



Thornhill
Academy
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Parental Newsletter

Message from Head Teacher

It's been a great week in school with lots of internal and external events and visits, many centring around careers week and International Women's Day.

It was also lovely to see so many parents attend our SEND parental evening yesterday. The discussions were very constructive and will help us to further strengthen support of our students. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended last night.

We will shortly have a vacancy on our Local Academy Board, for a parent or carer. I would like to meet further with anyone who may be interested in this position to talk face to face with our chair as to the expectations of the role. Further through the newsletter is a short article about the Local Academy Board, and a link to an expression of interest.

It would be lovely to meet interested parents and carers on the 29th March at 5pm to talk more fully about this very important role.

This afternoon, our year 11 students are off to Newby Wiske Hall Residential Centre for a science revision weekend. We did wonder if the snow was going to prevent this, but we luckily, we have avoided the worst of this in our region – for once! and the trip is going ahead.

We hope that they have a great trip and get lots of valuable revision done.

I am sure we will have lots of pictures to show on our newsletter next week.

Sue Hamilton



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

Thornhill Academy, Thornholme Road
Sunderland, SR2 7NA
0191 500 7981
thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:

[*View Parents Letters*](#)

Important dates

Upcoming College Open Days

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

Spotlight on Curriculum

Design Technology KS3

What have we been learning?

Design Technology

What an Amazing first half of the year within Design Technology with new pupil's, new projects and new equipment within the department. Here's a breakdown of what is going on in DT

Year 7

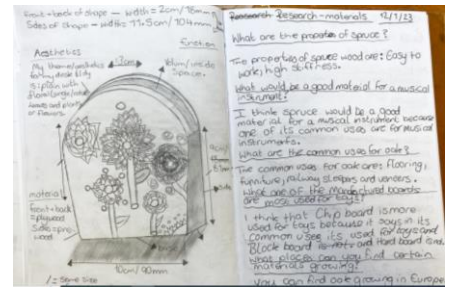
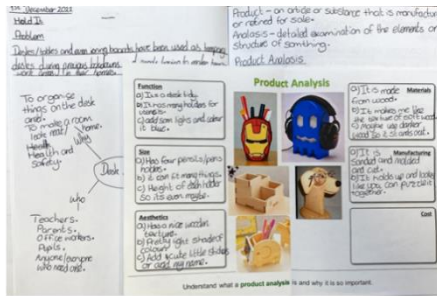
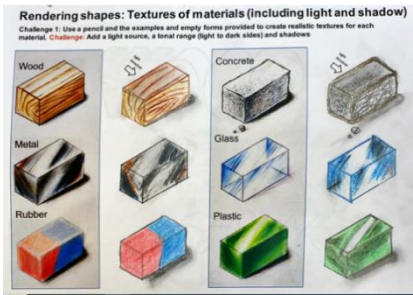
Quote: "Think outside of the box"

In DT we "Think what we can make with the box"

We have been answering the big question *'How does a Designer put forward their idea to their client?'*

To be able to answer this we have looked at lots of different ways through **measurement, drawing, research, modelling and prototyping** our final idea. The pupils have **challenged** themselves to create solutions to a main problem, which was *"Create a solution for those people who work from home to organise their workspace."*

Below are examples of their journey.



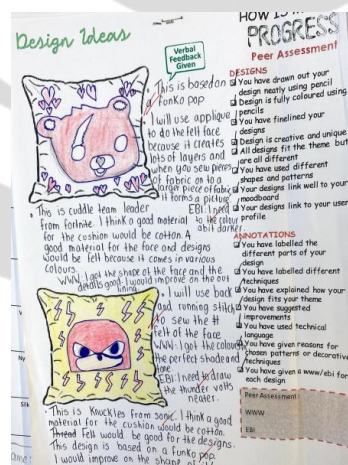
Year 8

Quote: "A stich in time saves nine"

