

Our ref: MMC/NWI

9 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

GCSE examinations began this week for all Year 11 students, and we are incredibly proud of their preparation and the maturity they have shown throughout the year. While the next six weeks will be demanding, this period is a crucial step in shaping their futures, and we are confident they are ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Please note that the examinations will have a minor impact on the day-to-day running of the academy. Some classrooms will be used for exam access arrangements, which may result in a few lessons being held in alternative rooms. These changes will be communicated during tutor time and displayed on the green boards around the academy.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level and BTEC examinations continued this week with students having now completed a three-day A Level Art exam and a BTEC ICT exam. Individual timetables have been shared with the students and include the dates and times of their exams as well as their assigned room and seat numbers. We thank staff for the support that has gone into ensuring all students are fully prepared to sit their final examinations.

UpLearn

The sixth form team recently launched UpLearn with students studying A Levels in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, and Psychology. The academy has invested in this online platform to support students with reaching their target grades through independent study. Year 13 students should access the site to help them prepare for their upcoming final exams. Year 12 students will be formally set 2 hours of directed independent learning on UpLearn each week.

Year 11 Examinations

Final written examinations for GCSE and BTEC subjects started on Tuesday 6 May, starting with Health and Social Care, followed by Sport on Thursday and Business Studies on Friday, with students responding positively to all examinations thus far.

We marked the start of the examination period with our family dining event on Thursday 8 May, with students enjoy a Chinese-style takeaway in recognition of their investment and to offer an important opportunity for students to socialise during what is a very bust period.

On Monday, we have our first full cohort examination, with English Literature Component 1. Over the weekend, we will be hosting an English Achieve session from 10am-12pm on Sunday 11 May focused on *Macbeth* and the Poetry Anthology.

As always, we mind parents and carers of the importance of students being on time, in full uniform and fully equipped for every examination.



Year 11 May Half Term Achieve

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>

Tassomai

Last week was another phenomenal week of quizzing on Tassomai from years 10-11, as we reached our highest performance ever, which was in the top 2% nationally thanks to the relentless investment of students, parents and staff.

For year 11 students, Tassomai is a vital element of their revision during the final examination period, as the app supports students to identify strengths and areas of weakness to inform final revision in the coming weeks. Once students have completed the examination for each topic, this content will no longer appear on Tassomai.

Sparx

Sparx continues to be used for revision for years 10 and 11 with 574,309 personalised questions completed. Students can access the entire GCSE curriculum using the "independent practise" button on student's home pages.

Sparx is not logged on Satchel-One as it is a standalone program. Homework is set every Friday and due in on Thursday. This is the same for all year groups. The expectation is that students attempt all questions and watch the videos for support on any questions they cannot complete.

In key stage 3 we have seen 200 students improve their fluency with times tables. This will have great benefits for students accessing higher content in key stage 4.

Enrichment

Electives

This week was the final week of our block 3 elective and yet again we have received lots of positive feedback from staff, students and the external providers. Your child will begin their final nine week block next Wednesday. If they are due to be off site, please complete the ClassCharts consent emailed out earlier this week. With some new additions to the elective programme, I am sure we will end the year on an enrichment high.

Careers

Work Experience

Year 12 UCAS

This week, year 12 students attended an assembly about UCAS delivered by HeppSY. The assembly explained the UCAS application process and how to make the most of the site in researching undergraduate courses and apprenticeships. Certain universities and courses will require an early entry deadline in October 2025. This refers to applications to Oxford and Cambridge as well as Medicine courses (including Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine). Students interested in applying for one of these courses have been asked to let the sixth form team know and encouraged to begin working on their applications soon.



Events

80 Anniversary VE Day Commemoration Ceremony

On Thursday morning, members of our Student Parliament attended the 80 anniversary VE Day commemoration ceremony at Edlington Cenotaph. Students, alongside members of the public, have been able to remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifices enable us to all enjoy the freedom we have today.

Members of our Student Parliament took an active role in the ceremony by conducting a reading and laying a wreath to commemorate the event; as always, students behaved in an impeccable manner and proudly represented the academy.

Camps International

On Monday 12 May, Camps International will be holding a Pre-Departure meeting at the academy from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. This will give the students the opportunity to discuss kit, what happens on their day of departure and what to expect whilst they are in Costa Rica. It's only just over nine weeks now until they leave for Costa Rica for an unforgettable four-week experience.

Sports Fixtures

On Tuesday 13 May, the year 7 Cricket squad will be participating in the Doncaster Regional qualifier for the Yorkshire Softball Cricket Competition at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. This will involve several schools from the region and Sir Thomas Wharton Academy will be looking to keep hold of the title as winners last year. On Thursday 15 May, the year 8 Cricket squad will welcome Wickersley School and Sports College in the second round of the Joe Root National Hardball Cricket Competition.

House Updates

I am delighted to announce that through our Student Parliament application, we have secured a place at the 2025 Learn with the Lords day at the Palace of Westminster on Thursday 12 June! This is an opportunity where students are able to experience:

- A tour of the Palace of Westminster
- An interactive workshop about the law-making process in their Education Centre
- A Q&A with a Baroness or Lord who will continue to work with our Student Leadership Team throughout the next academic year

Participating in the day will give our students an understanding of the role and membership of the House of Lords, and UK Parliament, further supporting them in their parliamentary role.

This term, we are continuing to work alongside Tickhill Road Hospice to support our charity pledge and our local community. The hospice are looking for talented artists to design a greetings card, featuring a dragonfly; the card designs will be judged by SLT and the winning selection will then be professionally reproduced and sold at the hospice at various fundraising events. The competition is open to all students and they have until Friday 27 June to complete their card designs.

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

Thank you once again to year 7 for another fantastic week at the academy with regards to attendance. Their attendance reached nearly 94% on several days this week, mirroring the overall school attendance.



We've experienced some of the highest total attendance days in the academy over the past three years. A big thank you to all parents for your support in ensuring your child is at school each day

Standards

We again this week held another outstanding standing assembly for all key stage 3 students, celebrating students sporting and extracurricular achievements in front of their peers. We also awarded the top three students who earned the highest positive points from the previous week. It was truly impressive to see 700 students conduct themselves impeccably as they entered and exited the building, reflecting the high standards upheld by everyone at the academy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

