

Our ref: MMC/NWI

18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a fantastic start to the new term, with all students being welcomed into an environment of exceptional learning experiences, positivity, and the continued dedication of our staff team. As always, the academy this week has been filled with energy, purpose and achievement across the school. Our students have shown excellent engagement in their lessons this week and continue to reflect our values through their behaviour and conduct around the academy. From enrichment clubs and sports to the launch of our Careers Instagram page, it has been wonderful to see students embracing opportunities both in and beyond the classroom, making this a truly positive and inspiring week for our academy community.

Our new year 7 students have been outstanding and deserve high praise from parents and carers. We feel incredibly fortunate to welcome such a wonderful group of young people to our community. This year group also marks our largest intake to date, with 260 students joining us.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form

We were delighted to welcome our new year 12 students as they began their Sixth Form experience. It was encouraging to see so many enthusiastic and motivated individuals, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Meanwhile, our new year 13 students returned full of focus and determination as they dive into their final year. We are proud of their commitment and are here to support them every step of the way. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year with all our sixth form learners.

Year 11

Year 11 students have made a fantastic start to the final year of their GCSE studies, with the highest level of investment evident in every single lesson. While we look forward to this continuing, we must reiterate that students attending school every day possible and being punctual is essential, as it will directly impact GCSE performance.

NGRT Reading Tests

Developing students into confident, well-read readers, is a key aspect of our broad and balanced curriculum here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. To monitor and support our year 7 to 10 students, we are continuing to invest in The NGRT reading assessment test, which will generate a report about your child's reading ability. Key data from the report will be shared with all staff, so teachers can ensure they are planning and delivering lesson content which is challenging yet appropriate for our students. We will test your child biannually so we

can track their progress and offer specific intervention where needed. This reading tests commenced this week and will conclude on Friday 9 October 2026. As an academy, we will support your child to develop their confidence, enjoyment and reading skills through their English and reading lessons and the wider curriculum, as every teacher at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is a teacher of reading.

Personal Development

Enrichment Electives

We had a superb start to our KS3 electives this Wednesday. Students were full of energy and excitement, yet the atmosphere when they moved around school and on corridors during period 3 was as calm and ordered as any other day. Feedback from staff and students has been incredibly positive. We are determined to give our students a vast array of positive experiences outside the classroom; where they visit places they haven't been before, gain new skills and passions and make memories for life.

Enrichment Clubs

Our half term one after-school enrichment programme has been published; please encourage your child to take the opportunity to learn a new skill and develop new friendships at our fantastic enrichment clubs.

Sports Clubs

Our PE department are always keen to start after-school enrichments clubs straight away and have lots of exciting fixtures and tournaments booked in this year! Students should speak to their PE teachers if they would like to get involved.

Sports Fixtures

Football

On Thursday, our year 9 boys football team played against Rossington All saints Academy, winning the game 7-4. Mr Cairns is very proud of the resilience shown by the whole team. Special mention to Henry B and Alex S, who both stepped up from year 8 and played very well. Man of Match: Samuel O.

Events

Bushcraft Residential

On Wednesday, 34 of our year 9 students set off for the Bushcraft Residential to Castle Howard. The visit provided students an opportunity to experience a huge range of activities such as trap building, fire lighting, target sports, including axe throwing, archery and first aid skills.

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children who will be in years 5 or 6 from September 2026 and you are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our year 5 and 6 Open Evening on **Wednesday 30 September 2026** to see the exceptional learning experiences on offer at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. This evening will be a fantastic opportunity for prospective parents to see the academy and to meet the dedicated team of staff before making the important decision of which secondary school is right for their child.

House Update

On Tuesday, our Brodsworth House students enjoyed a trip to Alton Towers. The visit was organised to recognise their contribution to the success of Brodsworth House being crowned the 2025/2026 House Champions.

Golden Ticket Reward

Our students have made a brilliant start to the year, earning lots of achievement points through their hard work in lessons, electives, and enrichment.

Attendance

I am pleased to report that Sir Thomas Wharton Academy's attendance was above the national average last year and a great improvement from the year before. This year, we are striving to improve even further to ensure that every student is present and able to benefit from the excellent teaching that takes place each day.

To support this goal, we have increased the capacity of our attendance team, enabling us to offer more direct support to families when students are not in school. Each day, our team will be visiting students who are absent—whether due to illness or other reasons—to see what help we can provide.

We've made a strong start to the academic year, with our year 7 cohort achieving 100% attendance on most days this week. Across the academy, very few students have been absent, and our team has already begun visiting families to offer support where needed.

Standards

Just to remind parents/carers that the entrance gate is closed each morning at precisely 8:20 am. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before this time to avoid being marked late. It is important that all students are in the building ready for their morning standing assembly.

Communication App

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have logged on to our new communication app: My Child At School (MCAS). If you are experiencing any difficulties in using the app, please contact: enquires@stwacademy.com.

Academy Car Park

Please can you ensure that if your child is dropped off or collected by car, you adhere to the following sections below for the safety of all students at the academy.

1. All students should be dropped off and collected in the designated location on the entrance road into school, ensuring you **do not block the bus bay. Students should not be picked up in the car park or at the front of school.** Only students with medical issues are permitted to do this. |
2. When exiting school, **please use the one-way system and do not exit through the main entrance gates.** We have over 1,300 students leaving at once on Wednesdays and it is important that the signage is followed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal