



29 April 2022

From the Headteacher

I would like to welcome you all to our first parental news bulletin. We will be producing this every Friday during term time. We hope that you will find this a useful communication tool in keeping you up to date with everything happening in school.

We have received the Ofsted report from our recent inspection and I would like to be able to share this report with you today. You can access the report, with a covering letter, at this link:

<https://bit.ly/3OJjJlc>.

### **Staff Appointment**

On Monday we welcomed Miss Marriner to our English department. She replaces one of the two English teachers who left us earlier in the year. We are grateful to her previous school who have allowed her to leave before the end of the academic year to take up her post with us.

### **Uniform**

Students have returned to school looking smart and are wearing their uniform with pride. We would like to give a massive thank you to parents for your support in ensuring students have returned to school in full school uniform. If students do not have the correct uniform, we have set up a uniform store where students will be provided with a loan uniform for the day. A reminder that ties are now available from reception at a cost of £6, this is also payable via parent pay.

### **Year 11 GCSEs**

GCSE exams are only weeks away with our first full cohort exam being the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> May. The importance of preparing for these has never been more important. Starting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May all students will be expected to stay after school for a minimum of 30 minutes for a compulsory Period 6 lesson. This will be an additional revision and support session and students will receive a bespoke timetable indicating the sessions they have been allocated. All sessions have been allocated based upon the subjects that students will most benefit from in terms of boosting grades and building confidence. We thank you in advance for ensuring that your son/ daughter attends these sessions.

We would like to invite all parents and carers to an Exam Support Session on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. This will be designed to guide parents through Exam expectations, managing student stress and wellbeing, as well as advising on Effective study skills. In addition, this will be an informal opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification about any aspect of the GCSE exams. Teaching staff, senior leaders and our exams officer will be in hand to support in any way we can. Look out for our letter with more details.

### **GCSE French Speaking Examinations**

These will be taking place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The foundation tier is on Thursday and the higher tier on Friday. If your child is taking this examination, please remind them to attend on time and prepare well by revising their conversation theme questions.

### **Improved Punctuality of our Amazing Students**

The Attendance Team at Thornhill Academy would like to thank all parents/carers that have supported our continuing improvement in punctuality.

Students are expected on school site for 8.30am ready for registration starting at 8.40am.

Alternatively, students are also welcome to school from 7.30am and can take advantage of a free breakfast in the school restaurant.

The support of parents getting students to school on time cannot be underestimated and we are extremely grateful for all your efforts. We hope this continues and thank you for all of your support and working together with us.

Further information regarding your child's attendance and punctuality can be found on the SIMS parent app.

### **Covid Recording in Schools from April 2022**

Schools are no longer using the X code to record suspected cases of covid - if a pupil is absent from school with suspected covid they will be marked as ill - the ill code will decrease the overall attendance percentage on a student's attendance record. This is to reflect a child's missed education, enabling school to support them appropriately.

Adults and children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. For adults the advice is 5 days, for children and young people aged 18 and under the advice is 3 days, as this is when they are most infectious.

### **Personal Development Theme of the Week - Relationships, consent and boundaries.**

This week our students will be talking about what consent means and why it is important that consent is always communicated clearly in relationships.

### **Careers Tip of the Week**

East Durham and Houghall College are holding a T-Levels information evening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great way for our Year 10 and 11 students to find out more about this exciting new post-16 qualification. You can find out more by visiting their website at the following link:

<https://www.eastdurham.ac.uk/a-level-and-t-level-open-evening-thursday-5th-may-2022>

### **Wider Curriculum Activity of the Week - Coding Club, Mondays in B2**

Come and create an app, program a robot and create a computer game with Miss Coldwell! A great way to practice your programming, make new friends and learn a new skill.

Should you have any queries or require further information on any item in the news bulletin, you can contact the school by the following methods:

Telephone: 0191 5007981

Email: [thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com)

Website: <http://thornhillschool.org.uk>

Twitter: @thornhill\_uk

Facebook: Thornhill Academy