

Our ref: MMC/NWI

21 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the critical period of terminal examinations, our focus remains firmly on ensuring that all students achieve their best possible outcomes. Alongside this, we continue to provide enriching learning experiences that extend beyond the core curriculum. In this week's newsletter, you'll find an update on the variety of activities our students have engaged in—both inside and outside the academy—that enhance their academic journeys. We are immensely proud of their exemplary conduct, whether they're meeting visitors or representing the academy at events. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to prepare our students for success.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 11 Trial Examinations

Although written trial examinations concluded last week, year 11 students have undertaken practical examinations in Food and French speaking this week. Once again, we have been incredibly impressed by the investment of students, as they produced a range of incredible dishes that showcased their culinary skills, while French students have demonstrated their mastery of a foreign language.

Year 11 trial examination results will be shared with students on Thursday 27 March from 8:15 am as part of a results breakfast. Prior to this, a video will be shared with parents and carers on Monday 24 March, which includes key information about the results process and the summer Achieve programme. We ask that all parents and carers of year 11 students watch the briefing, as they will be able to submit any follow up questions to form tutors to be covered in a question-and-answer session on Wednesday 26 March from 5:30 to 6:00 pm (a Teams link will follow next week). Following the trial examination results breakfast, all parents and carers will receive a copy of their child's results along with a timetable of the Easter Achieve sessions that their child has signed up to attend.

We would also like to signpost parents to a virtual event being offered by HEPP, a partnership between Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield, which takes place on Thursday 27 March from 5:00 to 5:30 pm, which is designed to help parents, carers and students navigate exam season with confidence and resilience. You can register for this event here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f004f7e3-8ebd-45b7-aed2-6e769c45efd1@8968f6a1-ac13-472f-b899-f7316e439f43>

### Year 11 Easter Achieve

Students in year 11 were given an opportunity to sign up to Easter Achieve sessions during tutor time this week and will have another opportunity to refine the sessions they need to attend when they receive trial examination results next week. Students can sign up using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/1JXbe3WftR>

As always, students are not expected to attend in full uniform, but they should bring their equipment (e.g. pen, pencil, ruler, highlighter, calculator and revision guides) and any refreshments they require.



## Year 10 Achieve Week 3

Next week all year 10 students will take part in their third and final Achieve week. We expect 100% attendance throughout the week as students will be completing tasks that will directly impact their final grades in year 11. Students will take part in practical elements, coursework, live trial exams and external visits during the week.

## Tassomai

The investment of year 10 and year 11 students in Tassomai continues to be exceptional, and we are in the top 5% of schools for overall performance, with student engagement being in the top 4% and the engagement of parents being in the top 3% of schools, so we thank all parents and students for their continued support in this GCSE revision app.

Next week, the students with the highest Tassomai points in each subject are being rewarded with driving school places in our next round of STWA Driving School on Thursday 27 March.

## **Careers**

### Year 12 Civil Service Assembly

On Thursday, year 12 students attended an assembly from the Civil Service about the available pathways and the various employers within the industry.

### Work Experience Success

Sophie G will be completing her work placement in the office of the Secretary of State for Defence. Sophie was offered this placement following the delivery of an inspiring presentation to John Healey - she will now get to work within the office of one of the most significant leaders in our country. Well done Sophie! A further well done to all of the students who has so far secured their work placement.

## **Events**

### An Audience With Luke Ambler

This week we welcomed Luke Ambler into the academy to deliver our second "Audience With" session. Luke worked with over 300 students and delivered a truly inspirational session focused on mental health, resilience and being the best version of yourself. Luke captivated our young people with inspiring messages and motivational techniques which our young people can now apply to their daily routines.

### Practice Duke of Edinburgh

On Tuesday, a number of students successfully completed their practice Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, ahead of the real event in April. Students walked around 11km in the Peak District, using valuable skills such as map reading, countryside code and teamwork.

### Netball Coaching

On Tuesday, we were thrilled to welcomed former England Captain of the Netball Roses, Natalie Metcalf, into school to deliver some coaching to our ever-developing Netball teams! This week, the students were looking at movement on court, along with accurate passing. Natalie delivered some brilliant drills followed by a small-sided tournament at the end of the session. All students came away having learnt something and most importantly, with a smile on their face and a love for Netball! Hopefully our year 7 team can put into practice what they have learnt during the tournament at Hall Cross Academy next week.



We are excited to be working with Natalie, as we have more sessions booked in after Easter and exciting plans for the next academic year. If anyone else is interested in attending netball training, please see Miss Rusby.

### English Theatre Trip

On Wednesday, we had the privilege of taking our current and prospective A-Level students to the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield to watch a superb performance of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The experience was incredibly valuable for those currently studying the text as part of their A-level studies, and for those who have ambitions to study English with us next year at Sixth Form.

### 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 7,8 and 9 Football squads were away at Laurel Academy for the next set of fixtures in the Doncaster Schools Football League. Both year 7 (8-0) and year 8 (7-3) ran out winners and year 9 were beaten by a last-minute goal (3-2). All teams have been working extremely hard throughout the games to create opportunities to score goals, through resilience and determination to beat the opponents.

On Wednesday this week, our Year 9 football squad travelled to Trinity Academy in the Doncaster Schools League. With early pressure on the home team, STWA were able to capitalise on the chances that were presented with some great teamwork and individual excellence STWA were winners 10-0.

On Thursday this week, our year 7 Football squad welcomed Outwood Academy Adwick to STWA in the quarterfinals of the Doncaster Schools Cup. Despite all of the squad showing great resilience and determination, the 3 goals in the first half by Outwood Adwick were too much for STWA, even though we managed to pull a goal back in the second half.

Next week is another busy week for fixtures:

- Monday 24 March 2025 – Year 7 and Year 8 vs Don Valley Academy (League) AWAY
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Yr7 Netball tournament @ Hall Cross Academy



## Attendance

Our attendance as a school is currently 1% higher than this time last year, which in attendance terms is very positive. We will be contacting a small number of year 11 parents this week to arrange meetings with them regarding their child's attendance to school during the key time before exams.

Well done to year 8 and year 9 whose attendance has surpassed year 7 over the past two weeks. Great Work!

## Standards

Please can you ensure that if your child is dropped off or collected by car, the following sections below are clear to all parents/carers for the safety of all students at the academy.

1. All students should be dropped off and collected in the designated location on the entrance road into school. Students should not be collected or picked up in the car park or at the front of school. Only students with medical issues or a disability are permitted to do this.
2. When exiting school, please use the one-way system and do not exit through the main gates. We have over 700 students leaving at once when key stage 3 leave and it is important that the signage is followed.

## House Updates

Friday 21 March marked the 40th anniversary of Comic Relief. This year, we hosted an array of fundraising events to get funny with our peers. We held a 'Try-Athlon' where student volunteers could partake in an old-school style sports day. In addition to this, we have also enabled students to wear a red accessory on Friday and the opportunity to buy red nose day themed home bakes.

As a reminder, there is one week left for students to complete this half term's Extended House Project focusing on Kevin Sinfield. Students have until Friday 28 March to complete their project, where they can create their T-Shirt designs and earn up to 225 house points.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

