

Our ref: MMC/GHR

1 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has seen our Year 11 students begin their trial exams. They are performing fantastically well and the process of exams at the school now feels 'normal.' We work hard from Year 10 on small marginal gains that make the process feel part of exam habits which include sitting in the same seat, having the same equipment, sweets being given halfway through, and the tables being laid out in the same way. The walk to the exams is thought out with messages lining the way and staff smiling and reinforcing positive messages. We are proud of the way that Year 11 are performing.

Last week's Gym and Dance Spectacular has been swiftly followed up by the South Yorkshire Athletics Championships taking place at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. STWA staff ran this event for other schools in Doncaster to compete and it always gives a sense of pride that we are so heavily involved in the sporting offer for Doncaster schools.

Teaching and Learning

Our Year 11 students have had a strong start to their trial examinations, showing full investment in getting the results that they deserve. Attendance has been excellent to all the exams, and we are all proud of this cohort of students for putting in the effort to get the rewards – invest to achieve! We would like for these wonderful students to have a restful weekend so that they are ready for their second week of trial exams.

Events and Enrichment

Athletics Championships

This week, STWA hosted the Doncaster Schools Indoor Athletics Championships at the EIS in Sheffield. Sixteen Doncaster Schools consisting of an U13 boys, U13 girls, U15 boys and U15 girls teams competed to be the Doncaster Champion for their age group.

The EIS is an amazing facility where elite athletes regularly train and compete in a range of different sports and where the athletics track is second to none. It is such a privilege for our students to be able to compete at such a world class venue!

Schools arrived from 9 o'clock and took to the stands in preparation for a full day of top-class sport. Mrs. Erskine and Miss Rusby were busy on the desk all day inputting scores whilst Mr. Walker organised and reassured the teams.

All our students performed well throughout the day, with standout performances from Akos and Cayden who helped the Under 15 boys team to victory, becoming 2024 Doncaster schools Indoor Athletics Champions!

Well done to everybody who took part!



Exceed Walk

This week, our KS3 Exceed cohort went outdoors, exploring the local area and the countryside. We started our journey from Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, through Edlington, using the footpaths on route, walking through Conisbrough and across Viaduct Bridge. Our students visited the nature reserve, where they could spot the local wildlife in the area via the wooden huts in Sprotborough. The benefits of walking have been proven to support mental health by boosting your energy and we certainly did this by walking 12.9km.

House Updates

Wentworth House have managed to regain their lead in the race for first place this week. Students have been completing an array of weekly wins to help get them into the lead to win the all-important house trip to Xscape at the end of the school year. We are launching our next Box Task next week which is another opportunity to earn those crucial house points!

Standards

During our assemblies last week, we have been making students aware of some changes to our detention system which we will be implementing after Easter. Students who fail to attend their 60-minute afterschool detentions will be upscaled to a 2-hour SLT detention on either a Monday or Friday evening. We will be writing to parents about this change in the coming weeks. As previously communicated it is imperative that the very small percentage of students who receive a dentation do attend and complete these. Please ensure that you check ClassCharts daily for any detentions and support the school in ensuring that students do attend their detentions.

Post 16

Our Post 16 Parents' Evening is being held on Tuesday 12 March 2024. Further details and links for booking appointments will be shared in due course by our Post 16 Team.

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

