

Our ref: MMC/NWI

12 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move through the final half term of the academic year, it has been pleasing to see the continued commitment and enthusiasm shown by our students across all aspects of academy life. From examinations and leaving events to enrichment opportunities and house competitions, students are making the most of every opportunity available to them and representing the academy with pride.

There is a real sense of momentum across the school as we approach the end of the year. Our year 10 and year 12 work experience programmes are on track to achieve full participation, while the race for the House Championship remains closely contested, with Cusworth currently holding a narrow lead. With so much still to look forward to, the weeks ahead promise to be both busy and rewarding.

Teaching and Learning

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 week 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.

Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 students have continued to complete written examinations this week, with students completing examinations in Biology, French, Mathematics, Technology, Geography, Food, Chemistry and Polish. We continue to be impressed by the levels of investment displayed by all students and the high numbers of students who are attending the breakfast Achieve sessions, where free tea and toast is provided, from 7:30 am.

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. 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 8,800 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 should continue completing weekly mathematics Tassomai tasks. This creates the "little and often" revision needed for success in mathematics. This, along with our period 4 preparation tasks, gives students a great boost to revision ahead of year 10 Trials.

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 all year 7 students are 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

It's that time of year where our year 12 students start to think about next steps and making Post 18 applications. On the Wednesday 10 June, we welcomed HeppSY back into school to speak with our year 12 students about going through the UCAS process and how to make a lasting impression on their Personal Statements.

Our Year 9 students on the CoachE programme spent an insightful day at Sheffield University on Thursday 11 June, working with GRIT coaches to better understand what opinions they have and to develop a deeper understanding of why they feel that way, whilst developing an understanding of how to overcome barriers and feel heard.



Health and Social Care Taster Day at Huddersfield University

Today, a group of year 12 students visited Huddersfield University to take part in a taster day showcasing the different types of Health and Social Care courses on offer and the job roles available in social care, such as occupational therapists.

Events

Better Learners, Better Workers

On Monday 15 June, students on the Better Learners, Better Workers programme will be working with the British Army to take part in team building and skills activities with some of the team from the 4th Battalion - The Royal Yorkshire Regiment.

Sports day

On Friday 19 June, we will be holding our annual Sports Day. This is a whole-school event, and all students are expected to attend in full PE kit, including black shorts or leggings, trainers, and their STWA PE top. Students may also bring their PE hoodie if required.

Students will attend periods 1 and 2 as normal, unless they are participating in a scheduled event. Year 7 and 8 students will compete in their events during period 1, while year 9 and 10 students will compete during period 2.

During period 3, the entire school will gather on the field to support and cheer on their peers as they take part in the finals and relay races.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the PE department. We look forward to an exciting and enjoyable day of competition and school spirit.

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. Cusworth have edged into the lead this week with over 63,850 house points, Brodsworth are in second place with 63,250, Chatsworth are in third place with 62,215 and Wentworth are in fourth place with 61,650 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.

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

We have high expectations regarding uniform at the academy, and it is always fantastic to see students maintaining these high standards every day.

We would like to ask parents and carers to keep an eye on the socks their child is wearing to school. Over the last few weeks, we have seen a slight increase in the number of students wearing short ankle socks, which are not permitted as part of our uniform policy.

Please could you check that your child is wearing plain black socks that cover the ankle and meet the Academy's uniform expectations.

We are delighted to announce our upcoming Golden Ticket Event, which will take place during the school day on July 6th as a reward for students who consistently demonstrate our PRIDE values. To qualify, students must achieve at least 450 PRIDE points and maintain attendance of 93% or above. The number of students on track to attend reflects the fantastic improvements we have seen in behaviour, attitude to learning and school engagement this year. We are incredibly proud of the positive culture our students have created and look forward to celebrating their success with this special event.

Attendance

Throughout this term, we are running a weekly attendance competition every Friday. The form with the highest attendance each week will be entered into a prize draw at the end of the school year. Members of the winning form selected in the final draw will each receive a £10 Amazon voucher.

We are running this initiative to highlight the importance of good attendance, particularly on Fridays. Each week, we see a slight drop in attendance on Fridays compared with the middle of the week. Please encourage your child to attend school every day of the week. Missing lessons on a Friday can result in gaps in knowledge and learning, making it more difficult for students to keep up in future lessons.

Over the last few weeks, we have written to a small number of parents where patterns of absence on Fridays have begun to emerge. We would ask all parents and carers to keep an eye on their child's attendance and ensure that there are not developing patterns of missed days.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high levels of attendance and ensuring that all students make the most of their learning opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

