

Our ref: MMC/GHR

3 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you all managed to have a lovely half term break and have managed to dodge the horrible weather brought by the recent storms. Students have returned to the academy and settled back in seamlessly. I would like to give my personal thanks to three young students, William Simmons, Alesha Nelthorpe and Lily Rigby, who helped an elderly member of the public on a field trip in York this week. A member of the public was so taken by the mature approach of our students that she emailed us the below.

*"As I walked along Petergate (York), I noticed large numbers of young people on some kind of field trip - all were behaving impeccably, then out of the blue, an elderly lady fell full length on the pavement. A number of your students immediately went to her aid, checking she was uninjured and offering nothing but kindness and sympathy. Once the lady felt she would be able to stand up, two students and a staff member ensured she could get to her feet by gently assisting her, and she was able to go on her way.*

***You should be proud of them, and they should be proud of themselves - they represented their school very well indeed."***

We could not be prouder of these students. Thank you for your continued support.

## Teaching and Learning

We have had a positive and invested start back in lessons across the Academy. Every lesson, students are expected to place their planner and pencil case on the desk to signal that they are prepared to learn. All lessons begin with a sharp start that students access as soon as they enter the classroom; the sharp start is often a recall task designed to support students to consolidate previous learning and recall any prior knowledge that may be useful to apply in the lesson. During these first few minutes of the lesson, teachers greet students at the door, take the register, and purposefully navigate around the room supporting students to complete their sharp start in a timely and successful manner. It is evident that this consistent approach in every classroom sets the tone for a productive and focused lesson in which students are supported to thrive from the moment the bell rings.

## Events and Enrichment

### GCSE Geography trip to York

Our Year 11 Geography students were a credit to the Academy during their GCSE fieldwork trip to York on Wednesday this week. All staff were impressed with the conduct of the students, especially with how they interacted with members of the public for one of their tasks. The students were fully invested in collecting data, taking photographs, and gaining the geographical knowledge and skills that they will need for their exam in the Summer.

### BBC Bitesize Careers

On Wednesday this week, we hosted the very prestigious BBC to deliver a presentation on careers to Years 7-10. The presentation was hosted by Steve Forbes (Talk Sport presenter) who interviewed three professionals in a 'panel-style' setup. The panel were made up of a TV researcher, a presenter, and an illustrator for children's books. Each professional was interviewed about their career and career path. They covered a variety of topics, such as relevant qualifications, personal anecdotes, advice on work experience and key skills for the workplace.



The students then had the opportunity to ask questions and the whole aim was to help inspire young minds about opportunities that exist and raise awareness of career aspirations with practical advice on how students can pursue a career in a variety of settings. This was an exciting event which created great memories and generated ideas for our students.

#### Free theatre trip for all Year 10 students

The English department would like to remind parents of Year 10 students about the trip to CAST theatre in Doncaster to watch a professional production of A Christmas Carol, the novella by Charles Dickens that they are studying for their GCSE. This trip will immerse all the students in the story through the medium of theatre, enhancing their understanding of this text in a real and inspirational way, which in turn will go some way towards securing their grade at GCSE. This theatre trip which will run on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th November at CAST theatre in Doncaster city centre. Students will need to make their own way to the theatre to arrive by 6.30pm and will then need to arrange transport home after the performance. Students need to ensure that they have indicated their choice of date on ParentPay.

#### Year 11 Theatre Performances

Year 11 students will experience a free performance of A Christmas Carol (2nd February) and Macbeth (12th March) by a professional theatre company - Quantum Theatre - in school.

#### Free trip to the pantomime for all KS3 students

As part of our Enrichment Pledge, we are taking every student at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy to attend a showing of Beauty and the Beast at Cast Doncaster on Friday 8th December at 7pm. Theatre acts as a window to a broader world, and we will ensure all our students get to experience this for free! We cannot wait to enjoy this experience with all students in Years 7,8, and 9! Please complete the form on this link to confirm that your child will be attending this festive event - <https://forms.office.com/e/XC1hQuiMag>

#### Standards

All students in the Academy were reminded of the standards expected of them. The vast majority of students display excellent behaviour every day, and they can look forward to a series of exciting rewards that are on offer in the coming half term. Every RIDE point and house point attained by students gives them one raffle ticket in a half-termly raffle. The raffle prizes for this half-term include a laptop and an iPad. There is also a weekly raffle, in which the winning students receive a voucher. Again, for every RIDE point attained, students will receive one raffle ticket. Students also receive a raffle ticket for 100% attendance. Golden Ticket events are planned for each term. In half-term 2, we have our first Golden Ticket events, which students can access if they have 180 net positive Class Charts points and a minimum of 92% attendance. Students who meet this criterion will be able to choose to attend one of Golden Ticket events. This half term's events are a film screening at the Savoy cinema, an e-sports event, and the Sir Thomas Wharton Academy movie night.

#### Post 16 News

On Thursday 9th November, we welcome prospective Post 16 students and their families to our Post 16 Open Evening from 5:00pm - 7:30pm. Our presentation will begin at 5:15pm followed by an opportunity to tour the building, meet subject teachers, and learn more about the courses on offer. Join us to find out more about our exceptional experiences. Book your place on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1YcgKzZMug>

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald  
**Principal**

