



3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

## New Build

Please see link below with exciting news on our new build.

[Consilium Academies - GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO REBUILDING THORNHILL ACADEMY  
\(consilium-at.com\)](https://consilium-academies.com/consilium-at.com)

## Key Term Dates

2<sup>nd</sup> February Year 11 Parents evening from 3:30pm

9<sup>th</sup> February Year 9 Parents evening and options event from 3:45pm

13<sup>th</sup> February Year 11 GCSE Mock Assessments

24<sup>th</sup> April Key Stage 3 Assessments

4<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 Parents evening from 3:30pm

15<sup>th</sup> June Year 8 Parent evening from 3:30pm

19<sup>th</sup> June Year 10 GCSE Mock assessments

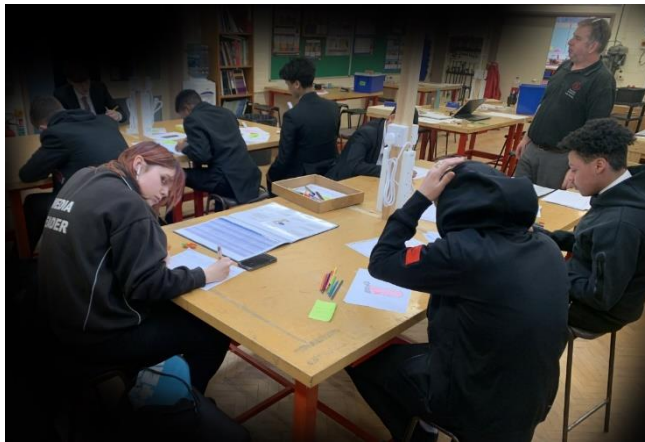
# Year 11

## Celebration and Success



**Year 11 Parents evening-** Thank you to all parent who attended this week's parental event to support your children. We hope you left with lots of information to support you and your child. It is proven that partnership between school and home is essential for their success and your support is much appreciated.

**Maximize your Potential-** Our students excelled themselves once again with an excellent attitude towards are study skills event. Here they found out so much more about preparation.



**Travel & Tourism exam-** well done to our Travel and Tourism students who completed their first attempt at their external exam component today. This will learn a lot from this process, and this will prepare them well for the remainder of the course.

**Period 6 sessions-** this week's P6 stars are our Engineering crew with the most improved attendance this week! Great

work Mr Miller! We are really pleased that more students are engaging with these opportunities available to them.



### English Assessment update

The English team would like to give a huge round of applause our Y11 pupils, on their positive attitude when completing their narrative assessment on Tuesday. We are already seeing significant improvements regarding their confidence and resilience, and let's not forget their all-important progress as we edge closer to final examinations.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support and have attached the model script for the next assessment which is scheduled for 06/02/23. This assessment will provide our pupils with the opportunity to practise their transactional writing skills. They will have 1 hour to complete 2 non-fiction writing tasks, 30 minutes for each task. We would appreciate your support in preparing our pupils for this by encouraging them to familiarise themselves with the script.

Good luck to all on Monday!

**Transactional Writing**  
Component Two

- Introduce your topic
- Firstly, I believe...
- Secondly, it's clear...
- Thirdly, there is no doubt that...
- Overall...
- Now is the time to...

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Thornhill Academy

## Revision and Intervention



**AskOLA**- It's great to see students logging into askOLA of an evening to help with homework and revision. This is such a fantastic tool to help students outside of school.

**Homework** this week we continue our Homework follow up. Parents will be informed if students fail to submit their homework for these core subject areas.

- 1 missed HW- parents will be informed via text
- 2 missed HW- parents will receive a formal letter
- 3 missed HW- parents will be invited to discuss their son/daughter's homework and any additional support that might be required.

We know that with school and parents working closely together we can increase progress and achievement.

