

Our ref: MMC/NWI

22 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another hugely successful half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the outstanding achievements, commitment and spirit shown by our students across the academy. From exceptional examination effort in years 11 and 13, to record-breaking participation in enrichment activities, sports fixtures and house competitions, this newsletter is filled with examples of students embracing every opportunity available to them. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, ambition and character our young people continue to demonstrate each day, and this success is only possible through the continued partnership and support of our parents and carers. Together, we are creating a culture where students thrive academically, socially and personally — and this half term has truly been one to celebrate.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level examinations continued this week with Sociology, Economics, Media Studies, Business, Chemistry, Further Maths, Psychology, English, Geography, Physics, History, and Mathematics as well as BTEC exams in Applied Science. The students have come fully prepared for each exam as instructed and their motivation to succeed is admirable. Congratulations to those who have already completed their courses!

Year 13 Leavers Event

The Sixth Form team is delighted to announce the upcoming year 13 Leavers' Event, which will take place on Friday 26 June. Students will arrive from 12:00 pm dressed in glamorous red-carpet attire for an afternoon of celebration marking the end of their sixth form journey. The event has been carefully planned and organised by the Student Council, whose dedication and hard work has played a huge part in bringing the occasion to life. Their efforts aim to create a memorable send-off for the year 13 cohort, and all students are warmly encouraged to attend and celebrate together. Food and refreshments will be provided for all students attending the event.

Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 students have continued to complete written examinations this week, with students completing examinations in Chemistry, English Literature, Computer Science, French, Business, ICT and English Language. We continue to be impressed by the levels of investment displayed by all students and the high numbers of students who are attending the breakfast Achieve sessions, where free tea and toast is provided, from 7:30 am.

As always, we remind parents and carers of the importance of students being on time, in full uniform and fully equipped for every examination.

In recognition of students completing the first three weeks of examinations – and with just over two weeks of examinations to complete after May half term – year 11 students were rewarded with a celebration on Friday 21 May, which included an opportunity to enjoy ice cream after receiving their leavers' hoodies.



Students are now able to wear their leavers' hoodies instead of their blazers, but the hoodies cannot be worn during examinations due to JCQ rules regarding the potential for malpractice.

A reminder to all parents that while the final examination is Physics on Monday 15 June, students must be available on Wednesday 24 June as this is GCSE contingency day.

The full timetable of GCSE and A-level examinations can be accessed [here](#).

Year 11 May Half Term Achieve

Over May half term, we will be hosting a number of Achieve sessions to support students' to prepare for their remaining examinations. Over the last four years, students who attended these sessions found them to be incredibly beneficial and they performed significantly higher than students who did not attend the sessions. Students are not expected to attend in uniform, but they will need to bring equipment and refreshments.

To support with resourcing the sessions, we'd like to request students sign up [here](#).

Year 11 Prom

Our year 11 Prom will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, Doncaster on Thursday 18 June 2025 from 6:00 until 10:00 pm. Tickets are priced at £35 each, which includes a mocktail on arrival as well as food and entertainment throughout the evening. All tickets have now been released to students who are eligible to attend and the final deadline for purchasing tickets is 4:00 pm on Thursday 4 June 2025.

A separate letter has been sent to year 11 parents that includes information regarding the arrivals process at the venue, including parking.

Tassomai

Our performance as a school continues to rank in the top 2% nationally, with students in years 10 and 11 completing almost 200 hours of quizzing last week!

We remind students of the importance of continuing to achieve their weekly goals in all subjects as part of their revision for final examinations for year 11 and trial examinations in June for year 10.

Sparx - Mathematics

As an academy, we have completed over 8,000 hours of personalised learning, answered one million questions correctly and over 320 students have improved their times table fluency this year.

Students in years 10 and year 11 should continue completing weekly mathematics Tassomai tasks. This creates the "little and often" revision needed for success in mathematics.

We thank every parent and carer for their continued support and encouragement in completing mathematics home learning tasks.

Careers

Better Learners Better Workers

This week, our year 9 students on the Better Learner Better Workers Programme developed their knowledge and understanding of commercial construction further by visiting the new Critical Care Unit at Doncaster Royal Infirmary as part of our work with Vinci Construction. This was a great follow-up to their earlier school workshop.



Personal Development

Enrichment Electives

The final block of this year's electives has begun and every student has made a great start. This will be our sixteenth rotation of electives; we have offered over sixty in total, and the provision is going from strength to strength. We cannot wait to share next year's offer with students and parents and carers as we look to add in even more fantastic opportunities.

Sports Fixtures

KS3 Cricket.

