



MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST

Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Sir Thomas Wharton
Academy

Enrichment

at Sir Thomas
Wharton Academy

There's more to school
than just lessons



OUR VISION

Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

OUR KEY DRIVERS



THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

Always set and deliver the highest standards: never settle for less.



INVEST TO ACHIEVE

Care about the now; create the very best for your future.



EVERYONE IS VALUED

We are unique individuals; we work together to achieve success.



NO EXCUSES

Create solutions, not excuses.



NEVER GIVE UP

Resilience is essential; self belief drives improvement.



CULTIVATE YOUR CHARACTER

Qualifications open doors; your character gets you through them.



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OUR CURRICULUM INTENT

The Sir Thomas Wharton Academy curriculum is designed, delivered and monitored with principles of knowledge and assessment at its core. The curriculum is aspirational, deliberately challenging and it never assumes that students cannot access complex material. Rather, it builds on the knowledge acquired in the primary phase and “starts with the end in mind” by considering the skills, knowledge and character required for higher education and employment.

— OUR CURRICULUM INTENT IS TO: —

Inspire imagination and develop interests, specialisms and key skills.

Provide appropriate challenge through access to complex material and concepts.

Provide equality and promote aspiration for all learners irrespective of starting point, learning needs, background and disposition.

Facilitate positive progression routes through the student's educational journey into sustainable further and higher education, training and employment.

Provide relevance to context and community to enable social and economic mobility.

Prepare children and young people to be successful learners for life, responsible citizens and confident individuals.



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Contents

Welcome from the Principal	5	Science	29
Careers	7	SEND	31
Character Education	8	STEM	32
English	10	Duke of Edinburgh's Award	35
Mathematics	12	Y11 Prom	36
French	15	Easter Lunch	38
High Ability	17	An Audience With...	39
Library	18	Christmas Lunch	40
Performing Arts	20	Academy Awards	43
Physical Education	23	The House System	45
Extra-Curricular Activities and Teams	26		

Welcome from the Principal:

Enrichment plays a significant part in our vision of “delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives”.

Enrichment allows students to cultivate their character to complement their academic achievements. It is widely acknowledged that participation in enrichment activities can provide students with the edge over competitors when applying for education or employment beyond Year 13.

Enrichment is at the heart of Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and students are provided with opportunities to be involved in an offer that includes academic groups and sports groups alongside other more bespoke opportunities.

We are proud of the range of our offer and we see enrichment as being pivotal in maintaining positive mental health and well-being. Due to the significant positive impacts of enrichment we want all of our students to take part in an enrichment opportunity from the extensive range on offer.

Mr M McDonald
Principal

Sir Thomas Wharton
Academy





Careers

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is committed to providing our students with a programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG), for all students in Years 7-13, that will inspire and motivate them from an early age.

We have a careers programme that will provide students with exceptional learning experiences outside the classroom to enable them to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives. There are many activities planned every year that support our students in making well-informed choices about subjects and careers for their future. These are available on our website. All students learn about careers education in their Life Skills lessons, where students use a programme called "Start" to create their own careers profile. This is based on their skills, qualities and interests. They build on this programme each year and store their personal information, goals and career aims in their locker as part of the build-up for their final CV.

We hold a wide range of careers events, including:

- Careers fairs with local employers
- College, sixth form and university visits
- Mock interview days
- Speakers during Life Skills lessons and career drop down days
- Work experience
- Employer engagement activities
- Skill building days

National Careers Week is also celebrated with lots of exciting activities and visitors to the school.

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is a HEPPSY school which means we have access to exciting activities provided by them, with Guest Speakers, Higher Education Encounters and revision boosting sessions. The Brilliant Club has been one of the highlights which we have run for the last 3 years with our students achieving extremely high grades and submitting work to a degree level standard. The students graduate at a local University and celebrate their success in style and we post the celebration on all our social media channels. The impact report shows the gains our students have made in written communication, verbal reasoning and preparation for Higher Education.



At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we are committed to helping all of our students develop skills and knowledge beyond academia. We aim to ensure that all students also develop exceptional character.

