



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
**Consilium
Academies**

Excellence | Partnership | Opportunity

Thornhill Parent Update 20th December 2024



Message from Headteacher

Over the last two weeks, we have had so many different events occurring, in which our students have massively gained from their extra-curricular opportunities and rewards. We have seen so many of our talented musical students perform at a number of schools, trust and city events. To say it's been busy, is an understatement. You can read about a number of these further through this newsletter.

As we end 2024, we have much to celebrate at Thornhill. Our Ofsted inspection in May 2024 led to our 'Good' Ofsted judgement. Following this, our GCSE results in August 2024 were the best the school had achieved. We move into 2025 in a very positive place, with a real momentum for further school improvement. All of this has been possible because of absolute teamwork in school, from our hardworking and dedicated staff team, and through your support as parents and carers. We look forward to what 2025 has in store for us, not least the new school build, which will commence at the end of the year, bringing state of the art buildings to further enhance our school offer.

As we finish for a well-deserved Christmas break, the staff and I all wish you a happy festive period. We look forward to greeting your children on Monday, 6th January 2025 for the start of the Spring term. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Thornhill Academy

Mrs S Hamilton
Headteacher



**Thornhill
Academy**

"Excellence at the heart of everything"

Thornhill Academy, Thornholme Road
Sunderland, SR2 7NA
0191 500 7981

thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

Year 10 and Year 9 Assessments

Year 10 and Year 9 Assessments will take place WB: 20th January 2025.

Year 10 - The timetable will be available on the school website under 'Student' tab and 'Class Charts'.

Year 9 - The exams will take place within classrooms

Speak Up

We are continuing our Speak Up journey, which sees 7LB1 work with local artists to create their own work. Over the past few weeks, we have continued to write our own original song with Kema Kay who have recently started to create their own cover work with Frederick Worrell. Fredrick is a talented artist, who is originally from New Zealand, but is now based in Newcastle. His work blends his Māori heritage with contemporary design. I am sure you cannot wait to see what work they produce over the next few weeks!



Christmas Cracker Concert – Heworth Grange

Last Tuesday, we saw 6 incredibly talented acts from Thornhill join forces with Heworth Grange and Washington Academy, to perform 3 sold out nights of festive fun for friends, family and teachers. We even got a visit from our CEO on Friday, who I am sure, enjoyed participating with the 12 days of Christmas!

This event saw a wide range of students performing and working backstage to put on a night of amazing entertainment. Acts included, live bands, gymnast's, singers, dancers and even a special sneak peek at a song from Heworth's upcoming school show, Frozen! It is fair to say we had the absolute best time with our Consilium family.



School Choir

Over the past two weeks, our school choir has been extremely busy, rehearsing and performing at a variety of events. Last Sunday, we saw some students sing at the Mayors Carol Service at Sunderland Minister, where they supported with the singing of well-known carols including, Once in Royal David City and Joy to the World. There was no stopping them when they next had to prepare for the end of year celebration event for Y7, and a staff service, which were both held at St. Nicholas Church. This was an opportunity for students and staff to come together and reflect on the year we have had. It was lovely to hear our students come together and share their talent with some of the school. Mr. Holden and Miss O'Neill would like to use this opportunity to thank the students who gave up their spare time to help with these events. We are extremely proud of you all.

Thornhill's Christmas concert

This week, the performing arts department held a Christmas concert at the spectacular venue, Seventeen Nineteen! During the evening, we had a wide variety of performances, from both KS3 and KS4 wowing our audiences. Some students, you will know well from previous years, including a range of Y11 GCSE students and Sophia and the Pitcaps. In addition to some new faces, including the lovely Lucy in Y7, who made her debut with Thornhill just a week earlier at the Consilium Christmas Craker. It is clear we have some amazing talent at Thornhill!



We would like to thank every single person who came and supported us at this event, and we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed putting it on. We are already looking forward to doing it all over again next year!



Assemblies

Our final assembly theme of the year explored the essential skill of teamwork. As we progress as a skills builder school, we are launching each of the 8 essential skills, with all students across the year. Teamwork means working collaboratively towards a shared goal. Newcastle supporter, Mr. McGee swallowed his pride to share with students, some of the reasons Sunderland football team has been so successful of late. He shared about the wider team around the players and how everyone worked together. Students reflected upon how they work together towards their goals, in and out of the classroom, and they were offered additional praise points for being able to demonstrate this skill. Thank you, Mr. McGee!



In the final week of term, our assemblies, led by our amazing Head of Year team, focused on celebrating our students' achievements across the term and awarding specific prizes in recognition of our top performing students. Students from each year group who demonstrated our values of excellence, opportunity and partnership were celebrated for their successes!





Rewards

As we approach the end of term, there is lots to celebrate and much praise to be given to our amazing students.