**English assessments** to support students' preparation for English GCSEs there will be weekly formal assessment taking place each week. These will take place in formal exam venues to help increase student familiarity with this. There will be a mixture of partial and full assessments. This half terms dates are below.

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February P5 &6
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February Breakfast Workshop from 8:00am. Assessment starts at 8:45am.

**Punctuality on this day is vital.**

### Key Dates

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** History Twilight- 12:45pm - 5pm. All History students are to attend a twilight session to support the American West section of their GCSE. It is essential that all students attend, and refreshments (definitely Pizza) will be provided!

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**: The next round of Mock exams to help prepare and guide student towards the summer exams start in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February and will continue after half term for a further 2 weeks. Timetables for these will be issued in advance.

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** Geography Twilight- 12:45pm to 5pm. All Geography students are to attend a twilight session to help prepare for their upcoming fieldwork trip. This is an essential component to the course so support with this preparation will be valuable to all students... go on have some pizza too!

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** History Live Drop-down day for all History students

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** Science revision retreat!

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** We have 12 school weeks left until the first GCSE exams, which start in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## After School Reading Club

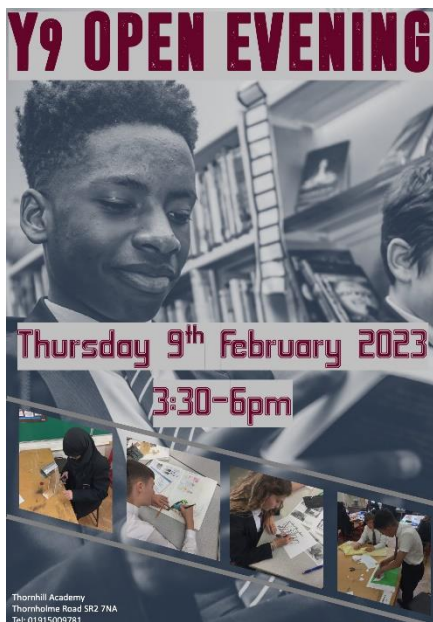
As an academy, we are dedicated to assisting your children to improve their reading. Within the last term we have brought in almost 2,000 new books to our library and pupils seem to be really enjoying them in their reading lessons. As there are so many books it has taken some time to allow them to go live and to be taken home, we are starting to see some real success from pupils as these new books are starting to go home.

This week our after-school reading clubs have continued and we had a great evening on Thursday, with so many pupils staying back to read, borrow books and take quizzes on the books they have read.



The reading system we use in school is called Accelerated Reading and it keeps track of how many books and even words, the children have read. Currently, pupils have read over 1,000 books and the word count has passed 12,500,000. We think is absolutely amazing!

We encourage you as a parent, to talk to your children about the books they are reading and to remind them that they should be reading for 20 minutes every day. Your child will benefit in every area of their education if they read each day for 20 minutes.



## Year 9 Options Evening

Year 9 options evening is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 3:30-6:00pm. Parents of year 9 pupils should now have received invitations via email and post. We look forward to seeing you at the open evening.

# Spotlight on Thornhill Curriculum



Each week we will focus on a different curriculum area to share with parents the experiences, activities and learning taking place at Thornhill.  
This week we put the spotlight on...

## Religious Studies

This week we welcomed our special guest Andy Osenton of WYFC into our year 8 lessons to help our students with our philosophical study into questions about the existence of God. We discussed and evaluated some personal experiences of Andy and others and as always explored both sides of the argument. We also had some fantastic "creations" using playdough to get us thinking.

## Science

Reminder that Y11 students have a science knowledge test every week 2, to support preparation for their Science GCSE examinations. Revision material is available on Class Charts as well as the benefits of askOLA to support revision at home. Parents will be updated with the percentage achieved.

### Science Revision Weekend



Year 11 students will have the opportunity to attend a science revision weekend 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March, at Newby Wiske Hall – North Yorkshire. Teacher-led revision sessions will take place across the weekend combined with motivational adventure activities to support our students with their science revision. Every day will include 4 x 1 ½ hour activity sessions along with evening entertainment.

