

Our ref: MMC/NWI

21 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed an exceptionally positive week at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, with students across all year groups demonstrating outstanding commitment to their learning and the wider school community. From excellent attendance and investment in lessons, to the many praise messages sent home recognising exemplary conduct, our young people continue to embody the values we are most proud of. It has been particularly pleasing to see our year 11 students continue their trial examinations with maturity and determination, setting a fantastic example through their hard work and focus. Overall, it has been a week filled with achievement, enthusiasm and a strong sense of collective success across the academy.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Trial Examinations

Year 13 trial examinations begin next week on Monday 24 November and will continue into the first week of December. Students have been handed individual exam timetables. All students have been provided with revision materials to use in preparing for these exams as well as revision advice in lessons.

Year 11

Students in year 11 have continued to display incredible levels of investment through Achieve week, as they immersed themselves in a different option subject each day this week. This has seen them complete both written and practical examinations across a range of subjects. We have been especially impressed by the fantastic dishes that students have produced in Food Technology and the work that has produced in Art.

Tassomai

The performance of students in years 10 and 11 continues to be excellent, with students consistently in the top 1% of schools nationally. This is a result of almost 300 hours of quizzing by students last week, when they answered almost 85,000 questions relating to English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Computer Science.

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

We as a school have completed over 2,700 hours of personalised learning, answered 385,000 questions and over 200 students have improved their times table fluency this year.

Next week students will begin using the fix up tasks to improve assessments scores. This will be with year 7 next week and then roll out to years 8, 9 and 10. Students will also be having sessions to improve their



revision technique using Sparx. Students and parents can access this by clicking on to the assessment option as they log in.

A reminder for all students in years 7-10, Sparx mathematics homework is set on a Friday and due by Thursday morning.

Careers

Last week, SAS came into school to work with our Better Learner Better Workers students in year 9. The session opened their eyes to the vast scope the construction industry presents and explored the industry developments over the past 30 years.

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our provisions, as such, the Careers department would love to hear what further support, we can provide via the parent voice survey sent out on ClassCharts.

Personal Development

Enrichment Clubs

Enrichment clubs continue to go from strength to strength as we see numbers grow each week. It is so pleasing to see so many of our students attending extra-curricular opportunities; for more information on enrichment, please see the Enrichment Brochure which can be found on the academy website. We have over 30 enrichment opportunities on offer across the week and house points are available for attendance and engagement, which go directly towards the overall house standings.

Christmas Sing and Sign

As you may have seen, our year 7s have previously taken part in a Christmas 'sign a long'. During tutor time, all year 7 students will learn a little sign language, playing the music on the entry to school and celebrating the new signs they have learnt each week. We know many of our students in previous years have also enjoyed learning sign at home with their families. The signing song has been set as a home learning task for all year groups. Staff also get involved and contribute to the inclusive festivities, signing and filming in their departments. Although it is only a small gesture, we feel strongly that celebrating sign language and the British Sign Language community is just one way we can celebrate the wonderful diversity within our school community.

Events

Pride of Edlington Awards

We are delighted to be supporting the Pride of Edlington Awards which are designed to celebrate Edlington and showcase the incredible people and work which takes place across our community. The Pride of Edlington awards will recognise individuals, groups and organisations who go above and beyond to make Edlington a better, brighter and more connected place to live. Nominations are open to everyone and fall in the following categories:

1. **Community Champion Award**

Honoring an individual who consistently goes above and beyond to support others and make a positive difference in the lives of those around them.

2. **Young Star Award**

Celebrating a young person (under 18) who is making a meaningful impact in their community through kindness, leadership, or initiative.

3. **Volunteer of the Year**

Recognising someone who has shown exceptional dedication through voluntary service, giving their time and energy to help others.



4. **Unsung Hero Award**

For someone who works quietly behind the scenes, making a big difference without seeking recognition.

5. **Cultural Contribution Award**

Acknowledging those who enrich Edlington through arts, heritage, or cultural activities that bring people together and celebrate identity.

6. **Safer Neighbourhoods Champion Award**

For an individual or group working to improve safety and wellbeing in the community, helping to make Edlington a safer place for all.

7. **Beautiful Edlington Award**

Celebrating efforts to enhance the local environment - whether through gardening, clean-up projects, or creative beautification.

8. **Business Making a Difference Award**

Recognising a local business that goes the extra mile to support the community and contribute to positive change.

9. **Community Project of the Year**

Highlighting a project that has had a significant impact on local lives or spaces, improving Edlington for the better.

10. **Carer of the Year**

Honouring someone who has taken on a caring role, dedicating time and compassion to support a family member, friend, or someone in the wider community.

11. **Caring Neighbour Award**

For those everyday heroes who go out of their way to help others - whether it's with errands, companionship, or simply being a friendly face in the neighbourhood.

Please scan the QR code to make your nominations, you have until Friday 19 December to nominate!



Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 18 December from 9:00 to 10:30 am, we will be holding our annual Breakfast with Santa. The event is free of charge for all children in the community (under the age of 5) and their families. Children will get a visit from Santa, games, snacks and a little gift from their visit.

Festive Afternoon Tea Party

On Tuesday 16 December from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, we will be holding our annual Festive Afternoon Tea Party. We are inviting anyone from the community who would like to celebrate Christmas with us with some cake and games. Our event is aimed at ages 65+, but younger residents are welcome.

STWA Driving School

Next week, we will be rewarding 192 students in years 10 to 11 with a driving lesson during the academy day in recognition of their high attendance or strong investment in Tassomai. This will take place from Monday 24 November to Thursday 27 November, with students being supported by qualified driving instructors to master the basics in our academy car park. Students are reminded of the need to return their



consent forms to Mr Walker in order to participate. Lesson times have been displayed on the AF (year 10) and BF (year 11) corridors.

House Updates

Last week, we held our annual Children in Need event where students in KS3 completed a rowing challenge from Land's End to John O'Groates. Students were busy collecting sponsorships and competing to see which house could row the furthest distance. We also continued our Children in Need Extravaganza with our student parliament selling cupcakes throughout the day and supporting our rowing challenge – we raised over £1,100! I am now delighted to announce that it was Chatsworth who were victorious in their rowing challenge, rowing a total of 55km! We would like to extend a huge thank you to all students, staff, parents and external stakeholders who have supported our event and helped to make it such a fantastic success!

From this, we now have Chatsworth in the lead with just over 9000 house points, followed by Brodsworth with 8300, Wentworth with 7500 and Cusworth with 7000.

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.

Attendance

We have recorded one of our highest attendance weeks of the academic year. On Wednesday, our whole academy attendance rose above 95%, which is a fantastic achievement.

On Monday, we launched our half term 2 attendance rewards. During the final week of term, students will have the chance to earn rewards in several ways. Firstly, all students with attendance above 97% (our school target) will be entered into a prize draw, as we did in half term 1. This time, however, we will be selecting two winners. Students with 100% attendance will also be entered and will receive two chances to win and students with 97-99% will have one chance to win one of the following prizes:

- **50" Toshiba TV**
- **£100 Love2Shop Voucher**
- **DJI 4K Drone**
- **Apple AirPods**
- **£200 JD Voucher**

In addition, students will have the opportunity to earn a second non-uniform day on Friday 19 December, the final day of term. If our whole-school attendance stays above 93% for the remainder of the term, students will be able to attend school in non-uniform on that day.

School attendance is the single biggest indicator of how well students will achieve, and every day in the academy truly matters. Please continue to ensure that students attend every day so they can maximise their learning and make the progress they deserve.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

