

MMC/GHR

8th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a fantastic first full week back at school with all students being welcomed with our usual exceptional learning experiences, positive outlook, and the dedicated staff team. As ever, we are continuing in our drive to achieve our Academy vision of exceptional experiences, successful lives. Our students have demonstrated excellent engagement in their lessons this week and are really showing our values in their behaviour and conduct around the Academy.

Year 7 students have been superb and should be commended by parents. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a lovely group of students now part of our academy.

Travel to the Academy

There have been several issues with buses this week and we would like to assure parents that we are working tirelessly with South Yorkshire Transport on behalf of parents and students. To be clear, the school does not run the bus service and we have little say over how it is operated. We do know that South Yorkshire Transport are looking at refinements and we will work closely with them to improve the service. We will communicate this as soon as we have any additional information.

Teaching and Learning

NGRT Reading Tests

Students in years 7-10 have received a letter on Class Charts this week informing parents and carers of the upcoming NGRT Reading Tests. These tests highlight individual student's reading strengths and weaknesses and highlight any vocabulary gaps. The test is fully adaptive to a student's ability and therefore offers a personalised experience, guaranteeing it is accessible for all. Students will be tested twice a year; the next round of tests will take place during next week. It is vital that your child takes the test seriously; please discuss with them the importance of the reading assessment and alleviate any concerns they may have. Thank you for your support in helping your child achieve the best possible attainment and progress they can in their reading.

Events and Enrichment

Football Team Trials

Mr. Webb would like to invite all keen year 7 footballers to a trial for our football team. The trial will take place over the next three Mondays. We only have fourteen places available, but if we have enough to create additional teams then we will do so. The school has a fantastic enrichment programme, and we love traveling to compete against local teams. The trials will start at 3pm and be completed by around 4.15pm. It will be outside on the grass so suitable footwear and appropriate safety clothing, including shin pads, needs to be worn. Good luck to all students who try out for our football team.

Standards

It is great to have such a positive start to the school year and see the fantastic attitude in lessons and around the academy from students.

Please can we remind parents that all students will need to be in the academy before 8.20am. Students need to ensure if they catch the bus, they get one which leaves sufficient time to get to school. This may mean getting an earlier one to ensure they are with us. Next week the door will be closed at 8.20am and students will be working in two late forms if they arrive past this time.



Attendance

During the first week of term, whole school attendance has been significantly above national average. Thank you for supporting the academy in ensuring your child is attending school on a regular basis. There is a direct link to excellent attendance and excellent outcomes, and this is what we strive for. For each week that a young person achieves 100% attendance, they will receive 10 raffle ticket entries into our attendance raffle where they have the chance to win a brand-new iPad. All students can earn different amounts of raffle tickets depending on their level of attendance.

Thank you for supporting our strive for excellent attendance.

Communication

Thank you to all the parents and carers of our new students who have taken the time to sign up for ClassCharts already. Signing up to ClassCharts means that you can keep an eye on achievements and behaviour, as well as ensuring that you see important announcements and letters. If you are not signed up to ClassCharts, please contact the school using admin@stwacademy.com and your sign in details will be given to you. Once you are signed up to ClassCharts, you will be able to contact your child's form tutor, their Student Welfare Manager and Student Achievement Leader, and any member of staff who sends you a message.

Parents and Community Advisory Board

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our school, our Parent & Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meets once a 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 Wednesday 27th September at STWA 5pm - 6pm. If you would like to join our PCAB, please email g.harris@stwacademy.com

Car Park

We are very lucky to have so much car parking on site, as well as safe spaces for students to be dropped off and picked up. It has been noticed, however, that our disabled parking spaces are being misused by parents and carers who are not blue badge holders. Please could we remind everyone that these parking spaces are only for the use of blue badge holders. We will be monitoring the appropriate use of these parking spaces.

Year 5&6 Open Evening

We are excited to be hosting our Open Evening for Year 5/6 pupils on Thursday 5th October from 5.00pm-8.00pm. If you or your friends and family have children in Years 5 and 6, you can let us know you intend on coming along by clicking on this link to fill in the form

<https://forms.office.com/e/RrSe2dC4uF>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

