

Our ref: MMC/NWI

5 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

As we move into the final phase of this academic year and the examination season continues, I would like to take a moment to recognise the outstanding efforts of our students. Their dedication, resilience and commitment to achieving their very best have been truly impressive. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and determination they have demonstrated, supported by the strong partnership between home and school.

Our commitment to providing the very best opportunities for your children remains steadfast. While academic achievement is an important foundation for future success, we believe that character, resilience, personal growth and memorable experiences are equally vital in shaping confident, well-rounded young people.

With this in mind, alongside our continued focus on academic excellence, we are also preparing for some of the most anticipated events of the school year, including the Year 11 Prom, Academy Awards Ceremony, Sports Day and the inaugural Sir Thom Fest. These occasions provide valuable opportunities to celebrate achievement, strengthen our sense of community and create lasting memories that students will carry with them long after they leave our academy.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we work together to help every student thrive

Teaching and Learning

Water Safety Assemblies

In response to the recent tragedies, all students have received a Water Safety Assembly this week, which covers the dangers of open water and safe swimming. We would ask that parents and carers continue to outline the dangers of open water swimming.

Advice from Doncaster Council is detailed below:

If someone unexpectedly enters the water, the following advice should be followed:

- Take a moment—do not attempt to swim immediately.
- Try to relax and float on your back to regain control of your breathing.
- Stay calm.
- Call for help—ask someone to dial 999.

Useful links below:

- [South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Water Safety and Drowning Prevention](#)
- [Water Safety Advice and Tips – Know the Risks](#)
- [Sam's Army – Mission 1 Life](#)



Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level examinations continued this week with Sociology, English, Mathematics, Economics, Media Studies, Biology, French, Further Mathematics and History, along with, Applied Diploma in Criminology.

We commend all students for their hard work and dedication so far and wish them the best of luck in the final two weeks of the examination season.

Congratulations to those students who have already completed their courses!

Year 13 Leavers Event

The year 13 Leavers' Event will take place on Friday 26 June. Students should arrive from 12:00 pm dressed in glamorous red-carpet attire for an afternoon of celebration marking the end of their sixth form journey. The event has been carefully planned and organised by the Student Council, whose dedication and hard work has played a huge part in bringing the occasion to life. Their efforts aim to create a memorable send-off for the year 13 cohort, and all students are warmly encouraged to attend and celebrate together. Food and refreshments will be provided for all students attending the event.

Year 11 Examinations

We were pleased to see such high attendance to May Half Term Achieve sessions despite the warm weather, with students showing incredible investment across a range of subjects in preparation for this week's examinations, which have included: Physics, Polish, Mathematics, Geography, History, French, English and Music.

As always, we remind parents and carers of the importance of students being on time, in full uniform and fully equipped for every examination. Students are now able to wear their leavers' hoodies instead of their blazers, but the hoodies cannot be worn during examinations due to JCQ rules regarding the potential for malpractice.

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.

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

Year 11 Prom

Our year 11 Prom will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, Doncaster on Thursday 18 June 2026 from 6:00 until 10:00 pm. Tickets are priced at £35 each, which includes a mocktail on arrival as well as food and entertainment throughout the evening. All tickets have now been released to students who are eligible to attend.

A separate letter has been sent to year 11 parents that includes information regarding the arrivals process at the venue, including parking.

Tassomai

A reminder to parents that students should achieve their weekly goal for each of the subjects that are assigned on Tassomai. This will support year 10 students to complete retrieval practice, which will be crucial as they work towards trial examinations this half term.

Sparx - Mathematics

As an academy, we have completed over 8,500 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.

Sparx - Reader

We are excited to inform you that from Friday 12 June, all year 7 students will be using Sparx Reader to complete their weekly Reader homework. Sparx provides highly personalised homework to students, tailored to their individual attainment level and working speed. Your child's homework will be set on Friday and due in on Friday every week.

Students log in at sparxreader.com by finding their school and entering their username and password. Sparx Reader can be accessed on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser. We recommend that students click "log in with Microsoft" to access the software easily. Sparx can be accessed on computer, phone, tablet, laptop and even games consoles.

We understand how important your child's success is to you. A separate letter has been sent to all year 7 parents and carers regarding how to access Sparx Reader and support your child's homework completion.

Careers

Work Experience

With four weeks to go until the start of our work placement programme for years 10 and 12, it is great to report that we have over 200 students who have secured their placement. If your child is yet to have a confirmed placement, please contact the academy and we will provide the appropriate support.

We can't wait for each and every one of our year 10 and 12 students to complete an aspirational and impactful weeklong placement.

