

Our ref: MMC/NWI

28 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely half term; students have made a fantastic return to the academy. I would like to place on record, my thanks to staff who delivered sessions to our year 11 students during the half term, these sessions were very well attended and I am thankful to staff who give up their time to support our students during non-compulsory sessions; it really is an example of doing whatever it takes for our students. If they need support, we will give it.

Welcoming the National Theatre once again to Edlington was a real 'wow' moment and the production was superb; it certainly gave the Robin Hood cast something aspirational to live up to!

### Examinations

#### Year 11 Trial Examinations

Students received their trial examination timetables the week before half term to help prioritise their revision. This week, students have undertaken the first round of trial examinations, starting with Art. Trial examinations will continue from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March for academic subjects, with all Year 11 students invited to attend pre-Achieve sessions in the canteen from 7.30am. Free tea and toast will be available each morning, as well as the support of subject teachers, to ensure each student is fully prepared for each examination. Students are reminded to ensure they are fully equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler, highlighter, calculator and the relevant revision guides.

### Tassomai

It was another week of excellent investment in Tassomai in the week prior to half term, with year 10 students completing over 100 hours of quizzing and year 11 students completing over 110 hours of quizzing on the GCSE revision app.

Each week, our highest performers in year 10 are rewarded with queue jump passes and students in years 10 and 11 with the highest Tassomai points will be rewarded with driving school places in our next round of STWA Driving School on Thursday 27 March.

### **Events**

#### Year 11 February Half Term Achieve Sessions

Over February half term, we hosted a number of Achieve sessions to support students' preparations for trial examinations in March and we were incredibly impressed by the level of investment of students, with many choosing to come in almost every day. Once again I would like to thank staff in particular for giving up their time to ensure students are fully prepared for their next round of trial examinations.



### The National Theatre: The Leftbehinds

On Thursday 27 February our year 9 students were invited to watch *The Leftbehinds*, a touring theatre production by the National Theatre. *The LeftBehinds* follows a group of unlikely heroes on a high energy quest across a desolate wasteland to rebuild an android, unlock its power and save the planet. The production was greatly received by our students who were respectful and receptive throughout. It was definitely a memorable experience for all involved.

### Indoor Athletics Championships

On Thursday 27 February, STWA, along with 16 other Doncaster secondary schools, visited the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield for the Athletics Championships. It was a pleasure for this event to be hosted at this amazing venue, which inspires everybody who gains the opportunity to perform there - the atmosphere was incredible! The day was filled with outstanding performances and great sportsmanship. A huge well done to all of our students who took part. Their effort, determination and enthusiasm truly stood out and they should be incredibly proud of themselves. A special mention to the year 8 girls who won the relay in true style and Isabella R who won the 200m!

### University of Cambridge Talk

On Friday 28 February, we were pleased to host a presentation by Homerton College of the University of Cambridge for over 40 students across years 10 and 11, which was also attended by other schools from the local area. The session included the benefits of going to university and what it's like to study at university, as well as the different A-level course combinations that students typically take to pursue certain degrees, including medicine and law.

### 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.

### Year 12 Geography Visit

On Tuesday 4 March, our year 12 Geography students will be visiting the Lake District as part of their studies.

### World Book Day

Next week, we will celebrate World Book Day and share a love of reading with our students. Throughout the week, there will be various opportunities for students to celebrate the day. From Monday, we will be launching numerous competitions for students to take part in - students will find out about these during tutor time and they will be shared on social media. This includes a competition with Waterstones to create a review of a recently read book, with the best reviews being displayed in the Doncaster store. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a World Book Day bingo card, which encourages them to visit each department to ask questions about reading.

As World Book Day falls on Thursday 6 March, we will be hosting a Book Swap at break and lunch in the library. We have already had over 100 books donated to our Book Swap! There will be 30 House Points awarded to students for each book they donate. In addition, on Thursday, we will be hosting World Book Day events in the library throughout the day. Students who show full investment in reading will receive an invite to the events. To further share that reading is for all, staff across departments will share with their students, throughout the day, their favourite books and what they are currently reading. We can't wait to continue sharing a love of reading with our students.



## Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be held on Tuesday 11 March between 3:30pm and 6:30pm. Parents will have received a letter this week via Classcharts with the links to book appointments with teachers at both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy. The link to book will go live on Monday 3 March at 9:00 am.

## Robin Hood Pantomime

You thought the pantomime season was over? Oh no it isn't! On Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 March Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood is coming to Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. With a cast of enthusiastic thespians, we aim to put on a hilarious performance with all the troupes you would expect; a brilliant baddie, a dazzling dame, a menagerie of merry men and lots of audience participation. Do not miss out – tickets are available via parent pay and reception.

## Sixth Form Taster Day

On Friday 28 March, the sixth form will be hosting a Taster Day for year 11 students to explore the subjects they want to study and to learn more about the sixth form provision. As such, there will be no A Level or BTEC lessons on the day. Students will have a 'Reading Day' and this time should be used for independent study and revision. Sixth form students will be expected to attend school, only if they have a trial exam on the day.

## **Sports Fixtures**

This week saw the year 7 and 8 football teams welcome Trinity Academy to STWA in the second round of the Doncaster Schools Football League. The year 7 team took an early lead through a well drilled corner, which saw Isaac C head the ball into the top corner. The second half started the same as the first, with another early corner and this time Jacob E H managed to angle his foot from the front post and send the ball into the net. STWA were now taking control and following a great run by Gryff H and a little one-two pass with Jacob B he angled the ball into the bottom right-hand corner. With the game finishing 3-0. The Year 8 football team, despite having a penalty saved, managed to run out 4-1 winners, with Abe S scoring a hat-trick. Next week, both teams travel to Armthorpe on Monday 3 March for the next league game. The year 9 team kick off their league games when Ash Hill come to STWA on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and more games are still to be arranged for them.

## **Attendance**

Attendance was strong on our return from the half term break, which has continued the trend from before the break. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that students are at school each day. Attendance is the number one driver for success at STWA. The students who make the most progress at GCSE are not always the students who started STWA with the highest scores from primary school but the students whose attendance has been strong (above 95%) for the 5 years they have been with us. With this in mind, we start the second set of year 11 trial examinations next week and it is important that EVERY year 11 student is in school for every one of their exams. Every day matters at STWA for Every student.

## **Standards**

Reset assemblies were held for all year groups through the last week. The famous Martin Luther King Jr quote "intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education" was the theme of the assembly and students were given the opportunity to reflect on how they develop and display their good character within school. Students were specifically reminded of the expectation that no disruption of learning should take place in lessons and that the sanction system will continue to be consistently followed to ensure that all students maximise their learning in every lesson.



## **Careers**

This week, year 12 students attended an Apprenticeship Awareness assembly to learn more about the range of apprenticeships available to them after sixth form and where to look for them. Students also learned about the application process and how to stand out to potential employers.

## **Parents and Community Advisory Board (PCAB)**

Our next PCAB meeting is being held at STWA on Thursday 6 March from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This meeting is your opportunity to find out more about the exceptional learning opportunities on offer at STWA, as well as give your feedback on anything concerning the improvement journey that the academy is on.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

