



Thornhill
Academy
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Parental Newsletter

Message from Head Teacher

Message from Headteacher

The safety of our school community is vitally important to us all. As part of our normal school procedures, last Friday we had a fire drill to ensure everyone fully understood how to respond to fire evacuations.

Today we have shared with students the arrangements for a school lockdown and will, in the coming week, have a lockdown drill. It should be stated that this is purely to ensure everyone understands what the expectations would be of us, should the school need to go into lockdown.

A letter was sent out to you all on Wednesday to explain the procedure, and how we will notify do understand that this can be you that this is happening, and also when it has been completed. We do understand that this can be a very anxiety provoking situation for parents and carers, and we obviously want you to be reassured by our processes and procedures.

Please rest assured that there are no concerns that there is any threat to our school community, this is now a common procedure, carried out across all schools in the country.

If you haven't seen a copy of this letter, please follow this link:

<https://shorturl.at/pNOQZ>

Should you have any questions, please contact our safeguarding lead, Miss L. Coates.

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

We are seeing increasing debt on pupil's lunch accounts at a level which we are unable to sustain. By continuing to carry this debt means that we are restricting essential spend on learning resources for your child.

Please can parents make payment to clear debt of their child's lunch account as soon as possible. We will no longer be able to provide a meal for your child unless there is sufficient credit on their account.

If this will cause undue hardship, please speak to your child's Head of Year or access the FSM portal to see if your child could be entitled to free school meals [FSM eligibility checker](#)

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.

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.

Year 9 and Year 10 assessments take place from Monday 13th - Friday 24th November.

Year 9 assessments will take place within classrooms and Year 10 is a mixture of classrooms and exam rooms:

Year 10 Assessment Timetable can be found on school website, using below link:

<https://www.thornhillschool.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=714&type=pdf>



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.**



National School Breakfast Programme

Is your child accessing our breakfast club – open every school day from 8.00 am in the school canteen.

Breakfast can set children up for success and have a positive impact on the day's learning. We want to hear your thoughts on the impact of breakfast on your child. This will help us and the National School Breakfast Programme to improve the breakfast we provide. Parents, have your say here – [click here](#)

#NSBP

World Kindness Day

Monday, 13th November marked world kindness day. Students and staff have been looking out for ways to demonstrate kindness and how this links to our 'Thornhill Way'



KINDNESS BINGO

Put something in the recycle bin	Made a new friend	Said 'thank you' to someone	Wrote a thank you note for the mail delivery person	Held open a door
Left a positive note on a random locker	Returned a shopping cart	Made someone laugh	Cleaned up a hiking trail	Used a reusable water bottle
Wrote a happy note to myself	Helped someone	FILL IN YOUR OWN ACT OF KINDNESS!	Got at least 30 minutes of exercise today	Gave a friend or family member a hug
Asked someone about their day	Invited someone who was eating alone to join me	Texted a positive message to a friend	Woke up with a smile on my face	Made a 'things I'm thankful for' journal entry
Offered a tissue to a person that needed it	Stayed in my pajamas all day and watched a movie	Invited another student to play	Smiled at another student	Left a positive note in a random library book for someone to find

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION



Anti-Bullying week

This week also marks Anti Bullying week. In tutor time, students in all year groups have been exploring the difference between 'Banter' and 'Bullying' and understanding the line between the 2.

At Thornhill, we encourage students to understand the difference between behaviours that are unkind, mean or bullying. This way, students can develop the right strategies and seek the right support. At Thornhill we, talk about behaviours as being:

Rude: When someone does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once that is rude

Mean: When someone does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once that is mean.

Bullying: When someone does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it, even when you tell them to stop, or tell them you're upset, that is bullying.

13 of our form representatives came together today, to attend an anti-bullying conference at another local school. We look forward to building a strong anti-bullying profile at Thornhill with our dedicated student support.

It is important that all students tell an adult if something concerns them.

