

Our ref: LST/NWI

18 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

To celebrate the end of another highly successful academic year, we are delighted to announce the inaugural **Sir Thom Fest**, which will take place on **17 July 2026**.

The day will centre around our key driver, **Everyone is Valued**, as we celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion across our school community. Tutor time and Period 1 will run as normal timetabled lessons. Students will then participate in a special **Character and Culture Life Skills** session, followed by a festival experience featuring live performances from **The Mercians** and **Charlie Aky**.

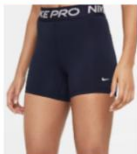
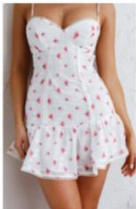
During the festival, we will also announce the winning House. As a reward for their achievement, members of the winning House will enjoy a free trip to Alton Towers during the first half term of the new academic year.

To maximise the time students can enjoy the festival, which will also feature inflatables, game stalls and glitter face painting, we will be operating an extended break from **10:25 am to 10:50 am**. This will be the only opportunity for students to purchase food from the canteen facilities during the day. Students eligible for Free School Meals will be able to use their daily allowance at this time should they wish to do so.

Once at the festival, all students will receive tokens that can be exchanged for complimentary refreshments, including a can of pop, crisps, sweets, and an ice lolly. Students are also welcome to bring additional snacks or a packed lunch from home if they wish.

The day will combine curriculum learning, Life Skills education, and festival-themed activities, and it is therefore important that **all students attend**. To help create a fun and celebratory atmosphere, students and staff are invited to take part in a **non-uniform day** and are encouraged to wear festival-inspired clothing.

To ensure attire remains appropriate for a school setting, students will **not** be permitted to enter the academy wearing any of the clothing below in the not suitable section:

Not suitable	Appropriate
	
	
	



We hope you find the above images useful, as the last thing we want to do is disappoint our students on the day by refusing them entry. Please note that student attire will be deemed suitable at the discretion of the senior leadership team on single point of entry first thing that morning.

The school day will finish at **2:50 pm** as normal for all year groups. Please note that there will be **no Period 4 for Year 10 students**.

In the lead-up to the final week of term, we have also set an exciting attendance challenge. If whole-school attendance reaches **93%**, students will unlock the opportunity to open their phone pouches for the duration of the festival. **Students must bring their Yondr pouches to school** as they will be collected in at the end of the day and reissued in September.

We want Sir Thom Fest to be a fun and memorable celebration where students and staff come together to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion, create lasting memories and end the academic year on a high. To ensure everyone can enjoy the day, students must adhere to the non-uniform and phone guidance, demonstrate tolerance and respect for others, and follow all school rules and expectations. We will hold an assembly for each year group in the run up to the event to ensure all students are clear on these expectations. We do not want inappropriate clothing or behaviour to result in any student missing out on the festivities.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to celebrating with our students and making the first Sir Thom Fest a fantastic success.

If you do not wish for your child to have glitter face paint, please email admin@stvacademy.com before 10 July 2026.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Stuart
Assistant Principal

