



Thornhill
Academy
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Parental Newsletter

Message from Head Teacher

Message from Headteacher

On Monday evening, we welcomed year 5 and 6 children, and their parents, to the academy for our open evening. It was wonderful to see so many families attend and explore our school.

There was so much positivity from them about our staff and students. I said to the parents and carers that if they would like to visit us during the day, they should contact school through our enquiries email address on our website. I would like to extend that offer to you, as parents and carers of our current students.

This week saw the start of some team sports that have been absent from Thornhill for a while.

Our year 8 football team played against Christ College on Wednesday. The boys were keen to talk about it the following day and are now eager for more fixtures.

We are now looking to get them kitted out in a team strip as we move forward.

I want to say a personal thank you to parents and carers, for working so closely with us around uniform standards and expectations. Our student body look very smart and professional as they walk around school.

Yesterday the CEO was in school, and she commented upon how wonderful our young people are looking. This wouldn't be possible if we didn't have the support from you, as parents and carers.

We do work hard to ensure our uniform isn't costly, and only has two branded items. However, we know that there is still an outlay for whatever uniform we have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sue Hamilton

To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:

[View Parents Letters](#)



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

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thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

School News

Meet the Staff

We are excited to introduce you to the experts that teach your child and support the day to day running of the school.

This week we are starting with Mrs. Onoka!

Thornhill Academy's expert series.

Mrs. U. Onoka, Associate Assistant Headteacher.

Introduce yourself: My name is Mrs. Onoka, I am the Associate Assistant Head Teacher for quality of education, and I also lead the mathematics team.

What do you like the most about Thornhill? Thornhill is a very diverse school. The children show strong levels of empathy towards one another. The staff are friendly and warm. It is just a great place to work.

What makes you an expert? I studied Mathematics at Ambrose Ali University in Nigeria. I then completed a GTP teacher training course at Northumbria University. I have a strong understanding of how children should be taught mathematics.

Interesting fact: I love to sing and dance!



#100talksforchange

Year 10 were extremely fortunate to take part in a national mental health drive which aims to complete 100 talks to school children across the country, in the month of September. We heard from Olly who shared his experiences, struggles, strategies, and positive approaches to overcoming mental health barriers and balancing our actions to reduce stress. The theme of mental health and wellbeing will be followed up in our guidance lessons over this half term.

Here is a link to their website which also shares resources to support:

<https://100talksforchange.com>



Thornhill Academy's

Homework re-launch

Important information for parents and carers.

From the week commencing 2nd October 2023 we will be launching a new whole school homework timetable.

This will help parents/carers to support their child with their studies.

There will be additional opportunities for support from specialist teachers in school.

Homework will be recorded on ClassCharts and in your child's planner.





Free School Meals Process

You must apply for Free School Meals using our quick and easy online form:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

PLEASE NOTE: if your child is currently receiving free school meals, you must still apply via the link above to reconfirm your eligibility direct with the academy – this also applies to new year 7 students moving from primary to secondary.

Don't let your child miss out.

We encourage all parents and guardians to apply irrespective of their income. This is because if your circumstances change, you will automatically be enrolled, and your child can start receiving free school meals right away.

But it's not just about the free meals.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you register them for this, we will receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. This additional funding is used to improve educational provisions and resources at the academy.



ParentPay App – REGISTER TO WIN!

Just a reminder that Thornhill Academy is moving to become a cashless school. All payments for school lunches, trips and equipment should be made securely via ParentPay.



All parents and carers who had not yet accessed ParentPay should have received their unique log in details via post over the summer holidays. If you have not received these, please contact the main school office who will be able to send them to you.

Remember to register ASAP to be in with a chance of winning a £50 shopping voucher – the winner will be drawn on 25th September.