Character Education is a focal point of Tutor Periods, with a programme that is in place for the full academic year. This complements the Academy's PRIDE agenda and Key Drivers. The curriculum is designed to develop character traits such as aspiration, resilience, confidence, ambition, motivation and growth mindset. Within the programme, students are challenged to set goals that they can work towards which will help them to realise their ambitions.

Students reflect on these goals, think about how they might deal with setbacks and consider the next steps that they need to take as they continue to develop their character. Aspects of Character Education are also planned to support students in maximising their learning experiences in the classroom. Students are given opportunities to consider how they can develop independent learning habits that are best suited to them, such as note-taking and study skills. Resources are created and distributed to all form tutors for delivery of sessions that build on the content, and provide the opportunity for students to assess their own personality traits and develop new skills and values. Tutors act as role-models – inspiring students by sharing their own personal goals and experiences, and by facilitating structured conversations about aspirations and resilience.

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Votes for Schools

Votes for Schools (VfS) is a debating programme that helps to support a wide range of skills which further contribute to the character development of students. Each tutor group is allocated a 20 minute session each week to actively engage in a topical issue. Students then consider their individual stance and potentially verbalise their own views and justification for these. Students are introduced to a current affairs question/dilemma and presented with information on both sides of the argument. During this session students are also set various tasks centred around group discussion and other interactive tasks.

Students are then asked to vote for whether they agree or disagree with the "motion" or whether they answer "yes" or "no" to the session's question. They're then asked to construct a two-minute speech to articulate their point of view. At the end of the session students' votes are added anonymously into the VfS website where results are collated and presented in-line with regional and national responses from over 2000 schools. The VfS initiative is an effective and popular aspect of tutor time provision among both students and staff which is also supported by staff from the English department as part of the Academy oracy provision.





English

We run a weekly book club with our students to encourage them to read a range of challenging literature linked to the core texts we study in English lessons.

While we love having the opportunity to read incredible novels together and to share our thoughts on characters, we are also passionate about nurturing students' interest in literature. There is no greater feeling for us as English teachers than seeing our students foster their passions for specific genres of literature.

Debate Club

The Sir Thomas Wharton Academy Debate Club has gone from strength to strength this year and we continue to welcome new members to explore a range of issues and to share their views on controversial topics, including 'Should animal testing be banned?' and 'Is it still important to study 'classic' literature?'. We're also fortunate enough to have support from subject specialists from across the academy who provide students with information about unfamiliar topics, so students are able to debate these with confidence.

Student Newspaper

The Canary provides a voice for our budding journalists to share news and information about key events from around the academy with students, parents and carers. While The Canary has taken the form of a school newspaper over the last two years, we are hoping to expand this to offer The Canary Podcast from September, so our community is kept up to date with the amazing work we are undertaking at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.





Mathematics

Projects


The mathematics team have projects within each half term encompassing mathematics in context. This includes the mathematics of rocket building, smoothie making and driving lessons. These projects allow students to access different areas of mathematics and STEM based learning.



International Visits

The mathematics department hold international visits to enrich the learning of all students. This year students have visited Paris and whilst there visited the mathematics and science museum, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower looking at the context of mathematics in each area. Another group of students have visited Barcelona this year to broaden their learning and support their mathematical study at Post 16. These students have also visited a mathematics museum and experienced the Spanish and Catalan culture.





“Students develop their language learning via games, films and music and also further enhance their knowledge of French culture.”



French

KS3 French Club

KS3 French club runs weekly and is open to all students from Years 7-9 across all abilities. Students develop their language learning via games, films and music and also further enhance their cultural knowledge of France and other French speaking countries. Additionally, prior to assessments, we support students who may be feeling apprehensive and help them to become more confident in their skills. French club is a fun group where students reinforce the vocabulary learnt in class whilst developing new friendships.

French Reading Club

French Reading Club is a weekly lunchtime club which is open to all year groups. Students can develop their cultural knowledge on France and other French speaking countries via a variety of texts both in their mother tongue and the French language. This club helps develop reading and literacy skills whilst also enhancing students' interest in la Francophonie.

