

Our ref: MMC/NWI

12 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the festive season, our academy has been alive with generosity, celebration and community spirit. From creating Christmas hampers and supporting charities, to embracing enriching learning experiences and preparing for exciting end-of-term events, our students and staff continue to demonstrate dedication, kindness and enthusiasm in all they do. This newsletter highlights just some of the wonderful achievements, activities and opportunities taking place across our school as we look forward to ending the term with shared joy and festive togetherness.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form

As many of our sixth form students begin preparing their university applications, we wanted to share an important reminder; students need to aim to have their personal statements completed before we break up for the Christmas holiday.

The UCAS *equal consideration* deadline, meaning all applications submitted by this point are reviewed with the same level of consideration, is **14 January 2026, at 6:00 pm (UK time)**. For your application to be submitted by then, everything (including tutor references) must be finalised.

Year 11 Trial Exam Results Day

On Thursday 18 December, year 11 students will receive their trial examination results in a special assembly to celebrate students' achievements and the progress they have made since year 10. Students have already commenced the closing the gap process in lessons and are eagerly responding to their feedback to close gaps in knowledge and refine the skills that will be essential in the summer examinations.

Tassomai

We continue to be blown away by the superb investment in Tassomai from students. In year 10, students answered over 30,000 questions to complete over 103 hours of quizzing, while students in year 11 answered over 61,000 questions and quizzed for over 210 hours. Weekly leaderboards are updated each week on the STWAchieve Instagram account.

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.

Y5 Creative Arts experience

Over the last few weeks our Creative Arts department have welcomed year 5 students from Warmsworth, Woodfield, Hilltop, Carr Lodge, Tickhill Estfeld, Tickhill St Marys, Edlington St Marys and Edlington Victoria into their classrooms. The sessions introduced children to our specialised equipment in music, drama, art, food and technology. The children have experienced a range of activities including designing and making a pizza, making wooden keyrings, and creating 'Stomp' style performances in music. It was wonderful to see children thoroughly engaging in the activities and enjoying their time with us. We look forward to welcoming them again to future Transition events.

Personal Development

Careers

This week our year 9 students attended their third event with the Better Learners Better Workers programme at the Maltby Learning Trust Business Hub to look at work related finance and money management. This was an excellent, eye opening, opportunity, to see how 'getting paid' works in the world of work.

Enrichment Clubs

Our new enrichment timetable for half term three will be available on the academy website over the Christmas period. We have awarded over 40,000 house points this academic year for attendance at extra-curricular events. We are so proud of each and every student who continually grasp the opportunities they are given.

Christmas Bake Off Competition

The Technology department hosted their annual Christmas Bake Off competition on **Monday 8 December**. Mrs Thorpe would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated – it was a fabulous turn out again this year! Each of the amazing entrants received **20 house points, a certificate and small prize**. The effort and dedication to design and creativity was outstanding.

A special thank you also to Mrs Stuart and Mr McDonald for being our expert judges! Lots of difficult decisions were made to select the winners of our annual cupcake competition who were as follows:

	First	Second	Third
Year 7	Owen H	Tiannah C	Emma J
Year 8	Rosie S	James G	Amelia S
Year 9	Bella C	Dan M	Ethan D
Year 10	Imogen M	Asal G and Millie W	Jess B
Year 11	Tobias W		
Principal's Winners	Mihail L, Jake S, Lucy P, Owen W, Joseph B and Joseph Y		
Staff	Miss Rusby	Mrs Wileman	Miss Harbut



Events

Christmas Hampers

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we take immense pride in giving back to our local community, particularly during the festive season! This year, we held our House Christmas Hamper Competition where all tutor groups have been busy making Christmas Hampers. Staff and students displayed their creative flair and wondrous efforts through the array of hampers that they have designed; with designs ranging from Whooville to the Polar Express Train! Alongside the tremendous hampers, staff and students donated an incredible amount of food, games, comfort packages and Christmas confectionary to be placed in the hampers, further adding to the festive spirit! We would like to thank all participants for helping to make our Hamper Competition such a success to help those in need.