Thornhill Academy Breakfast Club

Free breakfast available for ALL students

Monday to Friday 8:00am

**A great way for them to start their day
and get ready for learning.**



Co-Curricular Launch

This week we launched our new co-curricular offer. There is a vast range of activities suitable for all students' interests. The offer will be updated every half term and there is the expectation that every student signs up for at least 1 activity. Some activities are already oversubscribed, and we will ensure that students get first reserve next half term, to make sure everyone gets a chance. We look forward to sharing news about our different opportunities, each week via our bulletin and social media.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Starfish Club	Careers Café Diversity Club Italian (1) German (2)	Games and Chats Yav- Chance to Shine Doorstop gigs (1)	Lunchtime Music	Doorstop gigs (2) Charity Club
After School	Netball Puzzle Club Choir Coding Club		Ready Steady Bake Football Star Wars Crest Award	Badminton Hidden Histories Further Maths	

Maths

Maths continues to be very popular with our students at Thornhill Academy, and as a result, we have seen more and more students wanting to commit some of their time, after school, to revise and further deepen their knowledge in this subject area.

Our current year 11 students continue to study level 2 further maths and will sit the exam in the summer to gain this extra qualification.

The benefit of studying further maths, is to gain the top grade at GCSE. We launched further maths on Thursday 21st September with our current year 10, who are very excited at the challenge.

The maths department is now hosting a puzzle club, which will challenge students understanding in applying logical thinking skills to new problems.

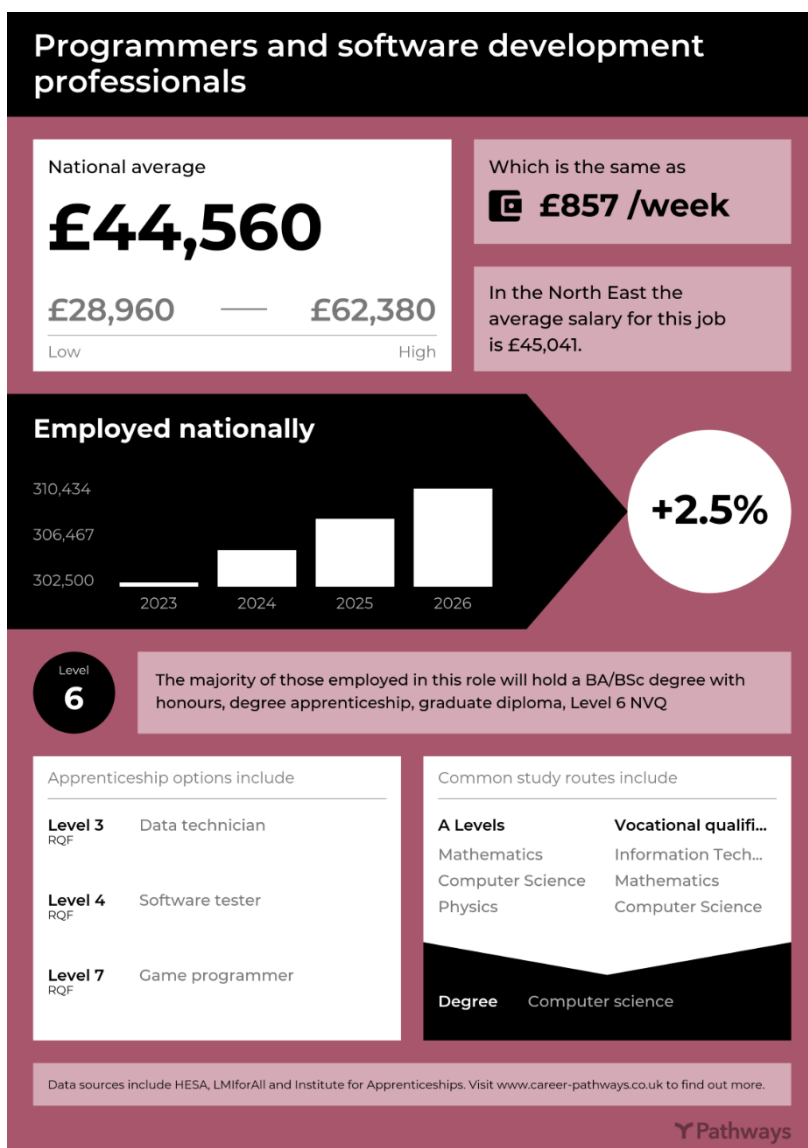
Student Voice

We actively encourage student voice, student ownership and student leadership. Our Head Students also shared their roles and what the student council achieved last term to change things for the better. Click here [all.mp4](#) to see our Senior Students introduction