French Breakfast Club

French Breakfast Club is available to KS4 students to support revision towards their GCSEs. Students enhance their language skills whilst enjoying a variety of French pastries in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere.

“At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we are very keen to support and encourage students to become independent.”





High Ability

Aspire Project

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we are very keen to support and encourage students to become independent, creative and curious learners, who are able to lead and direct their own learning. To support the students in developing these skills our high ability KS3 students take part in our Aspire project. This enables them to direct their own learning on a project of their own choice. The students choose a project, develop it and present it to their teachers and peers.

The project can be presented in any form: artwork, a film, music, an experiment, sport related, a written research project, or something of their own choice. Students have access to drop-in workshop sessions over the course of the project for support and to further develop their project. There is an opportunity for parents to vote for their favourite projects and a "People's Choice" award is presented to the top ten students. Each student is rewarded for taking part in the project and there is an Aspire trophy for the student with the most votes.

"Each student is rewarded for taking part in the project and there is an Aspire trophy for the student with the most votes."

Library

Students' reading skills are important to their success in school as they will allow them to access the breadth of the curriculum and improve their communication and language skills. It is vital that students are exposed to a range of texts which both challenge and illuminate their understanding of the world.

Here at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we also advocate reading for pleasure as there is a strong association between the amount of reading for pleasure students do and their reading achievement. Students who read for pleasure make significantly more progress in vocabulary, spelling and maths than students who read very little. Plus, reading for pleasure has many non-literacy benefits and can increase empathy, improve relationships and give an insight into the world views of others. We have invested significantly in our school library to ensure it is an exciting and informative space for all our students to benefit from.

This academic year we have purchased a large number of reading texts to replenish our library stock; we have everything from non-fiction to graphic novels, Doncaster Book Award titles to popular fiction choices and a selection of subject specific texts to support all aspects of our curriculum. We are also proud to announce that we have several enrichment reading clubs running in the library after school. We have introduced Sixth Form reading mentors to support students with their reading and the library is open to all students at break and lunch times.



“We have introduced Sixth Form reading mentors to support students with their reading and the library is open to all students at break and lunch times.”

Performing Arts

Drama Club

Drama Club is mainly aimed at Key Stage 3 students and runs once per week at lunchtime. The aim of the club is to develop all of the transferable skills Performing Arts offers and to give students an opportunity to showcase their performance skills. It is also a great opportunity for sixth form students to support younger students.

Vocal Club

Our Vocal Club is available to support singers who have lessons, either in school or externally; anyone is welcome to join in and perform a range of songs. The club is on one evening a week. It is primarily to develop ensemble skills and vocal harmony in a range of genres. In the summer term students rehearse a selection of songs to perform in the Performing Arts showcase.

Showcases

During the summer term, we have a showcase evening, where students from across the academy can be involved. Previously, these have run as a celebration of Music, Dance and Drama at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

Peripatetic Lessons

We have a range of peripatetic music tuition in school provided by very experienced private teachers. These are charged for on a termly basis and include brass, woodwind, percussion, strings, piano, classical guitar, electric guitar and vocal tuition. Students can opt in with parental consent via MyEd or from Miss Hudson in Performing Arts.

Exam Performances

Every year, the Performing Arts examination groups in Y10, 12 & 13 have a performance exam in front of an audience of peers. Family and friends are invited to attend. We hire the Doncaster Little Theatre so students are able to perform in a professional setting and work with sound and lighting technicians. Performances have ranged from "Fosse" showcase – a celebration of the practitioner's career to dramatic extracts from Frantic Assembly's Pool (No Water) and a hilarious devised performance: "Tom, Dick & Harry" based on "Macbeth".






School Productions

Every year, Sir Thomas Wharton Academy puts on a whole school production which is open to anyone wishing to audition. Rehearsals begin in September, and run two evenings a week for a February performance date. We alternate between a straight play and a musical to allow different performers to shine. In recent years we have performed: Back to School – including extracts of “Grease”, “Godber’s Teechers”, “Matilda” & “School of Rock”. Shakespeareance – A double bill of “Macbeth” & “As You Like it” and “Chicago”.