Co-Curricular

Our co-curricular timetable continues this half term, with a wide range of activities for students to get involved in. In guidance, students are learning about transferable skills, and skills for employment. Taking part in activities at school, is integral to developing these life skills and preparing our young people for adult life. We aspire for all students to attend least 1 activity each week. If parents have not yet given their feedback on our co-curricular provision, you can do so here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/qSveb50jaM>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Starfish Club	Careers Café Diversity Club Italian (1) German (2) Handbell Club	Yav- Sports Doorstop gigs (1)	Lunchtime Music	Doorstop gigs (2) Charity Club
After School	Netball Puzzle Club Choir Coding Club Sign Language	Debate Club	Football Star Wars Crest Award Cricket Christmas Craft Club	Badminton Hidden Histories Further Maths Drama	Ukulele Friday

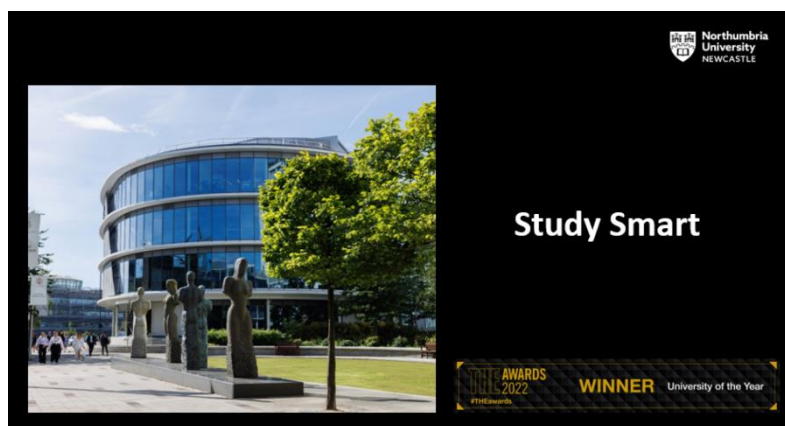
It is great to see our library open again during social times, where students are making the most of the study space and games.



Careers

DWP Visits- As part of our career's education, Key Stage 4 have continued their work with Elaine, from the Department of Work and Pensions, who is delivering sessions on employability, which will lead students to being able to create strong CVs and personal statements, for future applications. We thank Elaine, and the DWP for this opportunity and look forward to seeing her around school over this half term.

Morrisby Careers- All students will be introduced to their Morrisby Careers account. Students can sign into this account at any time to explore careers, and take quizzes to find out more about what jobs and careers are most suited to them. Parents can support by asking them what careers they have investigated. Parents can find out more about Morrisby here: <https://youtu.be/7INPvtXCAfQ>



Study Skills- 11Y classes participated in a study skills workshop with Northumbria University this week, learning about the best techniques to support effective revision and study, this is completing and supporting our Guidance curriculum this half term. Year 11 will face a full set of Mock examinations in January and study and revision is essential for this.

University Life - This week we welcomed staff from St Annes College, Oxford University, into our school to work with students on raising aspirations and finding out more about life at university.

Year 7 and 9 received a bespoke assembly from George Holbart of Oxford University. Our students listened to what it is like at university and found out a little more about what makes Oxford University special. George advised our students how they can begin to think about what their future might look like if they chose the university pathway, and how to begin preparing for that in secondary school, by developing their interests.

A group of aspirational Year 10 students also took part in a workshop designed to develop critical thinking and oracy skills. Students learned about debating skills and how to apply these successfully to form an argument, and to hear and be heard. The students were very enthusiastic, and George was impressed with their ability in their first session. All Students can also sign up for our Debating club, lead by Miss Mills every Tuesday after school.



The Apprenticeship Show- We were overwhelmed with the number of students wishing to take part in the trip to the National Apprenticeship show next week. Successful students have now been informed and we look forward to a successful visit on Wednesday next week. There will be more opportunities in the future!

