

Our ref: MMC/GHR

19 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As the Half Term draws to a close, we are left to reflect on what has been an exceptional start to this academic year. The provisional results that have now been published by the government see us as one of the top performing academies in Doncaster, with a positive progress 8 score for the first time in the school's history. We are rightfully proud of the young people who have achieved these results, people rarely see the dedication and hard work that goes into students results, but we are in a privileged position where we see it every day, our students are destined for great things, and we feel lucky to play a part in their journey.

I would like to thank parents for their continued support.

Teaching and Learning

Students have been relentless in their efforts to be fully invested over the first half term. Lessons have been a pleasure to deliver, and the senior leadership team have been proud to walk visitors around the academy on our 'Golden Ticket' tours since the open evening in early October. Year 11 students have received every revision guide they will need for the examination year and Year 13 will receive theirs shortly after half term. We look forward to working with these resources to support examination preparation throughout the year. The school will be open next week for Year 11 students who have signed up to the sessions relevant to their courses, we thank the students and staff for giving up part of their valuable half term – we know it makes the difference in the long run.

House Update

Our Half Term 1 House competition has come to a close. We are currently counting your house point totals to reveal which student has achieved the most house points over this half term. The student who achieves the most house points will be awarded a 50-inch Smart TV! The winner will be announced in the first week back after half term.

Events and Enrichment

Restart a Heart

On Monday 16th October, Year 9 students took part in Restart a Heart Day as part of their Life Skills curriculum. We successfully trained 161 students throughout the day in the life saving skill of CPR, thanks to our South Yorkshire Ambulance volunteers. This is our third year taking part in the event and we look forward to training our current Year 8 students next year when we do it all over again.



Year 7 Enrichment Fayre

Every student in year 7-10 received our brand-new Enrichment Brochure last week, packed with all they need to know about the exciting new clubs starting after half term. It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic year 7 students signing up for new enrichment activities and clubs at our Enrichment Fayre.

Do not worry if you were unable to get signed up on the night, just come along to the first meeting of your chosen club after half term. All clubs are listed in the Enrichment Brochure and can be viewed on our website at [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME \(stwacademy.com\)](http://www.stwacademy.com)

BLBW (Better Learners Better Workers) Launch

The Better Learners Better Workers programme launched on Thursday 19th October at Cutler's Hall, Sheffield. As part of this, students involved in this programme were taken to Cutler's Hall and participated in a tour of the hall, teamwork activities, and meeting and working with employers. The students met with the Master Cutler, Mr Charles Turner, and were officially welcomed as Ambassadors.

GCSE Photography Trips

Our GCSE Photography students in Year 10 and Year 11 have enjoyed trips to Filey and York, respectively. All students currently studying Photography were expected to attend these trips to produce a body of work which will contribute significantly towards their final GCSE Photography exam. The students visited places of interest in Filey and York to help them produce photographs for their portfolios.

STWA Student Parliament

Last week, we invited members of our Student Parliament to their first meeting since being elected. Students had breakfast in the conference suite and were able to come together as a collective to gain more information about what their role as Parliament members will involve. All students demonstrated their initiative, determination, and passion for taking on roles within the academy and have started to brainstorm ideas around our house system, rewards, and fundraising events. We cannot wait to see you continue to showcase your excellence throughout the year!

Kooth

It was great to have Dave Barthorpe from the Kooth team in the academy today supporting students with their wellbeing. Kooth is an app providing free, safe, and anonymous mental wellbeing support for young people provided by the NHS. Dave discussed the negative impact that social media can have on young people and how we can address that with regular breaks from our mobile phone and social media.

Post 16 News

On Thursday 9th November, we welcome prospective Post 16 students and their families to our Post 16 Open Evening from 5:00pm - 7:30pm. Our presentation will begin at 5:15pm followed by an opportunity to tour the building, meet subject teachers, and learn more about the courses on offer. Join us to find out more about our exceptional experiences. Book your place on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/1YcgKzZMug>

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