In DT "A stich in the right place prevents further waste"

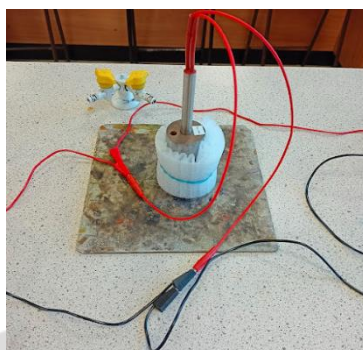
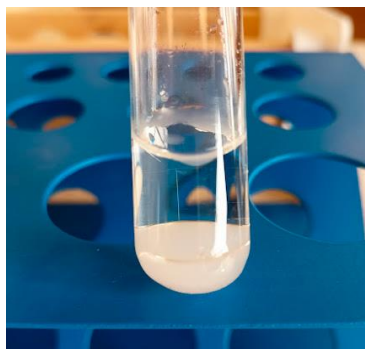
We have been answering the big question 'How does a Designer create to a specification set by a company?'

To be able to answer this we have worked for a company like Funko to design a new product to suit their existing licensed products. The pupils have been challenged to create solutions to design and make a **prototype** on new soft furnishings to a high level of finish and based only on the **companies designs**. Below are examples of their journey.



Matter which includes describing how objects are made of particles with mass and understanding how particles help us to design our world. Students have studied the particle model, energy stores and transfers including energy efficiency. They have carried out the required practical specific heat capacity and investigated specific latent heat.

Practical Skills we have developed:



Testing

Specific Heat Capacity

pH and Enzyme Activity

Year 11: **Organisation of an Ecosystem** including the development of practical skills measuring the population size of a common species in a habitat. Using sampling techniques to investigate the effect of a factor on the distribution of this species.

Bioenergetics exploring how plants harness the Sun's energy in photosynthesis in order to make food. They have investigated the effect of light intensity on the rate of photosynthesis. They have looked at how animals and plants use oxygen in aerobic respiration which transfers the energy that the organism needs to perform its functions.

Homeostasis and how to describe the principles of hormonal control including blood sugar levels.

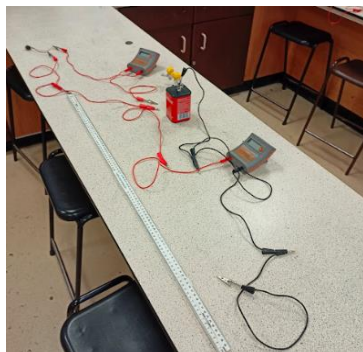
Rates of Reactions where students carried out an investigation into how changes in concentration affect the rates of reactions. They also looked at how collision theory explains how various factors affect rates of reactions and reversible reactions.

Organic Chemistry looking at crude oil and how fractional distillation can be used. Students have also studied properties of hydrocarbons and how cracking can be used to break down hydrocarbons.

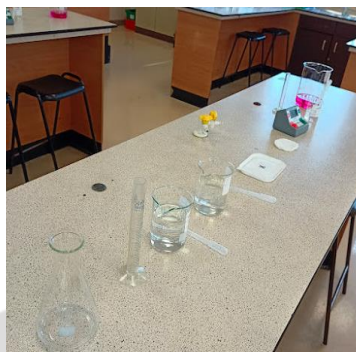
Matter which includes describing how objects are made of particles with mass and understanding how particles help us to design our world. Students have studied the particle model and carried out the required practical specific heat capacity and investigated specific latent heat.

Electricity and using circuit diagrams to set up and check appropriate circuits to investigate the factors affecting the resistance of electrical circuits. This includes: the length of a wire at constant temperature and combinations of resistors in series and parallel.

