

Our ref: MMC/NWI

2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an exciting week at the academy with our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening taking place on Wednesday. This event saw us open up the academy and welcome over 650 members of our community to experience the exceptional learning experiences that take place here on a daily basis. It was fantastic to see the looks on people's faces as they walked around the building taking in the - themed areas and figuring out which individual each department was representing. Events like this one really give us the opportunity to show-off all what we are about at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, and I would like to thank all those that came to visit us on the night and look forward to welcoming prospective students next academic year.

We are moving to a fortnightly newsletter to keep parents and carers updated on school news, upcoming events, activities taking place and our achievements, every two weeks.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form

On Thursday 1 October, some of our Sixth Form students headed off on our annual residential to Cambridge University and Thorpe Park! We're looking forward to a fantastic couple of days, giving students the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, build friendships and create some great memories together.

Next week, our year 13 students will begin their trial examinations. We wish all of our students the very best as they prepare and remind them that these exams are an important opportunity to identify areas for development and help them prepare for their final examinations.

Year 11 October Half Term Achieve

Over October half term, we'll be hosting a number of Achieve sessions to support students with preparing for trial examinations in November as well as coursework components before Christmas. Over the last five years, students who attended these sessions found them to be incredibly beneficial and they performed significantly higher than students who did not attend.

Students are not expected to attend in uniform, but they will need to bring equipment (e.g. pen, calculator, revision guides) and refreshments.

To support with resourcing the sessions, we ask that students sign up to the sessions they plan to attend using this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/TPN7wBxSnu>

Tassomai

This week, we re-launched Tassomai with year 11, which is our GCSE revision app for English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Computer Science. Students who complete 100% of their weekly goals in all subjects will receive a can of sugar free pop as part of Tassomai Tuesday. Students who fail to achieve their weekly goals must attend daily lunchtime detentions for 10-15 minutes.

Next week, we'll be launching Tassomai with year 10 students. Further information about Tassomai and its potential impact can be found here: [How does Tassomai work? — Tassomai](#)

Careers

The Work Ready Pledge

Following government guidance around the skills and employment initiative and requirements for the work experience guarantee, this year, we have launched a work ready pledge, where students will start at Bronze in year 7 and progress through silver and Gold to Diamond by year 13. This pledge is designed for students to help them make improved links between the world of work and their experiences.

Better Learners Better Workers

Well done to all the applicants who applied for the Better Learners Better Workers programme. The quality of applications this year has far surpassed previous years. The company were taken back by how well students presented themselves in interview and we would like to congratulate all those who were successful in gaining one of the ten places.

Careers Clinic

The Careers Clinic elective has started in full swing, with students having been exposed to experiences of Cabin Crew, Composing and DJ techniques. This elective aims to help students understand the range of industries available to them when they leave school, whilst developing work experiences to help prepare them for the world of work.

Personal Development

Duke of Edinburgh

Year 9 are off to great start with the DofE big teach sessions during Thursday tutor period. Students have been learning about first aid and how to stay safe in preparation for their two-day, one-night, expedition in June. Through the Wednesday electives, students are busy working towards hitting the criteria for the skills, physical and volunteering elements of the Bronze award. Well done, year 9!

Electives

Our exceptional electives provision has continued to thrive at the start of this academic year. Students have been full of energy and excitement, yet the atmosphere when they move around school and on corridors during period 3 is as calm and purposeful 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.

Extra-Curricular Enrichment

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. Our year 7 students will have the opportunity to build their enrichment timetable on their Investment in Learning evening. We have again seen a huge increase in students accessing our extra-curricular offer.

Sports Fixtures

Football

Girls Year 7/8

On Thursday 24 September, our year 7/8 girls football team played against Trinity Academy and came away with a 4-0 victory.

The girls put in a fantastic team performance, showing great determination, teamwork and skill throughout the game.

Woman of the Match: Mimi

Special mention: Naya, Sienna and Annabelle produced some unbelievable moments of play, demonstrating confidence, composure and excellent teamwork.

Goals: Mimi, Sienna and Naya all got themselves on the scoresheet.

On Thursday 1 October, our year 7/8 girls played again, this time against The Laurel Academy. The girls came away with another victory: 4-3.

The girls put in the effort from the first whistle to the last, showing unbelievable determination, effort and team spirit. They dug deep and supported each other – what a team!

Woman of the match: All of them - they gave absolutely everything!

