

Our ref: MMC/NWI

27 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This week there has, as ever, been a feeling of positivity around the academy with all students engaged in their learning and in the healthy competition generated through our House System. All of this was kick-started last Friday at the Athletics Championships, where we saw students and staff coming together on a wonderful sporting stage, creating a spectacle of sporting talent. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the event for a fantastic evening showcasing what STWA is all about.

Teaching and Learning

Y7 Transition Survey

Our Transition survey is now open for completion: [Transition Survey for Parents/Carers of Y7](#). Complete it for a chance to win a £40 ASDA voucher.

The survey takes no longer than **three minutes to complete** and will be hugely informative as we reflect and refine our practice. The deadline for the survey is **Friday 11 September**.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Homework

On Monday, we look forward to rewarding students who have shown full investment in their homework over the last two weeks by awarding them with 10 praise points and giving students in Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 the chance to win a £20 voucher. Every piece of homework will be entered into the raffle which will be drawn on Monday morning. Winners from each year group will be announced on social media and in tutor time. Please encourage your child to complete their homework on Satchel One. If your child is struggling to log on to Satchel One, an instructional video can be found on our academy website here: [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - HOMEWORK \(stwacademy.com\)](#)

Tassomai

Last week, we launched Tassomai, a GCSE revision app that tests students' understanding in English, Science, History, Geography and Computer Science. We were pleased to see a fantastic response, with 85% of students accessing this vital provision to support their studies. Completing their weekly goal means that students become eligible for a range of rewards, including queue jump passes and STWA Driving School, while students not achieving their weekly goals will be supported to do so during our lunchtime Tassomai Club.

Sports Fixtures

This week we hosted two football fixtures at STWA. It was the year 7 and year 8 girls turn on Tuesday, where they played valiantly against a strong Wickersley School team in the National cup. We are very proud of how the girls played as a team, Well done girls!



Our second fixture was the year 7 team who were playing against Ash Hill Academy in the second round of the National cup. This was also a very close game, with the boys pulling it back from 2-0 down at half time to 2-2 at the end of full time. The game then decided on penalties. We know there are big things to come with this team in the future! A brilliant effort by all involved!

Events

STWA Athletics Championships

The PE department were delighted to host our second Athletics Championships at the Eco-Power Stadium last Friday evening. This is a prestigious event held each year, providing students with the opportunity to perform on a professional sporting environment in front of a crowd.

All that attended will agree that our students put on quite the show, creating memories will last a lifetime!

The evening consisted of:

- An opening ceremony with accompanying national anthem sung by our amazing students Lily Mae and Eva.
- Flawless cheerleading and dance duo interludes which showcased their exceptional talents.
- Invested and talented students being involved in healthy competition in 100m, 200m and mixed year group relays.
- An awards ceremony that rewarded our students' achievements as well as medals and trophies that evoke powerful memories.

We are delighted that family and friends took time to support the academy and the students with such dedication. Having hundreds of supporters watching students push themselves to their limits is the vision of the PE department and we cannot wait to make it even bigger and better next year.

Year 11 Revision Guide Evening

We cannot wait to welcome our year 11 students and their parents/carers to our year 11 Revision Guide Evening on Tuesday 15 October, which includes:

- A presentation from leaders about year 11, including key dates and events.
- A classroom-based session with form tutors about how best to revise.
- Every student receiving a bespoke pack of revision materials worth over £100.

The event will last approximately one hour, starting with a presentation at either 4:15 pm or 5:15 pm. Please use this form to register your attendance before Friday 27 September:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KCweJH0xV3>

Standards

We have given out 46,002 positive points to students already this academic year and we are only 4 weeks in. This shows the fantastic effort and commitment students put into their studies every day. We look forward to rewarding students with our homework prizes and golden ticket events throughout the year!

House Updates

This week, we have held our first vertical house assemblies for this academic year. Students from year 7 to year 13 have attended their house assembly and have met their new house leader and learnt about the numerous ways in which they can earn house points this year. We have launched our Extended House Project which is an opportunity for students to take their learning outside of the classroom and explore various inspirational leaders. There are three strands attached to the project (Research, Read and Create); upon completion, students can earn house points from their form tutor for engaging with the project. This half term, students are focusing on Amelia Earheart.



Rewards

At the end of the last academic year Miss Preston, our Y6 Transition Lead, announced a competition for our new Y7 cohort to enter. They needed to complete an activity booklet filled with tasks from every department in school to be in with the chance of winning either an iPad, Amazon Kindle or a £50 voucher. Miss Preston was blown away with the number of entries received and announced the three lucky winners: Rudjay S, Zara H and Terri B. All students who entered also received 20 achievement points for taking part.

Parents and Community Advisory Board

To enable us to reflect on the areas of strength and the opportunities for development within our school, our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meets once per term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team.

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to provide feedback to Leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for the Academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday 17 October from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm.

If you would like to join our PCAB, please email admin@stwacademy.com.

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children who are in years 5 or 6 and are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening on Thursday 3 October 2024 to see the exceptional learning experiences on offer at STWA. This evening will be a fantastic opportunity for prospective parents to see the academy and to meet the dedicated team of staff before making the important decision of which secondary school is right for their child. You will be able to book to see one of the presentations via the Microsoft forms link on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