All form groups have been asked to vote for their form representative, who will become part of our wider school council. This is a great opportunity for students to develop confidence in speaking and listening, as well as demonstrating they can be reliable in a role of responsibility.

Job of the week!

Each week we aim to share a job with student and parents to raise awareness and build aspirations with our young people. As a result of our assembly theme our 'Job of the week' this week is all about programmers and software development!

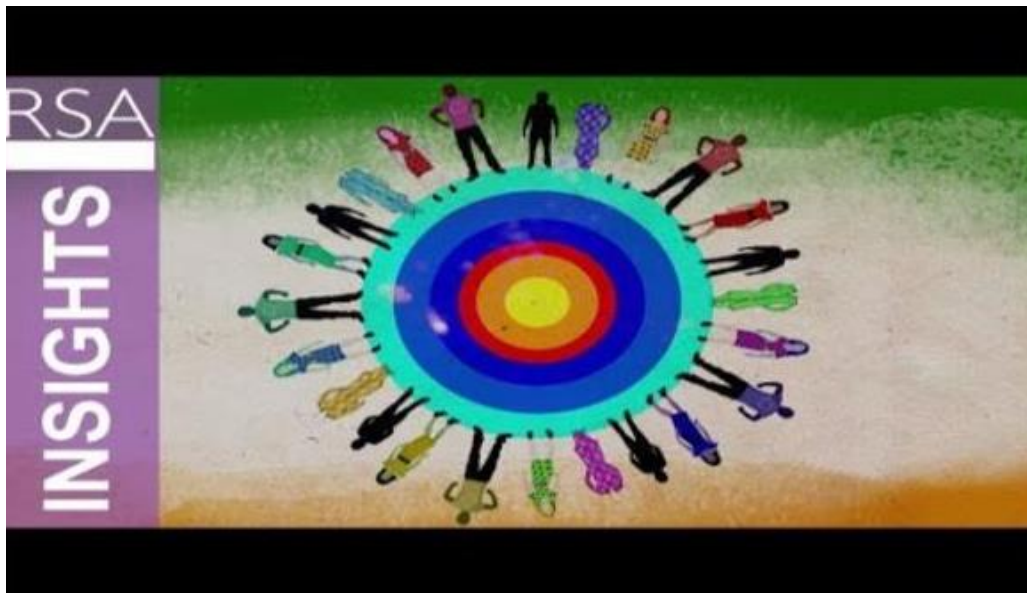


Assemblies

Assemblies

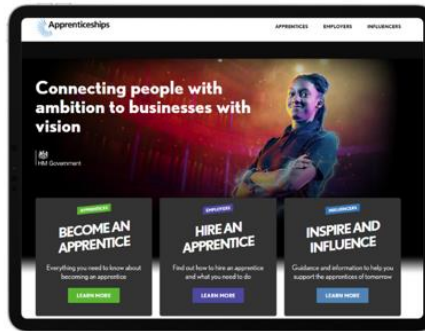
In Assemblies this last week, students explored the idea of democracy and what this means for our British society, as well as our school community. Students were asked to consider that democracy is more than just a vote, and were encouraged to become more active in our school community, by sharing their views and ideas. A link to the video shared is here:

[Democracy is more than a vote!](#)

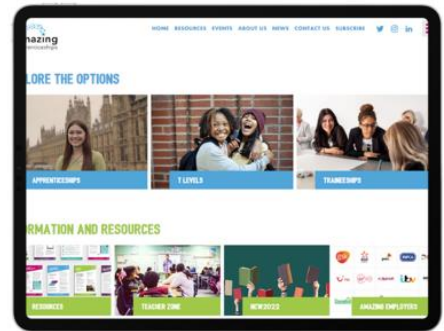


This week students have been finding out more about National Coding week, with the theme of Artificial Intelligence. Students found out how AI helps us in everyday life, as well as how it helps us to keep safe online.