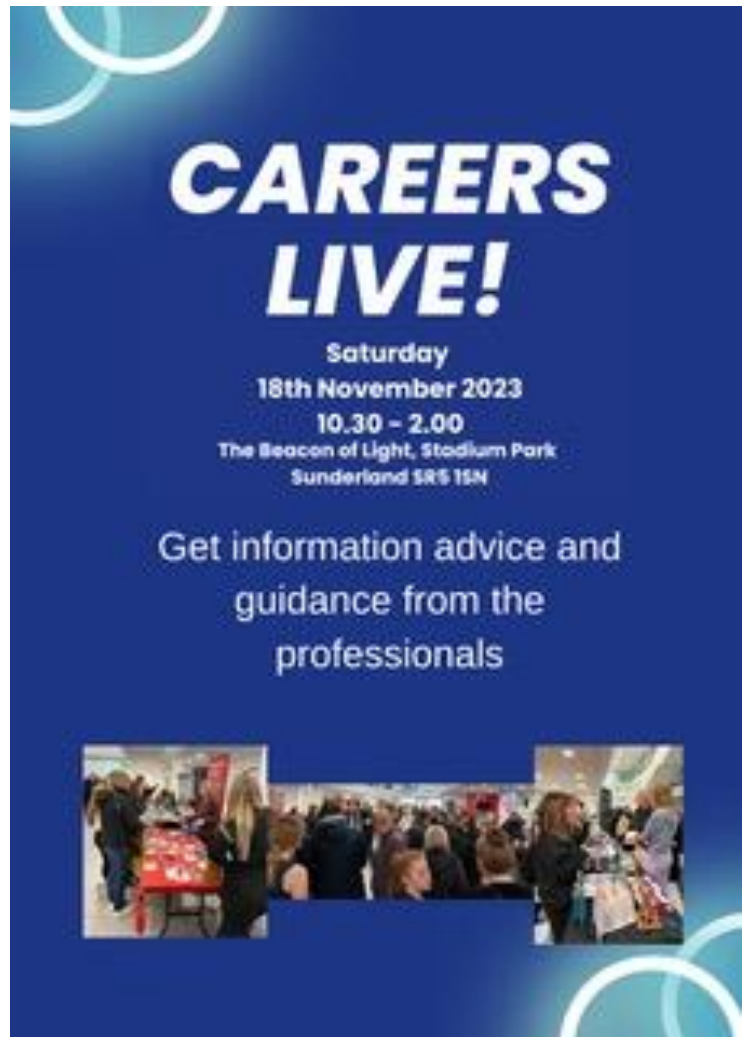
For any parents wanting to find out more about apprenticeships and Post 16 pathways the following podcast series will be useful:

[The Parent Perspective | The Options Post-16: what are the choices facing our 16 year olds? \(transistor.fm\)](#)

In addition, any parents with children interested in a future in engineering and building a sustainable future, can find out more here:

[The Parent Perspective | The Engineer: how an apprenticeship can kick start your engineering career \(transistor.fm\)](#)

Regional Careers Event- All Year 11 have been invited to the regional careers event held at the Beacon of Light on 18th November 10:30-2:00pm. We strongly recommend that students attend with parents and carers to firm up their future options and destinations.



READYCON career talks- Year 10 will sign up to a careers talk next week, where they will hear about the different roles, and trends in a sector that interests them most. It is really important for students thinking about their future careers and pathways to know about the trends in the labour market. Knowing what is changing will help them carve their pathway to a successful future career.

READYCON

On the 23rd November P1 all year 10 will receive a careers talk.

You need to sign up for the employment sector that interests you most.



Student Voice Feedback



75% of students feel like Thornhill have high expectations of them with just 1% disagreeing.

25% of students disagree that behaviour of peers in classroom is good. We have worked with students to gather opinions on the behaviour policy and how they feel regarding this. As you will know, we have reformed our behaviour policy which will commence on the 6th of November.

Just 7% of students disagreed that Thornhill requires students to be independent and take on responsibilities. We have our student council, future fairs and careers talk opportunities. There are also co-curricular activities after school for students who wish to attend.

Consistency!

7%

Just 7% of students felt like class routines were not clear an consistent

10% of students feel positive behaviour isn't recognised. We have altered the way praise can be received during lessons. We continue to have our 'Star of the Week' assemblies for each year group. At the end of the school term, the Heads of Year will have their celebrations assembly too which will include rewards and prizes for those exceptional students.

Our next round of student voice will be centered around our co-curricular groups and homework. This will commence the 3rd of November 2023.

Local Authority Information

Measles awareness and the importance of children having two doses of MMR vaccine

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent it. Two doses are needed to be fully protected. The uptake of MMR in Sunderland at age 5 years has reduced recently, putting some children at risk.

