

Our ref: MMC/NWI

7 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The highlight of the week has to be the superb production of Robin Hood. A huge thank you must go to the staff for their tireless dedication to the Arts and for giving our students the opportunity to perform on the stage. I must also take the opportunity to thank those who were able to come and watch, having an audience makes a significant difference and brings with it the nerves and then adulation; learning to control these emotions is a real skill and one I love to see young people learning.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 Trial Examinations

Our year 11 students have continued the excellent start they made last week to the final round of trial examinations, with examinations in English Language, Computer Science, Health and Social Care, Sport, Polish, Mathematics, History, English Literature, Geography, ICT, Business Studies, Chemistry and Physics all taking place this week. Attendance continues to be exceptional, with a high proportion of students continuing to attend the Pre-Achieve sessions from 7:30 am. We wish students a restful weekend so that they are ready to start the important process of closing the gap from next week.

Tassomai

Students in years 10 and 11 continue to invest in Tassomai, with over 45,000 questions being completed last week. 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 are being rewarded with driving school places in our next round of STWA Driving School on Thursday 27 March.

Sparx Mathematics

This week have completed the 5000 hours of personalised learning completed on Sparx.. We surpassed 450,000 questions completed; this is a fantastic achievement for all that have contributed. 197 students have improved their times table fluency this year. We would like to encourage all students to practise their times table fluency using the app. A reminder that all compulsory homework tasks are set on Friday and due on Thursday.

Careers

Talent Foundry NextGen Nurse Workshop

On Thursday 13 March, selected year 9 students took part in the Talent Foundry workshop with several NHS volunteers. The workshops allowed our students to discover new talents, think big about their future and build skills and confidence to take the next step into higher education or the world of work.



Events

Badminton

On Tuesday 11 March, selected students from years 7 to 10 attended the All England badminton championships at the Birmingham Utilita Arena. The All England remains the most prestigious event in the badminton calendar.

Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening

On Tuesday 11 March, Parents/Carers of our Post 16 students were welcomed to Parents' evening to meet with teachers at both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy.

Year 12 Visit to the University of Sheffield

On Wednesday 12 March, year 12 students visited the University of Sheffield to attend the UK University and Apprenticeship Event. Students had the chance to speak to countless university and apprenticeship providers to explore their options after sixth form.

Robin Hood Pantomime

On Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 March, Sir Thomas Wharton Academy held their 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood' Pantomime. Our lively audiences laughed, Boo'd and cheered throughout the production and became honorary 'outlaws'! The production was filled with mischievous jokes, slapstick and an abundance of audience participation delivered by our talented cast. The Performing Arts department are so proud of the commitment, time and energy everyone put into making this event a huge success.

Year 12 Visit to Homerton College at the University of Cambridge

On Thursday 13 March, selected year 12 students visited Homerton College at the University of Cambridge to receive a presentation from admissions staff about applying to Oxbridge, a Q&A session with current undergraduate students, and a tour of the college.

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.

All year 11 students are expected to be in school on this day, but they can attend in non-uniform to take part in one of three Post 16 Pathways:

- Sixth Form: students will attend A-level and BTEC taster sessions to give them the experience of being a Sixth Form student.
- College: students will attend Life Skills focused workshops to visit key topics and skills that will prepare them for their next steps in life.
- Apprenticeships: ASK apprenticeships will be running a workshop to provide expert guidance to students on how to find and apply for apprenticeships.

The day will also involve all students having a mock interview with an employer to give them vital careers experience. Further information will be shared in due course.



Sports Fixtures

On Monday this week, our year 7 Football squad welcomed XP School to STWA for the next set of fixtures in the Doncaster Schools Football League. The year 7 team were able to maintain their unbeaten run and Mr Walker was really pleased with the composure of the full squad. On Wednesday this week, our year 8 and year 9 Football squads welcomed Ash Hill Academy to STWA. The year 8 team won a close game 3-2, with a last-minute winner to take them through to the next round of the cup as well as the league win. The year 9 team played their first game in a while and were able to make a great start to the run of upcoming fixtures with a 7-0 win. Next week is another busy week for fixtures:

- Monday 17 March 2025 – Y7/Y8/Y9 AWAY to Laurel Academy - League
- Thursday 20 March 2025 – Y7 HOME to Outwood Adwick - Cup

Attendance

Attendance has again been strong this week on the back of our best week of the year last week. It has been great to see our year 11 sitting at 98% attendance each day throughout their exams.

As we approach the final couple of weeks of this term, it is important to remember that we are working right up until the final day of the term which is Friday 28 March. We will be continuing with normal lessons every day and it is vital that all students are in school to ensure that their learning is not impacted as every day matters.

Standards

Just a second reminder that jewellery in the academy is not permitted. If students are found wearing jewellery or have this with them, they will need to hand this into reception where it will be placed in the school safe. Students will not have this handed back to them at the end of the day. If parents are not able to collect for a period of time, then this will unfortunately have to stay in the safe until parents are able to collect this. This will not be a reason for the jewellery to be handed back to the student. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they do not have this on them.

House Updates

This week, we have held our term two house reward—a matinee performance of our very-own Robin Hood. All eligible students in Cusworth were invited to attend a theatrical spectacle in honour of them accruing the most house points to date! Cusworth students have been able to unite as a house to celebrate their fantastic efforts so far throughout the year. As we head into the final term of the academic year, it is all still to play for with our end of year house trip taking place in September 2025.

Our Student Parliament have started their final instalment of their Leadership Programme, where they are attending a weekly leadership course which is delivered by our Senior Leadership Team. As they complete the programme, they will have the privilege to design their own leadership course which they will deliver to our new House Captains and Vice Captains.

Friday 21 March marks the 40 anniversary of Comic Relief; this year, we are hosting an array of fundraising events to get funny with our peers. We are going to be hosting a STWA 'Try-Athlon' where student volunteers can partake in an old-school style sports day, the option to wear a red accessory and the chance to buy Comic Relief themed cakes during tutor time. Each activity requires a minimum of a 50p donation to support the global campaign.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

