

MMC/GHR

26th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As half term 5 draws to a close I am reminded of the amazing effort that our young people have put into their own learning. We strive to give students great opportunities, but they must invest in their own future and engage in them for it to have impact. We have record numbers of students staying for enrichment and a fully invested Y11 group who continue to surpass even our highest expectations. We feel lucky to have the young people we do and thank parents for putting their faith in us to educate them.

Teaching and Learning

Week 2 of Exams and Holiday Revision Sessions

The second week of GCSE examinations has seen our Year 11 students continue to display exemplary levels of investment as they completed examinations in Chemistry, Geography, French, English Literature, Physics, and Computer Science. Attendance to our Breakfast Prepare to Achieve sessions has been excellent, with students taking up the offer of toast, fresh fruit, and hot drinks, as well as the support of subject teachers, to ensure they are fully prepared for each examination.

In parallel with Year 11, Post-16 examinations are taking place across both Year 12 and Year 13. Students have shown a continued desire to excel across all subject areas and have invested in Achieve sessions before, during and after the school day. The Post-16 team are thrilled with the levels of investment shown by students, both within lessons and during private study time, ensuring that they are primed for success in their examinations.

Throughout half term, our Achieve programme will continue to run from Tuesday 30th May until Sunday 4th June to support all students with final preparations as we enter the second half of the examination season. Parents and students have received details about the Achieve programme via Class Charts as well as a link to sign up to the sessions.

Events/Enrichment

Engineering Club Trip

As part of the enrichment programme here at STWA, the Engineering Club enjoyed a fantastic trip to the British Super Bikes Championship at Donnington Park on Sunday 21st May. The day began with a tour of the paddock and a unique look into the Paul Bird Racing garage, where students got the opportunity to talk to the pit crew and watch mechanics work on Tommy Bridewell and Glenn Irwin's motorbikes worth an astonishing £150,000. After this awesome experience, the students and Mr. Hawcroft enjoyed a great day's racing between riders, some of whom are the same age as our students.

Library News

To further promote students' use of the library, the subject shelves have been created as a place for students to get ahead in their subjects by giving them the opportunity to explore books specific to their school subjects. Each shelf is labelled with the subject, so they will be easier to navigate for students, rather than them having to check the Dewey decimal system to find the topic they are looking for. Every subject that is taught here at STWA has a shelf that will be developed and added to through the year with staff and student suggestions.

Students can visit the library at any time at break and lunch to loan books, and now there is a house reading competition taking place. This competition is a fantastic opportunity for avid readers to add to their house point totals by borrowing and reading books from the library.

SpongeBob the Musical trip

On Thursday 25th May we took 35 Year 7 and 8 students to see 'SpongeBob the Musical' at the Sheffield Lyceum Theatre. The students had a fantastic time and were a true credit to our academy; multiple members of the public were complimentary on the behaviour and presentation of pupils.

Adult Literacy Courses

We would like to thank those people who attended the first evening of the adult literacy courses being held here at STWA. The tutor, Sophie Ferris, was thrilled to meet the group who are all keen to earn their qualifications through this scheme. There are still spaces on the courses for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages,) and the Functional Skills course. Sophie is excited to welcome new recruits from Monday 5th June at either 4pm or 5pm; the time will be confirmed to participants when we have an indication of which start time suits more participants.

Inclusion Partnership

Our Inclusion Partnerships continue to be a brilliant termly event. The team from the Behaviour Outreach Support Service delivered a session on the teenage brain. It was fantastic to have parents and carers attend from every year group with a wealth of discussion around how we can support our teenagers. The Inclusion Team are grateful for parents and carers who choose to attend these events and work in coproduction with the academy. We are also incredibly grateful to Elaine and Paula, from the behaviour team, for delivering this session and the wealth of training offered to our staff team over the year.

Be Safe Around Open Water

Please follow this link to read a letter from the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service advising parents, carers, and students of the dangers of open water.

https://bit.ly/open_water_safety

PCAB (Parents and Community Advisory Board)

Our next PCAB meeting is being held at STWA on Wednesday 12th July from 5-6.30pm. This meeting is your opportunity to find out more about the exceptional learning opportunities on offer at STWA, as well as give your feedback on anything concerning the improvement journey that the academy is on.

Please register your interest with g.harris@stwacademy.com or complete the form on this link <https://forms.office.com/e/8GHUDgd4Vf>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