Special mention: Grace deserves huge praise for running all the way from halfway back to defend when needed – this sums up the attitude of the whole team!

Boys Year 7

On Monday 28 September, the new year 7 football team made their debut in a fixture against The Ruth Gorse Academy in the National Cup.

The boys played exceptionally well; particularly as this was the first opportunity for them to play together as a team – it was clear to see the potential they have! The game ended with a win to the Ruth Gorse Academy: 6-4.

With having over 30 students attending training, it was a tough selection process – well done to all the boys involved!

Goals: Josh, Reuban and Sam

Boys Year 9

On Monday our year 9 boys also played, against Quarrydale Academy in the National cup. Unfortunately, the game ended 4-3 to Quarrydale Academy and the squad came away feeling very hard done by and should have won the game.

Man of the match: Leo

Goals: Jacob and Sam

Monday wasn't our night!

Hockey

On Thursday 24 September, our year 9/10 boys elective hockey team went to Doncaster Hockey Club to play against Hall Cross Academy.

The mixed team secured a 2-2 draw.

Goals: Lucas

A huge achievement for the boys who played phenomenally and should be very proud of themselves!

Netball

On Thursday 1 October, both our year 7 and year 9 girls played their first match of the season against Trinity Academy.

The year 7 team were absolutely fantastic – winning the match 5-1! Miss Rusby is very excited about what this team will win in the future as they played as though they had been playing together for years!

Woman of the match: Millie – who's shooting was absolutely out of this world!

The year 9 team were also brilliant – winning the match 13-5! They dominated the match from start to finish.

Woman of the match: Lucy – who controlled the game in the centre court throughout.

Both teams represented the academy so well, Miss Rusby had to remind them that they were there to play netball and not to make friends!

Events

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

On Wednesday 30 September, we held our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening. The evening was 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.

Year 11 Skills to Success Evening

On Tuesday 13 October, we will welcome all parents and carers of year 11 students to our annual Year 11 Skills to Success Evening, which includes:

- A presentation from leaders about year 11 and what to expect, including key dates and events.

- A classroom-based session with form tutors and subject leaders about effective revision strategies.
- Every student receiving a bespoke set of revision materials worth over £100, which are in addition to those already received in year 10.
- Refreshments and an opportunity to speak to leaders from Sixth Form and SEND, as well as With Me in Mind.

The event will last approximately one hour, starting with a presentation at either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm.

Please use this link to sign up: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/NG6Kh2rSmx>

Year 7 Investment in Learning

On Wednesday 21 October we will welcome all parents and carers of the current year 7 cohort to our annual Year 7 Investment in Learning and Enrichment showcase from 3:30 until 6:30 pm where you will receive information from the senior leadership team, meet form tutors and explore the enrichment opportunities for young people to attend.

Photography Visit to York

On Tuesday 29 September, our year 11 and 12 photography students visited the city of York and took the opportunity to photograph York's famous tourist spots. The photographs will further support students with producing a body of work that will contribute towards their coursework units.

Rewards

Transition

At the end of the last academic year, Miss Preston, our Year 6 Transition Lead, announced a competition for our new year 7 cohort to enter. They needed to complete an activity booklet filled with tasks from every department in school to be in with the chance of winning either an iPad, Amazon Kindle or a £50 voucher. Miss Preston was blown away with the number of entries received and announced the three lucky winners: Tommy A, Oliver S and Jessica C.

House Update

Last week, we held our half termly house assemblies where we relaunched our house system for this academic year. Students were introduced to their new house leaders, engaged in tasks to build their house identity and explored their goals for the upcoming year.

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 and learning that takes place each day.

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.

Our year 7 students have started the term in an excellent manner. We will now move to toilets being accessible only at social times for year 7 students to ensure they maximise their lesson time.

E-Scooters

Please can we remind all parents and carers that the use of e-scooters is not permitted on the school site. For the safety of all pupils, families and staff, we ask that e-scooters are not ridden anywhere on school grounds.

Tea and Talk Evening

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our school, our Tea and Talk group meets once per term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team.

The Tea and Talk group has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents and carers and members of the community to provide feedback to leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for the academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 November from 5:00 until 6:30 pm.

If you would like to join our group, please email: admin@stwacademy.com.

Further meetings during this academic year will be held on Wednesday 27 January and Wednesday 12 May 2027.

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