



Thornhill  
Academy  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

# Parental Newsletter

## Message from Head Teacher

It's been a busy first week back at Thornhill, with lots of activities and visits happening, in addition to the normal day to day school life.

We were really lucky to have a local author, Annie Flanagan visit us for World Book Day. I am sure many of you will have seen the article in the Sunderland Echo or heard the news piece on Radio Newcastle.

This week, year 6 students found out which schools they would be joining in September. We are delighted to see our student numbers growing. We are busy planning the transition program to support our new students and will be contacting families very soon.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your phenomenal support with regards to uniform expectations. Our young people look so smart.



To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:

[\*View Parents Letters\*](#)

For a number of weeks, we have publicised the stakeholder survey which is being conducted by the trust. If you haven't already done so, please could I ask that you spend a few moments completing this. Your views are really important to us.

The link is: <https://forms.office.com/e/zJy2a7HF7u>

Mrs S Hamilton

Thornhill Academy, Thornholme Road  
Sunderland, SR2 7NA  
0191 500 7981  
[thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com)



Proud to be part of  
**Consilium**  
Academies

# Important dates

## British Science Week

The theme this year for British Science Week (10-19 March) is 'Connections'! This includes connections between human actions and climate change, or how about how atoms connect to form chemical bonds, which make up everything around us.



The theme will be explored further in assemblies.

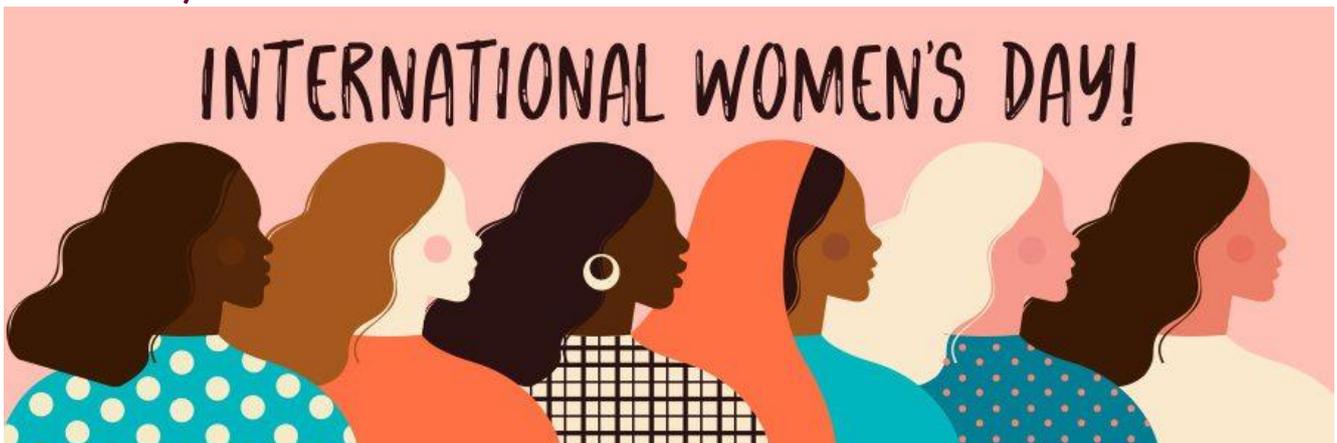
Science Revision Weekend – 10-12<sup>th</sup> March

## Upcoming College Open Days

South Tyneside College – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (5:00-7:00pm)

Newcastle Sixth Form College – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March (4:45 – 7:30pm)

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March



To celebrate International Women's Day all girls' classes will be taking part in "the biggest ever girls football session" during their PE lessons.

We are also sending Sport Leaders to the Beacon of Light, to lead on the Primary girl's football festivals.

The Y11 BTEC Sport class are attending an experience day at Sunderland College, Bede Campus. They will be exploring the opportunities that further education have to offer in the

sports industry. Taking part in fitness, science, and sport practical's during the morning.

## Spotlight on Curriculum

### Science at KS3

#### What have we been learning?

**Year 7: Inheritance and organisation** with the learning focus being similarities and differences between family members and how this can be explained by the passing of genetic information from one generation to the next and the effects of the interaction of organisms with their environment. **Substances and mixtures** with students carrying out practical work observing melting and boiling of substances and the temperatures at which they take place. Distinguishing a pure sample of a substance from an impure sample using chromatography. **Sound and Light** topic looking at how objects and materials can be made to vibrate to produce a sound that becomes louder as the size of vibration increases and higher pitched as the rate of vibration increases. The characteristics of light and how light travels in straight lines at very high speeds.

#### Practical Skills we have developed:



*DNA Extraction*



*Chromatography*



*Diffusion*

**Year 8: Biochemistry** with students studying plants and photosynthesis including developing scientific investigative skills related to plants using light. Students also looked at how energy for life processes is provided by a chemical process called cellular respiration inside all living cells, which uses glucose (from food) as fuel.

