

Our ref: BWO/NWI

4 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Your child is fast approaching the end of their time at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. Their time in year 10 and year 11 can be an exciting, as well as stressful time for students, as they face their final exams and decisions about their future. We feel it is vital that we have an experienced year 11 team in place to support your child through the last term of year 10 and their GCSE year, year 11.

Year 10

Throughout the past two weeks, students have been sitting their year 10 trial examinations. Students have been invested in these examinations and will receive their results in a special assembly during the last week of term.

Next week (7-11 July), students will take part in their work experience. We are looking forward to seeing the impact of this on the students and them thriving in a workplace environment. Throughout the week, if students have any concerns or issues, please encourage them to email Miss Bott (s.bott@stwacademy.com) or Mr Coulson (s.coulson@stwacademy.com) in the first instance or call reception 01709 864100. Within this week, we will be completing check ins, either in person or on the phone, but we encourage students to send us photos of them during their placement to wex@stwacademy.com.

Students will also have a careers day during the final week of term (Tuesday 15 July) where they will take part in multiple careers workshops and work with their new form tutors as they move into year 11. Although some tutors will remain the same into year 11, we have an excellent team of year 11 tutors who are incredibly experienced with supporting students with the academic and pastoral changes of year 11, including managing workload, applying for college etc. We find this event really useful for the year 11 tutors and team to start building relationships with the students and support them in their transition into year 11.

Year 11

We would like to take this opportunity to outline the expectations and support available for all students during year 11.

Firstly, an introduction to our year 11 team that your child will be supported by through the final term of year 10 and throughout year 11:

Mr Woodhouse - Assistant Principal for Student Outcomes



I am Assistant Principal for Student Outcomes at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. I have worked at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy as Assistant Principal for the past four years. I am proud that the grades and progress that students achieve at STWA continue to improve year on year. Your child is now approaching their final and most important year of their education so far and I am excited and highly motivated in supporting them throughout this time, to ensure that they achieve the best grades they possibly can. The minimum expectation is that your child is fully invested and takes full advantage of the additional intervention and support which they will receive over the next 12 months. Your support as parents and carers will also be vital in ensuring that your child is given the best possible chance in fulfilling their potential.



Ms Shaw - Associate Assistant Principal Key Stage 4 Progress



As Associate Assistant Principal, it is my aim and priority to ensure that your child succeeds to their full academic potential. I have specialised in intervention and attainment over the past ten years and have implemented a range of strategies, resources, and support systems to allow our students to remain focussed and supported within the academy. I will be working closely with Mr Woodhouse to maximise every student's potential over the coming months.

Mr Walker - Student Achievement Leader



I am thrilled to be working with the current year 10s as they progress into year 11. It is more important than ever that students are on-track to achieve what they deserve and leave here with the grades and skills they need to move on to their next step in their education. It is equally as important that your child always feels supported, whether it is an academic worry or a more general well-being concern, which I will support with over the next 12 months.

Mrs Wileman - Student Welfare Manager



Having been year 11 Student Welfare Manager for the past five years, I will work relentlessly to ensure that students maintain the high expectations we have for them, whilst supporting their wellbeing and resilience, especially as any exam pressures take hold. I will continue to be here to listen to students and to help and encourage them to be the best versions of themselves as they complete their final year with us. I will also work with them to secure positive destinations after they leave year 11. I am looking forward to a positive and successful year.

Achieve Programme



Throughout year 11, students will be part of our Achieve programme - this is our intervention and achievement strategy that takes many different forms. All of these together will support student success in year 11.

Follow on the stwachieve Instagram account for updates throughout the year.

Year 10	Year 11	GCSE Examinations	Success in GCSE exams and transition into P16 provider/the sixth form partnership
Period 4: throughout years 10 and 11 we provide additional learning time through period 4 sessions. This equates to 270 additional learning hours across key stage 4 and 11 weeks of additional learning by having these sessions.		Marginal gains: to reduce exam stress and anxiety and to encourage success we provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tea and toast the morning of each exam - Pre achieve sessions for last minute revision from 7:30 the morning of each exam - Subject leader briefing prior to each exam - Keep students in the same exam seat for every exam - Provide all equipment 	
Tutor time Achieve: Throughout KS4, students take part in tutor time achieve for their core subjects. Allocation to the subject is based on their priority area from the data. This equates to 70 additional hours (14 school days) of core learning.			
Achieve weeks: throughout year 10 students take part in 3 Achieve weeks to support extended periods of study across their subjects. This is particularly useful for completing PSAs in BTEC qualifications.	Holiday/ Weekend Achieve sessions: during half term holidays and during weekends leading up to the exams, we put on additional sessions for support in exams. These are personalised and run by trained examiners. These equate to 12 additional school days .	During exams, students will follow a completely bespoke timetable aligned to their next exam. Once they have completed a subject, they focus on their next exam.	
Core Achieve Days: throughout the year we hold core achieve days to support students with additional mathematics and English support.			
Live Trials: trained markers and examiners walk students through how to answer examinations and support with techniques to improve exam performance. This happens across all subject areas.			
RAP Meetings: Throughout KS4, leadership within the Academy hold regular meetings where each student in Y10/11 is discussed individually with regard to their needs, concerns and academic performance. Intervention strategies are then put in place on a personalised basis.			
Overall, across KS4, in addition to their usual lessons, through the Achieve programme, we offer students an additional 16 weeks of learning (a full term) .			



