

Our ref: MMC/NWI

25 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

As we progress through this crucial phase of the academic year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible dedication, resilience, and hard work shown by our students. Whether it's through impressive performances in practical exams, enthusiastic participation in revision sessions, or commitment to the Achieve programme, our young people continue to embody the spirit of excellence. Their efforts, alongside the unwavering support of our staff, are truly inspiring. From exam preparation and career exploration to sporting achievements and extracurricular engagement, our students continue to make us proud. Let's carry this momentum forward with ambition, enthusiasm, and a shared belief in the success we can achieve together.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 Examinations

Practical examinations have continued this week, with students showcasing their technical skills in Art and Photography as well as completing French and Polish speaking examinations. As always, students have continued to show the highest levels of investment and we thank staff for the support that has gone into ensuring each and every student is fully prepared.

Final written examinations will commence from Tuesday 6 May, starting with Health and Social Care Component 3. This week, all students received their bespoke examination timetables, but they will also receive an updated copy with their seat number and Achieve sessions in the coming week.

Year 11 Easter Achieve and May Half Term Achieve

Over the Easter break, we enjoyed record attendance to Achieve sessions, with over 67% of students attending one of the many sessions that were offered across a range of subjects.

We are already planning ahead for our May Half Term Achieve sessions, which students are invited to sign up to using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/gCr0Xpc87h>

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level and BTEC examinations are due to commence next week on Friday 2 May with the BTEC Applied Science and A Level French speaking exams. Individual timetables will be distributed shortly which will include the dates and times of the students' exams as well as their assigned room and seat numbers. We thank staff for the support that has gone into ensuring the students are fully prepared to sit their final examinations.

Tassomai

Students in year 10 and 11 continue to show impressive investment in Tassomai, with students in each year group spending over 100 hours quizzing per week.



For year 11 students, Tassomai is a vital element of their revision, as the app supports students to identify strengths and areas of weakness to inform final revision in the coming weeks.

Careers

Work Experience Success

It is great to report that over 60% of our year 10 cohort have secured a work placement and have uploaded this to Unifrog for final sign-off. Please can I encourage parents and carers to support their child in uploading their placement provider to Unifrog via the "Placement" button on the front screen. We will have a real focus next half term on securing a placement for the remaining half of the year group with bespoke tutor and pastoral support. There will be support available during next week's Parents' Evening for students to speak to Mr Martin and Mr Coulson about Work Experience.

Events

Maltby Grammar School Official Opening

On Wednesday, we were invited to the opening of the Maltby Grammar building. We had the opportunity to take 10 students who participated in a careers event with Kitlocker, where they had to design their very own academy kit. The students showed incredible investment in the event and the organisers were blown away by their enthusiasm, teamwork and final presentation. The students were in competition with other schools within the trust and will have their kit ideas brought to life if we are successful in the bid.

Y9 Project 5 Workshop

On Wednesday, Lydia from Respect Me delivered a presentation to our year 9 cohort which complemented our Life Skills curriculum and focused on relationships and sex. Students were incredibly mature and took on board information on topics such as healthy relationships, consent and images.

Sports Fixtures

On Wednesday afternoon, the year 7/8 cricket squad participated in the first round of the Joe Root National Cricket Competition, where we welcomed Oakwood Academy of Rotherham to STWA. Following a great batting innings STWA were able to score 138 for 2 wickets. The squad were then able to apply pressure to our visitors and through some excellent bowling and field restrict them to 103 for 3 wickets. The squad will now go through to the second round of the competition after winning by 35 runs. This is a great start to the cricket season and we will have plenty more fixtures over the next two half-terms.

We also had our second session with Natalie Metcalfe who was previously the England Roses Captain. This week, students worked on developing their agility and passing skills, followed by some game play to finish the lesson. Not only was the session fun and engaging, students also learnt valuable skills essential for our future netball matches. We have one more session with Natalie next week which we are already excited for. If any other students would like to join the session, please speak to Miss Rusby.

House Updates

This half term, we are launching a new house competition in collaboration with Tickhill Road Hospice. The hospice is looking for talented artists to design a greetings card featuring a dragonfly which they can sell at the hospice to raise funds. The competition is open to all students and there will be house points and prizes for students who participate. The card will be judged by the academy senior leadership team and the winning designs would then be professionally reproduced. Students can earn up to 600 house points for participating and winning the competition. Students who participate will be invited to an afternoon tea awards ceremony at the hospice where they will present students with certificates for supporting their cause.

As we head into the final term of the year, there are still a plethora of house activities that will enable students to earn house points. Students are competing to win the end of year house trip to Alton Towers.



This is an all-expenses paid trip on Thursday 4 September, where all students in the winning house will be invited to attend the trip as long as they have contributed a minimum of five house points, have a minimum of 97% attendance and less than 50 negative points.

Attendance

As a school, we have been significantly over the national average for attendance over the Easter period. This is something we really want to push and continue. Please can you encourage students to ensure that they are in school every day. Small and minor illnesses are not valid reasons for students to be off school. These days away from school are proven to have a negative impact both on students' mental health and overall progress in school. A student on 97% attendance (our school target) will still have around 6 days off in a school year.

Please can I ask that any appointments which students need to attend are arranged outside of the school day where possible. We are seeing an increasing number of students missing learning after being taken out of school. We are aware that in a small number of cases this may be unavoidable, but most routine appointments and check-ups can be arranged outside of school time.

Standards

We have had the pleasure this week of hosting our golden ticket events. It has been great to reward and recognise the students for their hard work and dedication to school during the last term. These students have picked up many positive points and have a high attendance to school. The race is now on for students get themselves in the next golden ticket event which will take place at the end of the school year. More details of this will follow in the coming weeks.

Transport

Please be aware that First Bus have made some changes to their timetables which come into effect on Sunday 27 April. If your child uses public transport, it would be advisable to check the service provider's up-to-date timetable to ensure no changes have been made to your child's usual service.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

