

Our ref: MMC/NWI

21 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of a vibrant and successful term, we are proud to celebrate the many achievements and milestones across our academy community. From year 13 students completing their A Level and BTEC exams to the memorable year 11 Prom and Black and White Event, this last week has been filled with moments of hard work, celebration, and transition. Our younger students have demonstrated dedication in their preparations for upcoming assessments, while enrichment activities, sporting successes, and exciting events like Sports Day and the upcoming Academy Awards Evening continue to showcase the spirit and talent of our students. Thank you to all staff, students, and families for your continued support in making Sir Thomas Wharton Academy a thriving place to learn and grow.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level examinations continued this week with Chemistry, French, Physics, Biology, Computer Science, Maths, and Further Maths. We commend all students for their hard work and dedication during this very stressful but rewarding exam season! All year 13 students have now completed their examinations and will be awaiting their results in August. Congratulations on completing your A Level and BTEC courses! Parents will soon receive a letter with further information about the A Level Results Day on Thursday 14 August.

Year 13 Leavers Event

The sixth form team would like to remind students and parents and carers 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

This week, year 11 students completed their final GCSE examinations in Physics, Music, Food and Technology, bringing a close to another successful examination season that truly captured the incredible investment and high standards that students have showcased all year. We wish all year 11 students a restful and exciting summer, whether that be holidays, taking up a new hobby or starting their first job.

GCSE Results Day will take place on Thursday 21 August and further communication will follow from Mr Dobson regarding specific details. If your child is unable to collect their results, they must email the examinations team (b.butler@stwacademy.com) if they wish to nominate an alternative adult who can collect them on their behalf. Please note, this must be submitted and signed by the student before results day and the alternative adult must bring photo identification with them.



Year 11 Black and White Event and Prom

Once again, our year 11 Black and White Event on Thursday was a wonderful celebration of the five years that students have spent with us. Alongside handing out awards and reflecting on hundreds of photographs and memories, students were treated to a series of 'Through the Keyhole' style videos, as once again, Mr Woodhouse and Mrs Wileman paid a visit to some of our students' homes.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed students to their Hollywood Premier themed Prom at the Hilton Garden Inn, where staff and students danced their socks off while also taking time to enjoy a game of Darts, Jenga and giant Connect 4. As always, students dressed to impress and we loved seeing students create memories that will last a lifetime as they packed the dancefloor.

Year 10 Trial Examinations

Year 10 trial examinations will start from Monday with students receiving their examination timetables this week. We are aware that these are the first formal examinations to be sat by most of our students, so we will be establishing the same processes that will be followed next summer, including morning Achieve sessions, trial exam briefings and our marginal gains programme of sweets and water. As always, we stress the importance of 100% attendance, as these examinations are a vital opportunity for students to develop and refine their examination technique while also receiving feedback about their current attainment. Students will receive the results of these trial examinations in the final week before the end of the summer term.

Tassomai

With year 11 having finished their examinations, 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

Year 10 students will be focusing on paper practise for upcoming Trials. Students wishing to use the platform to revise can access the entire GCSE curriculum using the "independent practise" button on student's home pages.

As a reminder to parents and carers of all key stage 3 students, Sparx is set on a Friday and due in the following Thursday. Students are expected to attempt every question and watch the accompanying video for support.

UCAS

This half term, year 12 students are supported with the UCAS application process in both Tutor period and Life Skills lessons. Students are 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](#).



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 Waverley Academy and St Mary's Catholic Primary School. 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.

House Updates

During Sport Day, we hosted our annual competition, where students raised money for their chosen house charities and earned house points. Students and staff competed to earn thousands of house points, which will impact the overall house standings. Currently, we have Wentworth in first place, being closely followed by Cusworth, Chatsworth and Brodsworth.

This week, we held the second 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.

Attendance

We'd like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the 412 students who achieved 100% attendance during the last term. This is a fantastic accomplishment and one that truly deserves to be celebrated.

By not missing a single day, these students have shown exceptional commitment to their learning. They haven't missed a single lesson—giving themselves the best possible opportunity to make outstanding progress and take full advantage of everything school has to offer.

Standards

We are pleased to share that the rollout of phone pouches across all year groups has been a great success. It has been incredibly encouraging to see students adapting so well to this change and embracing the new routine. Please can parents and carers ensure that as part of the morning routine they are checking that students have their pouch with them before they leave for school.

As an academy, we believe this initiative will have a lasting positive impact. In time, we expect to look back and wonder why we didn't introduce this earlier. The absence of mobile phone distractions is already allowing students to fully engage with their learning and school experience, free from the pressures and negative influences we know these devices can bring.

We would like to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support and valuable feedback. It is fantastic to see our school community coming together to prioritise students' wellbeing and educational journey.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