BTEC Subjects/PSAs

Throughout this academic year, students have been completing assessments in their BTEC subjects (Health and Social Care, BTEC Sport, Performing Arts and Dance). These assessments count towards students' final grade and therefore there are some subject areas where students are already on their way to achieving and securing good outcomes. Throughout the next 12 months, students will be completing more of these assessments (and in some instances, resitting ones from this year). It is imperative that all students attend for these assessments and are fully invested to ensure they are securing the best possible outcomes.

Evening, Saturday and Holiday Sessions

The academy is committed to ensuring the best outcomes for all students. For this reason, there are times throughout the year where students are invited to attend evening, Saturday, and holiday sessions. The specific dates and times of these sessions will be communicated in advance and our expectation is that all students attend. They will be run by specialist markers and examiners and will directly support success in the GCSE examinations.

Progression

To support students moving on from year 11, there will be sessions during Tutor Time and Life Skills lessons where students will focus on post 16 life including careers. In these, students will create CVs and explore interview techniques. Students will also be given the opportunity to look at and apply for courses via the Start website. This is for courses run both at STWA and externally. The decisions students start making during year 11 are very important ones and students may require guidance to help them with this. To request a one-to-one appointment with the Careers Adviser, please do get in contact with Mrs Wileman on: careersguidance@stwacademy.co.uk.

Raising Achievement Evening

The year 11 team hosts Raising Achievement Evenings for parents, carers and students. These evenings provide important exam information as well as extra support and the ways in which you can help your child at home. The first of these will be on **Thursday 16 October (either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm)**. This evening will be our 'Tools for Revision' evening for year 11 students and parents/carers, where we discuss how to revise and provide students with revision guides and materials for all of their subject areas.

Attendance

It is an expectation that students' attendance is above 97% (as a minimum) across the academic year. Where this is not the case, the Attendance team and the year 11 team will be in touch to discuss this and support you with ways to improve your child's attendance. Good attendance is vital to achieving good results, therefore, we continue to use the Fast Track process and the Fixed Penalty Notice system in year 11 to ensure attendance is not a barrier to success. In order to be eligible to attend the Class of 2026 Prom (date TBC), students need to achieve at least 97% attendance during a half term, with the first batch of tickets being issued to eligible students in November 2025.

Revision

The academy has invested in a range of revision material and resources that your child will receive and learn to use frequently. It is crucial during this last year of secondary education that your child is revising independently outside of the classroom and in addition to the intervention offered to them.

During year 11, students will continue to access Tassomai, an app that uses an algorithm to support students' bespoke revision and it is expected that they achieve their weekly goal (or four daily goals for Science) for each subject assessed through Tassomai (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Computer Science).



ClassCharts/Show My Homework (Homework, Rewards and Parent Information System)

As you are aware, we use ClassCharts, which provides cutting edge technology to support your child's learning and inform you of their progress and next steps. All homework will continue to be set on SMHW so students can access and submit work electronically. We advise you contact us if you cannot log in for any reason and let us know if you do not have access to an electronic device so we can provide you with the same information. The apps will be updated daily to keep you informed of your child's timetable (including period 4 lessons), homework, behaviour, and rewards.

Benefits of Year 11

The year 11 benefit most students who work hard and follow the rules look forward to is an invite to the Class of 2026 Prom. Towards the end of year 11, students will also have the chance to purchase hoodies and yearbooks to remind them of their time at secondary school. Finally, the biggest benefit of year 11 is gaining as many good qualifications as possible and being able to do whatever they wish to after year 11.

Rewards

The academy has always taken pride in rewarding students for their investment, effort, and attitude towards their studies. Year 11 is a challenging yet rewarding year. For those students who work hard and put in the effort, we will do our best to ensure they are rewarded and recognised. Although we will still use the RIDE Point rewards system, year 11 will also have their very own bespoke rewards incentives which will hopefully encourage and reward those who truly deserve it and go the extra mile.

At least twice per year, we offer year 11 students the opportunity to experience a driving lesson with a qualified driving instructor as a reward for the highest levels of investment and attendance during our Achieve sessions.

Getting in touch/concerns or queries

If you have any concerns regarding your child's academic progress or need information or guidance on supporting your child's progression, please get in touch:

b.woodhouse@stwacademy.com

r.shaw@stwacademy.com

Or for a behavioural concern:

b.walker@stwacademy.com

a.wileman@stwacademy.com

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 11 Team