First, we enjoyed issuing our hot chocolate tokens for students, who demonstrate our Thornhill Way, showing kindness and consideration to others. Students with tokens could come into the Tom Cowie at break to join the festive atmosphere, and warm up with a cozy hot chocolate (with cream and marshmallows of course!). Thank you to Mrs Croucher and the DT team for supporting this popular reward!





As the end of the term nears, our students who have been saving up their praise points have been able to begin purchasing the bigger items in our store, such as £10 vouchers and Earbuds!



We also enjoyed our 12 days of Christmas attendance reward, to encourage great attendance and also celebrate students with the best and most improved attendance records. So many children have enjoyed rewards, from sweets to share with the best tutor groups, to the 40 students each Friday who win a scratchcard in our big attendance draw, just for being in school. Students have won a range of prizes such as hot chocolate, sweets, vouchers, stationery and the very popular queue jumpers! A great way to end the term!



Careers opportunities

Now the mock exams have finished, year 11 students have been supported by Sunderland College, to ensure they have their applications completed early for their future plans, after their exams. We aim to provide all students with the support and guidance they need to make their best next steps, and Mary Feechan from Sunderland College came in to help students select the right courses and make their applications. For students who are still unsure we will be arranging site visits to the college to explore further.

On Tuesday, this week we took 40, year 8 students for a day at Newcastle university. Here they explored the campus and what higher education has to offer. After taking part in a number of engaging activities the students finished the day by designing their own university of the future!

Thank you to Mr Armstrong and Mrs Gardiner for supporting the students on this trip.



Sports News

We are delighted to announce that following our Great Active Sunderland School Charter submission, we have achieved the Gold Standard! 🏆

We are so proud of this fantastic achievement, and we look forward to working with [@activesland](#) during the new academic year ⭐

Sponsorship plea

We are looking for local businesses who can sponsor some sports kits for our futsal and football teams. Our good friends at [Young Asian Voices](#) have sponsored a kit for our younger children. As our children are involved in more sport, we also need to invest in larger sizes for older year groups. Can you or anyone you know help? If so, email our Deputy Headteacher liam.clark@consilium-at.com.

GOLD
Active
Sunderland
School 2023–24



Thornhill Academy – Invigilators Required

Are you (or someone you know) interested in becoming one of our diligent exam invigilators?
Applicants must be over 18 years old and available during May and June.



Please contact Thornhill Academy for more details on **0191 500 7981** or
email thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com



YOUNG INNOVATORS COUNCIL

The voice of young people at Northern Gas Networks

The Young Innovators Council (YIC) gives young people the opportunity to share their perspectives on Northern Gas Networks' (NGN) projects and plans, and NGN ensures that these thoughts and opinions are put at the heart of the business' decision making.

We are looking for 35 young people to join the YIC 2025, attending a minimum of five online meetings between January and September 2025 (outside school hours).



By joining the Young Innovators Council, you will:

- inform and influence the agenda and decisions of a major utility company.
- expand your network and develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication.
- increase your knowledge about UK energy infrastructure.
- co-create ideas with Northern Gas Networks around environmental issues, approaches to sustainability, innovation and net zero programmes, social strategy and supporting customers in vulnerable situations.



ARE YOU...

- 14 - 19 years old?
- an innovative trailblazer?
- naturally curious?
- passionate about our collective future?
- interested in STEM*, society, innovation and future energy solutions?

(*Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)



If so, apply [HERE](#) or use the QR code above

For more info:

email: youthinsights@solutionsfortheplanet.co.uk

tel: 07900 064532



Member of
Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP

PE Kit Donation Drive

Thornhill PE department would greatly appreciate any PE kit donations to assist our pupils with their lessons

Please drop off at main reception.



easyfundraising

Thornhill Academy are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All funds raised will be paid directly to the Academy to use for the benefit of our students.



These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It is completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thornhill-academy/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1



Thank you so much!

Groundwork



"In partnership with Energy Savings Trust, Groundwork have a new service that offers help and advice with managing energy costs.

This service now covers residents in all areas under Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council, Durham County Council, Gateshead Council and City of Sunderland Council

If you're looking for advice on reducing energy use, keeping warm at home, making energy efficiency upgrades, installing renewable energy systems, make energy efficient home improvements or just help to pay your energy bills please get in touch.

Our in-home support programme provides free, expert advice on being more energy efficient and on how to lower your bills.

We are completely impartial and there's no hard sell - just clear honest advice from the experts.

We can even help those in 'hard-to-treat' homes like: flats, terrace houses, old properties, single glazed properties and homes in the countryside.

If you would like any of the help listed above or just more information, please get in touch; my email address and mobile number are given below.

I can have a chat and/or make a referral to the programme, then one of the energy experts will be in touch to book a home visit."

Joel Barrow

Community Project Manager, North of Tyne Region

Groundwork NE & Cumbria

Joel.Barrow@groundwork.org.uk>

Mobile: 07977 819 720

ParentPay App

Student Information – PLEASE UPDATE NOW

It is important that we have up to date information on your child. This includes correct address and telephone numbers, emergency contact details, medical updates, including allergies, etc.

