Despite their initial nerves, we were pleased to see such mature and responsible learner drivers navigating the academy car park.

Golden Ticket Events

To reward students for their ongoing hard work and excellent behaviour, we have today, commenced our Golden Ticket reward events with 294 students experiencing Ninja Warrior; on Tuesday 17 December, we will be holding the E-Sports event for 34 students and on Thursday 19 December, we will be holding our gingerbread-making Ready Steady Cook event for 23 students. Well done to everyone involved for achieving a Golden Ticket – hope you enjoy your reward!

House Reward

On Monday 16 December, we have our Christmas House Reward! Our current winning house is Chatsworth; all students who have achieved at least five house points to contribute towards their house will be invited to attend the event. Students will be issued with a cinema ticket that will permit them access to the event, where they will be given the opportunity to watch a Christmas film with festive treats!

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.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