Information for parents:

Complete routine schedule for UK:

[Complete routine immunisation schedule - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Measles: Don't let your child catch it leaflet:

[MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

What do I need to know about the MMR vaccine?:

[What do I need to know about the MMR vaccine? - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://blog.gov.uk)

Improving uptake of influenza immunisation in pre-school children – Sunderland City Council and Caja

Win a £50 Amazon voucher in just 60 seconds!

We are working hard to improve the flu vaccination programme for young people in Sunderland and we think you can help. If you have a 2-3 year old child and they have not yet had their free flu spray, we want to hear from you.

Click this link to make a difference in your community:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCCFluViews>

By taking 60 seconds to answer just one question you will give yourself the chance to win one of five free £50 Amazon vouchers!

Please direct any question to:

Andrew.dewis@cajagroup.com



Have Your Say...

Do you have a 2-3 year old? Help change the flu vaccine programme for young children in Sunderland.

Answer just one quick question and be in with a chance of winning one of five **£50 Amazon Vouchers**.



Scan here to win!

Sunderland
City Council

We are pleased to announce that children and families across Sunderland will now be able to access Lumi Nova - an exciting online therapeutic game for children aged 7 - 12 years experiencing difficulties with anxiety.



Digital therapy enabling
children to self manage
their worries



NHS

together for
children
SUNDERLAND

Please use the link below for instant access to Lumi Nova!
Sign up here - <https://luminova.app/sunderland>



We are also excited to offer you a place on an upcoming Lumi Nova Discovery Session for Sunderland. Within the 30-minute webinar you will learn how Lumi Nova can support students aged 7-12 to tackle their fears and worries and build lifelong skills, how families from your school can access Lumi Nova for free and how this digital therapeutic intervention can complement your whole school approach to wellbeing. Please use the link below to register.

[Book here!](#)

In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Lumi Nova and how it can support your students go to luminova.app or reach out to us via our email address: luminova@bfb-labs.com

Thornhill Academy – Invigilators Required

Are you (or someone you know) interested in becoming one of our diligent exam invigilators?

You must be over 18 years old and **available between Monday 13th May until Friday 28th June 2024.**



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

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE - WARNING TO PARENTS – DO NOT BUY E-SCOOTERS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

**It is against the law to
ride a private e-scooter
on a public road
or pavement.**



We understand that buying your own e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

MOT, Licensing, Tax, Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Although unable to ride your own, there is a government trial taking place in the North East where you are allowed to ride a rented e-scooter.

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 enquiries@consilium-at.com

Behaviour Policy

The behaviour policy has been reviewed, and there are changes which will be implemented to ensure there is a clear escalation process which is explicit to students. After school, detentions will replace the RJC system that we have at present. The staged response is outlined in the table below. When a child reaches a C4, they will be given a same day 30-minute detention notification, this will be via class charts. If a child has two C4 behaviours in one day, they will be placed in Reflection for the remainder of the day and the same day, detention will be extended to 45 minutes. Parents will receive a second detention notification where this is the case. As detentions are on the same day, it is essential that all parents have access to class charts to ensure you receive these notifications.

C1 Warning
C2 Second Warning
C3 Teacher Conversation

**C4 Intervention -
Relocation or Reflection**

**After School
Detention – 30 mins**

C5 Reflection – Whole Day
C6 Cool off
C7 Suspension

If a child fails to engage, or fails to attend the detention, then there will be an escalation process and the detention will be extended. The next stage will be implemented the following day in school.

Stage 1	45 minutes After School Detention
Stage 2	Day in Reflection & 45 minute After School Detention
Stage 3	60-minute SLT Detention - Friday
Stage 4	Parental Meeting

Lates

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for students to form good habits for later life. Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on learning leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Where students are persistently late this will impact on the progress that students make in school. We do appreciate that there may be an occasion where a child is late for school with a genuine reason for lateness, however, where this is a recurring issue, a detention will be issued. If a child has three late marks in a half term, they are persistently late to school. When a student reaches three late marks in a half term, they will be issued a same day 30 minute after school detention. This detention is compulsory and will escalate if the student does not attend. This is a deterrent to help improve punctuality and reduce lost learning time.

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

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