

Our ref: MMC/NWI

12 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy has been an excellent start to the new term, filled with energy, purpose and achievement across the school. Our students have created a calm and focused atmosphere, with KS3 electives beginning and generating a real buzz of excitement. KS4 students have shown great resilience and determination in their studies, while new learning platforms such as Tassomai and Sparx are set to support revision and progression across key subjects. From enrichment clubs and sports to the launch of our Careers Instagram page, it has been wonderful to see students embracing opportunities both in and beyond the classroom, making this a truly positive and inspiring week for our academy community.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### KS4 Achieve

Our KS4 students have made an impressive start to the year, demonstrating their resilience up to the very final minute of Period 4 to ensure they make the most of every second of the school day.

Year 10 and 11 students will have access to Tassomai from next week, which is a GCSE revision app designed to support students' independent revision for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science.

In the coming weeks, year 11 students will also access a number of live trials for Mathematics, English and Science, which will support students with refining examination technique in preparation for the year 11 November trial examinations.

### Tassomai

There has been a slight delay to our official launch of Tassomai due to an external issue which has now been resolved and will allow us to roll out the GCSE revision app with students in years 10 and 11 from Monday 15 September. Students are expected to use the app to support their revision in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Computer Science by achieving their weekly goal (or 4 x daily goals for Science), which takes on average 15 minutes per subject.

Further information about Tassomai and its potential impact can be found here: [How does Tassomai work? — Tassomai](#)

### Sparx

Sparx Mathematics will start for years 7 to 10 on Friday 12 September due in Thursday 18 September. All year 7 students will be guided through the platform during lessons. For all other students, please go to the same website as previous years: <https://sparxmaths.com/>

The program links content to content covered in lessons such as oracy tasks and aims to support all of our students' long-term progression in Mathematics.



We are proud that Sparx Mathematics is inclusive and can adapt to all students' current level of expertise. This promotes engagement, confidence and ultimately learning.

A guide to log-in will be sent out to all parents.

### NGRT Reading Tests

Developing students into confident, well-read readers, is a key aspect of our broad and balanced curriculum here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. To monitor and support our year 7 to 10 students, we are continuing to invest in The NGRT reading assessment test, which will generate a report about your child's reading ability. Key data from the report will be shared with all staff, so teachers can ensure they are planning and delivering lesson content which is challenging yet appropriate for our students. We will test your child biannually so we can track their progress and offer specific intervention where needed. The next round of reading tests will take place week commencing Monday 15 September and will finish on Friday 3 October 2025. As an academy, we will support your child to develop their confidence, enjoyment and reading skills through their English and reading lessons and the wider curriculum, as every teacher at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is a teacher of reading.

## **Careers**

### Instagram

It has been great to see students and parents start to join our Careers Instagram page over this past week. We hope all who follow will find it useful throughout the year. As a careers department we are always looking for new ways to reach students, parents/carers and the community. If you missed this last week, 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, if you haven't already, 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

We had a superb start to our KS3 electives this Wednesday. The provision has grown since last year with new partnerships with the Pauline Quirke Academy of Performing Arts, Martinwells Lake, the National Horse Racing College and the Rugby Football Union. With more electives going off school site in the coming weeks, please ensure you check your child's elective and provide consent if required via ClassCharts or by using the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/CJGn4reZWC>. Please note, this is only required for students in years 8 to 9 who have been allocated an offsite elective.



## Enrichment Clubs

Our half term one after-school enrichment programme was shared with students during tutor time on Monday. Please encourage your child to take the opportunity to learn a new skill and develop new friendships at our fantastic enrichment clubs.

### **Sports Clubs**

The PE clubs on offer this half term are as follows,

Monday: Netball and Golf

Tuesday: Badminton

Thursday: Football (girls and boys) and Dance

Please make your way to the PE department after standing assembly. Fixtures against other schools normally start in week 4 so please encourage your child to come along, train and improve in sport, have fun, make new friends and have the opportunity to represent the school team!

### **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.

#### Kenya 2027 Parent Presentation

We are hugely excited to announce that we will be partnering with Camps International again to offer students the opportunity to go on a life-changing, 4-week expedition to Kenya during the summer of 2027. Students will work on a variety of meaningful and sustainable projects as well as undertaking the personal adventure challenge of a PADI Open Water Scuba Diving Course.

This opportunity is available to all students currently in years 9 to 12. To find out more, we would like to invite parents and carers to our Parents Presentation event on Wednesday 15 October at 6:00 pm. This will be held in the assembly hall at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

To gain an insight into the expedition, you can view photos from previous expedition teams on the Camps International Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/campsint/>

#### Year 11 Securing Success Evening

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>



## Rewards

Our students have made a brilliant start to the year, earning lots of achievement points through their hard work in lessons, electives, and enrichment. Next half term, we'll be running our first Golden Ticket events - exciting rewards for those who go the extra mile. To earn an invite, aim for at least 300 positive points and keep your attendance above 93%. Keep pushing — every point counts!

## House Updates

We will be taking over 200 students to **Alton Towers on Tuesday 16 September**, please ensure that the consent form that has been sent via ClassCharts has been completed.

Our house competitions have been in full swing and it is great to see so many entries already in to our Weekly Win competition.

## Attendance

We have had another fantastic week with regards to attendance! On Wednesday, only 27 students were absent out of the 1087 students in years 7 to 11. That's a huge achievement! It has also been great to see our new Community Officer working in the local community, helping families get students back to school after days off.

In the coming weeks, we are going to be sharing with students, the amazing rewards which they will be able to win if their attendance is high. Students with attendance above 97% will be going into the draw to win these prizes.

## 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](mailto: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**

