



# Thornhill Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the academic year, I want to thank you for your continued support. This has been an amazing year at Thornhill which has seen us grow massively as a school community and was recognised in May as a 'Good' school by Ofsted. We hope that you are as proud of this as we are. The staff and students have worked incredibly hard this academic year and I know are looking forward to some quality down time.

In this letter you will find information for the end of this term and the start of the next. Please take some time to read this, particularly in relation to school uniform which we expect all students to wear correctly. Please check with the information enclosed to ensure you do not purchase unsuitable items for school which will then need to be replaced.

### **End of term arrangements**

The school term will end of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 1.00pm. This will be a staggered dismissal following lunch and return to form classes. The final week of term is week 39 of our curriculum. It is essential that students are in school all this week until the final day, as lessons will be taught throughout this time.

### **Start of term arrangements**

The new term begins for all students at 8.40am on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Students will go to Line up for Learning and then go with their tutor for registration and period 1, where they will be given their new planners and timetables. Tutors will check that they are in the correct uniform (please see uniform requirements further through). Normal lessons will begin from period 2.

### **Term dates**

#### **Autumn Term**

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Thursday 5th September 2024	28th October to 1st November 2024	Friday 20th December 2024

#### **Spring Term**

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Monday 6th January 2025	24th - 28th February 2025	11th April 2025

#### **Summer Term**

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Monday 28th April 2025	26th - 30th May 2025	23rd July 2025



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## **INSET days**

There are 4 staff training days in the academic year when students do not attend school.

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

## **Timings of the school day**

The length of the school day will increase by 25 minutes to be in line with the DfE recommendation of a 32.5-hour week. The timings of the day will be as follows from September:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>
AM-PD	08:40
Period 1	09:00
Period 2	10:00
Break	11:00
Period 3	11.15
PM-PD	12:15
Lunch	12:40
Period 4	13:10
Period 5	14:10
End of Day	15:10

In PM-PD students in Years 7 to 10 will utilise this time for whole class reading sessions with their tutor. This additional focus on reading aligns with our school's commitment to literacy, supporting students in enhancing their skills and fostering a genuine enjoyment for reading, a vital aspect that can sometimes decline during secondary school years. Furthermore, students who require additional assistance with their reading will receive dedicated support during this allocated time.

For Year 11 students, this extra time will be used to provide targeted GCSE intervention, replacing the current period 6 offer at the end of the day. This change aims to ensure that all Year 11 students receive tailored support to enhance their GCSE outcomes.

## **School communication**

The main communication channels used for school to communicate with parents and carers is via ClassCharts and the Parent App. In addition, we aim to be a cashless site and therefore use ParentPay for families to pay for school lunches, trips, items of stationery, etc.

For our new entrants in September, a letter will be distributed during the first week of term with log in details for these systems. Please activate to ensure that you do not miss out on any important communication.

For any parents and carers of students currently in school who are unable to access their accounts, please contact the main school office on 0191 500 7981 and a member of our support team will be able to help you log in.



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## Thornhill Academy Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform.

Please arrive at school every day looking smart in the correct uniform.

Items of the academy uniform can be purchased directly from our academy supplier:

[Little Gems](#)

Little Gems, 11 Brockwell Road, Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington, NE38 0AF

[0191 416 8889](tel:01914168889)

[theschooloutfit@outlook.com](mailto:theschooloutfit@outlook.com)



## **Thornhill Academy Uniform**

### **What you need:**

- Black embroidered blazer
- White shirt with a collar
- Maroon and silver striped tie
- Black Knitted V Neck Jumper (compulsory) with or without logo
- Black Charleston style skirt
- Black trousers
- Black school shoes (no trainers)
- Dark coloured waterproof coat
- Black school bag
- School Planner
- Equipment (pencil case, 2 black pens, 1 green pen, 2 pencils, 1 orange highlighter, 1 ruler)



- No excessive or heavy make-up
- Short, neutral-coloured nails only
- Baseball caps are banned, and other hats/hoods must not be worn inside the buildings
- No jewellery except a single pair of stud earrings and a watch
- No extreme haircuts, lines, or shading
- Mobile phones and ear phones are not permitted and will be confiscated if seen or heard

**You will need a black school bag, school planner & equipment**



## **Thornhill Academy PE Dept**

### **Thornhill Academy PE Kit**

What you need for PE:

- Navy Blue polo shirt
- Navy Blue shorts
- Navy Blue tracksuit bottoms or
- Navy Blue / Black Leggings
- Navy Blue Football socks
- Pair of trainers



What you need for Swimming:

- Swim shorts / trunks
- Swim costume
- Towel
- Goggles (optional)
- Swim Cap (optional)

### **Thornhill Academy PE Expectations:**

- PE Kit needed each lesson
- PE Kit should be loaned if forgotten
- Long hair must be tied back
- All jewellery must be removed
- Mobile phones are not permitted
- Chewing gum is not permitted

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Hamilton  
Headteacher