Theatre Trips

Over the years, the Performing Arts Department has run numerous theatre trips to see a range of professional productions. Recent trips have included the National Theatre production of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” and the touring production of “The Woman in Black” at Sheffield’s Lyceum Theatre, “Everybody’s Talking about Jamie” and “A Monster Calls”.

A low-angle, slow-motion shot of a basketball player in a black jersey shooting a blue ball into a hoop. The player's hands are visible reaching up towards the ball. The background is a blurred gymnasium with a wooden floor and a basketball hoop with an orange rim.

“We are very proud of the results our BTEC Sport students achieve. Students who select to study Sport at KS4 are supported by their teachers to ensure they achieve what they are capable of and beyond.”



Physical Education

BTEC Sport

We are very proud of the results our BTEC Sport students achieve. Students who select to study Sport at KS4 are supported by their teachers to ensure they achieve what they are capable of and beyond. The course is changing for the cohort starting in September 2022 but the department will continue to offer extra support through morning and after school clubs to deepen understanding and prepare students for controlled assessments and examinations. Students will continue to develop their own fitness and practical application in a sport of their choice as well as study a leadership programme where they learn the importance of leadership attributes, skills and qualities and then plan to apply these skills to teach a group of Y7 or Y8 students.

Primary Sport Partnership

The STWA PE department has excellent links with our primary feeder schools and on Fridays a dedicated member of the PE department visits and teaches PE in primary schools and organises a range of tournaments and festivals to KS1 and KS2 children, ranging from the Golden Boot football tournament, dance festivals and Multi skills festivals. STWA students frequently support the delivery of these events and enjoy the opportunity of being sports leaders, who run, organise and officiate competitions. We receive many compliments from primary school teachers about how well our young leaders have worked with primary school children.



Sports Day

Our fantastic annual traditional Sports Day is an inter-house athletics event which really embraces the ethos of house identity, belonging and competition. Participation in events and supporting each other provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate a real sense of PRIDE in representing Cusworth, Brodsworth, Chatsworth and Wentworth Houses. We aim for maximum participation across all year groups and work hard in PE lessons to prepare all students to feel confident to sign up for events to represent their house on the track and field. There is a boys' and girls' competition per year group and for each of the eleven events, two students per house, per competition can enter. We also encourage teams to select team captains who take on a leadership role throughout the day. As spectators, we encourage all students and staff to support and applaud all competitors and we enjoy inviting the whole academy onto the field in the afternoon to celebrate the success of individual performances.

Gym and Dance Spectacular

Our Gym and Dance Spectacular is the PE Department's pride and joy and is the epitome of the fantastic performances choreographed by our students in their gymnastics and dance lessons and extra-curricular clubs at KS3 and 4. Usually held at Easter, we annually invite 250 guests to enjoy our show which comprises of 130 students that demonstrate a range of floor and apparatus gymnastics routines, high and low vaulting, tumbling and sequences which exhibit themes of traveling and balance. This is as well as displaying some of our amazing choreographed dance performances, looking at styles such as Michael Jackson, Street, Musical Theatre and work produced by students whilst studying our BTEC Performing Arts/Dance.



Extra-Curricular Activities and Teams

We run a range of extra-curricular sporting activities across the Academy. These include:

- Netball
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Football
- Fitness Suite
- Rounders
- Athletics

We are always open to suggestions or requests from students to widen the offer. We take part in local and national team games and competitions and have been very successful in area football and athletics competitions. We are also keen to provide the opportunity to take our teams to spectate national sporting events such as the International Badminton competition in Birmingham, netball and football matches. We are also currently looking into a visit to Wimbledon.

