

Our ref: MMC/NWI

8 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week marked an important milestone for our year 11 students as they began their GCSE examinations. We have been incredibly impressed by the dedication, resilience, and maturity they have shown throughout the year, and it has been wonderful to see students approach this important period with such focus and determination. While the coming weeks will undoubtedly be demanding, they also represent an exciting opportunity for students to showcase all they have learned and worked towards, and we are confident they will rise to the challenge.

Please note that examinations will have a small impact on the day-to-day running of the academy. Some classrooms will be used for exam access arrangements, meaning a small number of lessons may take place in alternative rooms. Any changes will be shared during tutor time and displayed on the boards around the academy.

This newsletter highlights key updates across teaching and learning, examinations, revision support, enrichment opportunities, and upcoming events. It has been particularly encouraging to see so many students embracing the wide range of opportunities available to them and continuing to make excellent progress both inside and outside the classroom.

We are also delighted to continue with a full year 10 work experience programme, giving students the opportunity to develop valuable insight into the world of work and begin exploring future career pathways.

As Nelson Mandela famously said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," and we remain committed to supporting every student to achieve their very best.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level and BTEC examinations commenced this week and will continue until late June. Individual timetables have been shared with the students and include the dates and times of their exams as well as their assigned room and seat numbers. Students have also been informed of a number of additional pre-exam achieve sessions.

We would like to thank both parents/carers and staff for the support that has gone into ensuring all students are fully prepared to sit their final examinations.

Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 completed their first written examinations this week, with students displaying full investment in both BTEC Health and Social Care, and BTEC Sport. Next week, all students will complete English Literature on Monday 11 May, followed by examinations in Business Studies, Biology, Geography, Computer Science, Mathematics and History.

A reminder to all parents that while the final examination is Physics on Monday 15 June, students must be available on Wednesday 24 June as this is GCSE contingency day.



All students have been issued with their Summer Achieve programme timetable, which includes their seat number as well as details of additional Achieve sessions taking place at weekends. This weekend's Achieve sessions are:

- Saturday 9 May: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - English Literature (*Macbeth*)
- Saturday 9 May: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm - Business Studies
- Sunday 10 May: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - English Literature (Poetry Anthology)
- Sunday 10 May: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm - Biology

Students can sign up to attend these sessions [here](#).

The full timetable of GCSE and A-level examinations can be accessed [here](#).

Year 11 May Half Term Achieve

Over May Half Term, we'll be hosting a number of Achieve sessions to support students' to prepare for their remaining examinations. Over the last four years, students who attended these sessions found them to be incredibly beneficial and they performed significantly higher than students who did not attend the sessions. Students are not expected to attend in uniform, but they will need to bring equipment and refreshments.

To support with resourcing the sessions, we'd like to request students sign up [here](#).

Tassomai

Our performance as a school continues to rank in the top 3% nationally, with students in years 10 and 11 completing almost 250 hours of quizzing and over 70,000 questions answered last week!

We remind students of the importance of continuing to achieve their weekly goals in all subjects as part of their revision for final examinations for year 11 and trial examinations in June for year 10.

Sparx - Mathematics

As an academy, we have completed over 8,000 hours of personalised learning, answered one million questions correctly and over 320 students have improved their times table fluency this year.

Students in years 10 and year 11 should continue completing weekly mathematics Tassomai tasks. This creates the "little and often" revision needed for success in mathematics.

We thank every parent and carer for their continued support and encouragement in completing mathematics home learning tasks.

Careers

Better Workers Better Learners

On Tuesday 28 April, our year 9 students on the Better Learners Better Workers programme visited Hydro Aluminium UK Ltd to gain a better understanding of the manufacturing process and careers available within the industry.

Women in STEM

On Wednesday 29 April, a group of students visited Sheffield Hallam University to take part in a selection of workshops and graduate Q&A panels, promoting the role of women in STEM industries.

Work Experience

This year's period of work experience will take place from **Monday 6 to Friday 10 July 2026**, when all of our year 10 and 12 students will go out into the workplace to gain insight into a chosen industry. Students have been working hard to reach out to employers to secure their placement. With only six weeks remaining, we would like



to take this opportunity to remind parents and students of the information needed to be able to upload placements onto Unifrog.

1. Company name
2. Company phone contact
3. Company email contact
4. Company address
5. Supervisors Name

Students access Unifrog every Monday during tutor period; however, they can also do this at home. Please head over to 'The Work Ready Programme' part of the school website for additional support.

[Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - The Work Ready Programme](#)

Personal Development

Enrichment Electives

The final block of this year's electives begins next Wednesday. Please look out for a Class Charts message seeking parental consent for off site electives. The new block 4 elective brochure with details is on our website. This will be our eighth rotation of electives; we have offered over forty in total, and the provision is going from strength to strength. We cannot wait to share next year's offer with students and parents.

