

Our ref: MMC/NWI

6 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been another busy and positive one across the academy, with our year 11 students continuing to show fantastic commitment as they progress through their trial examinations. It has been wonderful to see how confidently they are approaching the exam process, supported by the routines and habits they have been building since year 10. Alongside this, students across the school have been engaging enthusiastically in learning through platforms such as Tassomai and Sparx, celebrating World Book Day, contributing to community projects and preparing for upcoming sporting fixtures, visits and our exciting school production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. With excellent attendance across the academy and so many opportunities for students to learn, contribute and achieve, it has been a week that truly reflects the energy and ambition of our school community.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 Trial Examinations

Our year 11 students continued to display high levels of investment as we progressed into the second week of trial examinations. A reminder to parents and students that Pre-Achieve sessions are taking place from 7:30 am on days when there is a morning exam, with teachers available to support with final preparations and to ensure students are fuelled with tea and toast for the day ahead. Attendance has been strong throughout the trial examination period, but we continue to stress the importance of attending each and every day to ensure students are receiving the feedback on how to improve ahead of the final examinations in the summer.

The results of these trial examinations will be shared in the final week before the Easter holidays. As usual, our staff will continue to support year 11 students throughout this period by offering a range of Achieve sessions, the timetable for which will be shared in the coming weeks.

Tassomai

Students' investment in Tassomai continues to be incredible, with students in years 10 and 11 completing over 260 hours of quizzing and answering over 76,000 questions!

In year 10, we have launched a rewards strategy, where students who achieve 100% of their weekly goals in all subjects will receive a sticker to help them build a seven-a-side football team of subject leaders.

Sparx

As an academy, we have completed over 6000 hours of personalised learning, answered a half a million questions correctly and over 300 students have improved their times table fluency this year. We thank every parent and carer for their support and encouragement in completing Sparx mathematics tasks.

This half term year 10 should start to complete mathematics Tassomai tasks. This will create the "little and often" revision needed for success in mathematics. Year 10 exam paper revision tasks continue this week, handing out and being returned every Thursday period 4.



We ask that all year 10 bring in their revision guides for use during period 4 lessons every Thursday for the remainder of the term.

Careers

This week has been National Careers Week and this year we provided subject specific sessions, workshops and virtual assemblies to help students understand that careers are not destinations but a journey. This assembly taught students that there are many influences in life that forge our pathways. Some are more obvious than others, such as what qualifications and skills a person has or what work experience they have gained, however, many are not as obvious, such as changes in the labour market, the evolving workplace and what opportunities or lack of opportunities there are in a sector.

As part of this week, we also hosted a HSBC SMART Money Bootcamp with a selected group of KS3 students. This was a great opportunity for our students to raise their awareness of the types of fraud out there and how to respond should they find themselves in this situation.

Personal Development

This week, several of our community-based electives joined forces with the local council to take part in a clean up at Martin Well's Lake. Students worked collaboratively, determined to make the area enjoyable for residents. It was teamwork at its best! We have some other community projects coming up, so keep an eye on our social pages for details.

Sports Fixtures

Year 7 Boys Football

On Monday 9 March, our year 7 boys team will play away against The Laurel Academy – we wish them all lots of luck!

Events

World Book Day

This week, we will be celebrating World Book Day and share a love of reading with our students. Throughout the week, there have been various opportunities for students to celebrate the day. From Monday, we launched numerous competitions for students to take part in - students found out about these during tutor time and they have been shared on social media. This includes a competition with Waterstones to create a review of a recently read book, with the best reviews being displayed in the Doncaster store. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a World Book Day culture booklet, which encourages them to explore different cultures and how they celebrate reading.

As World Book Day fell on Thursday 5 March, we hosted a Book Swap at break and lunch in the library. We had over 100 books donated to our Book Swap! There will be 30 House Points awarded to students for each book they donated. In addition, on Friday, we hosted a World Book Day event in the library. Students who have shown full investment in reading received an invite to the event. To further share that reading is for all, staff across departments shared with their students, throughout the day, their favourite books and what they are currently reading. We can't wait to continue sharing a love of reading with our students.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park Visit

Our Year 11 Photography students will visit the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on Thursday 12 March as part of their GCSE Photography exam unit.