It was a privilege for Mr McDonald to judge all the hampers but certainly not an easy task!

Our winners are as follows:

First place – Mr Gidney's 8H1

Second place – Mr Campbell's 8H2

Third place – Sixth Form Hamper

On Monday 8 December, Miss Gerrard, and members of our Student Parliament had the wonderful opportunity to deliver our wondrous Christmas Hampers. Staff and students all demonstrated their generosity, creativity, and festive spirit through our House Christmas Hamper Competition and as such, we have been able to make two festive donations! Hampers have been delivered to Tickhill Road Hospice where contributions will be shared amongst patients, families and staff working over the festive period and Edlington's Community Organisation's (ECO) Foodbank where contributions will be distributed at their community events, such as Santa's Grotto. Staff at both sites were absolutely blown away by the number of donations; alongside the time, creativity and festive spirit which has gone into every hamper. We would like to thank all participants for their contributions; you have all truly made a difference within our local community.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 11 December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper day where students were invited to wear a Christmas jumper through making a donation to Save the Children. We also held our annual year 7 Santa Dash in support of Tickhill Road Hospice. It was great to see so many students in Christmas jumpers and joining in with our charity fundraiser. As an academy we were able to raise over £500 for both organisations.

Year 7 Pantomime

As part of our pledge for all students to experience the theatre, on Tuesday 16 December year 7 students will visit CAST to watch Cinderella. This is a free of charge trip with students having an early lunch before leaving for CAST at 12:45 pm. The coaches will bring students back to the academy for approximately 4:20 pm. This annual event is a fantastic festive treat, which both students and staff thoroughly enjoy.

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.



Family Christmas Dinner

This year's family dining Christmas dinner is being held on Friday 19 December. Just like in previous years, the cost of this meal is being covered by STWA as one of our exceptional experiences. We are looking forward to sharing a festive meal and a family dining experience with every single one of our students.

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

Brodsworth currently lead the way in the house league table and have today enjoyed their festive reward. Only 200 house points currently separate all four houses as we move into term two of this academic year.

Our final festive challenge for the year where students can earn their house point is through our House Christmas Trees. Each house has been allocated a different cultural tradition for how four countries decorate their trees. We would like to challenge all students to design one of the decorations below for their allocated tradition and bring in their designs, next week!

Cusworth – Ukraine – Spider webs
Brodsworth – Australia – Seashells
Wentworth – Japan – Origami
Chatsworth – Denmark – Paper hearts

Attendance

Please see the events for next week and the letter attached which was sent to all parents via ClassCharts this week:

For the Christmas dinner this year, we have:

- Free Christmas dinner for all
- Opportunities to spend time with friends celebrating
- Live music by jazz band The Bowkers
- A visit from a very special guest
- Opportunities to win prizes

We also have several attendance rewards taking place over the final week which are:

- **Monday 15 December** - The tutor group with the highest attendance will receive a special lunch
- **Tuesday 16 December** - 100% attendance prize draw. One student will win one of our amazing prizes.
- **Wednesday 17 December** - 97% attendance prize draw. One student with attendance above 97% will win one of our amazing prizes.
- **Thursday 18 December** - Most improved attendance draw. We will be rewarding a student whose attendance has improved in the second half term compared to the first. They will receive a £50 shopping voucher.
- **Friday 19 December** - Final week draw. Students who have been in attendance every day of the final week will be in the draw to win a £50 shopping voucher. There will be a winner from every year group.
- **Friday 19 December** - House Prize. The house with the highest attendance on the final day will receive 1,000 house points!

We will be writing to parents via ClassCharts to update them on the non-uniform day for the final day of term. Currently this non-uniform day is **not** going to take place as our attendance has slipped below 93% due to the recent dip in attendance. Students do have two days this week though to get above this number and ensure the non-uniform day is able to go ahead.

We would finally like to remind everyone that we have learning taking place all the way up to and including the final day of this term. It is imperative that students are in the academy and able to access their learning and should not be absent from the academy. Medical evidence will be required for any illness or absence on the final day of the term.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