On Thursday last week, we welcomed Rossington All Saints Academy, Trinity Academy, and late arrivals XP School to STWA for a KS3 cricket softball tournament. The first game STWA played was against Rossington All Saints, with some tight bowling and great work in the field we restricted them to 24 with 3 wickets taken after 40 balls. A massive shout out to Leo, who in his first competitive game of cricket, managed to take 1 wicket and only concede 2 runs in his set of 5 balls. The squad enjoyed their game and put on an outstanding total of 91 from 40 balls. Our second game saw STWA face XP School, who got off to a great start with 18 off the first 10 balls. However, the STWA squad battled hard in the field and with some great bowling from Joseph and Max, they were restricted to 37 with 2 wickets taken. The same batting pair for STWA opened the batting and continued from where they left off and the squad brought the victory home. Unfortunately, the full tournament wasn't completed due to the weather, nevertheless, STWA were in a great position to take the victory!

Rounders

On Wednesday, our year 7, 8, 9 and 10 boys and girls rounders teams played Hall Cross Academy. We had 56 students in attendance who all played with enthusiasm, determination and great teamwork. All teams played exceptionally and represented the academy superbly with excellent sportsmanship and effort. Each year group won their matches with the exception of year 7, who narrowly lost 18-15 in their second game after a fantastic effort. Miss Cooper is incredibly proud of them all for both their performance and commitment!

Events

Barcelona Visit

On Sunday 24 May, a group of students will be heading off on the Barcelona Sports Tour to access high quality training by certified sports coaches in both Football or Netball. Students will have time allocated to soak up some of the amazing Spanish culture by sightseeing in Barcelona and planned excursions to visit Camp Nou Stadium and PortAventura World theme park. Keep an eye on social media for updates throughout the week!

Academy Awards

We are excited to announce that we are holding our fifth annual end of year Academy Awards event on Thursday 2 July 2026. The event aims to acknowledge and celebrate our outstanding students' achievements – more details to follow soon.

Sir Thom Fest

As we approach the final half term of the academic year, we are delighted to announce a special event celebrating diversity and ensuring that every student and member of staff feels valued and included.

Sir Thom Fest will take place on Friday 17 July 2026. Similar to our Christmas family dining event, tutor time and period 1 will run as normal lessons. Periods 2 and 3 will focus on developing character and culture



through an additional Life Skills session centred on equality and diversity, followed by a music festival on the field.

The festival will feature live performances from indie band The Mercians and singer Charlie Aky, alongside special guest and Sir Thomas Wharton alumni, "The Don" Harry Rigg. There will also be inflatables, game stalls, face painting, and the announcement of the winning house!

There will be no cost for the event — it is our way of thanking students for their hard work, respect, and tolerance throughout the year.

House Update

Our Extended House Project for this half term centres on Lewis Hamilton, with students being challenged to explore the impact of Hamilton's career and being tasked with creating a model of Hamilton's racing helmet. Students have until the first Monday back after half term to hand in their creations to earn their 100 house points.

As we progress into the summer term, there are an array of house activities and challenges where students can earn house points to secure their place on the end of year trip to Alton Towers. Students in the winning house need a minimum of 50 house points and less than 50 negatives to secure their place!

Attendance

We were delighted to reward students on Friday with a non-school uniform day in recognition of the excellent collective attendance achieved across the academy.

In addition, we held our half-termly attendance prize draw for students with attendance above 97%. So far this year, prizes have included AirPods, 50-inch TVs, and over £300 in shopping vouchers. We also still have some fantastic prizes available for the final half term, including a drone, JD Sports vouchers, and another pair of AirPods.

Finally, a particular highlight of this half term was receiving recognition that the academy is within the top 25% of similar schools nationally for attendance. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, and families in improving attendance across the academy this year.

As we move into half term 6, we ask for your continued support in ensuring that attendance remains a priority, with students attending the academy every day and arriving on time.

Standards

This half term, we have been incredibly proud of the positive behaviour and strong sense of community shown by our students across the school. A key focus has been ensuring that students spend social times sensibly, engaging in positive conversations and building lasting friendships with their peers. Lunchtime seating plans and expectations around behaviour have been working exceptionally well, creating a calm, respectful and enjoyable environment for everyone. We have also continued to deliver our weekly *Culture Champion* prize, where students can earn a voucher in recognition of the small everyday actions that help strengthen our school culture - whether that is tidying litter without being asked, showing kindness to others, or supporting friends through difficult times. These moments of care, responsibility and respect continue to make a real difference to the atmosphere across the academy.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald

Principal

