

Our ref: MMC/NWI

24 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have welcomed several primary schools into the academy. Students have gained an experience of a secondary school setting and use of our fantastic facilities. The students from the local primary schools have been superb and we hope that they have enjoyed crafting key rings and making pizzas; we look forward to them joining us again at future events.

A reminder that should any parent want to come in and tour the academy, you are always more than welcome at any time. This does not need to be pre-arranged because we are confident on the exceptional standards within the Academy.

You will read below that our students became Doncaster Badminton champions for the second year running. For those of you who know Mr Webb, you will know just how much this means to him, the students have been a credit to him and their families and have performed fantastically.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 13 UCAS Deadline

All applications have now been processed by the sixth form team and have been submitted to UCAS ahead of the equal considerations deadline. We wish students the best of luck in securing university offers! We know many of them have already heard back from their choices. We are very proud to announce that three of our year 13 students received conditional offers from either Oxford or Cambridge!

### Tassomai

Student investment in Tassomai was excellent once again last week, with students in year 10 clocking up over 100 hours of quizzing and year 11 quizzing for over 110 hours. Each week, our highest performers in year 10 are rewarded with queue jump passes.

Congratulations to Year 11, who have succeeded in achieving their January Prom Reward, which is a photo booth, as they smashed their 125,000 question target by answering 131,854 questions (an average of over 800 questions per student), with still a few hours left to quiz! Tassomai will still contribute towards Prom Rewards in the coming months, as the student with the highest Tassomai and Sparx points total between January and May will secure the VIP table.

### Sparx

A reminder that all tasks are set on Friday and due in on Thursday mornings. This week we managed to hit 4,000 hours of independent practise; this is a remarkable achievement. 156 students have shown strong improvements in their times tables and recalling key facts from using the program. Well done to all our students in their efforts to improve their mathematics!



## **Enrichment**

Key stage three students have selected their four choices for block three of the electives which will start on Wednesday 12 February. As you will have seen from the booklet and social media posts, we have several new additions to the elective offer including Boxing, Yoga-lates, American Flag Football and Board Games. We are also proud to announce a new collaboration with Flying Futures, a social business that supports young people to flourish in society. They will be running 'Like a Boss' elective which will teach students the basics of taking a product from inception to market. Students will receive their new timetables at the end of next week and you will also be able to see their new elective on their timetable in Class Charts.

## **Events**

### Year 12 Trip to University of Sheffield

Parents will have received a letter via ClassCharts this week about the year 12 trip to the University of Sheffield for the UK University and Apprenticeship Event on 12 March. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their options after sixth form with countless universities and apprenticeship providers represented at the event. Please complete all necessary consent forms by the set deadline. This is a compulsory trip and lessons have been cancelled for the day.

### KS4 University of Cambridge University Talk

On Friday 28 February, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, we are hosting the University of Cambridge Schools Tour. This session is aimed at students in years 10 and 11 who are interested in studying at Cambridge or Oxford. During the session, the following areas will be covered:

- The benefits of going to university
- Financing university
- Teaching, social life and careers afterwards
- Studying at the University of Cambridge
- KS4/KS5 qualifications and subject choices
- Making a competitive application (including writing a personal statement and interviews)

If your child is interested in attending this session, please express an interest by completing this [form](#) by Friday 7 February at 5:00 pm. Students should see Ms Shaw for more details.

### 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. You will be taken on a journey back in time to the 1920's and back again, with lots of timeless classics that you'll be able to sing along to and join in if you wish! Students across all year groups are working exceptionally hard, both in and out of lessons, to ensure their routines are flawless and I am sure they would appreciate your support! 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!

### 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.



## **Transition**

Year 5 students from our primary feeder schools have been visiting the academy this week for a 'Technology Taster' event. They have been taking part in making pizzas and wooden keyrings, utilising the professional equipment in the Technology department. It has been a fantastic event and has allowed us to continue developing positive relationships with our local primary schools and our future students.

## **Sports Fixtures**

Thursday 30 January saw STWA become Doncaster KS4 Badminton champions for the second year running! The year 10 boys have been attending every lunchtime for expert coaching from Mr Webb. Their hard work and dedication paid off and they played like true champions! Out of 18 games, we won 14, drew 1 and lost only 3 against strong teams from Campsmount, Hayfield and Ridgewood.

## **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.

This week, we have also conducted interviews for the roles of House Captain and Vice Captain. Students have submitted letters of application, and those shortlisted, have attended interviews with Miss Gerrard and Mr Martin. All students should be incredibly proud of themselves for how they have demonstrated their confidence and integrity in the interviews; the results will be revealed in our house assemblies next week.

On Friday, members of our Student Parliament have attended an introductory seminar for the second instalment of our Free School Meals campaign. Over the last year, students have been researching the importance of ensuring that all school meals are healthy, sustainable and affordable. Students attended Halifax Academy where they were able to meet with other participating schools to design the second stage of their research.

## **Attendance**

Our attendance last week for Monday to Thursday was extremely high and we had more students in the academy than this same period in the past four school years. This is why our school attendance continues to go from strength to strength. We would like to ensure that parents are checking for patterns in students' absence. Our attendance to the academy on a Friday is lower than other days. As we talk about regularly, every day at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy counts and we should not see more students missing on a certain day of the week. Please can you ensure that your child is in school unless they absolutely are not able to attend.

## **Standards**

Please can we remind families that jewellery is not allowed in the academy. This is checked each morning on single point and students will be asked to remove this. If students are found with jewellery during the school day this will be removed from them and placed in an envelope in the school safe. The item(s) will then need to be collected by parents/carers and will not be given back to students. It is the responsibility of students to check their uniform when entering school to ensure that they have removed ALL jewellery.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

