

Our ref: MMC/NWI

6 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a refreshing and enjoyable half-term break. As we approach the final stretch of the examination period, we couldn't be prouder of our students. Their focus, determination, and readiness are a testament to their hard work and the strength of the support systems we've built together.

Our ambition for your children remains unwavering. While academic success plays an important role in opening future opportunities, we firmly believe it is character, resilience and experience that truly shape who they become.

That is why, even during this intense time, we are putting the final touches on some of the most memorable moments of the school year—our year 11 Prom, the Academy Awards Ceremony, and Sports Day. These events hold real significance for us; they celebrate not just achievements, but the spirit, joy and sense of community that stay with students long after they leave our care.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level examinations continued this week with Product Design, Sociology, English, Maths, Economics, Media Studies, Biology, French, Further Maths, and History as well as Applied Diploma in Criminology. We commend all students for their hard work and dedication so far and wish them the best of luck in the final two weeks of the exam season. Congratulations to those who have already completed their courses!

### Year 13 Leavers Event

The sixth form team would like to remind students and parents of the upcoming year 13 Leavers Event scheduled for Friday 27 June. Students are expected to arrive from 12:00 pm in black and white dress. The event has been organised by the Student Council who have put an incredible amount of effort into making this event possible. As such, the Student Council would like to encourage all year 13 students to attend.

### Year 11 Examinations

We were pleased to see that most year 11 students attended at least one of our May Half Term Achieve sessions to ensure they are fully prepared for the next wave of final examinations. We are also impressed that students have continued to display high levels of investment in their final examinations in Polish, Mathematics, History, French, English Language and Geography.

As always, we remind parents and carers of the importance of students being on time, in full uniform and fully equipped for every examination. Students are now able to wear their leavers' hoodies instead of their blazers, but the hoodies cannot be worn during examinations due to JCQ rules regarding the potential for malpractice.



Our next year 11 leavers celebration will take place during Period 4 on Friday 13 June, with students being given the opportunity to sign each other's shirts as they wish each other luck for the future. Students cannot wear signed shirts in lessons or exams, so signing shirts must wait until Period 4. Students who sign shirts before Period 4 will be sent home to change their shirt.

### Year 11 Prom

Our year 11 Prom will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, Doncaster on Thursday 19 June 2025 from 6:00 until 10:00 pm. Tickets are priced at £35 each, which includes a mocktail on arrival as well as food and entertainment throughout the evening. All tickets have now been released to students who are eligible to attend and the final deadline for purchasing tickets is 4:00 pm on Thursday 5 June 2025.

Further information will be communicated in the coming weeks regarding the arrivals process at the venue, including parking.

### Tassomai

With year 11 having finished their examinations for most of the subjects that are supported by Tassomai, our full focus now turns to year 10, where we continue to be impressed by student investment in the revision app. In total, the year group clocked up over 100 hours on Tassomai in the final week before half term, which sees them performing in the top 4% of students nationally.

A reminder to parents that students should achieve their weekly goal (or four daily goals for Science) for each of the subjects that are assigned on Tassomai. This supports students to complete retrieval practice, which will be crucial as they work towards trial examinations this half term.

### Sparx

Sparx continues to be used for revision for years 10 and 11 with over 600,000 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.

This week, year 10 students have been given their GCSE practise paper. This is an exciting opportunity for students to develop their exam technique. Due to the extra provision provided for year 11, year 10 papers will be due in their period 4 lesson on Wednesday.

## **Careers**

### Work Experience

With five weeks to go until the start of our work placement program for years 10 and 12, it is great to report that we have over 200 students who have secured their placement. If your child is yet to have a confirmed placement, please contact the academy and we will provide the appropriate support.

We can't wait for each and every one of our year 10 and 12 students to complete an aspirational and impactful week long placement.



## UCAS

This half term, year 12 students will be supported with the UCAS application process in both Tutor and Life Skills lessons. Students will be guided through making a UCAS account and writing their personal statement. These sessions are compulsory and all students are expected to attend, even if they do not intend to apply to university next year. Personal statements can also form the basis of a CV for employment and apprenticeships. Please peruse through this Parents' Guide to familiarise yourself with the process so you are well equipped to support your child at home: [Parents' Guide to University 2025](#)

## **Enrichment**

Enrichment clubs continue to provide an excellent after-school provision; we continue to have a significant amount of young people access this provision on a daily basis. It is great to see young people accessing a wide range of out of classroom opportunities and we will continue to refine and provide these opportunities as we move towards the end of the academic year.