## Drama and Music

Both the music and drama departments have been busy, collaborating with Sunderland Empire and The National Theatre this half term, launching 'Speak Up' at Thornhill!

Speak up is a nationwide project for schools, which will see young people working in co-creation with local artists and teachers to lead creative projects, in response to issues that are most important to them.

This week, 7AL1 had the opportunity to work with a local filmmaker, to discuss the roles and responsibilities involved in filmmaking! As a result of this, they got to use some of his professional equipment and have a try at filming themselves. It was great to see so many smiles in one room.

You can see for yourself below.



Keep your eyes peeled to see what they get up to next!

### The Ocean at The End of the Lane – School Trip

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 2:30pm, 45 students are going to have the fantastic opportunity visit Sunderland Empire to watch the National Theatre’s major new stage adaptation of the Ocean at the End of the Lane.

These tickets will be completely FREE and will be open for Y10 GCSE Drama and Y9 students. This is a fantastic opportunity that should not be missed! If you are interested, please come and obtain a letter from Mr. Leadbetter or Miss O’Neill on Monday. Tickets will be given on a first come, first served basis, and must be handed in to Miss O’Neill by the 10th of February.



Trailer: [Trailer: The Ocean at the End of the Lane | West End - YouTube](#)

## Maths

### What we have been learning

At Thornhill Academy we offer a curriculum that is both broad and ambitious. The spiral nature of the curriculum provides students the opportunity to keep using the previous skills and knowledge from previous learning while acquiring new knowledge.

Here is what we are currently teaching our students.

Year Group	Topic
Year 7	<b>Sequences</b> Recognising different types of patterns and being able to continue them. Being able to calculate the nth term of a linear sequence.
Year 8	<b>Shapes and Angles</b>

	Properties of quadrilaterals; Length and angle measurements; Angles about a point, on a straight line and in a triangle; Angles on parallel lines; Nets; Plans and elevations
Year 9	<b>Fractions, Decimals and Percentages</b> <b>Foundation</b> - Calculations with fractions, including mixed numbers; converting between fractions, decimals and percentages; percentage of an amount; percentage change; reverse percentage. <b>Higher</b> – As above but also including algebraic fractions calculations and converting recurring decimals to fractions.
Year 10	<b>Graphs 2</b> <b>Foundation</b> - Plotting quadratic graphs; Plotting other shapes; Equation of a straight line <b>Higher</b> – as above plus equation of a circle; translating graphs; gradients of curves; area under curves
Year 11	<b>Use of Question Level Analysis Gaps</b> We use previous assessments to build a bespoke plan which will focus on gaps in knowledge. This will be different for each class because each group will have different needs.

### Highlight of the term

This term the maths team have been hosting Period 6 sessions for our Y11 students, as well as level 2 further maths qualifications are ongoing for some of our Y10 cohort.



On Monday the 27th of March the maths department will be taking a group of Y10 students to the maths feast at Newcastle University; where, in teams of 4, they will be using their problem-solving skills and team work to solve complex mathematical problems along with other schools from various parts of the country.



This Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January is national number day, which we will celebrate by hosting a competition for all year 7 and 8 students. They will spend the first 5 minutes of each lesson solving a maths puzzle to win a prize which they can collect from their maths teacher at the end of the day.

### **Some Great Work**

In maths we follow a simple structure to promote retrieval from memory.

Do Now – Previous learning from earlier this year or previous years

Starter – Previous learning linked to the topic about to be taught

Guided Practice – Teacher guided practice

Independent Practice – Student led practice with slight variations to make students think **to** aid remembering.

Consolidate – recaps what has been learned in the lesson.

Praise and Reward – Give out praise points and star of the lesson.

