



16th December 2022

New School Build

I want to share with you the wonderful news that we have received today, Thornhill Academy is getting a new school build. This is fantastic news for our entire school community.

Currently we have no further news about designs and timescales but be assured that we will be sharing this all with you in the coming months.

At the end of the bulletin is a letter regarding the new build from our CEO, David Clayton and myself.

Susan Hamilton

Headteacher

Information from Local Authority

Please see at the end of this bulletin, information from Public Health, which has been provided by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for Northeast schools, parents and carers. UKHSA are assuring us that severe Group A Strep (GAS) infections are exceptionally rare and the information provided is intended to give some background advice which schools and parents may find helpful.

Hardship at Christmas

Given the current situation with rising food costs, oil and energy prices to name a few, more families than ever are struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to a generous donation we are now in an extremely fortunate position to support a number of families with new gifts for Christmas. This will all be done without pupils being aware, therefore gifts can be wrapped at home and gifted from parents/carers. Please get in touch with a simple email to matthew.bainbridge@consilium-at.com or contact the school on 0191 500 7981 to register an interest.

Free School Meal Vouchers

All parents/carers of children that are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) should have received a text or an email this week with the link to their vouchers through the Wonde E-Voucher system. If your child is eligible for FSM but you have not received a link to your voucher, please

contact the school using the email address thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com as soon as possible. Also, if you are unable to claim your vouchers due to technology issues, please contact us and we will do our best to resolve them. As we will be closed once school finishes on Tuesday 20th December 2022, it is imperative that we know as soon as possible, otherwise any emails may not be picked up until our return on Wednesday 4th January 2023.



On Sunday 11 December reports were shared of a rescue effort of several people at Babbs Mill, Kingshurst in the West Midlands. Reports said that a number of people had entered the water after being on the frozen lake.

We now know that tragically, four boys aged 6, 8, 10 and 11 have sadly died.

The Royal Life Saving UK (RLSS UK) would like to send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the four boys who sadly lost their lives at Babbs Mill Lake in Solihull this week.

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragic event, including the families and friends of those involved, as well the local community of Solihull, and all of the Emergency Services.

RLSS UK has issued safety advice to ensure everyone is aware of the dangers around frozen water and what to do in an emergency.

Lee Heard, Charity Director at RLSS UK said, "Firstly, and most importantly, we would like to send our thoughts to the individuals and families involved with the incident which occurred yesterday, 11 December. We know that incidents such as this cause concern in the local community within that area, but also nationally.

The cold weather we saw at the weekend meant that many bodies of water froze over and created hazardous conditions. We appreciate the temptation to walk across or play on the frozen water, but we would like to urge everyone to know what dangers are associated with frozen water.

Our advice is to never go on to the ice under any circumstances. The ice may appear thicker than it is but please be aware that ice is vulnerable, especially as you move further from the edge. If you were to fall in this can be extremely dangerous due to the cold temperatures of the water and the possibility of currents pushing you under unbroken ice."

Cold water shock refers to a range of natural reactions that our bodies take to protect us when we enter the cold water, however, these reactions can sometimes work against us, Lee explains: “There are three stages that your body goes through during cold water shock, starting with a gasp for breath, this is then followed by rapid breathing. Your blood pressure then shoots up as your body tries to keep your blood warm by moving it towards the middle of your body. As your muscles cool, your strength, endurance and muscle control reduces to the point when you cannot swim any longer so you are unable to rescue yourself, which is where the real danger can be seen.”

RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

- Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet
- Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Keep calm and shout for ‘help’
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice
- Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you anyway
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water
- Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up

What to do if you see someone fall through the ice:

- Shout for assistance and phone the emergency services – call 999 or 112
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue
- Shout to the casualty to ‘keep still’ and offer reassurance to keep them calm
- Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty

A note from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service:

There are similar stretches of water in Barnes Park, Hetton Lyons Country Park and Silksworth Country Park in Sunderland and Marine Park in South Shields.

Thornhill Academy ask that families please be aware of advice and guidelines given, nobody should be on the ice. Please stay safe!

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme

**Holiday Activity and Food
STARS SEND Event**

For children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, their families and carers

Location:
Monument Centre & Barnwell Academy

Date and time:
Tuesday 3 January
11am to 3pm

Free, accessible and inclusive

Angela's Ark | Cosmos Planetarium | Face Paint | Music Hub | Big Science | Nutritional Education | Sunderland Climbing Wall | Arts and Crafts | Signposting Services | Autism Outreach Team | Sunderland People First | Hot, Healthy Meal | Parent-Carer Forum | Careers Advice | plus more!

together for children SUNDERLAND

Department for Education

Wear Here 4 Winter is back for the Christmas holidays from Wednesday 21 December through to the New Year, with providers offering four hours of fun, festive activities and a hot, healthy meal for school aged children who receive means-tested free school meals. A timetable of free activities, split by area, can be found on our website at www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/HAF.