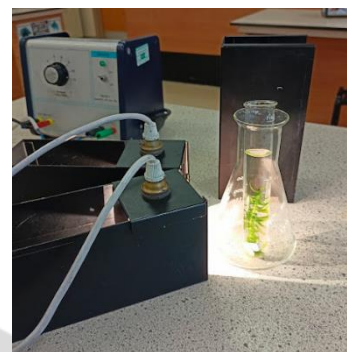
Practical Skills we have developed:



Resistance of a Wire



Rates of reaction



Photosynthesis

School News

Year 11 Prom

Prom will take place on Thursday 22nd June at the Stadium of Light. Arrival from 6:30pm. Prom tickets will be available for purchase next week on Parent Pay or via school reception – price of tickets will be £38.50.

We have launched our attendance initiative which can see pupils earn up to £18 off prom. Each week of 100% attendance for the next 12 weeks will see £1 off prom each week. If pupils have 100% attendance for all 12 weeks, a 50% bonus will be given, giving a total of £18 off tickets – reducing price to £20.50.

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.

[Volunteer - 2023 World Triathlon Championship Series Sunderland](#)



 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



Mock Exams

A huge well done to Year 11's on their fantastic conduct in their Mock exams so far, we have been so proud to watch pupils settle into exam routines!



Coffee Afternoon with Autism Outreach Team

For parents/carers of pupils with a
confirmed diagnosis of ASD.

When: Thursday 16th March

Time: 1pm

Where : Thornhill Academy

For more information please contact:
Mrs Taylor (Sendco)



The Autism Outreach Team have agreed to come in and host a parent/carer coffee afternoon on Thursday 16th March at 1pm.

This will be open to all parents/carers of young people with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD, however there are one or two parents who I am going to invite along who have children on the ASD pathway and I feel would really benefit from the session. I am going to send individual messages home to all eligible students this week.

This message is just a date for the diary, in case any of you would like to come along.

Are you interested in our vacancies?

Thornhill Academy – Invigilators Required

Are you (or someone you know) at university or retired and would be interested in becoming one of our diligent exam invigilators?

You must be **available between Monday 15th May until Wednesday 28th June 2023.**



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





Consilium
Academies

Local Academy Board parent vacancy

In the coming months we will have a parental vacancy on our local academy board. We would like to invite anyone who is potentially interested in this position to meet with the Head Teacher and Chair of the Local Academy Board on Wednesday 29th March at 5pm in school. If you would be interested, please complete the following Google form [Local Academy Board - expression of Interest](#), or contact school reception and leave your contact details. The role of the Local Academy Board within our school and trust is explained below.

Consilium is a Multi-Academy Trust with a family of nine schools across the north of England. Within each school a Local Academy Board has been established. Local Academy Boards (LAB's) may also be known at other Trusts as 'Academy Committees', 'Local Governing Boards' or 'Local Advisory Committees'.

LABs are a formal and important part of the governance of Consilium Academies and the contributions of members are very much valued by the Trust Board.

Each LAB is composed of different members, two of which are elected by parents and carers of children on roll at the school. Parent members are elected through a process which is defined in a key document called the Articles of Association. Two further members of the LAB are appointed by staff within the school, and the remaining members (including the Chair) are appointed by the Trust Board.

Parent LAB members play an important role within the Board. The role is to support the Trust itself and provide insight on behalf of other parents of students who attend the school. A key function of the LAB is to engage meaningfully with all parents and [carers as a whole](#).

Some of the typical areas which are covered at local level may be:

- Support of the efficient and effective operation of the Trust and its policies
- Support and challenge (where appropriate) to the school leaders, particularly around issues related to school performance, pastoral [care](#) and the safeguarding of pupils
- Share issues and risks with the Trust Board if necessary
- Scrutiny of reports which may be supplied by school leaders or members themselves
- Provide a meaningful link with the community, parents and the students of the school, sharing feedback with the Board, regarding challenges but also to celebrate successes
- Provide feedback to the Trust Board in relation to policies and practices which are personal to the school (policies which are delegated to the LAB are identified in a document called the Scheme of Delegation).

