

Our ref: MMC/NWI

27 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been a fantastic one at the academy, full of energy, achievement and exciting opportunities for our students. From enrichment electives to sports fixtures, from Sparx and Tassomai success to festive events, our school community continues to thrive.

But above all, one message shines through: **attendance matters more than ever.**

With year 13 trial exams underway and important feedback being given in every subject, being in school each day ensures students don't miss those crucial steps forward in their learning. As we move through this term, **every lesson really counts**—and strong attendance is the key to keeping progress on track.

We've seen a dip in attendance due to illness this week, and we appreciate families keeping us informed. But a vital reminder: **there is no 48-hour rule for sickness in secondary school.** Students should return as soon as they feel well enough, so they can stay on top of their learning, maintain our whole-school target of **97%**, and remain eligible for exciting rewards and prize draws.

Across the academy, students have been shining:

- Our Tassomai and Sparx achievements continue to place us amongst the top schools nationally.
- Enrichment clubs are busier than ever, with over 34,000 house points already earned for participation.
- Sports teams are showing fantastic dedication, teamwork, and school spirit.
- Festive activities—from the Christmas Sing and Sign to Breakfast with Santa—are well underway.
- Attendance and positive behaviour are being celebrated through Golden Tickets and the upcoming climbing wall event.

The message is clear: **when students are in school, great things happen.**

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend every day, engage fully, and make the most of all the brilliant opportunities on offer. We do appreciate that young people, will at times, be ill and require time off, we know that this will, in the majority of cases, only be when necessary, please do not take any of our attendance practices as critical of decisions that you make as parents and carers.

## Teaching and Learning

### Year 13 Trial Examinations

Year 13 trial examinations commenced this week and will continue into the first week of December. All students have been provided with revision materials to use in preparing for these exams as well as revision advice in lessons. In the final week of this half term, students will receive their trial examination grades in a results assembly.



Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to stress the importance of students attending every day, as they are already receiving vital feedback on how to improve in each subject based on their performance in these trial examinations.

### Tassomai

Our performance in Tassomai continues to be in the top 1% of schools nationally thanks to the excellent quizzing of students in years 10 and 11. Collectively, students have completed 310 hours of Tassomai, by answering just under 90,000 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

As an academy, we have completed over 2,900 hours of personalised learning, answered 424,000 questions and over 230 students have improved their times table fluency this year.

This week, all students in years 7 to 10 have been set revision on their Sparx accounts. Students can access the content by clicking on the assessments section when they log in. This will allow all students to prepare thoroughly for their upcoming assessments. They will have the opportunity to start this in lesson and continue to prepare independently using the platform.

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

## **Personal Development**

### Enrichment Electives

We've had a fantastic start to our block 2 electives and are delighted to welcome Swimstars staff into the academy. They have launched a new elective focused on lifesaving skills in and around water, with the first five sessions being delivered in school and the final five sessions taking place in the pool. Allegro Dance has also returned after three successful blocks last year, and it is already proving very popular with our new cohort of year 7 students. We're also excited to introduce the Caged Steel team, who are offering both an elective and an after-school club. We feel incredibly fortunate to work with such high-quality external providers, and we truly believe this provision offers our students a broad range of experiences and valuable new skills.

### 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. We have awarded a staggering 34,689 house points for attendance at extra-curricular enrichment!

### 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 entry into the academy 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.

## **Sports Fixtures**

### KS4 Badminton

Last Thursday, it was the KS4 Badminton team's turn to travel to Ridgewood Academy for the first round of the Doncaster School's Badminton League. The team have been super dedicated to improving, coming down to practice every lunch time without fail! As practice makes perfect, the boys won 11 out of the 12 matches with ease!

Mr Webb couldn't choose between Max G and Ben H as his player of the match as they both played brilliantly!

### Year 7/8 Girls Football

Last week, our year 7/8 girls football team had the fantastic opportunity to represent the academy at Doncaster Stadium in a large tournament featuring 21 other schools from across Doncaster. It was an exciting day, filled with great football, teamwork and plenty of school spirit.

The girls worked incredibly hard throughout the group stages, showing real determination and enthusiasm in every match. Although they didn't quite make it through to the knockout rounds, their hard work and commitment paid off, with an impressive 9th place finish overall — a brilliant achievement considering the tough competition on the day.

What really stood out was their attitude both on and off the pitch. The girls supported one another, played with passion, and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their energy and positivity made the day so enjoyable, and they represented the school with pride.

It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence, try new positions, and celebrate each other's successes. Moments like these remind us that school sport is about much more than results — it's about teamwork, resilience, and having fun together.

Year 7 player of the match was Lena B and year 8 was Alyssa S

## **Events**

### STWA Driving School

This week, from Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November, we rewarded 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. Students were supported by a qualified driving instructor to master the basics in our academy car park and we are already looking forward to another round of STWA Driving School in 2026!

### Inclusion Partnership

We are pleased to invite you to our Inclusion Partnership event taking place on Wednesday 3 December from 9:00 until 10:30 am. Our focus will be on **Mental Health and Wellbeing**, aimed at supporting the emotional and mental wellbeing of our students and families. With Me in Mind will also be in attendance to present and share strategies.

During this session, we will:

- Share practical strategies to promote positive mental health at home and school



- Discuss common challenges young people face and how to support them
- Provide information about available wellbeing resources and support services
- Offer a space for questions and discussion

Looking after mental health and wellbeing is an important part of helping our young people thrive. We encourage all parents and carers to attend and be part of this valuable conversation.

To sign up, please email: [SENDEnquiries@stwacademy.com](mailto:SENDEnquiries@stwacademy.com).

### 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.

### 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.

### 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!



## House Updates

Chatsworth are 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.

## Standards

We are excited to announce our final Golden Ticket event of the term, taking place on Monday 16 December — an exhilarating climbing wall experience right here in school! Students can earn their Golden Ticket by achieving 300 net positive ClassCharts points and maintaining 92% attendance or above. This event is a fantastic way to celebrate those who consistently demonstrate our school values through their behaviour, effort, and commitment. We look forward to seeing many of our students take part in this well-deserved reward as we finish the term on a high. Parents of students who secure a Golden Ticket will be contacted via ClassCharts in the week preceding the event.

## Attendance

We have seen a noticeable dip in attendance this week due to a number of students being unwell. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for keeping us updated when students are unable to attend the academy, and for ensuring that they return as soon as they are well enough.

In secondary schools, there is no 48-hour rule relating to sickness. Therefore, it is vital that students return to the academy as soon as they are fit to do so, so they can continue their learning and avoid missing more time than necessary. We also hope that, if your child has needed to take time off, this will be their only period of absence this academic year. This will help them maintain our whole-school attendance target of 97% and ensure that students remain eligible for our fantastic prize draws.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

