

Our ref: MMC/GHR

8 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has seen the start of the festive season here at the academy. From Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children to many of our KS3 students enjoying the pantomime tonight, via staff and students learning a Christmas song in sign language and taking part in our Christmas Bake-Off, the festive spirit is alive and well at STWA. Of course, the exceptional learning experiences on offer to all our young people here at the academy continue alongside all the fun. Read on to find out more about what has been happening.

Teaching and Learning

As we seek to embed a homework culture into student life at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few shifts that you may have noticed over the last half term. We are currently piloting the approach of asking selected teachers to award positive and negative points for homework completed – we feel that this raises the profile of homework with those who have not completed it, whilst celebrating the work of those who have met the homework deadline. Furthermore, we are taking a cohort-led approach to intervening with those students who are not accessing their homework or completing very little. The purpose of this is to support students with breaking down barriers to completing homework, whilst also getting them into the habit of completing homework. Over the course of the coming term, we will support more students with this targeted intervention to ensure that all students can access their homework and complete it to a high standard. We look forward to rolling out rewards and more praise for those students who consistently complete their homework to the highest standard in the new year.

Events and Enrichment

Year 9 Parents Evening

On Tuesday 12th December, from 3:30pm – 6:30pm, we will have our Year 9 Parents Evening. This will offer parents and carers a chance to meet, in person, with subject teachers to discuss attitude and progress. The booking system is live via School Log In. There will also be an opportunity to discuss potential option choices for students. Further options information will be available at a later date.

Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 21st December, we are inviting local families with pre-school children into the Academy to enjoy a breakfast with Santa. We will be hosting this free event whereby all attendees will receive breakfast, a gift, a photo, a visit from a special guest and festive fun. The event will run from 9:45-11:15 and is open to everyone with pre-school age children aged 4 and under.

You can book your place on this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/eHbBxQ0RY2>



Christmas Dinner Day

This year's family dining Christmas Dinner is being held on Friday 22nd December. The menu for the meal will be shared with everyone at the beginning of December and just like in previous years, the cost of this meal is being covered by STWA as one of our exceptional experiences. We are looking forward to sharing a festive meal and a family dining experience with every single one of our students.

House Updates

LGE

Last week, we had our HT2 House Assemblies with students being awarded for their fantastic contributions towards cultivating their character. From Participation to Service Pledges being awarded, these students have all demonstrated resilience and determination to developing themselves and should be incredibly proud. We are sure that students can keep this momentum going with our Christmas Hamper House Competition getting our Pledges to gold!

Standards

Students who attend isolation will now be able to keep their mobile phone stored safely in the locked desk at the front of the room. The students will provide the teacher in isolation during tutor period with their phone before the tutor session begins, and each phone will be locked away and stored safely. Phones will be returned to students at the end of the day.

Please can we remind parents/ carers that ankle socks are not permitted in the academy. Students wearing theses will be asked to change into long black socks.

Post 16 News

Y11 interviews

Year 11 students have been meeting with Mr Dobson to discuss their Post 16 ambitions and undertaking interviews for Post 16 at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. These have been incredibly positive with students conducting themselves brilliantly. In the New Year, students will have the opportunity to sample A-Level lessons and experiencing 'a day in the life' of what it is like to be a Post 16 student.

Festive Fundraiser – Friday 15th December

Year 12 and Year 13 students are encouraged to join our festive themed fundraising events on Friday 15th December. Post 16 students are raising funds for our local charity organisation ECO (Edlington Community Organisation). Post 16 students are invited to come to school in festive clothing / pyjamas and are asked to contribute £1. In addition to this there are multiple events taking place through the day such as, Christmas Karaoke, Raffles, Hot Chocolates, Christmas Quiz, Bingo and more.

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