CEO: Mr D Clayton • 5th Floor | One City Approach | Albert Street | Salford | M30 0BG • Tel: 0161 639 0985 • www.consilium-at.com

PARTNERSHIPS | OPPORTUNITY | INTEGRITY | EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | PEOPLE-CENTRED

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. Students can gain further information from Miss L Coates.

Anti – Knife Crime Presentation

Thornhill have been lucky enough to work alongside Northumbria Police Violence reduction unit, who have funded an Anti- Knife crime presentation for our Year 10 students on Monday 13th March. This is an award-winning presentation and has featured on both ITV and the BBC. We hope that our Year 10 pupils will carry the Anti-Knife crime message throughout the Sunderland community. If anyone would like any further details, please contact Miss L Coates - Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing.



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.



Beacon of Light

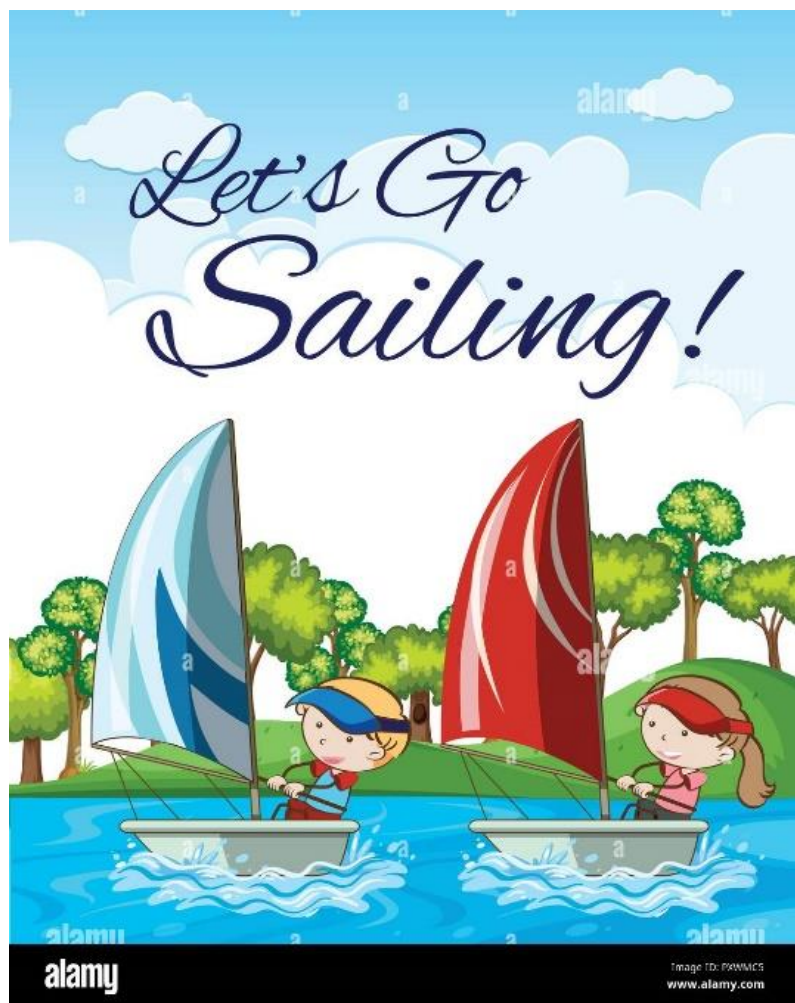


If you see our Sports Leaders. Please give them some praise. This week, they braved -1-degree temperatures, to help assist and deliver a football session to local primary schools for International Women's Day. The students did a fantastic job at running the sessions, they had planned and gave great encouragement to the Y1 and Y2 pupils who were starting to feel the

cold. The staff at the Beacon of Light were so impressed, they asked if our amazing students would help facilitate with other upcoming events.



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 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 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.

Attendance



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](#)

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

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

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