Much of this can be updated by parents/carers through the ParentApp. Please log into ParentApp and check that all the information that we hold for your child is correct and update where necessary.

If you are unable to access ParentApp, please contact the main school office who will be happy to assist by making the changes and helping you set up ParentApp for future use.

Free School Meals

Please see the school details for information around Free School Meal entitlement. If you are not currently entitled to receive Free School Meals, complete the form and if, in the future, circumstances change, the entitlement could automatically start for your child.

Lunch Accounts

We are currently looking at all student lunch accounts and will be contacting parents/carers where there is significant debt on a student's account. We will no longer be able to provide meals for those students who have considerable debt on their accounts and who make no payment to reduce the balance.

Please clear any overdrawn balance now or contact the main school office if this will cause undue financial burden.

ParentPay

It is important for all Parents/Carers to be using ParentPay as we are looking to become a cashless school. If you do not have your username and password, please contact reception or email:

Thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com



Adding ParentPay to your Phones

Adding the ParentPay icon to any phone is quick and simple.

The ParentPay site is device responsive which means it can be opened on any phone, tablet device and computer and sit perfectly within the screen allowing full functionality.

Please ask your parents to follow these instructions and this will give them a quick link into their ParentPay site allowing them to pay and book meals if appropriate.

iPhone Instructions

Step 1 - Navigate to www.parentpay.com using Safari and select the 'Share' icon on the bottom navigation bar (square with upward arrow).

Step 2 - Scroll across the options to the right, until you get the 'Add to Home Screen' option and click it.

Step 3 - Choose 'Add' in the top right corner (the default information will already be correct).

Step 4 - This will create a shortcut icon on your iPhone home screen.

Step 1



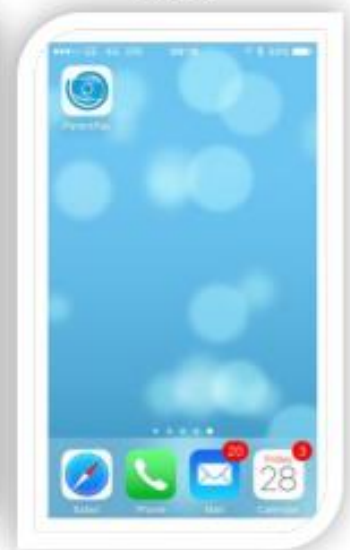
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Android Instructions

Step 1 - Type in www.parentpay.com into the phones' internet browser

Step 2 - Tap the 3 grey dots next to the search bar on the browser - as shown in the red circle.

Step 3 - This will bring up the menu on the browser. Tap on 'Add shortcut on Home screen' as shown in the red box

Step 4 - A message will pop-up on the browser confirming that the shortcut has been added to your home screen

Step 5 - Go to your home screen - where you will find the ParentPay tile which will direct you straight to the ParentPay application.

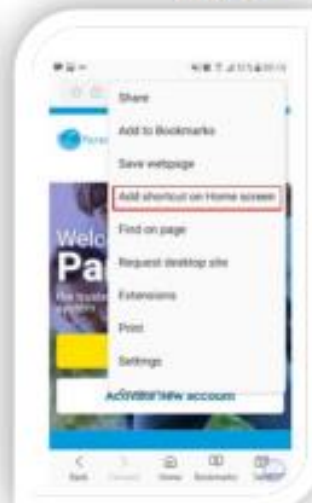
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



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Sharp Reporting System

Were you aware Thornhill has a web based anonymous reporting function? This is the direct link to the reporting feature, but this can also be accessed through the school website:
<https://thornhill.thesharpsystem.com/>

Alumni Network

If you are a former pupil, we want to hear from you!

Thank you for the overwhelming support we always receive from parents.

We are extremely proud of our Alumni. When our students leave following completion of their GCSEs, they progress on to some incredibly exciting and far-reaching pathways.

What is it?

The Consilium Alumni will be a network of former students across all Consilium Academies.

The Alumni programme aims to:

- Allow continued support where needed for our former pupils
- Create a network of former pupils who are now in further education or employment, who may be able to use this experience to inspire and support current students
- Celebrate the achievements of former pupils
- Advertise local jobs which may appeal to former students and their families

Who can join?

Any former student or staff member from one of our Consilium Academies schools.

Join our network today and help us continue to build our Consilium community!

[Sign up here](#)

Parent Information

Get in touch

- At Thornhill Academy we understand the importance of sharing information and news with our parents and carers. Each week we publish our Parental Bulletin to ensure you are kept up to date with recent school news.
- We also want to hear from you! We love to share good news stories and the amazing accomplishments made by our pupils.
- If you have some good news to share about your child, please get in touch via email:
- thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com
- Follow us
- Don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates on school activities



Twitter@thornhill_uk
Instagram@thornhill_academy
FacebookThornhill Academy

To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:
[*View Parents Letters*](#)