



Thornhill  
Academy  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

# Parental Newsletter

## Message from Head Teacher

### Message from Headteacher

It seems hard to believe we are already at the end of the fourth week of term. Everyone is very well settled into the new school year, and the new standards and expectations. To add to this, on Monday we will relaunch our homework expectations across the academy. For those of you who aren't linked to your child's classcharts account, now would be a great time for you to do this. Information on how to do this has been sent to you via email, SIMS and post, however if you need support with this, please contact the main office, who will assist you with this.

Enrichment and co-curricular opportunities are going from strength to strength. It was lovely to watch so many students dashing across the yard on Wednesday to attend football and cricket practices. It's also great to see new clubs springing up too, from ideas students had.

Today we came together as a school to have a MacMillan coffee morning and raise money for this much respected charity. It's turned into a bit of a competitive bake off amongst the staff.

Today is National Teaching Assistants' Day. I am sure you will want to join together with us to thank and celebrate the amazing work of our Learning Support Team and the invaluable support and guidance they give to our students.

I wish you and your families a lovely weekend. We look forward to Monday and the start of week 5, which will no doubt be action packed as always.

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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# School News

## ParentPay App

Thank you to those parents and carers that have registered to use ParentPay over the summer and the start of the new year.

Our lucky winner of the prize draw who will receive a £50 shopping voucher is a parent of one of our year 7 students who will be contacted shortly. Well done – and enjoy spending your prize.

Across school, we still have nearly half of all students whose parents or carers have not registered for ParentPay, meaning that we are seeing huge amounts of cash on site. From a security and safeguarding standpoint., we want to stop this.

### **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR PARENTPAY NOW**

If you need help completing the registration, we are happy to accommodate this in school. Please phone 0191 500 7981 and if we cannot help over the telephone, we can book a convenient time for you to attend school so that we can work together to activate your account.

If you do not register or advise school why you are unable to, your child may miss out on opportunities as ParentPay is the quickest way to pay



## 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.**





## 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.



## Careers

Off the back of our apprenticeships talk for Year 11 students last week, please see below for a link to a parent focused podcast, relating to the world of apprenticeships. This episode is all about the public sector opportunities:



<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-parent-perspective-podcast-series-3-episode-1-the-public-sector/>