We would be grateful if you could share this link with any families who receive means tested free school meals at your school and encourage them to come along and get

involved. Please do this via email and/or text message to ensure that we reach as many families as possible – please see attached information which you can copy and paste. If you have any queries, please email HAF@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Safeguarding

Can we all please use the streets opposite school, or other safe parking spaces outside of school, to drop children off on a morning and collect in the afternoon? Students can then use the crossing to safely cross the road.

There must be no children getting out of cars on the main road especially on the zigzag lines, even if stopped at the crossing, as this is extremely dangerous.

Rule 191 of the highway code states

*'You **MUST NOT** park on a crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag lines.'*

Christmas Holidays

The last day of school is the 20th of December, the first day of the holidays is the 21st of December and we will return to school on the 4th of January 2023.

Christmas Concert

A Massive thank you from the music department for everyone's support for our Christmas Concert at 17nineteen. It was an incredible night, with our young people performing in

magnificent and professional surroundings. It was great to see so many staff there too and I know the pupils really appreciated that. The crowd was healthy, with over 100 people attending. Thank you again

School Uniform Donations

Do you have any school uniform items which you no longer use, which could be given to other families? They are probably taking up space and would be greatly appreciated by families who could utilise them.

Festive Attendance Giveaway

Parents / Carers, we are delighted to be able to have over £500 worth of vouchers to give away for individual prizes to students based on Attendance during this festive period. There will be 31 vouchers for prizes between £10 and £75 for your child to win. All prizes will be drawn on Tuesday 20th December, however, we must have your child in school for that day in order to qualify for the big Draw at breaktime.

Students will be able to claim tickets for the draw on a daily basis by simply being in school. This means the more days they are in school the more tickets they will have and in turn better chances of winning. On the final day of term, 20th December, each child will be rewarded an additional 10 tickets to maximise their chances of winning.



ParentView Questionnaire

We would love to hear your views on our school. Please take a moment to register via email and complete the 2-minute questionnaire about Thornhill Academy using the link below.

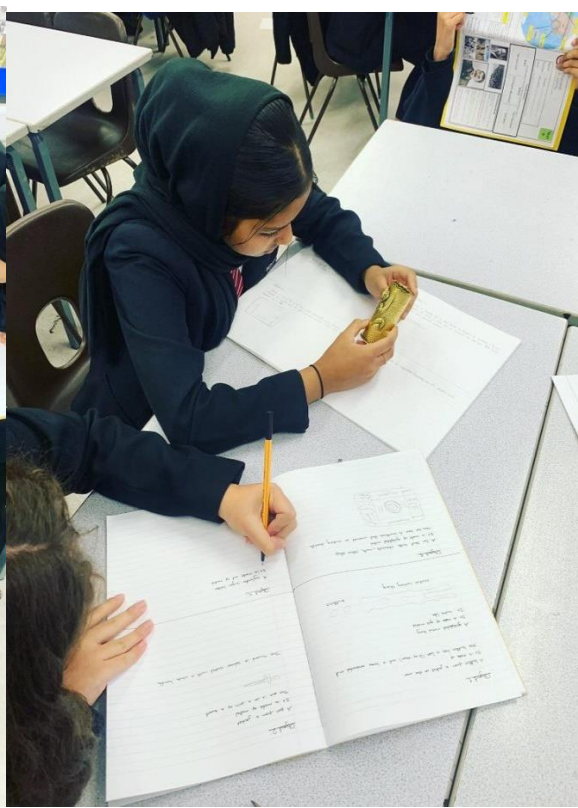
<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