In addition to this we have other extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our students including:

- Library Leaders
- Boys reading Club
- Brilliant Club
- Drama Club
- Vocals Club
- Participation in whole school performances
- Science STEM Club
- KS3 Enrich and Inspire programme
- High ability students Aspire programme
- Careers visits



Enriching our Curriculum

We are working hard to re-build our subject enrichment activities now Covid restrictions have lifted. These will include such opportunities as: A trip to Paris, geography field trips; university visits; visits to historical areas of interest; theatre visits; Duke of Edinburgh, STEM visitors in school and many more. We hope you will join us in encouraging all students to join in some form of extra-curricular activity weekly so they can enjoy some exceptional learning experiences outside the classroom and can continue to build on their cultural capital through the new opportunities on offer.



“A trip to Paris; geography field trips; university visits; visits to historical areas of interest; theatre visits; Duke of Edinburgh, STEM visitors in school and many more.”



Science

Students are given the opportunity to hear from external guest speakers which have previously involved:

Dr Matt Perkins

Year 9s, 10s and A-level Physics students have the opportunity listen to a guest lecture by Dr Matt Perkins who gives an insight into his career in Engineering and building satellites. Dr Perkins is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and has a BSc and PhD in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from the University of Leeds. He has had involvement in several real space missions, including landing a probe on a comet and flying a satellite past Jupiter and Pluto. Dr Perkins also shared stories of previously working with Elon Musk while working on past projects.

Dr Nick Beard

Another guest speaker we welcome is Dr Nick Beard. He grew up in Tickhill and came to Sir Thomas Wharton many years ago when it was called Edlington Secondary School. He has had a very successful career in Medicine and artificial intelligence. He wants to share his experiences with students at STWA with his main message to them being, "take advantage of as many opportunities as you possibly can".

Enrich and Inspire Activities

Triple scientists take part in an enrichment activity to see cell division in action. They carefully followed a procedure in order to take some photos of cells going through mitosis. Year 7 & 8 take part in the Enrich and Inspire program. Science host activities for students based around careers in Science. One is to have a taster at being a Biomedical Scientist, testing various "urine" samples for evidence of diabetes and kidney damage. Another opportunity gives students the opportunity to be engineers, testing the strength of various compound materials.

Engineering Skill Camp

A group of Year 10 students have the chance to take part in a week long apprenticeship placement through the company Liberty Steel and Sheffield College. The placement takes the students to steel manufacturing and production companies such as Liberty Steel and Forgemasters. They also have the opportunity to visit the advanced manufacturing park in Rotherham.



"Science Week was a great opportunity to talk about the impact of Science on the planet."

“Students can attend our quiet club during break and lunch times to access computers, receive additional homework support or to spend time with small groups of friends.”



SEND

We offer a daily "Quiet Club" to support students who like to sit inside with a small group of friends during their downtime at school.

Students have access to computers where they can work on Hegarty Maths and Show My Homework; sometimes students enjoy reading the news or researching their interests. Students can either bring a packed lunch or collect something to eat from the school dining room first and then come along. They can sit and chat quietly with friends, receive assistance with homework or play card games. This intervention is staffed by our SEND department and is a popular option for students who enjoy a quiet environment.





STEM

Students take part in a number of STEM activities at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. There are a number of joint projects between the STEM subjects to incorporate contextual learning and apply subject knowledge to a variety of scenarios.

Some of these include projects on negative numbers and liquid density whereby students make a working thermometer within their mathematics and science lessons. Further examples are using coding within mathematics and ICT to code a robot. Students look at ratios in context with technology and specifically food technology using different ratios to make different items and assessing the impact. STEM activities allow students to express their creativity within science and mathematics based subjects and investigate and evaluate their findings. Our careers programme for Years 7 to 11, and our Post 16 provision, also offer specific focussed activities based around STEM.

“There are a number of joint projects between the STEM subjects to incorporate contextual learning and apply subject knowledge to a variety of scenarios.”



“With the students completing a skill, physical and a voluntary task, students are encouraged to learn new things and support the local community.”



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, we are proud to offer the chance for students to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. With the students completing a skill, physical and a voluntary task, students are encouraged to learn new things and support the local community. The students who have completed these will get the chance to take part in the expedition, building their resilience and team working skills. This is an award that apprenticeships, colleges and universities look for as this demonstrates the level of independence that a person is capable of.





