

Our ref: MMC/NWI

17 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another exceptional academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the unwavering support you have shown our academy. Looking back over the past twelve months, there is so much to celebrate, from outstanding academic achievement and record-breaking participation in enrichment, to prestigious awards, sporting success, inspiring educational visits and our continued commitment to developing well-rounded young people - this has been a year defined by ambition, opportunity and community. Our students have represented Sir Thomas Wharton Academy with pride, maturity and kindness, and it has been wonderful to see them flourish both inside and outside the classroom. The final weeks of term have perfectly captured the spirit of our academy, with celebrations of achievement, memorable experiences and exciting opportunities that have provided a fitting end to what has been a truly remarkable year. I hope you enjoy reading about just some of the many successes that have made us all so proud and I hope that you have a wonderful summer break.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form

The sixth form team would like to congratulate the year 13 students who have now completed their A Level and BTEC courses and are awaiting their results and the year 12 students who have now completed their first year and are looking forward to continuing their courses from the Thursday 3 September. Their hard work and dedication to their studies and the school community makes us proud!

We are also looking forward to meeting the incoming year 12 students after securing their sixth form place on GCSE Results Day. We hope they all have a great summer, and we will see them on Wednesday 2 September for your first day!

Year 13 A Level Results Day

A Level Results Day will take place on Thursday 13 August. If your child is unable to collect their results, they must email the examinations team (b.butler@stwacademy.com) if they wish to nominate an alternative adult who can collect them on their behalf. Please note, this must be submitted and signed by the student before results day, and the alternative adult must bring photo identification with them.

Year 11 GCSE Results Day

GCSE Results Day will take place on Thursday 20 August. If your child is unable to collect their results, they must email the examinations team (b.butler@stwacademy.com) if they wish to nominate an alternative adult who can collect them on their behalf. Please note, this must be submitted and signed by the student before results day and the alternative adult must bring photo identification with them.

Year 10 Trial Examinations

Year 10 students received their trial examinations results on Thursday in a special results assembly, during which we celebrated the performance of students while also outlining next steps and what to expect in year 11.



Tassomai

Despite being on work experience last week, students in year 10 continued investment in Tassomai, with performance remaining in the top 10% of schools nationally. A reminder to parents that students should achieve their weekly goal (or four daily goals for Science) for each of the subjects that are assigned on Tassomai.

Sparx

Our students have successfully completed 1.3 million questions this year and a further 9,700 hours of independent learning. They accomplished over 32,000 tasks completed and should be commended for their dedication.

Transition

Following the transition days last week, all year 6 students left Sir Thomas Wharton Academy with an Activity Booklet and a copy of the book 'Impossible Creatures', to be in with a chance of winning an Apple iPad, Amazon Kindle or £50 Amazon gift card, the students need to complete the booklet and read the book and they will be entered into the prize draw to win. Students should hand their booklet into their form tutor on their first day in September. The Winners of this competition will be announced on the second week back in September.

Every year, we do a second performance of our gym and dance spectacular display to the year 6 on transition. As always, our students have worked incredibly hard to ensure their routines are perfected. The year 6 students really enjoyed the experience and we hope that it has inspired our future dancers and given them a taste of what we do at STWA.

Careers

Work Experience

It was great to have our year 10 and 12 students back in the academy this week following their week of work experience. There has been a real shift in their maturity which is good to see. It is exciting to report that a number of our students have secured a summer job off the back of their impressive conduct whilst on placement. We look forward to continuing to develop our careers provision next academic year and will continue to provide fantastic opportunities for the young people at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

Campus Connect

What a great opportunity for some of our year 9 students to visit Sheffield Hallam University on Wednesday. Students experienced a tour of their state-of-the-art facilities including the STEM department featuring a flight simulator and engine. Students developed a better understanding of university life and study whilst hearing from student ambassadors.