History

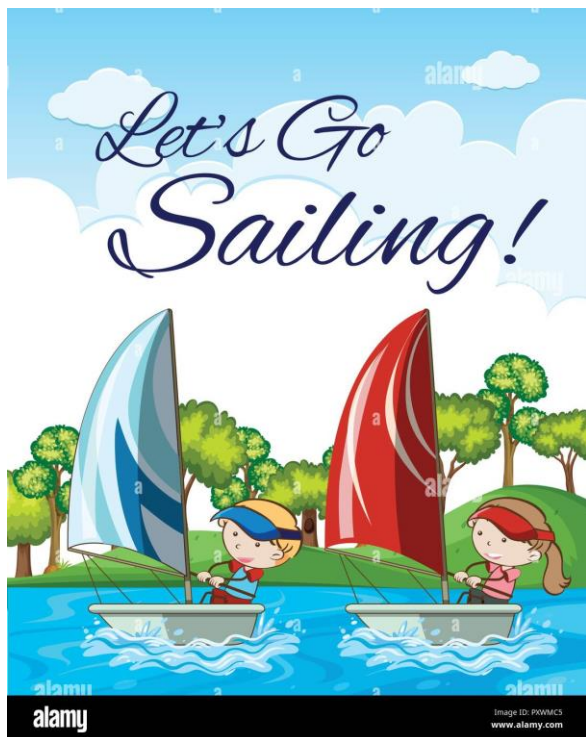
Over the last few weeks, our year 9 students have had the opportunity to analyse artefacts from the trenches of WWI. Students were given the task to try and work out what the artefact was, what it was used for, what it was made from and what might it tell us about life during the

trenches. Thank you to Newcastle University for this amazing opportunity. It is not every day you get to handle artefacts from the battlefields.

Here are some of our historians hard at work.



All Aboard!!

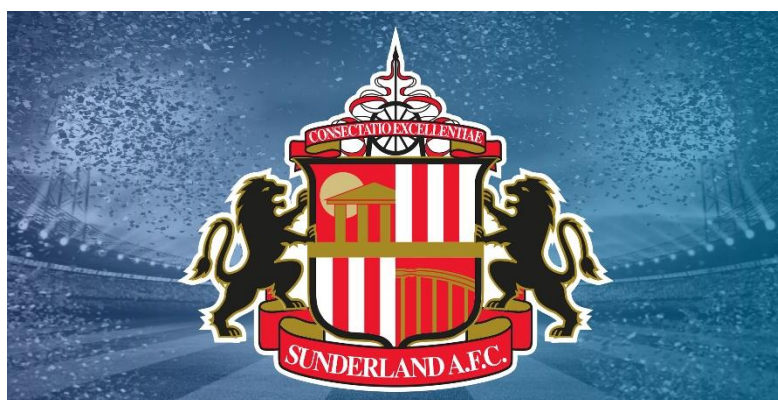


You may have seen through our social media streams, an amazing opportunity for our current Year 9 cohort next year. Setting sail from Royal Quays Marina, North Shields on Monday 15th May 2023, 12 students will be selected to spend 5 days and 4 nights aboard a fantastic fully funded sailboat, travelling up and down the northeast coast, stopping off at local ports to spend days on the beaches and going on fantastic adventures!

If this is something your child in would be interested in, they can apply for a place by completing an application for explaining the reason why they should be chosen for this once in a lifetime experience. applications should be no more than one side of A4 and can be

handwritten or typed. The deadline for this is the end of this term, Tuesday 20th December. If you have any further questions, you can visit the organisations page via the link: <http://www.oynorth.org.uk/> or contact Mr Haley- Head of Year 9.

Sunderland AFC



As a school, we use a teacher supply agency, AK Teaching, who are also one of the main sponsors for Sunderland AFC. As a result, we have secured 12 tickets to the home game on Sunday 22nd January Sunderland Vs Middlesbrough! Out of the 12

tickets, six pupils will have the chance to be on the pitch as flag bearers, when the players walk out on to the pitch prior to kick-off. This is open to current Year 7 & 8 pupils. To be eligible to be chosen, your child must have 100% attendance and excellent behaviour between the dates of 5th-13th January 2023.

Parent App

We are encouraging all parents/carers to sign up to the SIMS Parent App.

The App enables us to communicate easily with you and allows you to keep your child's information up to date.

Once signed up, please check the data collection sheet as this shows the details that we hold for you and your child.

At the end of the process, you will be required to review the changes and submit to the school for us to process your changes.

If there are no changes, please ensure you click on the confirm no changes button on the page.

We have included below the parent guide on how to register for the App.