Y11 Prom

Following their five years with us, we annually hold our year 11 leavers' assembly and prom. These allow us to showcase and celebrate everything that our students have achieved over the five years that they are with us and give the students the opportunity to get dressed up and go onto Post 16 in style.







Easter Lunch

As part of our family dining events, students and staff come together to enjoy an Easter tea party, including a grazing box, games, bingo, easter treat and most importantly, well deserved social time with their friends.



An audience with...

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, every member of staff firmly believes that exceptional experiences for the students should be at the heart of all that they strive to achieve.

This past year we held the inaugural "An audience with..." being held at STWA, with the aim to further inspire the aspirations of students. We are proud to align its aspirational culture and vision with that of inspirational people in the public eye, and the intention is to continue in this vein with more inspiring visitors in the future.

Having the astronaut Tim Peake visit the academy for the afternoon was a prime example of us achieving our vision and growing the aspirational culture of our school. Students listen intently as

guests speak of their incredible journeys in life and how they are able to fulfil dreams. Visitors then answer a wide range of interesting and thought-provoking questions from students. When students met Tim, they were in awe of the fact that they were meeting 'a real-life astronaut' and were certainly inspired by Tim's story as it gave them a true-to-life example of a person fulfilling their dreams and never giving up. This message forms the basis of one of the values at STWA and serves to further inspire the aspirations of the students.





Christmas Lunch

During the final week of school before Christmas, we hold the STWA Christmas lunch for all of our students. We invite special guests including local VIPs. During this event, all students are given the opportunity to have a Christmas dinner with their friends in the Academy and play games, enjoying the festive spirit. Alongside this, we have some special visitors to the Academy, which include Santa's reindeer!









Academy Awards

We hold our summer awards ceremony to celebrate the range of achievements of our students across the Academy. These showcase our best talents and students (both past and present) are invited to perform at the event. Sponsors from the local area come to the event and celebrate with us. Students are nominated by staff and receive awards for a range of things including subject awards, key driver awards and house awards.





The House System

Every student at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is a member of a school house. The four houses – Brodsworth, Chatsworth, Cusworth and Wentworth – are named after stately homes within our local area. Each house has its own badge, colour and set of values.

All four houses contain students from Years 7 to 13, uniquely enabling different year groups to come together. Members of staff are also placed in a house (usually the same one as their tutor group), embodying the house spirit fully as part of the Academy's ethos. Under the guidance of a head of house, each house takes part in assemblies and extracurricular events across the academic year. The overall aim of the house system is to provide students with the opportunity to align themselves with a house and develop a sense of pride and cohesion with all other team members. As students and staff are split evenly between the four houses, they will work closely with students from other years and a range of staff in order to gain house points that will not only benefit them personally but also their house. House points will be available through house activities and competitions as well as in all taught lessons and around the academy on a daily basis. Linked closely with Character Education, the house system is designed to help students develop aspects of their character that will help them in their learning and personal development as well as all other parts of their daily life, both now and well into the future.

These include teamwork, determination, working together, resilience, pride, creativity, and leadership. Using the Academy PRIDE agenda, students will be able to earn house points on a weekly basis for demonstrating their ability to be prepared. By arriving to school all week, on time, and fully equipped students will earn 10 house points. In addition to this, they will also be able to achieve house points in every lesson by demonstrating the types of behaviours and actions that we aim to promote across the Academy. Resilience, Investment, Determination and Empathy are all areas through which students can achieve 2 house points in lessons.

Students will also be expected to work towards their PLEDGES each week that are designed to encourage students to go "above and beyond" in order to develop their skills, expand their life experiences and contribute to the academy community and wider society. Students will be awarded 25, 50 and 75 house points for the completion of bronze, silver, and gold awards. Finally, students can take part in a range of house activities on offer. These will take place at lunchtimes and after school, and involve a wide range of subjects and skills. Just participating will allow students to gain house points but competing and winning will bring even more.









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