

Our ref: MMC/NWI

7 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week saw three of our students receive offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge. We are incredibly proud of all students who receive university or higher level apprenticeship offers and they serve as real aspirational role models to our school community. Whilst the hard work of achieving the entry requirements will continue, I remind all young people that any university would be lucky to have them, not the other way around. These young people belong at top institutions and will go on to achieve great things.

This week, we enjoyed welcoming parents to the Catering Elective Special Event that allowed students to showcase the cooking that they have been doing whilst our budding Musical Theatre group performed for visitors. Our electives programme was designed to allow students the opportunities to find a passion that they might not have had or develop an interest that they have been unable to explore. The students are learning so many skills and they are so engaged in Wednesday afternoon activities.

Year 11 Examinations

This week, a group of year 11 students displayed the highest level of investment in their first Functional Skills examination in Mathematics. We look forward to seeing this again next week, when students will complete their Functional Skills examination in English Reading on Tuesday 11 February.

Teaching and Learning

Tassomai

Our students continue to invest to achieve by showing the highest levels of investment in Tassomai. Last week, year 10 students answered over 30,000 questions (an average of over 150 questions per student) and year 11 answered over 35,000 questions (an average of over 200 questions per students).

Each week, our highest performers in year 10 are rewarded with queue jump passes and students in years 10 and 11 with the highest Tassomai points will be rewarded with driving school places in our next round of STWA Driving School on Thursday 27 March.

Sparx - Mathematics

A reminder that all tasks are set on Friday and due in on Thursday mornings. After an extra push from year 11, we hit 4300 hours of independent study, well done to every student going the extra mile.

Next week, year 10 students will have their first mathematics live trial. Students should bring their calculator on Thursday to ensure they can get the best calculator tips and expertise to thrive in their GCSE's.



Enrichment

Electives

This week was the final session for our block 2 electives and what a successful block it has been! Here is a snapshot of student voice captured:

- 'I've loved leaving the primary school knowing I've helped someone with their reading ability.'
- 'Getting to put on a performance for my family was amazing!'
- 'It's been great to get outside, and I've really enjoyed working with nature.'
- 'We have loved working with the staff, they bring fun and humour to each week and we get to take treats home – I want to come back to this elective!'

Your child's block 3 elective will now be live on ClassCharts. If the elective goes off site, you will have received a consent message, please tick to acknowledge this or they will be unable to leave the academy next Wednesday. I cannot wait to see our young people embarking on the next round. Seeing them grow in confidence, developing new talents and enjoying spending time with other students, staff and external providers is wonderful to see.

Events

Community Fusion Youth @ STWA

We are proud to host the Active Fusion team youth sessions every Wednesday from 8 January to 26 March 2025 during term-time. The sessions will run from 4:00 to 5:00 pm and are free of charge. Fusion Youth is more than just sports – it's a community-driven initiative tackling youth inactivity head-on and the fun, informal sports-based sessions are available for children from 10 to 16 years.

Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase

On Thursday 13 February, STWA will be holding its annual Gym and Dance Spectacular Showcase. You will be taken on a journey back in time to the 1920's and back again, with lots of timeless classics that you'll be able to sing along to and join in if you wish! Students across all year groups are working exceptionally hard, both in and out of lessons, to ensure their routines are flawless and I am sure they would appreciate your support! Tickets are on sale now and they are always in high demand so please hurry to secure your tickets - it is an evening not to be missed!

KS4 University of Cambridge University Talk

On Friday 28 February, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, we are hosting the University of Cambridge Schools Tour. This session is aimed at students in years 10 and 11 who are interested in studying at Cambridge or Oxford. During the session, the following areas will be covered:

- The benefits of going to university
- Financing university
- Teaching, social life and careers afterwards
- Studying at the University of Cambridge
- KS4/KS5 qualifications and subject choices
- Making a competitive application (including writing a personal statement and interviews)

If your child is interested in attending this session, please express an interest by completing this [form](#). Students should see Ms Shaw for more details.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Leavers Hoodies are now available to purchase on ParentPay or barcoded letters can be requested from reception. The final deadline for purchasing hoodies is Friday 28 February.



Standards

Please can we remind parent/carers that jewellery is not allowed in the academy. This is something which is clearly communicated to all students. We would like to make it clear that if students have jewellery on once they have passed single point, they will have these confiscated. This will be collected in an envelope and placed in the school safe for parents/carers to collect. Students will not be allowed to collect their own jewellery. It is students' responsibility to check each morning that they have no jewellery on before they enter school.

Attendance

We continue to see a real improvement in attendance during this academic year. We are now working towards our second round of golden ticket awards and is important that students are in school in order to qualify for these awards.

House Updates

This week, we have held our vertical house assemblies where students have been able to be united as a house to celebrate their successes over the last half term. Students have engaged with a motivational speech from their house leader and explored the key values of their house, alongside celebrating their engagement in all our house competitions.

We are delighted to announce that students in the winning house, at the end of the year, will be attending a trip to **Alton Towers** - this will be available for all students from year 7 to 13 who are in the winning house and have contributed towards the house system. Our house system is underpinned by a collective house identity and teamwork where this trip will encompass the morals and values of our house system to congratulate students on their contributions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