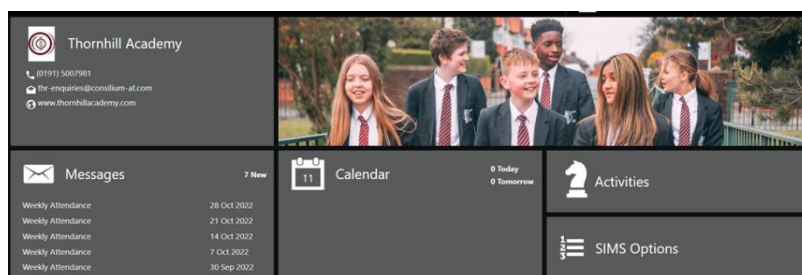
SIMS PARENT APP

QUICK SETUP GUIDE

The SIMS Parent app allows us to easily communicate with you, the parent/carer. Whether it's sharing information such as attendance, termly assessments, conduct, school reports and sending messages to or from the school. The app also allows you to keep your child's information up to date! All of the information is easily accessible from the convenience of your smart phone, tablet or PC.

We can now easily send automated alerts and notifications directly to your phone! By sharing information with you on attendance, termly assessments, timetables or school reports and conduct, you can stay on top of your child's progress. A clear dashboard gives you an overview of your child's school life and the data collection functionality within the app and website lets you easily update your contact information too.

Follow the steps below to setup and install the SIMS Parent App.



STEP #1: Receive the Activation Email

1. We will send you an activation email. Simply click on the link inside the email from your tablet, PC or smartphone to activate your account.
2. After clicking on the link in the email you will now be asked to login using your Facebook, Twitter, Google or Microsoft (including Office 365) account username and password. Don't have one of those accounts then click on More for the option to create a Microsoft account.
3. You will be asked the date of birth for one of your children at the school.
4. Click Verify and complete your registration.

Now you just need to download the app!

*The email will be from noreply@sims.co.uk so please check your SPAM or JUNK folder if you cannot find it. If you still cannot find it, then please contact the school on thr-enquires@consilium-at.com to confirm that we have the correct information for you.

STEP #2: Download SIMS Parent App & Login

The app is free to download and can be used on both iPhone and Android devices.

1. Open the Apple store or Google Play store on your mobile device.
2. Search 'SIMS Parent app' and select SIMS Parent by Capita PLC.
3. Click install to download the app
4. Once installed, open the app on your device.
5. You will be asked 'Have you received an invitation from your school and completed registration?' Click yes
6. Login using the account you signed up with.

Alternatively, you can login in via the website: www.SIMS-PARENT.co.uk

Breakfast Club

A reminder that all students are required on site for 8.20 am and Breakfast club is available from 8am **FOR ALL STUDENTS**, whether they are eligible for free school meals or not.



Attendance

A massive thank you to all the parents who are continuing to support the increase in attendance for their child by sending children into school. We are seeing excellent progress in attendance and student knowledge.

Parents must be aware that their child will receive a U code if they arrive to school after 9.10am. This means they will have 0% attendance for the morning. This is massively impacting on student's attendance and can easily be improved.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support with the standards and expectations around your child's jacket inside of the school building and the type of jacket they must wear to school. Please be reminded that body warmers, sports jackets and hoodies are all unacceptable pieces of uniform for Thornhill.

Have a lovely Christmas from all the staff at Thornhill

School Contact Details

Telephone: 0191 5007981

Email: thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

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

Twitter: @thornhill_uk

Facebook: Thornhill Academy



Consilium Academies

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We are delighted to share with you the news that Thornhill Academy has been selected to be on the Government's list of schools to rebuild. Thornhill is one of 239 schools across the country to be chosen to be part of the School Rebuild Programme, as announced today. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-children-to-benefit-from-schools-fit-for-the-future>

As part of [our Estates Vision](#), at Consilium Academies we are committed to ensuring our schools are healthy places for our children and staff to learn and work. That's why over the last two years we have been working hard to prepare our bid for government investment at Thornhill.

Thornhill was built in 1965 and has successfully served thousands of children in that time. After 57 years the school building is approaching the end of its life and will now be prioritised for a rebuild.

We have heavily invested in Thornhill's building and facilities over the last two years ensuring it is fit for purpose for our students and staff. That investment will continue until the building is rebuilt, with a focus on teaching environments and interiors.

This is fantastic news for our students, staff, families, and Thornhill's entire community that will help it continue to go from strength to strength. We are thrilled that the huge amount of hard work and dedication that our estates team at Consilium has put into this bid has paid off.

Our aim is to have the right places for the right time for our students and staff. The environment that our children learn in can unlock an excellent education. This successful bid will enable us to carry out our estates vision at Thornhill, which will be hugely beneficial to all who learn and work there for decades to come.

We will keep you updated on this Programme as it progresses. However, if you have any queries please contact thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com.

Yours sincerely,

David Clayton
Chief Executive
Consilium Academies

Sue Hamilton
Headteacher
Thornhill Academy