Events

Barcelona Visit

On Sunday 24 May, a group of students head off for the Barcelona Sports Tour to access high quality training by certified sports coaches in both Football or Netball. Students had time to soak up some of the amazing Spanish culture by sightseeing in Barcelona and excursions to Camp Nou Stadium and PortAventura World theme park too. An amazing time was had by all!

Doncaster Youth Council Workshops

Throughout the last six weeks, students have been engaging in a range of activities with Doncaster Youth Council that enable them to learn about peer pressure, anti-social behaviour, coping mechanisms, anxiety and health and wellbeing. 100% of students have attended each session and have reported that they have an increased awareness of their own emotions and feel better equipped at managing their behaviour.

Each programme includes interactive activities, practical tasks and tailored support from trained Youth Offices who have extensive experience working with Young People in Doncaster. After attending the final sessions today, all participating students have received a certificate of completion and achievement.

Staff delivering the sessions have positively found that:

- All students effectively engaged with the sessions and have an increased awareness of how to manage their own behaviour and emotions.



- The vast majority of students have been able to form new relationships and understand why their behaviour matters.
- Some students struggled to identify or talk about their emotions in the initial sessions; now they are more comfortable seeking support when worried or upset.
- A number of students were unaware of the impact sleep has on concentration and mood and now have an increased awareness of building a sleep schedule and minimising distractions.

After speaking with students who have completed the programme, prominent themes included:

- Students valuing opportunities to build relationships with peers outside their usual friendship groups.
- Interactive activities have helped young people explore emotions in a safe, engaging way.
- All students benefiting from explicit teaching around respectful communication and positive relationships.
- Students enjoying the opportunity to learn about their emotions and behaviour through playing games that facilitate open conversations.

Well done to all our students who participated in this initial round of workshops!

SEND Coffee Morning

On Friday 26 June, we will be holding our SEND Coffee Morning in the academy's conference suite. We hope to see many parents, carers and families in attendance. To book your place, please email Mrs Laura Queen at l.queen@stwacademy.com.

Academy Awards

We are excited to announce that we are holding our fifth annual end of year Academy Awards event on Thursday 2 July 2026. The event aims to acknowledge and celebrate our outstanding students' achievements – more details to follow soon.

Better Learners, Better Workers Graduation

We are delighted to announce that our students participating in the Better Learners, Better Workers programme will graduate in style on Wednesday 9 July at the fabulous Cutlers Hall in Sheffield. The ceremony is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of these students with their parents and carers. The presentation will be led by the Master Cutler and attended by all 4 regional Mayors and the Lord Lieutenant.

Sir Thom Fest

As we approach the final half term of the academic year, we are delighted to announce a special event celebrating diversity and ensuring that every student and member of staff feels valued and included.

Sir Thom Fest will take place on Friday 17 July 2026. Similar to our Christmas family dining event, tutor time and period 1 will run as normal lessons. Periods 2 and 3 will focus on developing character and culture through an additional Life Skills session centred on equality and diversity, followed by a music festival on the field.

The festival will feature live performances from indie band The Mercians and singer Charlie Aky, alongside special guest and Sir Thomas Wharton alumni, "The Don" Harry Rigg. There will also be inflatables, game stalls, face painting, and the announcement of the winning house!

There will be no cost for the event — it is our way of thanking students for their hard work, respect, and tolerance throughout the year.



House Update

As we head into the final half term of the year, everything is still to play for within our House System with students competing to win the end of year house trip to Alton Towers. Brodsworth are just holding onto their lead with over 63,000 house points, Cusworth are in second place with 62,010, Wentworth are in third place with 59,670 and Chatsworth are in fourth place with 59,375 house points.

Our Extended House Project for this half term centres on Malala Yousafzai, with students being challenged to explore the impact of Malala's contribution to the world of education and women's rights. Students have until the final Friday of this half term to hand in their creations to earn their house points.

Next week, we will also have our final house assemblies of the academic year with students having the opportunity to reflect on their contributions to their house this year.

As we progress into the summer term, there are an array of house activities and challenges where students can earn 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!

Standards

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school and to see them return with such a positive attitude towards learning. Their excellent conduct, commitment, and determination have set a fantastic tone for the term, and we are incredibly proud of the way they continue to demonstrate our PRIDE values each day. We will continue to recognise and reward this outstanding behaviour, and we are delighted to announce that our next Golden Ticket event will take place during the penultimate week of the academic year. Students who achieve 450 PRIDE points and maintain attendance of 93% or above will be invited to take part in this special reward event. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters. We encourage all students to continue striving for success and making the most of every opportunity to earn PRIDE points.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

