

Our ref: MMC/NWI

24 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The Academy is a hive of activity, with post-16 interviews concluding this week. In 2019 we had 31 students in year 13 and we now expect to recruit over 100 students into year 12. The growth comes from our improved outcomes which allow young people to meet entry requirements and an improved reputation locally. Year 11 are really putting the effort in and there is a real 'CAN DO' attitude in the academy, I have been really impressed with their efforts in the weekly 'Live Trial' that they are taking part in.

Read on to find out more about all the exceptional learning experiences taking place at STWA.

As always, we thank you for your support.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 13 UCAS Deadline

For all students applying for Post 18 pathways through UCAS, students are reminded that the equal considerations deadline to submit all UCAS applications by the school is 29 January.

### Tassomai

Last week was another week of excellent quizzing on Tassomai, our GCSE revision app, with year 10 answering over 70,000 questions. Each week, the highest performers in year 10 are rewarded with queue jump passes, while year 11 highest performers are working towards Prom Rewards, including a photo booth and VIP table.

### Sparx

A reminder that all tasks are set on Friday and due in on Thursday mornings. This week we have hit 3800 hours of independent practise. One big push and we will hit 4000 hours next week! Next week year 10 students will have their first GCSE trial during lessons. L-band students will sit their paper on Monday period 1 and T band on Wednesday period 1. Students have been prepared in lesson and we wish them luck as they start preparing for year 11!

## **Transition**

Our primary feeder schools will be visiting the academy next week for a 'Technology Taster' event for year 5 students. Year 5 will be taking part in making pizzas and wooden keyrings, utilising the professional equipment in the technology department. We take pride in our transition offer and always look forward to events like these to start this process as early as possible, so all students feel supported when they join the academy in year 7.



## 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 12 Tea, Targets, Textbooks

This week, we hosted the Tea, Targets and Textbooks event for all year 12 students. Students were served afternoon tea while Mr Dobson highlighted the importance of exceeding their targets and advised on revision techniques. All students received a pack of revision guides to use in preparing for their examinations.

### Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Leavers Hoodies are now available to purchase on ParentPay or barcoded letters can be requested from reception. The final deadline for purchasing hoodies is Friday 28 February.

### Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase

On Thursday 13 February, STWA will be holding its annual Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase. Tickets are on sale now and they are always in high demand so please hurry to secure your tickets - it is an evening not to be missed!

## 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 have had positive attendance over the last three weeks of school since we have come back this term. I would like to make a special thank you to parents/carers of year 7 students who's average year group attendance is currently sitting over 95%, which is among some of the best in Doncaster. Our goal is to ensure that EVERY child is in school EVERYDAY, learning in front of our expectational teachers. EVERYDAY COUNTS at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy!

## Standards

Throughout this week, we have completed a second round of line-up practice during tutor time. During this time, we have been re-establishing our expectations on how we calmly and safely walk around our



academy. Students have completed this perfectly and demonstrated how to walk around Sir Thomas Wharton Academy allowing it to be a calm and safe environment for all students and staff.

### **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**

