

Our ref: MMC/GHR

29 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

This week there has, as ever, been a feeling of positivity around the academy with all students engaged in their learning and in the healthy competition generated through the relaunch of our House System. We have held our first Attendance Raffle with tickets to the rugby as prizes, and we have welcomed parents and members of the community into the Academy for our PCAB meeting. All of this was kick-started last Friday at the inaugural Athletics Championships, where we saw students and staff coming together on a wonderful sporting stage, creating a spectacle of sporting talent. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in that event for a fantastic evening showcasing what STWA is all about.

### **Teaching and Learning**

#### New Look Library Lessons

Students in years 7,8 and 9 have been showing excellent investment in their reading for pleasure lessons, which take place once a week in the library. The new format of these lessons sees the students in each year group accessing and analysing the same specially selected books, with support from teaching staff and teaching assistants. This new approach is really starting to foster a love of reading in our students as they are reading a book chosen especially for their year group to enjoy.

The books chosen for the Autumn Term are: -

- The Good Turn by Sharna Jackson for year 7
- You are a champion! by Marcus Rashford for year 8
- You can do it! by Marcus Rashford for year 9

This love of reading is particularly clear to see in our year 7 students, many of whom are visiting the library to read and borrow books at break times.

### **Events and Enrichment**

#### Year 7 Investment in Learning Evening

Enrichment is a fundamental part of the curriculum that we are proud to offer here at STWA. Enrichment assemblies will take place throughout the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October. These assemblies will showcase the clubs and opportunities that are available for our students to access and enjoy. These assemblies will be followed by our Enrichment Fayre which is part of the Year 7 Investment in Learning evening taking place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. During the evening, every club will be represented, and Year 7 students will have the chance to complete a personal enrichment timetable of the clubs they would like to attend.



## The Inaugural STWA Athletics Championships

We want young people to look back on their time at STWA with fondness, having had experiences that create memories which last a lifetime. This prestigious event at the Eco-Power Stadium gave our students an opportunity to perform in a professional setting and at the highest level.

Highlights of the event included:

- The opening ceremony with accompanying national anthem sung by our amazing students.
- The flag bearers and opening parade instilling a sense of pride in our performers.
- A cheerleading team and gymnastics interlude that showcased exceptional talents.
- Invested and talented students being involved in healthy competition.
- A medal ceremony that rewarded our students' achievements as well as medals and trophies that evoke powerful memories.

We are delighted that parents and family members took time to support the academy and the students with such dedication. Having hundreds of supporters watching students push themselves to their limits was the vision the PE department had when this event was first launched, and you, member of our community, made that happen.

## Year 11 Revision Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our Year 11 Revision Evening on Tuesday 10th October, which will include:

- 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>

## House Updates



Over the last week, we have successfully relaunched our House System to Key Stage 3 and 4. Students have all attended a house assembly where they have been able to join with their house team to develop a sense of community and team spirit! Students will be competing in their houses to earn the most house points through partaking in a series of different activities. Our current standings show that **Wentworth** have taken the lead this week with a whopping 271 house points! Brodsworth are close behind with 254 points, but will Wentworth be able to maintain their lead? We would like to encourage all students to participate in our house competitions, Weekly Wins and to be engaging with activities that count towards their Pledges to help their house win the title!



## **Standards**

We have given out nearly 59,000 positive points to students already this academic year and we are only 4 weeks in. This shows the fantastic effort and commitment students put into their studies every day. We look forward to rewarding students with the various events and prizes we have set for this year. More information regarding these will be coming out shortly.

## **Attendance**

Attendance at school is important and at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance: every day and every lesson counts.

This week has seen the first of our attendance rewards handed out to students across year 7 to year 13. Over 50 students will be attending the Doncaster Knights game tonight due to their excellent attendance so far this year. Next week will see the first winners of our Friday Night Takeaway drawn and they will each receive a £25 Just Eat voucher. Students are also receiving daily entries into our iPad draw each day they attend school. Good luck to every student and remember the more you attend the more entries you receive.

## **Year 5&6 Open Evening**

“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary”

We are excited to host our Y5/6 Open Evening themed around books and reading on Thursday 5th October from 5.00pm-8.00pm. There will be free books for the prospective students to take home, exciting book-themed activities, and academic rooms open in every department. The evening will be supported by lots of student ambassadors who will then gain their bronze student pledge. 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**

