

Our ref: MMC/NWI

20 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has certainly seen the festive season arrive here at the academy; we have been busily delivering Christmas hampers for those most in need, our year 7 students have been out enjoying a pantomime, we have enjoyed Breakfast with Santa with our community pre-school children, Festive Afternoon Tea with our community old age pensioners and Family Christmas Dinner with our academy community, both students and staff. The festive spirit is alive and well at STWA. Of course, the exceptional learning experiences on offer to all our young people here at the academy continue alongside all the fun.

Below is the final round up of the year which showcases the fantastic work that has taken place in the academy. We talk very often in Sir Thomas Wharton Academy about helping to create lifelong memories for young people and many of the updates below will do just that. The Family Christmas Dinner, hampers, community Breakfast with Santa and Afternoon Tea Party showcase what we believe is important ... empathy, togetherness, and kindness.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 11 Trial Exams Results Day

On Thursday 19 December, year 11 students received their trial examination results in a special assembly 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.

### Tassomai

Last week, students in years 10 and 11 continued to showcase their impressive investment in Tassomai, as they completed over 70,000 questions on the revision app to test their knowledge in English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science.

### Sparx

Well done to all our students participating in Sparx this half term. Our students have clocked up over 3000 hours of independent practise and answered 300,000 questions in the process. Please continue to use the program to support revision for GCSE classes over the holidays.

## **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. The sessions will run from 4:00 to 5:00 pm and are free of charge. 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 available for children from 10 to 16 years.



## Events

### Christmas Hampers

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we take immense pride in giving back to our local community, particularly during the festive season! This year, we held our House Christmas Hamper Competition where all tutor groups have been busy making Christmas Hampers. Staff and students displayed their creative flair and wondrous efforts through the array of hampers that they have designed; with designs ranging from Whooville to the Polar Express Train! Alongside the tremendous hampers, staff and students donated an incredible amount of food, games, comfort packages and Christmas confectionary to be placed in the hampers, further adding to the festive spirit! We would like to thank all participants for helping to make our Hamper Competition such a success to help those in need.

It was a privilege for Mr McDonald to judge all the hampers but certainly not an easy task!

Our winners are as follows:

First place – Mr Gidney's 7H1

Second place – Mr Walker's 8C1

Third place – Mrs Diver's 7B1

Sixth Form – Miss Cook's 13.2

On Tuesday 17 December, Miss Gerrard, and members of our Student Parliament had the wonderful opportunity to deliver our wondrous Christmas Hampers. Staff and students all demonstrated their generosity, creativity, and festive spirit through our House Christmas Hamper Competition and as such, we have been able to make two festive donations! Hampers have been delivered to Tickhill Road Hospice where contributions will be shared amongst patients, families and staff working over the festive period and Edlington's Community Organisation's (ECO) Foodbank where contributions will be distributed at their community events, such as Santa's Grotto. Staff at both sites were absolutely blown away by the number of donations; alongside the time, creativity and festive spirit which has gone into every hamper. We would like to thank all participants for their contributions; you have all truly made a difference within our local community.

### Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime

What a fantastic afternoon we had on Tuesday 17 December at the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime with over 260 year 7 students and staff. Our very own Mr Bailey, Miss Catmull and Mr Wilson made appearances on stage and our students sang their hearts out. What a wonderful way to start the festive season!

### Sixth Form Festive Fundraiser

On Monday 16 December, year 12 and 13 students joined together in festive themed fundraising events such as, Christmas karaoke, raffles, hot chocolates, Christmas quiz, bingo and more, raising funds for charity. Contributions are still coming, and the total is yet to be finalised, but we would like to take this opportunity to say that we are incredibly proud of our student's efforts and the organisation by the Sixth Form Student Council.

### Breakfast with Santa

This week, Sir Thomas Wharton Academy played host to approximately 150 local children and their parents and carers joining us for our annual Breakfast with Santa over three festive events which were free of charge to families in our community. The festive events saw the youngsters enjoying story time with Santa on his sleigh before tucking into breakfast and being gifted a book for them to take home and enjoy.



## Festive Afternoon Tea Party

On Thursday 19 December, we invited our local community old age pensioners into the academy to celebrate Christmas with us. Our event was aimed at ages 65+, but younger residents were also welcomed. We love being able to give back to our community with events like this, and it was a privilege for us to see everyone enjoying themselves.

## Family Christmas Dinner

Every year, Sir Thomas Wharton Academy celebrates the last day of term in style with a free Christmas dinner for all students and staff, followed by a range of other House and Tutor Time festivities, earning house points and winning prizes. Today, all students and staff sat together, as a family, to share in the Christmas spirit, which included the Christmas dinner, VIP guests, crackers, true genuine conversation and music. At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we believe these types of experiences are vital in terms of building true culture, community and character and creating positive school memories which last a lifetime.

## **Rewards**

### Golden Ticket

We have continued our Golden Ticket reward events this week with our E-Sports event taking place on Tuesday 17 December, for 35 students and our gingerbread-making Ready Steady Cook event taking place on Thursday 19 December, for 24 students. Well done to everyone involved for achieving a Golden Ticket – hope you enjoyed your reward! Over 450 students took part in our “Ninja Warrior” assault course last week and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with their friends whilst tackling a series of inflatable obstacles.

## **House Updates**

On Monday 16 December, we held our termly house reward of a Christmas cinema screening, where all students in the winning house, who had contributed a minimum of five house points, were invited to attend the screening and enjoyed festive treats.

## **Standards**

### Toilet Processes

It continues to be very important that students plan time to use the toilet during social times. In January, the following toilets will be open to specific year groups, following feedback from students:

- BF (Mathematics) will be for year 7
- BG (Humanities) will be for year 8
- BL (Social Sciences) will be for years 9 to 11

This will allow students to use toilets with specific year groups and comes from feedback we have taken from students over this half term.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas break making memories with your families. We will welcome students back to the academy on Monday 6 January 2025.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

