

Our ref: MMC/NWI

4 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another bustling and rewarding term, it's a pleasure to reflect on the many successes and milestones achieved across Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. From our year 12 Induction Day, which gave future sixth formers a strong start, to our year 10 students demonstrating dedication through trial exams and top national performance in Tassomai, there is much to celebrate. Exciting enrichment opportunities – including trips to Iceland and Berlin, a summer Book Swap, and a highly successful athletics season – have given our students rich experiences beyond the classroom. Our year 6 transition activities are now in full swing and the enthusiasm from our new cohort is truly heartening. Across all year groups, from UCAS preparation to work experience and mental health leadership, our students are being equipped with the skills and resilience they need to thrive.

Teaching and Learning

Year 12 Induction/Course Launch

On Monday 30 June, we held our year 12 Induction/Course Launch event. The day was a fantastic opportunity for incoming sixth form students to experience key stage 5 lessons and build connections prior to the start of year 12 in September.

Year 13 A Level Results Day

A Level Results Day will take place on Thursday 14 August. A communication detailing all of the relevant information has been sent via ClassCharts. 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 GCSE Results Day

GCSE Results Day will take place on Thursday 21 August. A communication detailing all of the relevant information has been sent via ClassCharts. 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 10 Trial Examinations

Year 10 trial examinations continued this week, with students following the same processes that will be embedded by next summer, including morning Achieve sessions, trial exam briefings and our marginal gains programme of sweets and water. We continue to 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

Year 10 continue to show superb investment in Tassomai, with performance remaining in the top 5% of schools 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.

Sparx

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 if needed.

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 concluded her annual visits to primary schools this week. She has visited Castle Academy, Morely Place Academy, Woodfield Primary School, Richmond Hill Primary Academy, Hexthorpe Primary School and St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School. All students were invested and excited about their transition into secondary education. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our year 6 students to Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

Year 6 Parents Information Evening

On Tuesday 8 July, we will be holding our year 6 Information Evening at the academy from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. A communication detailing all of the relevant information has been posted. Please note this evening should be attended by parents/carers only.

Year 6 Transition Days

From Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 July, we will be holding our year 6 transition days. A communication detailing all of the relevant information has been posted.

Careers

Work Experience

From Monday 7 to Friday 11 July all students in both years 10 and 12 will be participating in a week of work experience. If you have any questions regarding work experience please contact the academy. We are pleased to announce that approaching 250 young people will have an in-person work placement.



Enrichment

National Book Tokens Competition

National Book Tokens are currently offering the opportunity for schools to win £1000 as part of their RebuildTheLibrary scheme. The competition provides schools with the opportunity to fill their library shelves with new books after recognising that one in five children do not own a book of their own. We would appreciate it if parents and carers could support us by nominating Sir Thomas Wharton Academy using the following link: [Competitions and Prize Draws | National Book Tokens](#)

The nomination only takes a couple of minutes to complete. The more nominations we receive, the more chance we have of winning!

Events

Sports Day

On Friday 20 June, we hosted our annual inter house sports day. The morning session saw fierce competition in the field events and the slinger distance track events with some school records broken across key stage 3. The afternoon was opened by our incredible cheerleading squad who were fantastic at getting the crowd going in anticipation for the (fancy dress) staff race where Mr Walker was unsuccessful in maintaining the title for a second year as Mr Singh stormed through to take the win. The afternoon continued with 100m, 200m and relays which were closely contested and very competitive!

The day concluded with Wentworth being crowned sports day 2025 winners, met with a huge cheer from the crowd!

Doncaster and District Athletics Championships

On Monday 23 June 2025 the year 7 and year 8 Athletics Squads and on Tuesday 24 June 2025 the year 9 and year 10 Athletics Squads, attended the Doncaster and District Schools Athletics Competition at the Eco-Power Stadium, which included all track and field events. This annual competition saw all 19 schools across the borough compete against each other. Another great opportunity for our students to challenge themselves against other students and enrich their lives.

Maltby Learning Trust Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 25 June 2025 the Sir Thomas Wharton Academy key stage 3 Athletics Squads participated in the annual Maltby Learning Trust Athletics Competition, which included all track and field events, against both Maltby Academy and Wath Academy. A massive shout out to the year Y7 boys, year 8 boys and year 9 girls who were crowned champions for their age group against the other schools. Unfortunately, we were pipped to the winning line by Wath Academy by one age group.

Iceland Visit

From Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 July, a group of students will be enjoying a 5-day trip to Iceland. The visit will provide students with the opportunity to visit some of Iceland's spectacular landscapes including Reykjanes Peninsula, Gunnhver Hot Springs, the Secret Lagoon, Skogafoss Falls, as well as Solheimajokull Glacier, plus many more planned excursions. Enjoy!

Summer Book Swap

Due to the popularity of the World Book Day Book Swap, we will be hosting a Summer Book Swap to allow students the chance to get a new book to read over the summer holidays! Key stage 4 and 5 students accessed their Book Swap on Friday 4 July at break and lunch, Key stage 3 students will access their Book Swap on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 July. Any students who donate a book will receive 30 house points and get to choose a new book.



Better Learners Better Workers Graduation

On Wednesday 9 July, the Better Learners, Better Workers Graduation will be held at The Cutlers Hall, Sheffield from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of these students with their parents and carers. The presentation will be led by the Master Cutler, Mr Philip Rodrigo.

Attendance

Since the half-term break, we have seen a noticeable decline in student attendance, with an increasing number of students absent each day. Despite the recent high temperatures, the academy has remained fully operational. Thanks to the design of our building, internal temperatures have remained reasonable, allowing us to maintain a productive and comfortable learning environment.

Unfortunately, a larger number of students were absent on Monday and Tuesday due to the warm weather. This disrupts learning and impacts student progress. We urge families to support consistent attendance, even during warmer periods, to ensure students do not miss out on vital learning opportunities. This is also the same for minor illnesses which we have seen a rise in. Students should be at school every day to ensure they are making progress in their studies.

Standards

We will be running a lunchtime trial next week for our year 7 and year 8 students to explore a new system aimed at improving their lunchtime experience. As part of the trial, year 7 students will have an early lunch at 12:20 pm on Monday, and year 8 students will do the same on Tuesday. During the trial, students will be able to order and collect their meals in the usual way. The aim of this new system is to reduce queuing times and give students more time to relax and socialise with their friends. We will review the trial carefully before making any long-term changes and will keep you updated regarding any developments.

Standards around uniform at the academy have continued to be excellent this week. On Monday and Tuesday, in response to the high temperatures, students were permitted to remove their blazers. This small but practical adjustment helped ensure students stayed comfortable while continuing to engage in their learning. It also allowed us to maintain the structure and consistency of the school day.

As the academy operates within a single large building, the internal environment is often cooler than expected. This is one of the reasons we aim to preserve a sense of normality during warmer periods, keeping routines in place to support both focus and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