In addition, Year 11 students were invited to a talk from ASK (Apprenticeships, Skills and Knowledge) to find out more about what apprenticeships are, and what this pathway might look like. This was an introduction and will be followed up with other workshops and events, to support students in making the right decisions and successful applications for their future.



[Apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)



[AmazingApprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)



There will be several Post 16 education and training providers attending school over the next few weeks to talk to the students and offer drop ins over lunch time so that students can find out more about these different destinations.

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/>

Standards and Expectations

Standards and expectations – Uniform

From Monday 25th September, students need to wear their black knitted V neck jumper and their blazer each day. As the weather has changed, this can no longer be in their bag. A dark coloured waterproof coat can also be worn, or carried in their bag for times when it is needed.

Please could we remind parents, that students are not permitted to wear jewellery, with the exception of a single pair of stud earrings. **Nose rings are not permitted and must be removed.** Please could we ask for your support to ensure these items remain at home, so that confiscation in school is not necessary.

Class Charts

PLEASE LOGIN

Please can we ask you to ensure that as a parent you have downloaded the app or access class charts via the browser <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login> to login.

Class charts is the main method of communication between staff, parents and pupils. If you do not have these details or need your password resetting, please contact school and we can give you this over the phone or alternatively email thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com



Attendance



Attendance matters

Every student, every day

Each week your child will be recording their cumulative attendance, streaks (number of consecutive days in school), and weekly attendance in their planner. We aim for students to be in school more than 96% of the time and this will enable you to keep track of this.

Punctuality to school is really important, as every second in school counts. Please can we remind you that registers close at 9.10am, which means that any student arriving in school later than this time will gain a U code, and this means they have an absence mark for the full morning. Please can we encourage students to be on time to avoid this happening.

Trips and Visits

Details of our existing trips can be found by clicking on the links below:

Geography Trip

[Derwent Hill Trip details](#)

Wicked

[Wicked Theatre Trip details](#)

Alumni Network

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

Thank you for the overwhelming support we always receive from parents.

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 Information

Follow the links below for information regarding support for families living in Sunderland.

[Sunderland Family Support Brochure](#)

[Daisy Chain Presentation](#)

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



Learning Workshops

North East & Yorkshire

As part of the Autism Central programme, Daisy Chain provides a range of online learning opportunities covering a variety of topics to help support individuals and families.

These online sessions are free and open to families living in the North East and Yorkshire. Autism Central offers families and carers of autistic people high-quality and easily accessible autism education, training, and support through peer educators, alongside a dedicated website. Peer educators are autistic people, and parents and carers of autistic people, who have been trained to support other families. Daisy Chain Project hub is delivering

Autism Central in the North East & Yorkshire NHS England region. www.autismcentral.org.uk

These online sessions are free and open to families living in North East and Yorkshire.

Please see information below for each individual session, as times, days and delivery methods are varied. You can access our training sessions if you have a young person with traits, undergoing, or diagnosed with autism, ADHD, FASD or sensory processing differences.

Book online: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/learning-workshops/>

UPCOMING SESSIONS

1st September – Understanding Autism & The Diagnosis Process (Under 5's) / 10am-11:30am

8th September – Understanding Autism & The Diagnosis Process (Over 5's) / 10am-11:30am

15th September – Understanding Autism & The Diagnosis Process (Adults) / 10am-11:30am

22nd September – Elective Home Education / 10am-11:30am

29th September – EHCPs / 10am-11:30am

6th October – Strategies to support eating / 10am-11:30am

13th October – ADHD / 10am-11:30am

20th October – Sensory / 10am-11:30am

27th October – Communication strategies / 10am-11:30am