

Our ref: MMC/NWI

17 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a fantastic start to 2025 here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. Already this year we have commenced weekly live trials for GCSE exams and our year 13 students are starting to receive their offers of places at university.

We have this week appointed two superb Mathematics staff to compliment the two Science staff that we appointed prior to Christmas. Both posts garnered a fantastic field, and this has allowed us to make some brilliant early appointments, appointing in two shortage areas goes to show just how good the reputation of the academy is.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Sixth Form Examinations

Several year 12 and 13 students have sat examinations this week for their BTEC qualifications, with more to come next week. Students have been invested and well prepared for their exams, attending additional pre-exam sessions and showing high levels of investment throughout.

### Year 13 UCAS Deadline

For all students applying for Post 18 pathways through UCAS, the deadline to submit applications to Mr B Dobson is 24 January. This will give the sixth form team sufficient time to check and approve applications, or where necessary, discuss any changes needed with students. Students are reminded that the equal considerations deadline to submit all UCAS applications by the school is 29 January.

### Tassomai

Last week saw strong performance on Tassomai, our GCSE revision app, with year 10 completing over 97 hours of quizzing (an average of almost 30 minutes per student) and year 11 completing over 118 hours of quizzing (an average of over 44 minutes per student).

### Sparx

A reminder that all tasks are set on Friday and due in on Thursday mornings. This half term we are aiming to complete 300,000 questions and improve our mathematics understanding. Students who get 100% are entered in for queue jump passes and other rewards. Any students looking to do extra mathematics, be it for joy or preparing for trial exams are recommended to complete XP boosts and Target work available at menu on the log in page.



## Events

### Work Experience

This week saw the launch of work experience for year 10 and 12 students. Thank you to those parents that attended the online meeting. We have placed the recording of the meeting, alongside the presentation slides, on ClassCharts for your reference. We are really excited to be providing a full work experience for 100% of our students and can't wait to see what placement each one of them secures. If you have any questions regarding work experience, please direct them to either Mr Martin (year 10) or Mr Dobson (year 12).

### Year 9 Options Evening

On Wednesday 22 January, we will be holding our year 9 Options Evening. This is an online event, starting at 5:00 pm and will provide you with a greater understanding of the options process and the information needed to support your child to make an informed decision when selecting their optional subject choices for years 10 and 11.

A link to join the online Open Evening has been sent to all year 9 parent/carers via ClassCharts.

### Primary School Games

This year, STWA hosted the Doncaster primary school indoor athletics, where four local primary schools fought it out to become Doncaster champions and qualify for the south Yorkshire finals.

We are lucky that our year 8, year 9 and sixth form students had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and help out at the event. The students were provided with training by Active Fusion prior to the event and then put everything they had learned into practice.

### Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase

On Thursday 13 February, STWA will be holding its annual Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase. Miss Rusby and Mrs Erskine were blown away on Tuesday as auditions were held for students who wanted to put a solo or duet into the performance. The standard was unbelievably high and they had a tough job to select the five acts to go into the showcase. Students are busy in dance and gymnastics lessons creating, practicing and perfecting their full class routines that will also be in the showcase. It is most certainly not to be missed this year! Tickets will be on sale within the next week, please look out for a message on ClassCharts.

## Enrichment

### 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.

## House Update

Following the launch of our third instalment of the Extended House Project, Cusworth has soared into the lead, taking the title from Wentworth. This term, our winning house will be treated to a matinee performance of STWA's very own 'Robin Hood' where all students who have contributed a minimum of five house points will be invited to attend.



## Attendance

We would encourage all parents/carers who need support to read the following information from the DfE on supporting children's attendance: [Improving attendance and where to get support](#)

This article will give you clear advise on how to support your child accessing school and when or how to seek support if you need this.

## Standards

Please can we direct you to the uniform expectations brochure displayed on our website. The brochure will give you a clear set of expectations which we follow at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and will be able to answer any queries which you have for child's uniform. Any students not following the sections set out in the brochure will be asked to rectify their uniform to ensure they meet the expected standard. You can access the Uniform Expectations brochure using this link: [Uniform Expectations.pdf](#)

## Overview of Academy Visits 2024/2025

As we continue to broaden the enriching opportunities we offer and seek to develop students holistically – not just academically, please visit the academy website to view the overview of the upcoming residential visits that will be running over the next 20 months. The specific dates, numbers and costs may change slightly over time, however, we hope to stay as close to these details as possible to help you plan ahead with your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