### **How to find out more**

**Pearson Edexcel website-** <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/forms/thank-you-gcse-maths-ito.html>

This can be used to find lots of maths practice GCSE questions complete with mark schemes for students to self-mark. This also contains general information about the exam and its contents.

**Maths Genie-** <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html>

This website has past papers as well as topics split up by GCSE grade. It is a great place to get your child to focus on the foundations of maths.

**Corbett Maths-** <https://corbettmaths.com/>

There is a search bar on the right of this website a little way down. You can search any topic and it will give you a set of well-structured practice questions and GCSE style exam questions, with answers.

**Ask Ola -** <https://learn.askola.io/>

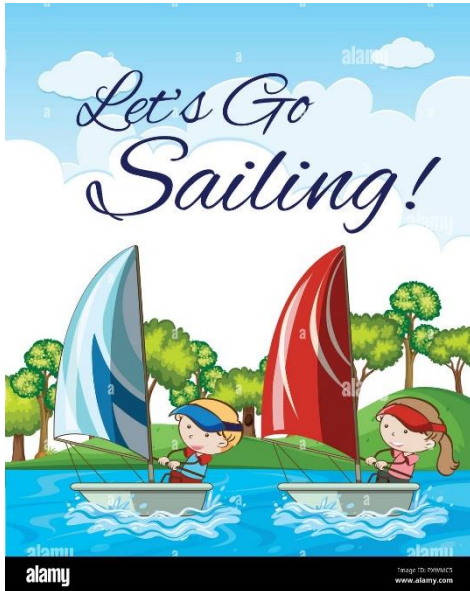
This website is used to support our year 11 students with their studies. You can ask OLA anything and they will reply with an explanation to help understanding.

**Maths Watch -** <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

We use maths watch for homework. Year 11 will receive homework each week, with all other year groups receiving homework every 2 weeks.



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

## Attendance

### Attending School on Time

The school day starts at 8.40am for all students, students arriving after this time are late and as a result, they are missing valuable learning time. Registers will remain open for 30 minutes, closing at 9.10am. Students who are extremely late, arriving after 9.10am, will be marked with a U code which means they will not gain their legal morning mark, this will impact negatively on your child's attendance.

Students arriving at school ready to start the day at 8.40am - On Time – Good Work

Student arriving between 8.40am and 9.10am - Late – late message via InTouch will be sent to student contacts

Students arriving after 9.10am - will be marked U on register – student will not attendance for the morning session – U code is classified as unauthorised absence

### The Importance of attending In-School Meetings

In-School meetings are very important, here at Thornhill Academy we want every child to succeed, not only in school but life after school.

Meetings are booked to discuss your child's personal needs and support, if you are unable to attend a meeting that has been scheduled for you, please contact the school to re-arrange. It is vital that you attend these meetings.



## Wellbeing Weekly

We are excited to introduce our Wellbeing Weekly section of our parental bulletin. Every week we will be sharing thoughts, tips and advice to support student, parent and staff wellbeing. The first focus is advice around a weekly check in. if you feel you need further advice and support



from the Academy around your child's mental health and wellbeing, please contact Miss Leigh Coates, Head of safeguarding and wellbeing.

## **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.



## **Community Engagement Survey – Parents**

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January you received a link via email/text inviting you to take part in our annual Consilium Community Engagement Survey.

Completing this survey gives you the opportunity to tell us how we are doing and where our priorities should be placed.

You are a vital member of our community, and we value your opinions and feedback as we strive to be even better and provide your children with great opportunities and the best education – allowing them to succeed both in the classroom and beyond.

It is crucial that we receive as many responses as possible, so we gain a representative understanding of your views. Therefore, we will be giving away a £100 gift voucher to one lucky respondent to the survey. The deadline for submissions is 24th February.

We look forward to receiving your responses and hearing your thoughts.

## **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>

## **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](mailto: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-enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:thr-enquiries@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](http://www.SIMS-PARENT.co.uk)

### School Contact Details

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