Better Learners Better Workers

Well done to our year 9 student ambassadors on the programme for Better Learners Better Workers. Students have developed their knowledge and understanding of Engineering, Royal Army, Healthcare and Construction by having meaningful encounters with multiple employers. Last week our students graduated after successful completion of this year long programme. From application to interview to taking part, they have developed so much, and we are so very proud of them!

Personal Development

Enrichment Electives

This week was the final session of electives for this academic year and what a successful year it has been! Ofsted referred to the electives as 'the jewel in the crown' and commented on how students' faces would



light up when talking about them. Thank you to all the STWA staff and external providers for supporting the programme, we cannot wait for year three!

Sports Fixtures

Year 8 Rounders

On Wednesday 8 July, the team competed against Hall Cross, Don Valley, Hayfield and XP, playing 10 good balls per innings in each match. The students represented the school brilliantly throughout the evening, showing excellent teamwork, determination and resilience. The results were as follows:

- **STWA 5.5 – 4 XP**
- **STWA 4.5 – 1.5 Hall Cross**
- **STWA 2.5 – 1.5 Hayfield**
- **STWA 4.5 – 2.5 Don Valley**

I am incredibly proud to say that the team **won** the tournament, remaining **unbeaten** across all four matches – Congratulations!

Every player contributed to the team's success with outstanding effort, positive attitudes and excellent sportsmanship. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school both on and off the pitch and thoroughly deserve their success.

Events

Academy Awards Evening

On Thursday 2 July, we held our annual Academy Awards evening. The Academy Awards 2026 was an unforgettable celebration of excellence, talent and dedication across our school community. Students, staff, and families gathered to honour outstanding achievements in academics, arts, sports, leadership, and community spirit.

The evening sparkled with inspiring speeches, heartfelt presentations, and joyous applause as we recognised students who have gone above and beyond this year. From exceptional academic progress to outstanding contributions in extracurricular activities, each award highlighted the passion and perseverance that define our academy.

Special thanks to our dedicated teachers and support staff whose commitment nurtures every student's success. The vibrant atmosphere and genuine pride showcased the strength of our academy's culture.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners - your hard work and positivity inspire us all.

Golden Ticket Reward

On Monday 6 July, we were delighted to celebrate the outstanding behaviour, attendance and positive attitudes of our students with our latest **Golden Ticket Rewards Event**.

Students who consistently demonstrated our high expectations and positive conduct were invited to enjoy a well-deserved reward on the school field. The event featured a giant inflatable assault course, refreshments, ice lollies and the opportunity to relax with friends in the fantastic summer weather.

The atmosphere throughout the event was exceptional. It was particularly pleasing to see how appreciative and respectful they were towards staff, with many taking the time to thank those involved in organising the event.

The Golden Ticket programme is designed to recognise and celebrate students who consistently make positive choices every day. Events like these reinforce our commitment to recognising excellent behaviour and creating memorable experiences for those who uphold our academy values.



Congratulations to everyone who earned a place at the event—we look forward to rewarding even more students at future Golden Ticket celebrations.

Better Learners, Better Workers Graduation

On Wednesday 8 July, the Better Learners, Better Workers Graduation took place at the fabulous Cutlers Hall in Sheffield. This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students with their parents and carers. The presentation was led by the Master Cutler and attended by all four regional Mayors and the Lord Lieutenant.

Berlin Visit

On Thursday 9 July, our GCSE History students embarked on a 4-day trip to Berlin and had the opportunity to see their studies brought to life visiting some prominent landmarks, such as the Reichstag building, the Holocaust Memorial and a poignant visit to the memorial at Sachsenhausen.

Sports Awards

On Monday evening this week, our PE department hosted their inaugural Sports Awards Ball to recognise and celebrate 140 students sporting achievements this year. The students looked fantastic in their smart attire as they celebrated everything they have achieved through enrichment over the past year—from dance and badminton to all the other sports we offer.

