

Our ref: MMC/NWI

5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

We have had a fantastic first week back at the academy, with all students being welcomed into an environment of exceptional learning experiences, positivity, and the continued dedication of our staff team. As always, we remain focused on achieving our academy vision of *exceptional experiences, successful lives*. Our students have shown excellent engagement in their lessons this week and continue to reflect our values through their behaviour and conduct around the academy.

Our new year 7 students have been outstanding and deserve high praise from parents. We feel incredibly fortunate to welcome such a wonderful group of young people to our community. This year group also marks our largest intake to date, with 260 students joining us.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form team is thrilled to kick off the new academic year with such energy and enthusiasm from our students. This week marked the beginning of some exciting new journeys within our school community. On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome our new year 12 students as they began their Sixth Form experience. It was encouraging to see so many enthusiastic and motivated individuals, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We also saw the launch of the year 12 academic research projects, with students already demonstrating impressive initiative and commitment setting a strong and promising tone for the year to come.

Meanwhile, our year 13 students returned on Wednesday, full of focus and determination as they dive into their final year. We are proud of their commitment and are here to support them every step of the way. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year with all our sixth form learners.

Year 11

Year 11 students have made a fantastic start to the final year of their GCSE studies, with the highest level of investment evident in every single lesson. While we look forward to this continuing, we must reiterate that students attending school every day possible and being punctual is essential, as it will directly impact GCSE performance.

All year 11 students who secure 97% attendance between 3 September to Monday 10 November will receive a free driving lesson as part of our first round of STWA Driving School, which will take place between Monday 24 November to Thursday 27 November.

On Thursday 16 October, we are pleased to welcome all parents and carers of year 11 students to our annual Year 11 Securing Success Evening, which includes:



- A presentation from leaders about year 11 and what to expect, including key dates and events.
- A classroom-based session with form tutors and subject leaders about effective revision strategies.
- Every student receiving a bespoke set of revision materials worth over £100, which are in addition to those already received in year 10.
- Refreshments and an opportunity to speak to leaders from Sixth Form and SEND, as well as With Me in Mind.

The event will last approximately one hour, starting with a presentation at either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm.

Please use this link to sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/LQgrGGCZvM>

Tassomai

Tassomai will be launched formally with students in years 10 and 11 from Monday 8 September. However, it was fantastic to see 48 students (over 25% of the year group) continuing to quiz over the summer holidays, with students banking over 63 hours of quizzing, which placed us in the top 1% of schools nationally.

Sparx

Sparx will launch from Friday 12 September, due Thursday 19 September. The programme is still available to use for independent study and times table practise. We look forward to students demonstrating their improvements in their mathematical skills.

Careers

Work Experience

We would like to say a massive well done to all our year 10 students, who went on work experience at the end of the last academic year. This hasn't run for many years, so it was great to know that 95% of our cohort were successful in gaining their placement. The staff got some great reviews from our dedicated employers, doing themselves, you as parents/carers and us a school proud.

Instagram

As a careers department we are always looking for new ways to reach students, parents/carers and the community. That being said, we are starting the academic year off with a bang as we launch our new instagram page dedicated to careers. It will be packed with lots of information throughout the year such as:

- Student success
- Job opportunities
- Study opportunities
- Webinars
- Parental support
- UCAS tips and support
- Study skills
- Competitions
- Careers Cam
- Interview support
- Careers events
- Job of the week



So, please give us a follow and spread the word. You just need to scan the QR code or type in @STWACareers.



Personal Development

Enrichment Electives

The Electives will begin next Wednesday afternoon; your child's timetable will be updated with their choice shortly. If they are due to go off site, please complete the consent acknowledgment which will be sent via ClassCharts. We cannot wait to see what new skills and passions are unleashed!

Enrichment Clubs

Our half term one after-school enrichment programme will be shared during Monday tutor time, please encourage your child to take the opportunity to learn a new skill and develop new friendships at our fantastic enrichment clubs.

Sports Club

PE are keen to start after-school enrichments clubs straight away as we have lots of exciting fixtures and tournaments booked in this year! The clubs on offer this half term are as follows, please make your way to the PE department after the standing assembly.

Monday: Netball and Badminton

Tuesday: Golf

Thursday: Football (girls and boys) and Dance

Events

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children in years 5 or 6 and are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our year 5 and 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 1 October 2025 to see the exceptional learning experiences on offer at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. This evening will be a fantastic opportunity for prospective parents to see the academy and to meet the dedicated team of staff before making the important decision of which secondary school is right for their child.

Attendance

I am pleased to report that Sir Thomas Wharton Academy's attendance was above the national average last year and a great improvement from the year before. This year, we are striving to improve even further to ensure that every student is present and able to benefit from the excellent teaching that takes place each day.

To support this goal, we have increased the capacity of our attendance team, enabling us to offer more direct support to families when students are not in school. Each day, our team will be visiting students who are absent—whether due to illness or other reasons—to see what help we can provide.

We've made a strong start to the academic year, with our year 7 cohort achieving 100% attendance on most days this week. Across the academy, very few students have been absent, and our team has already begun visiting families to offer support where needed.

Transport Information

As a reminder, please note the below changes to services:

First 315 - Edlington, Warmsworth, Balby and Doncaster

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

15:10

15:20



For the two services above only, the bus route has been diverted to access the academy site and will therefore not stop at Hatter Drive.

First X2 - Edlington, Balby and Doncaster

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

15:10

For the service above only, the bus route has been diverted to access the academy site and take the following route to Doncaster: Broomhouse Lane, Springwell Lane, Alverley Lane, Tickhill Road to the Woodfield Roundabout, loop around and back up Tickhill Road, Sandford Road, before picking up usual route on Balby Road.

For full details, please find updated transport information on our website via the link: [Transport Information](#)

Academy Car Park

Please can you ensure that if your child is dropped off or collected by car, you adhere to the following sections below for the safety of all students at the academy.

1. All students should be dropped off and collected in the designated location on the entrance road into school, ensuring you **do not block the bus bay. Students should not be picked up in the car park or at the front of school.** Only students with medical issues are permitted to do this.
2. When exiting school, **please use the one-way system and do not exit through the main entrance gates.** We have over 1,300 students leaving at once on Wednesdays and it is important that the signage is followed.

Parents and Community Advisory Board (PCAB)

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our school, our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meets once per term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team.

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to provide feedback to Leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for the Academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 7 October from 5:00 until 6:30 pm.

If you would like to join our PCAB, please email admin@stwacademy.com.

Further meetings during this academic year will be held on Tuesday 27 January and Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

