

Our ref: MMC/GHR

1 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The Christmas spirit has truly arrived at STWA this week! Our Year 10 and 11 students were treated to a night at the theatre to watch 'A Christmas Carol', we have given out golden tickets to next week's pantomime event, and to top it all off, the Christmas tree has arrived and is now beautifully decorated for all to enjoy. This time of year is always a busy one for the academy, with festive events and trial exams as well as our consistent offer of exceptional learning experiences for our young people.

This year we made a commitment that we would ensure all young people experience a trip to the theatre, and we are well on the way to making that a reality with over 500 students having signed up to experience either 'A Christmas Carol' or 'Beauty and the Beast' at CAST theatre in Doncaster City Centre. It is always a joy for staff to accompany students at these events that nurture their cultural side and immerse them in a new experience.

Teaching and Learning

We are currently refining our approach to homework through consultation with students and parents. Please share your views on homework here: <https://participate.schoolsurveys.com/z0XSGu6Nh7DFirEp>

If you need support accessing Satchel One, either take a look at the video guidance on our website here: [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - HOMEWORK](#), or feel free to email Anna Richardson on a.richardson@stwacademy.com

Events and Enrichment

Library and Waterstones trip

On the 21st of November, Mr Martin and Miss May took our fantastic Year 9s to Waterstones and Doncaster Library as a reward for their excellent investment in reading. They were all bought a book of their choice in Waterstones before viewing the library's many museum exhibits and exploring the library's expansive book collection. It was great to see them broadening their reading worlds and following their curiosity!

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day is an event set up by Save the Children to raise much needed funds for children and their families and to support them through tough times. At STWA, we are taking part in the fundraising by giving all students (and staff!) the opportunity to wear their Christmas jumper with their uniform on Friday 8th December for a £1 donation to Save the Children. We are accepting donations of Christmas jumpers to ensure that as many students as possible can join the festivities; they can be brought into Reception, and we thank you in advance for your generosity. Please let us know if you would like one of the donated jumpers for the day. We are looking forward to seeing all the festive fun to raise money for a worthy cause.

Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 21st December, we are inviting local families with pre-school children into the Academy to enjoy a breakfast with Santa. We will be hosting this free event whereby all attendees will receive breakfast, a gift, a photo, a visit from a special guest and festive fun. The event will run from 9:45-11:15 and is open to everyone with pre-school age children aged 4 and under.

You can book your place on this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/eHbBxQ0RY2>



Christmas Dinner Day

This year's family dining Christmas Dinner is being held on Friday 22nd December. The menu for the meal will be shared with everyone at the beginning of December and 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.

Parliament Trip for School Council

Miss Gerrard, Miss Gallagher and six students attended a Parliamentary event to showcase the excellent research project that they have completed over the last year. Students attended talks at The University of York, completed individual food diaries and took part in a series of focus groups to share the findings of their research with various members of Parliament.

This week, we visited the Houses of Parliament where students were given the opportunity to present their research to the public and members of Parliament. All students behaved and conducted themselves in an impeccable manner and have demonstrated their determination, social and economic awareness, thus highlighting the impact that their research will have upon local and wider communities. After the event, we had time to see some of the landmarks in London with students enjoying Southbank Crescent, street performers and the Christmas markets. A massive well done to all students involved—you are all inspirational!

School nurse visit

This week the school nursing team were in the academy at lunchtime to provide students with health and wellbeing support. They attend the academy every other Tuesday. For more information on getting support from the school nursing team, please email Miss Severns on h.severns@stwacademy.com.

A Christmas Carol theatre trip

On Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th of November this week, we held two amazing trips to CAST theatre to see a production of A Christmas Carol with our year 10 and 11 students. The students absolutely loved the experience of being at the theatre together and will benefit massively from seeing it in person in such an immersive way.

Camps International opportunity

Following on from the assembly this week about the trip to Costa Rica being offered to our students by Camps International, we are pleased to be able to share the information you need to sign up for the parents' presentation taking place next week. The letter has been sent to parents and carers of students in years 9-12 on ClassCharts, and is available on our website and our social media channels. The parent meeting for this is taking place next Thursday, 7th December at 5.30pm. You can register your interest on the link <https://register.campsinternational.com/We> hope to see as many students as possible being able to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime

In special assemblies this week, every KS3 student has been given a FREE ticket to see Beauty and the Beast at CAST next Friday! The tickets have been collected by members of our senior leadership team on single point of entry and students were issued with an especially important letter concerning the arrangements for collecting students after the show. Tickets can be returned on Monday if they were not handed in today. We are really looking forward to sharing the experience of the theatre with our students.

House Updates

Once again, Wentworth have retained their impeccable lead in the top house spot with a grand total of 3227 house points. Cusworth are quickly climbing up in their second-place position with 2837, with them being in touching distance of first place! Brodsworth have made huge progress with an incredible 2202 house points, but Chatsworth are still holding on with 1745 points! As we progress into the final three weeks of this half-term, will Wentworth remain in the top spot?



This week, we held our House assemblies where students have been able to revisit their core house values, been introduced to their SLT (Senior Leadership Team) house leader and been awarded for all their excellent participation towards their pledges!

Standards

As the weather continues to get colder, we have seen an increase in students coming to school with fur hoods on their coat. We would like to remind all students and parents that these are not a permitted part of the uniform policy and must be removed. Students can store their coat if required but this would be in an unattended area, and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage.

We have so far this year given out 172,500 positive points to students which is amazing. Please continue to check ClassCharts and have conversations at home with regards to all the points students are collecting.

Post 16 News

Parent's Consultation Evening

Thank you for your time on the evening of Tuesday 21st November, attending meetings online with students' class teachers at both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy. The feedback from staff and parents has been positive and has provided a timely update to both parents and students on how students started this academic year in both Year 12 and Year 13. Our next parent's consultation evening for Post 16 is Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Year 13 Trials

This week, our Year 13 students have shown full investment in their trial exams. The results of these trial exams will be used to inform the teaching of the subjects going forwards to ensure that all our Post 16 students are fully prepared for their real exams in the Summer.

UCAS

Students are making great progress in completing personal statements and UCAS applications for Post 18 study, with several students receiving offers already. This is an advance notice of the UCAS deadline for applications of 31st January 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

