

Our ref: MMC/NWI

7 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move further into the autumn term, I continue to be immensely proud of the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm shown by both our students and staff. This newsletter offers just a glimpse of the many incredible things happening across our academy — from outstanding attendance and academic progress to inspiring enrichment opportunities and sporting success. Our students continue to demonstrate resilience, curiosity, and kindness in everything they do, and our staff remain deeply committed to helping every young person achieve their very best. Together, we are building a community where learning is celebrated, ambition is nurtured, and every success — big or small — is recognised.

The students have returned with a superb attitude, and we really value your support as parents and carers.

Teaching and Learning

Individual Education Plans (IEP)

The SEND team have really enjoyed meeting with parents and carers this week to discuss their child's IEPs. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate progress and plan next steps together.

If you have not yet had your meeting, please get in touch by emailing SENDenquiries@stwacademy.com or by calling 01709 864100 and asking for Mrs Shanks.

Sixth Form

This week, our Sixth Form students attended a short assembly introducing the Reach for Excellence Programme. The session encouraged students to aim high and make the most of every opportunity during their post-16 studies. They learned how the programme supports academic ambition, personal growth, and preparation for top university and career pathways. The deadline for Reach for Excellence applications is Thursday 13 November.

Year 11

October Half Term Achieve

Over half term, we enjoyed record attendance to our year 11 Achieve sessions, with well over half of the year group attending at least one session over the course of the week. We would like to place on record our thanks to staff for giving up their time to deliver to students, as well as parents and carers for their continued assistance with supporting students to attend. Finally, a huge well done to students for demonstrating the highest standards and investing to achieve the best outcomes possible.

We're excited to invite all year 11 students and their families to our **Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 12 November from 5:00 to 7:30 pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the wide range of subjects and pathways available after GCSEs. Throughout the evening, you'll be able to visit subject stalls, meet our teachers, and discover more about the courses you can study. Current Sixth Form students will also be on hand to share their experiences and answer your questions.



Year 10

Achieve Week

This week, year 10 have experienced their first Achieve week, during which the timetable has been altered to allow students to immerse themselves in an option subject each day. The response from both students and staff has been incredibly positive, with students completing their first live trials, engaging in practical elements in subjects like Food, and exam and coursework components being completed to a high standard.

There will be three Achieve weeks throughout the year to support delivery of the courses with year 10 and support in the performance in PSA's/practical subjects by giving extended periods of time within those areas.

Thanks to all parents and carers who attended the Skills to Success Evening on Tuesday of this week; year 10 students who could not make it, will receive the information and guides next week.

Tassomai

Years 10 and 11 students continued to perform in the top 1% of schools nationally due to their incredible investment in Tassomai, which included over 152 hours of quizzing in year 11 and 94 hours of quizzing in year 10.

A reminder that all students are expected to use the app to achieve their weekly goal, which takes an average 15 minutes per subject. Further information about Tassomai and its potential impact can be found here: [How does Tassomai work? — Tassomai](#)

Sparx

Homework tasks resume for years 7 to 10; these are set every Friday due in the following Thursday. This half term you will receive further communication about how we are expanding our usage of Sparx with Sparx Assessments. Year 7 will make further progress by following up on their baseline assessment.

If any students are having issues with Sparx mathematics, please contact m.harvey@stwacademy.com and we can arrange the necessary support.

Sports Fixtures

Year 8 Boys Football

On Monday, our year 8 boys played against Sir Robert Pattison Academy and whilst they didn't come away with a win they did have an opportunity to learn from the experience of playing with a 'super team', including Lincoln City and Nottingham Forest academy players.

Man of the match, Leo S battled all game and did his best to retain the ball and bring other players into the game – he wouldn't have looked out of place playing for the opposing team.

Year 8/9 Girls Football

On Tuesday, our year 8/9 girls winning streak came to an end with a 7-3 defeat at Wath Academy. The girls battled hard and gave it their all, to come back at half time from a 2-0 loss to bring it back 3-3 is an amazing achievement. Wath have some amazing players from Sheffield school girls and academy who showed their quality.

Woman of the match goes to Maisey G who battled hard all game and did her best to retain the ball, with some superb defending; although, all of the girls deserve it – Miss Cooper is extremely proud of all of them.



On Thursday, our year 8/9 girls played against Armthorpe Academy and won 6-2. Miss Cooper was very proud of the girls for showing incredible passion, enthusiasm, and determination.

Woman of the match was R Grove.

Events

Inter-House Football Competition

Our first Inter-House Football Competition of the year was a great success! All students involved were amazing, showing fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. It was great to see how much the students enjoyed the event.

The PE team will provide details of similar events at the end of each half term moving forward, giving students more opportunities to engage, compete, and celebrate their house spirit and values.

Armistice

All students attended an Armistice Day assembly this week as part of our Personal Development curriculum. Coinciding with this, our Student Parliament have also been raising funds for the Royal British Legion by collecting donations through selling poppies during tutor time.

House Updates

This week, Chatsworth have held onto their lead with over 3000 house points! They are being closely followed by the other houses who are chasing for the top position. As we head towards the end of term one, students are competing for our first house reward which will be a Christmas cinema screening afternoon. All students in the winning house will be offered a ticket to attend, as long as they have a minimum of 20 house points and less than 50 negatives.

We have launched a range of challenges which will enable students to earn house points which includes: box tasks, online quizzes, awareness day challenges and our sixth form bingo card! Mr Khan has designed our Extended House Project for this half term which focuses on Michael Jordan; if students complete all three segments of this project, they can earn up to 225 house points!

Standards

We're excited to launch our brand-new "Culture Champions" initiative - a celebration of the positive attitudes, kindness, and commitment that makes our school community special. Each week, every teacher will award one "Culture Champion" raffle ticket to a student who exemplifies our school values, through excellent behaviour at social times. These tickets will then be entered into a weekly draw, announced every Tuesday in the Standards Standing Assembly, where one lucky winner will receive an Amazon voucher as a token of recognition. The Culture Champions scheme aims to shine a spotlight on the everyday role models who help shape our school culture for the better - one act of excellence at a time.

Attendance

We've seen strong attendance during the first week back from the half-term break, continuing the record-breaking attendance we had during the first half term.

Next week, we will launch the attendance rewards for this half-term. We want to reward students for their continued attendance and ensure they are in school each day to make the most of the fantastic opportunities they get at the academy. We are also continuing to visit families to offer support when students are not in the academy, so we can ensure they are not missing learning if it is not necessary.

Thank you for your continued support.



Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

