

22 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has been action packed and incredibly positive within the academy. We operate a 'Golden Ticket' process for visitors who are free to visit the academy to tour our site at any time. We believe in the standards that we see day in and day out and I would like to extend this offer to current parents should they wish to see how the school operates on a day-to-day basis.

Please read on for more Academy updates.

Teaching and Learning

House System Relaunch

This week saw the launch of our House System at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. Our House System is designed to develop aspects of our students' character that will support them in their academic and personal development. Students are aligned with a house and through this, develop a sense of pride and cohesion with all their team members. Throughout this week, house assemblies took place where students from Y7-Y11 were altogether in their house to spark healthy competition, house identity and team spirit. Throughout each half-term, students will be completing activities and engaging in house competitions to accrue House Points. Those House Points will all go towards increasing the possibility of students taking part in reward events. We are looking forward to seeing how our House System grows and develops.

Events and Enrichment

STWA Athletics Championships

We are excited to be celebrating the talents of our Y8-11 students with their parents at the Keepmoat athletics stadium on this evening, Friday 22nd September. Students have been invited to compete in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay on the floodlit track with cheerleading and gymnastic displays during the interludes. We are very much looking forward to celebrating individual successes at the end of the evening in the event's award ceremony.

Year 11 Revision Evening

We cannot wait to welcome our new Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our Year 11 Revision Evening on Tuesday 10th October, which includes:

- A presentation from leaders about Year 11, including key dates and events.
- A classroom-based session with form tutors about how best to revise.
- Every student receiving a bespoke pack of revision materials worth over £100.

The event will last approximately 1 hour, starting with a presentation at either 4.15pm or 5.15pm. If you have not already registered your attendance, you can do so on this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/NgDS39jQTt>

Year 6 Prospective Student Packs

We believe that forging strong relationships at the start of year 6 will help families decide that we are the school community they wish to be part of. With this in mind, members of our senior leadership team have been out and about in all weathers this week visiting local primary schools to deliver shiny blue envelopes containing letters from the Principal and our Head Students, prospectuses, enrichment brochures, a golden ticket for a tour of the academy at any time, an STWA sticker, and most excitingly, their invitation to our Open Evening Extravaganza. Every member of our senior leadership team has been involved in hand delivering



these packs and they have all been blown away by the enthusiasm and excitement shown by the year 6 pupils receiving their packs.

Standards

We have a very small number of students who are wearing non-standard shoes in school due to short-term medical needs. Parents / carers must provide a medical note to show that this is required. Please can we remind parents / carers that in these cases, students need to wear plain shoes which are fully black. We have some spares in school to lend to students if this is required.

We have been closing the entrance door each morning at 8.20am. Please do ensure that your child arrives at school before this time to avoid a same day 30-minute detention. It is important that all students are in the building ready for tutor time each day.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a strength of the academy and our new Y7 cohort have started strongly with an attendance of 98.8%. We will always strive for 100% attendance from every one of our young people to ensure they experience exceptional learning experiences daily which will ultimately lead them to securing successful outcomes.

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance: every day and every lesson counts. Over the coming weeks you will see several rewards being awarded to students for excellent attendance, starting with our Attendance & Investment raffle. Students receive five entries every day they attend school; the more you attend the greater chance of winning you have. The first prizes up for grabs is a brand-new iPad.

Our first attendance rewards will be awarded to students next week. Good luck everyone!

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 in person at STWA 5pm – 6.30pm.

If you would like to join our PCAB, please email g.harris@stwacademy.com

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