## **Transition**

### Primary School Visits

Miss Preston, our Transition Leader, has commenced her annual visits to primary schools this week, starting with a visit to year 6 pupils at Tickhill St Mary's Church of England Primary and Nursery School. The students were impeccably behaved and engaged in their learning and we are looking forward to welcoming them to the academy as year 7 students in September. Primary visits will continue up to our three year 6 Induction Days on the 9, 10 and 11 July; more information will be sent out to year 6 parents in the upcoming weeks.

## **Sports Fixtures**

On Wednesday, our year 7, 8 and 9 Football teams participated in a Maltby Learning Trust Games, which included playing against both Maltby Academy and Wath Academy at Sheffield United Football Club Training Facilities at Shirebrook. This was another outstanding opportunity for the teams to be able to visit state of the art sports facilities and play on professional pitches.

Next week, our year 7 Cricket team will face XP School and Trinity Academy in a soft ball round robin fixture; further details will be sent out for this. In addition, the year 8 Cricket team will also have both soft and hardball fixtures later this half-term.

This year, we are also running Cricket trips to watch the Yorkshire Vikings in the T20 Blast against both Worcestershire Rapids and Lancashire Lightning. There has been a great uptake in both trips and they are both now full.

## **House Updates**

As we head into the final half term of the year, there are still an array of opportunities where students can earn those all-important house points which will contribute towards the end of year house trip! In September, we will be taking the winning house on a trip to Xscape, where students will be able to come together as a house and celebrate all their successes from the previous year. Students who have contributed to their overall house total through participation in house competitions will be invited to attend the trip. Before then, students can still take part in: weekly wins, box tasks, online quizzes and their extended house projects.

Additionally, on Friday 21 June, we are hosting our annual Sports Day competition, where students will be able to raise money for their chosen house charities and earn more house points. On the day, students and staff will be competing to earn thousands of house points, which will impact the overall house standings. Currently, we have Cusworth in first place, being closely followed by Brodsworth, Chatsworth and Wentworth. Everything is still to play for over the final six weeks of term!



This week, we have also launched our Youth Mental Health Peer Support Programme. Students in our Student Parliament will be up skilled in mental health awareness and become a support network within the academy where they will work with other students over a period of time and eventually, deliver this programme to other schools within the trust.

## **Attendance**

We have noticed a slight dip in attendance at the academy this week compared to the period before half-term. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers to regularly check their child's attendance via ClassCharts.

It is important to be aware that if a student's attendance falls below 90%, they are classified by the government as persistently absent. Research shows that students with attendance below this threshold are significantly less likely to achieve strong GCSE results. This applies to all year groups – every year of education plays a vital role in a student's academic journey.

As part of our home-school agreement, the most important support we ask from parents and carers is to ensure that students attend school every day. Consistent attendance is the foundation for academic success, as students need to be in front of trained professionals daily to make the progress they deserve.

Thank you for your continued assistance in helping us maintain high standards and ensuring every student has the best chance to succeed.

## **Standards**

It has been truly fantastic this week at the academy launching the Yondr pouches with both year 7 and 10. We are incredibly proud of how well the students have adapted – they've been excellent in ensuring their phones are securely locked away each morning and the end of the day unlocking process has gone smoothly, with no issues reported. All students have quickly learned how to unlock their pouches efficiently and have been leaving the building on time.

Even in this short time, we are already seeing positive impacts across the academy. There has been a noticeable reduction in behaviour points issued this week and an improvement in overall focus during lessons.

We'd like to remind parents and carers that whilst the pouches have been provided to students free of charge, they remain the property of the academy – if a pouch is lost, damaged or defaced, a replacement fee of £16 will be charged via ParentPay.

This week, we have also taken time to clearly explain the updated mobile phone policy to all students. The very small number of students who do not follow the daily procedure will have their pouch removed and will be required to hand in their phone each morning. Phones will then be returned at the end of the academy day. This same process will apply if a student forgets their pouch.

Finally, due to the successful rollout with year 7 and 10, we have made the decision to bring forward the rollout for years 8 and 9. This will now take place shortly after the GCSE exam period. Further details will be communicated to parents, carers and students in due course.

Thank you for your constant support in helping us create a focused and distraction-free learning environment.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