Sports Fixtures

Rounders

On Wednesday this week, our year 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls had a fixture away at Laurel Academy. The students represented the academy brilliantly and should all be incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the evening. Their **teamwork, determination, encouragement** of one another, and positive attitude were outstanding to see. Every player gave their best effort, showed resilience under pressure, and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship at all times. Miss Cooper is incredibly proud of every one of them!

Events

STWA Championships Event

On Monday 27 April, Sir Thomas Wharton Academy held their annual athletics event: STWA Championships at the Eco-Power Stadium. Our students rose to the occasion and delivered an outstanding showcase of talent, energy, and school spirit. We saw fantastic performances across a wide range of events, including the 100m, 200m, relays, long jump, javelin, and cheerleading. A special highlight this year was our choir, who performed for the first time and added something really memorable to the evening. In total, around 150 students from years 7 to 10 took part; supported by approximately 200 friends, family members and staff. Together, we came close to selling out the stadium, creating an electric, uplifting, and genuinely professional atmosphere for everyone involved.

Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

On Friday 24 April, our Duke of Edinburgh elective students headed out on their first practice expedition to the Peak District. Students walked around 30 km across the weekend and completed an overnight camp in the Peak District. Students used vital skills such as map reading, countryside code and teamwork. It was brilliant to see students in the countryside enjoying the scenic views and taking in their surroundings. Students learnt a lot about different animals, plants and landscapes in the Peak District meaning they have begun working towards their group goal. Upon returning to the elective, students will start their volunteering section of the award and look forward to their real expedition in June!

Visit to Rt Hon J Heeley's Office

On Friday 1 May, our year 13 A Level Art students had the opportunity to visit Rt Hon John Heeley MP Secretary of State for Defence, to take a tour of his office and view their artwork which has been commissioned for his meeting room at his Wath office.



Elective Showcase

On Wednesday, we hosted our fabulous end of block Elective Showcase, where we welcomed over 70 parents and carers into the academy for an afternoon of entertainment. Our guests were treated to afternoon tea, which had been baked and served by our Special Event Catering elective. Students had worked hard to create a buffet that included a range of dishes, such as scones, mini pizzas, quiches and sausage rolls and enjoyed serving tea and coffee throughout the performances. Students from our Drama, Singing, Dance and Creative Writing electives entertained the audience with a range of delightful performances, displaying the wealth of talent that our students have. We hope our audience enjoyed the afternoon as much as our students did!

Barcelona Visit

On Sunday 24 May, a group of students will be heading off on the Barcelona Sports Tour to access high quality training by certified sports coaches in both Football or Netball. Students will have time allocated to soak up some of the amazing Spanish culture by sightseeing in Barcelona and planned excursions to visit Camp Nou Stadium and PortAventura World theme park. Keep an eye on social media for updates throughout the week!

House Update

Our Extended House Project for this half term centres on Lewis Hamilton, with students being challenged to explore the impact of Hamilton's career and being tasked with creating a model of Hamilton's racing helmet.

As we progress into the summer term, there are an array of house activities and challenges where students can earn their house points to secure their place on the end of year trip to Alton Towers. Students in the winning house need a minimum of 50 house points and less than 50 negatives to secure their place!

Attendance

We are proud to have achieved another National School Attendance Award for the Spring Term. This recognition places us in the top 25% of similar schools across the country, making it a significant achievement for our academy.

Daily attendance is vital, and it is encouraging to see a continued rise in attendance this year. Thank you to all students, families, and staff for your ongoing commitment and support.



Standards

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a positive and supportive environment, we would like parents to ensure they are reminding students about the importance of respect within our community.

We encourage students to be courteous, considerate, and respectful to others at all times, especially on their journey to and from school. This includes speaking politely, being mindful of noise levels, respecting public and private spaces, and showing kindness to members of the public.

Our school is proud to be part of the wider community, and students play an important role in representing our values. By demonstrating good manners and respectful behaviour, they help maintain a positive reputation for everyone.

Our students continue to be fantastic role models, and our weekly rewards programme for our "Culture Champions"—students who reflect the very best in our school culture—provides a further opportunity for us to celebrate the excellent attitude of our students.

Safeguarding – WhatsApp Groups

A number of schools in Doncaster have become aware of a WhatsApp group called Get250 or Get350 where explicit Hentai (cartoon) images are being shared along with derogatory language. This has been reported



through 101 to the police by schools where their pupils are involved and is currently being investigated. I am aware that some schools are also writing out to parents to ask them to check their children's phones and report any concerns.

Please be aware of this and continue to report any known incidents to the police to support their ongoing investigations.

Parents and Community Advisory Board Change of Date (PCAB)

Due to the commencement of year 11 and 13 examinations, the upcoming PCAB meeting will be rearranged for half term six. The new date will be communicated in due course.

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.

Success Stories

Harrison, in year 7, has won his first British Motorcross Championship race at Lyng this last weekend. I'm sure you will all join us in congratulating him on his success - He has a great future ahead of him!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