This visit will give students the opportunity to capture original photographs in response to their exam theme, using the park's large-scale sculptures and natural landscape as creative stimulus. The diverse range of contemporary sculptures, set within expansive outdoor surroundings, provides an ideal setting for students to explore composition, scale, perspective, texture, and the relationship between art and environment.

During the trip, students will gather high-quality primary source images to support the development of their exam coursework. The experience will encourage independent thinking, creative experimentation, and purposeful image-making, helping them to strengthen both their technical skills and conceptual responses in preparation for their final exam submission.

School Production

Get ready for a night of laughter, love, and a little bit of... plant-based terror!

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy proudly presents **Little Shop of Horrors** on **18 and 19 March 2026 at 6 pm** — and trust us, you won't want to miss it!

Since September, our incredibly talented cast and crew have been working tirelessly to bring this cult classic to life. From unforgettable musical numbers to jaw-dropping set pieces, every detail has been crafted with passion, dedication, and a whole lot of hard work. And now... **Audrey II has officially arrived in the building!**

Join us for an unforgettable evening packed with big laughs, and a story that's delightfully dark in all the right ways.

Tickets are £5 each and are sure to go fast — don't wait until it's too late... because this plant is hungry!

Secure your seats and support our amazing students as they take to the stage for what is set to be a spectacular show! Tickets are available to purchase via ParentPay and by cash or card at the academy reception.

House Update

With only 100 house points between the top two houses, Brodsworth have maintained their lead this week, but Cusworth are closely chasing in second place which has been achieved through their investment in the extended house projects. They are being closely followed by Wentworth in third place and Chatsworth in fourth. This half term, our extended house project centres around Alan Turing, where students will need to research his impact on technological advancements.

Our next House Reward will take place on Monday 16 March - a matinee performance of The Little Shop of Horrors. All students in the winning house, who have a minimum of 40 house points and less than 50 negatives, will be invited to attend.

Edlington Youth Council

On Friday 6 March, we had the privilege of hosting the inaugural meeting of the Edlington Youth Council which united key stakeholders to establish a shared vision for meaningful youth engagement and collaboration. The session provided an opportunity to introduce members, outline the Council's purpose, and discuss priorities for the coming year.

Participants reflected on the importance of creating a platform where young people can contribute their perspectives to decision-making processes that affect their communities. Stakeholders expressed strong support for the Council's role in amplifying youth voices and fostering partnerships across the community.

The meeting also set the foundation for the Council's structure, communication channels and initial areas of focus. Members highlighted themes such as inclusivity, community impact, and leadership development as guiding principles for the Council's work.



Overall, the meeting marked an important first step in building a collaborative forum where young people and local stakeholders can work together to shape initiatives, share ideas, and drive positive change.

Attendance

We are delighted to celebrate one of our highest attendance weeks of the school year so far. It has been fantastic to see so many students in school, ready to learn and take part in the wide range of activities happening in classrooms every day.

Regular attendance is vital for children's progress, confidence and wellbeing. When students are in school consistently, they benefit from the full learning experience, build strong routines and stay connected with their teachers and friends. This week in particular, it has been wonderful to see so few students missing the important learning that takes place each day.

We would like to say a big thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school each day ready to learn. Your commitment makes a real difference and helps our whole school community thrive.

To further support strong attendance, we have recently started using text messages to communicate with parents and carers when a child is not in school or if we have any attendance concerns. This allows us to keep families informed quickly and work together to ensure every child is in school and benefiting from their learning.

Let's keep up the fantastic effort as we continue through the term!

Standards

We are committed to maintaining high standards around the academy. Any incidents of bullying are taken very seriously and dealt with swiftly. We encourage students to speak up if they experience or witness bullying, so we can keep our academy a safe and respectful place for everyone. We also have an anonymous reporting tool on our website if you have any concerns to report: [Sir Thomas Wharton Academy - SOS Can I Talk to You?](#)

Please also be reminded that fur hoods are not allowed in the academy. If students bring coats with fur hoods, they will need to either remove the fur or hand the coat in at single point at the start of the school day. We appreciate your support in helping students follow our uniform expectations.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