**Understanding Chemical Reactions** which introduced the idea that substances can react in

solution. Students explained the appearance of different metals during displacement reactions and predicted the conservation of mass during a displacement reaction. Students also looked at air pollution and substances that may be found in polluted air.

**Practical Skills we have developed:**



*Conservation of Mass*

*Starch in a Plant*

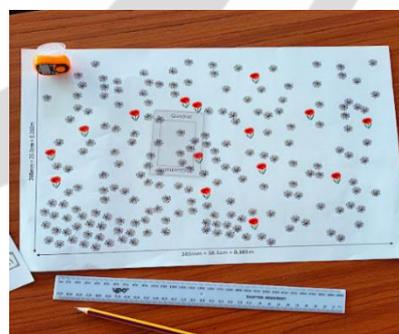
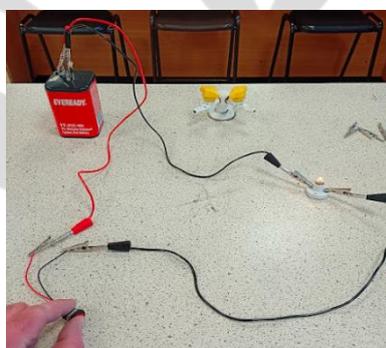
*Combustion*

**Year 9: More Electrical Circuits** students studied how electric current is the flow of electric charge around a circuit. They explained how different components added anywhere in a circuit affected the current everywhere in the circuit.

**Biodiversity & Human Impact** where students have studied that there are different environmental conditions within ecosystems, and this affects what lives there. They have carried out scientific investigations using quadrats and recognised that major threats to biodiversity include destruction of habitats, pollution, and loss of genetic variation.

**Rock changes** and how rocks are made by pressure and cementing. This has been linked to explain how over millions of years, very high temperatures and pressure can break down buried organic matter to form coal or oil, together with natural gas.

**Practical Skills we have developed:**



*Wiring a Plug*

*Simple Circuits*

*Using Quadrats*

# School News

## Visit from Annie Flanagan – Local Author



To celebrate World Book Day, we arranged for a local author, Annie Flanagan, to visit school. Annie worked with students in year 7, she discussed her life as an author, as well as sharing the plot of her books, "Monument" and "Dummy run." Both of Annie's books are set in Sunderland and are inspired by our local area. Some of our students were interviewed by BBC Radio Newcastle and the Sunderland Echo.

### Would you like to volunteer at a World Class Event?

British Triathlon are looking for volunteer 'Tri Makers' to volunteer at this summer's World Triathlon Championship Series Sunderland 2023 (29th and 30th July, Roker). The World Triathlon Championship Series will be held for the first time in Sunderland on 29-30 July 2023 when the world's best triathletes will compete along the Sunderland seafront starting from the spectacular Roker Beach. Alongside the elite athletes, there will also be swim, bike, run events for participants of all levels and experiences. You can help to make World Triathlon

Championship Series Sunderland happen by applying to volunteer to be a Tri Maker at the 2023 event.

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities (please see the list of roles below and attached posters and information).

We encourage you to get involved whether you are a triathlon enthusiast or completely new to the sport. We will have roles available from Friday 28 July for event preparation and throughout the event weekend 29-30 July.

By being a Tri Maker, you can contribute to the success of one of Britain's most prestigious triathlon

events and experience an event like you've never experienced before by volunteering to be part of an exciting weekend of swim, bike, run. For more information or queries please contact:

[trimakers@britishtriathlon.org](mailto:trimakers@britishtriathlon.org).

[Volunteer - 2023 World Triathlon Championship Series Sunderland](https://bit.ly/Sunderland2023)



World Triathlon  
Championship Series  
SUNDERLAND  
2023

**29-30  
JULY 2023**

# **VOLUNTEER - BE A TRI MAKER**

- **Be part of a world class sporting event**
- **Gain valuable experience**
- **Help to promote Sunderland**
- **Volunteer as part of a great team**

**REGISTER NOW AT**  
[bit.ly/Sunderland2023](https://bit.ly/Sunderland2023)



# Spotlight on Safeguarding

**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/>

**School Nurse Drop ins** - At Thornhill the wrap around and wider care of our pupils is paramount to ensuring they feel fully supported. We have moved our School Nursing drop-in sessions from the LRC to our new Safeguarding and Wellbeing area of the school (Students would know this as where learning support used to be) The school nurses will be in school every Wednesday Lunch time and will discuss any health-related issues with students and sign post them to appropriate support. Student can gain further information from Miss L Coates.

## Wellbeing Weekly

**Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey** - We are keen to gain an understanding of whole school need especially around important areas such as mental health and wellbeing and all student welfare matters. As a result, we will be conducting a whole school survey, and this will be available to all students through classcharts from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please encourage your child to complete this to ensure as an Academy we can identify and respond to whole school needs. The end date will be Easter.

