

Our ref: MMC/NWI

13 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another vibrant and productive week at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, filled with dedication, celebration, and continued progress. I am incredibly proud of the way our students are approaching the final half term of the academic year—with resilience, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to their learning. As exam seasons come to a close and enrichment opportunities flourish, our community continues to shine in every area of academy life.

Our year 10 work experience looks to be nearing 100% sign up and Cusworth lead the house competition going into the final stretch; it promises to be a fantastic end to the academic year!

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level examinations continued this week with Psychology, Physics, Business, Chemistry, Product Design, Computer Science, Mathematics, Biology, and Sociology. We commend all students for their hard work and dedication so far and wish them the best of luck in the final week 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 - Final full week of GCSEs

As the examination period draws to a close, we are pleased to see that students continue to demonstrate the highest levels of investment, with students completing examinations in Biology, Mathematics, Geography and Chemistry this week. Next week, our final examinations will take place in Physics, Music, Food and Technology.

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.

Year 11 Black and White Event and Prom

Our year 11 Black and White Event will take place on Thursday 19 June 2025 at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy from 9:00 until 10:30 am and is an opportunity for students to come together with staff to celebrate the last five years. Parents and carers are encouraged to send photographs which will be shared during the event to year11prom@stwacademy.com.



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. Further information regarding the arrivals process at the venue, including parking, was shared on Thursday 12 June, so please ensure you are familiar with this.

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.

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 year 10. 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.

Careers

Sheffield University Visit

On Thursday, twelve of our year 10 boys attended a one-day enrichment event at Sheffield university where they practiced goal setting, learnt about options post GCSE, developed study skills and were given access to 12 hours of free tutoring in year 11. They worked alongside student ambassadors and were provided techniques on how to use their skills.

Work Experience

On Thursday, we held a support session for students who had not yet secured a placement and I am pleased to share that the session was extremely successful and we are now in a great position where only a small minority of students need further support. We will continue to support each and every student until they have secured a placement.

UCAS

This half term, year 12 students will be supported with the UCAS application process in both Tutor period 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.



Students are to refer to the enrichment timetable that is shared during tutor time for an up-to-date schedule of after school enrichment opportunities.

Transition

Primary School Visits

Miss Preston, our Transition Leader, has continued her annual visits to primary schools this week, with visits to year 6 pupils at Wadworth Primary School and Balby Central Primary Academy. The students were impeccably behaved and engaged in their learning, and we are looking forward to welcoming them to Sir Thomas Wharton 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 coming weeks.

Events

Sports Day

On Friday 20 June, we will be holding our annual Sports Day. Although we encourage as many students as possible to take part, we understand that competitive sport is not for everyone, therefore, students who do wish to take part, can sign up during tutor time.

Sports Fixtures

On Thursday our year 7/8 Cricket team faced XP School in a soft ball fixture; in which they won by 88 runs. It has been great to see the development of the students and the investment in the enrichment offer. Further fixtures will be organised over the coming weeks.

House Updates

During Sport Day, we will be hosting our annual 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 held the first session of 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.

On Thursday and Friday, we had the privilege to attend the Learn with the Lords day. Students had the opportunity to attend a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, observe the House of Commons and House of Lords live, participate in a Q&A session with the Lords and Baronesses, where they were able to unpick a series of laws that had been passed which will directly impact their education. In addition to this, we also welcomed Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle into the academy, who delivered an incredibly inspirational and thought-provoking speech about her role in the House of Lords. Across the two days, students have been able to explore the importance of democracy and mutual respect, whilst raising their aspirations for future career progression routes.

Attendance

Please ensure that students attend the academy every day. There are only a very limited number of circumstances in which students should be kept off school. If your child is feeling unwell, we are often able to support them in school and in most cases, they will be able to manage the school day.



If a student has a high temperature, they should remain at home. However, for minor illnesses, such as a cough, cold or sore throat, students should still attend the academy and continue their learning. As you will already have read, Sports Day will be taking place on Friday 20 June and all relevant details have been sent via a letter on ClassCharts today. We would like to emphasise the importance of full attendance on this day. While Sports Day is a key event in the academy's calendar, vital and important lessons will still be taking place throughout the day. It is essential that your child attends school to ensure they do not miss out on valuable learning.

Please note:

- Most students will only be participating or watching Sports Day events for a short period of time.
- The rest of the day will follow a normal timetable with regular lessons.
- Our pastoral team will be providing additional support, including making phone calls and visits home, for any students not in attendance.

Standards

The Yondr pouch system has now become well embedded within years 7 and 10. We have observed students using the system daily to lock and unlock their phones at the start and end of each school day.

We have also, this week, communicated with students and sent messages to parents via ClassCharts to inform them that the system will be introduced to years 8 and 9 on Monday morning. These year groups will attend a special assembly on Monday to go through the system in more detail. The assembly will cover the key reasons for implementing the system, as well as outline expectations and the consequences of not meeting them.

We look forward to having the system in place across the academy for all students starting next week.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