Awards were presented for Player of the Year across every sport, alongside the special recognition awards below:

Sports Personality of the Year:

Ellie



Most Improved Athlete:

Kian and Jess





Outstanding Commitment Award:

Lucy and Jacob



Team of the Year:

KS4 Badminton

What stood out most, however, was the atmosphere throughout the evening. The students were exceptional - they celebrated one another's successes with genuine enthusiasm; applauding and cheering for their peers, regardless of whether they had received an award themselves. Their respect, sportsmanship and attitude were everything you could hope for from young athletes, and it was an absolute pleasure to host the event.

Elective Showcase

On Wednesday afternoon this week, we were proud to host our Elective showcase. It was lovely to welcome parents and carers into the academy and treat them to a range of dishes made by our excellent students in the Special Event Catering elective. Students worked hard to produce a wonderful buffet of pizzas, quiche, sausage rolls, apple tarts, scones with cream and jam and chocolate chip cupcakes. Our students then handed over to the talented Dance and Cheer elective students as well as some of our Creative Writer elective students to host a fantastic performance, displaying the work they have choreographed and wrote during the past few weeks. We hope our guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

Sir Thom Fest

Today, we held our inaugural Sir Thom Fest to celebrate diversity and ensure that every student and member of staff feels valued and included. Similar to our Christmas family dining event, tutor time and period 1 ran as normal lessons, whilst periods 2 and 3 focussed 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 featured live performances from indie band The Mercians and singer Charlie Aky, alongside special guest and Sir Thomas Wharton alumni, "The Don" Harry Rigg. There were inflatables, game stalls, face painting, and the announcement of the winning house!



It was our way of thanking students for their hard work, respect, and tolerance throughout the year.

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

If you have children who will be in years 5 or 6 from September 2026 and you are considering schools for their secondary education, come along to our year 5 and 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 30 September 2026 to see the exceptional learning experiences on offer at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. This evening will be a fantastic opportunity for prospective parents to see the academy and to meet the dedicated team of staff before making the important decision of which secondary school is right for their child.

House Update

As part of the Sir Thom Fest celebrations, today, we hosted our house reveal for this academic year – Congratulations to Brodsworth who won with over 80,000 house points and will attend the Alton Towers house trip. All students in the winning house who have a minimum of 50 house points and less than 50 negatives will be invited to attend the trip on Tuesday 16 September.

Well done to all students who have participated in our house competitions throughout the year and taken their learning outside of the classroom.

Standards – MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)

If you have not yet activated your MCAS account, please do so as soon as possible. It is important that all parents and carers are signed up before the summer break to ensure they receive all academy communications and can access key information when we return in September.

In September, ClassCharts will no longer be in use, and MCAS will be our main platform for sharing information with parents and carers, including attendance, behaviour, timetables and other important updates.

Please use the link below to set up your account:

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSForgottenLogin.aspx>

Please ensure any issues are directed to: enquires@stwacademy.com

Attendance

Well done to all our attendance award winners this week! We have celebrated some fantastic attendance achievements and presented a range of prizes to recognise students' commitment to being in school every day.

Firstly, we awarded our final two big-ticket attendance prizes to two students who achieved outstanding attendance throughout the half term. One student selected the DJI Drone and the other student the £200 in JD Sports Vouchers. Congratulations to both winners for their excellent commitment to their education.

We also crowned the champions of our Attendance World Cup. Congratulations to 8H1 who defeated 8C2 in the final to become the first-ever Attendance World Cup winners! As part of the winning team, every student who was in school on Friday will receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the competition such a success.

Excellent attendance gives students the best opportunity to succeed, and we look forward to celebrating even more achievements next year.

Transport Information

For full details, please find information on our website via this link: [Transport Information](#)



Please note, the Stagecoach 552 service has been amended slightly for September 2026, however, the First 552 service remains unchanged. Please ensure you check Operators' timetables for the most up to date information on public service bus schedules, as these generally change in September.

Success Stories

One of our year 7 students, Daisy, competed at the Dance World Cup in Dublin this week, in both Street dance and Commercial styles.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and a relaxing break. We will welcome year 7 and 12 students back to the academy on Wednesday 2 September 2026 and the remaining year groups on Thursday 3 September 2026.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald

Principal

