

Our ref: MMC/GHR

19 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to parents who have completed our curriculum survey, for those who have not yet had chance please do so on the link below. The information allows us to gain a greater understanding of how key stakeholders feel about the learning that takes place in our academy. I have always said that education is a collective effort, and we must work together so that young people achieve.

We value all stakeholders' views on our curriculum at STWA, and so we are keeping the survey open until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, so that everyone who would like to contribute their views is able to do so.

Please use this link to provide us with your thoughts on how we can improve our offer to students,

<https://forms.office.com/e/zxS7JcxAX6>

## Events and Enrichment

### Access to Sheffield – Discover Us

On Tuesday this week, seven of our eager year 9 students visited the University of Sheffield as part of their Access to Sheffield programme. The programme is designed to give students a taste of university life. They had a tour of the university campus and experienced lectures. Students also worked with a range of different people from different schools on various tasks throughout the day, including presenting in front of an audience. All students were an absolute credit to the school during this invaluable experience.

### Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2024 will take place week commencing 5 February. It is an opportunity for all students at STWA to continue talking about mental health and to promote physical and mental wellbeing. During Children's Mental Health Week, we will be celebrating our achievement of the Silver Mental Health Award for Schools! This award recognises our commitment to providing children with expectational support for their mental health. The assessor stated: *'Visitors to Sir Thomas Wharton consistently describe an overwhelming sense of calm and positivity. Visitors witness strong staff-pupil relationships. The extensive mental health and behaviour management training initiatives that have been implemented for staff have had a notable impact on pupils. Knowledge about mental health has been distributed across the core team, and the graduated response ensures pupils receive the help that they need. The school is clearly committed to fostering an outward looking, collaborative approach to mental health and well-being.'* We are delighted to know that our students are receiving the support they really do deserve.

To further understand the mental health and wellbeing needs of our community, all students will complete a wellbeing survey in Children's Mental Health Week, which will inform staff members' next steps. We also have the School Nursing Team, With Me in Mind, and Kooth in school to run lunch time workshops.

### Accessit Library

We are really lucky at STWA to have a library system which is so much more than just loaning and returning books! Accessit Library is a fantastic resource for our students to use to view the resources we have in our library and reserve them to borrow and enjoy. Students can search by title, author, or even the subject that they would like a book about. As well as that, Accessit has links for homework help and research that can be used to easily find online websites and resources without having to use a separate search engine.

Accessit is readily available on students' single sign-in page and is also on this link - [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy \(accessit.online\)](#). Just sign in with the same username and password that students use for the single sign-in page, and it is all there for you to enjoy!



## **Badminton Championships**

Over the last few months, STWA students have been working on their badminton skills in preparation for the Doncaster Schools competition. Having won our league, we progressed to the Champions League finals to play against The Hayfield School and Trinity Academy. The team made a great start beating Trinity, so we just had to avoid being beaten by Hayfield. We won the first game but lost the next, meaning the team was 3,2 down with the last game to play. It was all on Ben H and Thomas M and yes, they did it, winning the last game, making it a draw. This meant that we won the Doncaster Schools Badminton competition! A big thank you to all players who have been every week, working on skills and tactics. Congratulations to the team and to Mr Webb, their proud coach. Please join us in saying a massive well done to the following students - Ben H, Seth H, Max G, David D, Thomas M, Archie S, Sam O, Lucas S, Max F, Rory S, Kian S, Luke G, and Jack G – all Doncaster School Badminton Champions!

## **Standards**

Following the success of our term one Golden Ticket rewards, we are excited to announce our second set of Golden Ticket events that will take place in term three. Each event requires students to gain a net positive figure of 360 reward points, and to have a minimum of 92% attendance.

The events are:

- 'Ready Set Cook' a cooking masterclass session
- The Easter film - a screening of a film, selected by students
- Bowling and a burger - an exciting trip to a bowling alley

## **Post-16**

Year 13 UCAS Deadline

For all students applying for Post 18 pathways through UCAS, the deadline to submit applications to Mr. Dobson is Wednesday 24 January. This will give the Post 16 team sufficient time to check and approve applications or, where necessary, discuss any changes needed with students.

Year 12 HeppSY Talk

Next week, Year 12 students will be attending a talk from HeppSY titled 'Exploring Routes Post 18'. The talk will support students in making decisions about their Post 18 choices. Students will attend this talk with their tutor group and have been informed about their arranged time slot.

Year 12 University of Sheffield 2024 Fair

On 14 March, the Post 16 team will be taking all Year 12 students to the University of Sheffield for a Spring Sheffield Fair. Students will be able to speak to universities, employers, and other Post 18 providers as well as attend UCAS workshops. The consent form and letter will be shared with parents shortly. Please make sure to complete the form before the deadline. The trip is compulsory to attend and free of charge to all Year 12 students.

EPQ Research Study Day

On Wednesday this week, the Y12 EPQ class spent a day at Lincoln University Library. They took part in a referencing session and spent some time gathering research for their individual projects. The students enjoyed a fantastic research day that was incredibly valuable for all involved.

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald  
**Principal**