## Other

**Parent/Carer Voice council** - We hosted our first Parent/Carer voice council and were excited to see so many of our parents engaging with us in this way. One of the topics raised was SEND support in school and as a result we have organised a SEND parent/carers voice session. This will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm. We will be in touch to organise the next parent carer voice council soon.

**SEND Parent/Carer voice session** - As mentioned in our Parent/Carer Voice council update we have organised a SEND Parent/Carer Voice session. If you would like to join Mrs A Taylor on **9<sup>th</sup> March 2023** at 4pm please let us know on the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZhdUELAB5S>

# Trips & Visits



**KS3** – Don't forget about the amazing opportunity to visit France next year. Register your interest with Miss Harris or Mrs Todd.

More details to follow soon.

## JOIN HISTORY AND FRENCH IN 2024 REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH MISS HARRIS/MRS TODD



### World War 1 trenches

Experience a WW1 trench as we visit the Somme. Learn about the horrors of World War One first hand as we visit this iconic battlefield.



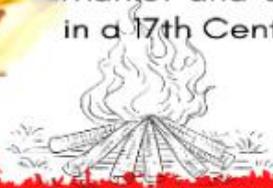
### Paris

Enjoy a day trip to one of the world's most famous cities taking in all the sites and sounds. Join our trip and cruise on the Seine. Visit the sites of the French Revolution including the Bastille Prison



### French experiences

Including amazing visits to a French bakery, Market and a chocolate factory. Enjoy your stay in a 17th Century Chateau.

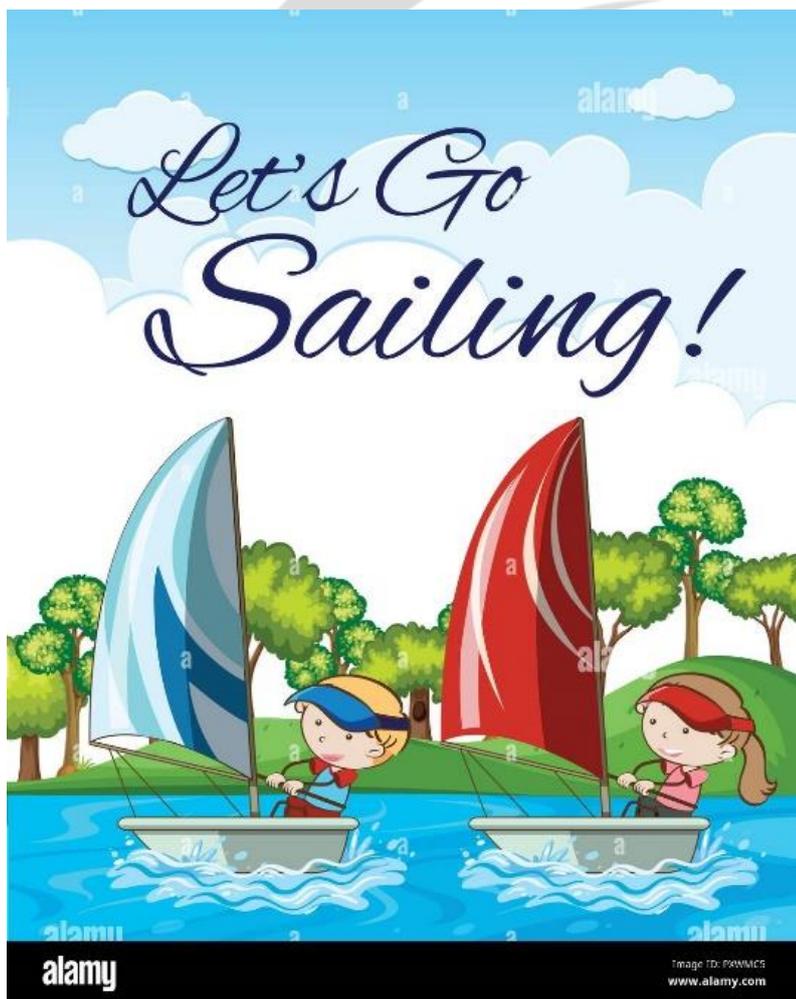


## Science Revision Weekend

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.



## All Aboard!!



You may have seen through our social media streams, an amazing opportunity for our current Year 9 cohort. 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 form, 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 paper 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.

# Alumni Network

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

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](#)

# Consilium Community Survey

As you may be aware Thornhill Academy is a part of Consilium Academies Trust. At Consilium Academies we are deeply committed to serving our communities, this is reflected in an integral part of our mission statement which is, 'a dedication to do all we can for the communities we serve.'

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 has been extended to 5<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to receiving your responses and hearing your thoughts.

Complete here:

[Consilium Community Survey](#)

## 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. It also provides the opportunity to share information such as attendance, termly assessments, conduct, school reports and sending messages to or from school.

Once you are 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 the parent guide on how to register for the App below.

### *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

## ***Parent App Step 2 - Download SIMS Parent App and Log in***

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

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)

## **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](mailto: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