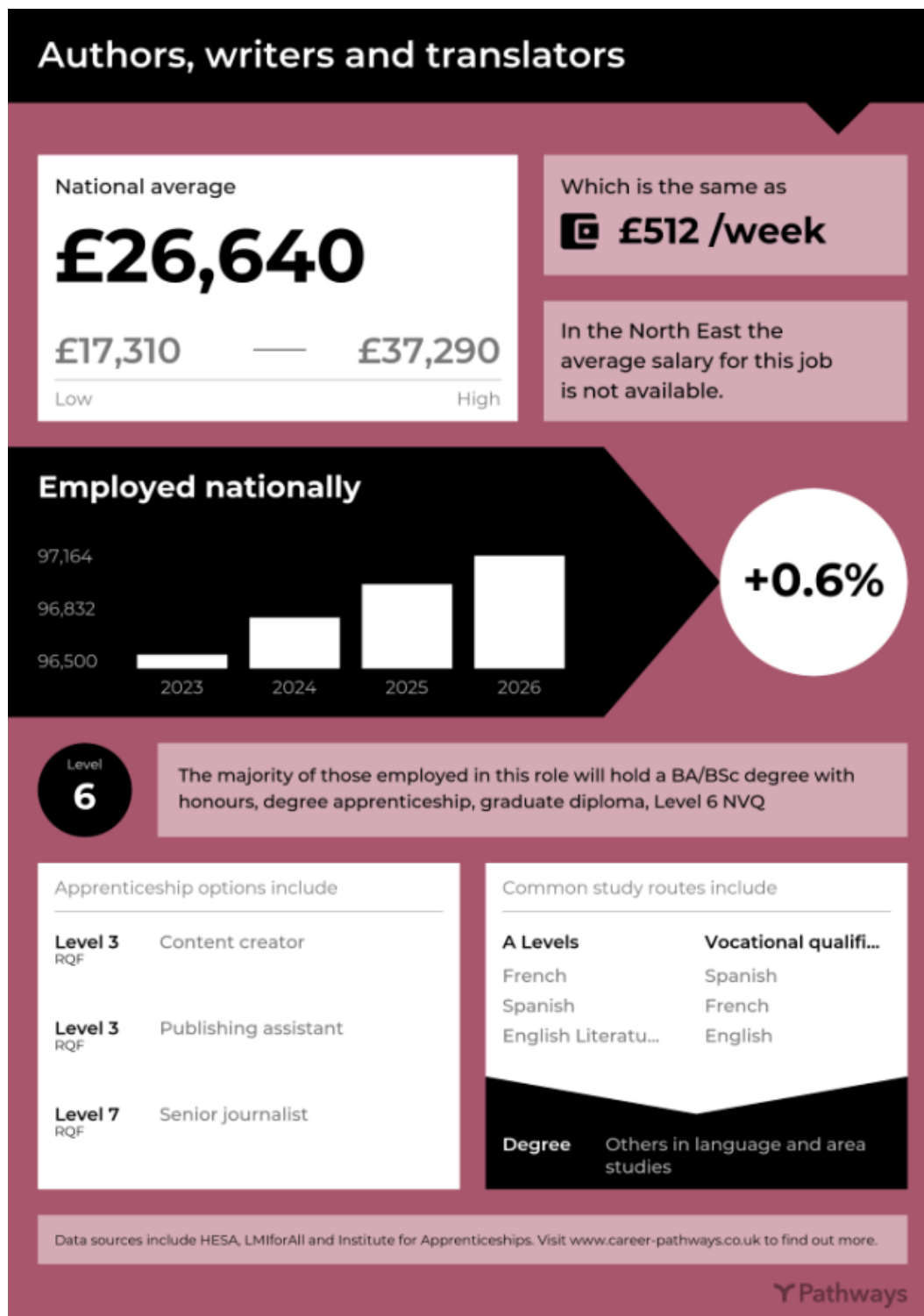


This week, we welcomed Sunderland university into school, to talk to our Year 11 students, and to attend our weekly careers café over lunch for all year groups. Students were keen to find out more about the opportunities available at City and Bede campus' and some have started to enquire and apply already! Next week we welcome Newcastle College.

For students interested in a future career in the Arts, the Northern School of Art begin their open events next week. More information and links to sign up, can be found on their website here: <https://northernart.ac.uk/study-with-us/middlesbrough-campus/a-level-ual-diploma-access-hnd-courses/>



## Job of the Week!



Our job of the week, again links to our assembly theme of languages. Learning a language can take you far! You don't even have to be fluent in a language for it to lead to amazing career opportunities. Learning languages gives you transferable skills; you develop the ability to think creatively, to forge connections between communities, and to translate across cultures and identities. These skills are valuable in any career pathway.



## City Hall Visit

Last Friday, students were invited by Sunderland Mayor, Councillor Dorothy Trueman, to be her guests at City Hall, to view the city's regeneration plans and to understand the inner workings of the chamber.

Our Student Council members represented the school and enjoyed a tour of the City Hall and the chance to speak to Cllr Trueman about her new role, civic functions, council meetings and the plans for Sunderland's regeneration programme. The students

were also able to get a bird's eye view of the city from the rooftop garden, to get a greater perspective and a deeper understanding of how building plans will change the skyline.



The Mayor invited Thornhill school representatives to City Hall, following a moving performance by our Thornhill student choir singing "Somewhere only we know" and "Shipyards " at the Remembering Srebrenica event, held at the Sunderland Minster in July, to mark the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, which took place during the Bosnian War (1992-5).

# Co-curricular Activities

It has been great to see our students engaging in our co-curricular opportunities. There are a huge range of activities suitable for all students' interests. All children should aim to attend at least 1 activity each week. We look forward to sharing more 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) Hand bell Club (y7)	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	

# Assemblies

This week, Mrs Todd has been speaking to students about the importance of languages, as part of our exploration of The European Day of languages. Students took part in mini quizzes to explore how many people in Europe are bilingual and learned the importance of, and the benefits of learning another language. It was

great to see teachers greeting classes with a different language at every classroom. Ask them how many ways they can say 'Hello' in different languages!



## 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/>

## 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](#)

## Standards and Expectations

### Standards and expectations – Uniform and Equipment

A massive thank you to parents for their support in ensuring students have full uniform, including a jumper, bag, equipment, and planner. If students have misplaced their planner, they can be purchased via the main office and money is payable via Parent Pay for £4. Other stationary items can also be purchased in the same way, 25p per item or £1.50 for the pencil case with all equipment.



## 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](mailto:thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com)

## Attendance

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 give you a way of keeping 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 any student arriving in school later than this 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.

Year after year, the students with the best school attendance achieve the best results. The table below shows the achievement made by students in the 2023 cohort. **Students with 95% attendance on average are meeting their target grades** in every subject. **Students with below 80% attendance made, on average, almost three grades less progress in every subject.** We are passionate about providing students with the best possible life chances and as such, know they have to 'be here to get there.'

### Pupils with attendance over 95%

63% achieved Grade 4 in Maths and English

44% achieved Grade 5 in Maths and English

### Pupils with attendance over 80%

55% achieved Grade 4 in Maths and English

38% achieved Grade 4 in Maths and English

# 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

## **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



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