



Thornhill  
Academy  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

# Parental Newsletter

## Message from Head Teacher

### Message from Headteacher

Hard to believe that today is the 1st of December and if to remind us even more, a light covering of snow – though we do appear to have got off lightly, compared to other local areas.

On Monday we have 13 school days left until Christmas. Every one of those days is just as important as all the other days have been this term. There will be some Christmas activities, and treats along the way, but normal lessons will be taught all the way to the end of term.

Whilst on the topic of attendance, today we welcome our new attendance officer, Karen Hughes. She comes to us from another school in Sunderland and has a wealth of experience supporting families to get their children in to school. Should she come to visit you, she will have Thornhill photo identification, so you will have no doubt who she is. Mrs Basford remains our attendance manager and will line manage Mrs Hughes.

To support you in making plans for the Christmas holidays, arrangements will be as follows:

School will finish at 1pm on Wednesday 20th December, the new term will start on Monday 9th January. Please note that the school office will be closed throughout this holiday period.

Sue Hamilton

**To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:**  
**[View Parents Letters](#)**



Proud to be part of  
**Consilium**  
Academies

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

# School News

## ParentPay App

Across school, we still have a significant number of 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 required way to pay for school trips etc.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have made payment to clear their child's lunch account debt. Existing debt will need to be cleared by Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, you can contact the school to check how much is owing. 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](#)

Your child is also entitled to attend our free daily breakfast club.



## **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.**





# Christmas

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Menu**

## **Mains**

*Roast Turkey*  
*served with chiploatas and all the Christmas trimmings.*  
*Or*

*Roasted Vegetable Tart*  
*served with all the Christmas trimmings.*

## **Dessert**

*A selection of all your Christmas favourites*





Thornhill Academy Music  
presents



Christmas  
CONCERT



Wednesday 20th December

7pm

17 Nineteen

£2  
parentpay



## Co-Curricular

Our co-curricular timetable continues this half term, with bring a buddy week, where students can gain extra praise points for attending a new club, or for bringing a friend along!

In guidance and assemblies, 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 at 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/qSveb5QjaM>

	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

## Assemblies

This week, our assembly focused on one of our employability skills- **Teamwork**: *Working cooperatively with others towards achieving a shared goal.*

This life skill applies to working within both formal, and informal teams, and also with customers, clients, or other stakeholders. Initially, this is about being positive, behaving appropriately, being reliable, and taking responsibility. This extends to understanding and respecting diversity of other's cultures, beliefs and backgrounds.



We then focus on making a contribution to a team, through group decision making, recognising the value of other's ideas, and encouraging others to contribute too. We can improve teams through managing conflict, and building relationships. Students can also focus on how they influence their team, through suggesting improvements and learning lessons from setbacks.

## Careers

### ASK Apprenticeships

This week, Year 10 had an additional assembly from ASK, on the apprenticeship pathway to support their future decision making.

Year 11 students signed up to get further support with their apprenticeship applications. There is lots of information aimed at parents supporting their children to investigate the apprenticeship route on the amazing apprenticeship website:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>

### Business Breakfast

Next week, we have our second Business Breakfast of the year on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. We have 6 organisations in school from 8am, from Sunderland Care and Support to the RAF! Please encourage your child to come into school early, grab a free breakfast and obtain information about different jobs and careers!



# Student Voice Feedback



**Thornhill  
Academy**

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

*96% of students said they are aware of co-curricular activities. Look out for our new display and booklet to help you choose from the wide range of clubs you can come along to!*

*Those students who do come along to the co-curricular activities say doing so helps to develop their confidence, talent and independence as well as having fun! Sometimes trying something new can help build friendships and provide a chance to learn new skills and abilities. If you haven't already, sign up to one of our clubs!*

*95% of students say they get homework on a regular basis. It is hugely important to engage with this learning, as it will provide a better understanding on the topics currently being covered in your lessons!*

*Just 74% of students say that they use their planner to write down the dates they got homework and when this is due.*

*Not only does writing this in your planner alert parents to help support you with completing homework, but it also builds organizational skills! It also lowers the chances you will forget!*

## Homework

**99%**

*99% of students say homework is communicated on Class Charts. Remember to check!*

*Some students have explained that they feel like the homework 'assignments are really helping'.*

*Our next student voice is imminent and will cover guidance and careers.*

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**



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

## 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](#)



A wide-angle photograph of Edinburgh at night, showing the illuminated city skyline with various buildings and the Edinburgh Castle in the background. The text 'DAY TRIP TO EDINBURGH' is overlaid in large white letters, with 'With History and Music' in a cursive script below it.

 <b>Six Musical</b>	 <b>Edinburgh Dungeons</b>	 <b>Mary's King Close</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Musical retelling of the lives of the SIX wives of Henry VIII.</li><li>• One of the best musicals and not to be missed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ultimate underground journey into Edinburgh's dark past.</li><li>• A thrilling DROP RIDE</li><li>• Scary fun for all!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A warren of streets frozen in time.</li><li>• Find out what it was really like for the people who lived, worked, and died on the Close.</li></ul>

**Book Now**



**Thornhill Academy**  
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See Miss Harris/Mr Leadbeater for more information.

School Start

Time

# Standards and Expectations

## Uniform and Equipment

As the temperature has now dropped, please can we remind students of our uniform expectations, standards need to be maintained in all weather. Students must wear a Black V Neck Jumper underneath their blazer each day. If additional layers are required, then this needs to be a dark waterproof coat which is worn over the blazer. There should be no additional layers beneath the blazer. Tracksuit tops and Gillet style jackets are not permitted and will be confiscated if worn. Also, a reminder that trainers or converse style shoes are not permitted.

Students are required to bring their bag to school each day, along with their planner and pencil case with equipment. Please can you check that your child is fully equipped for school each day, ready to learn.

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](mailto: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.

Unfortunately, we are seeing a large increase in late students arriving each morning. Please can we remind all parents that we request students to be on site for 8.30am each day, classes start at 8.40am prompt.

We would like to thank you in advance with your support on this matter.

## 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
- 



Twitter@thornhill\_uk  
Instagram@thornhill\_academy  
FacebookThornhill Academy

# Local Authority Information



**Earn rewards  
to spend and  
donate in  
Sunderland**



Download  
the free app



**sunderland.betterpoints.uk**

  
**Sunderland**  
City Council

 **BetterPoints**



[sunderland.betterpoints.uk](https://sunderland.betterpoints.uk)

## BetterPoints Sunderland

Record your walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport trips to earn rewards that you can exchange for Sunderland Gift Cards, spend at local cafes or donate to St Benedict's Hospice or Grace House.

**It's as easy as 1-2-3:**

1. **Download the free BetterPoints app from the App Store or Google Play (scan the QR below)**
2. **Register, join the BetterPoints Sunderland challenge and take the baseline survey to earn your first 250 BetterPoints and unlock earning for green and healthy trips**
3. **Turn tracking on in the top right-hand corner of the app then walk, wheel, run, cycle and use public transport to earn BetterPoints**

Keep an eye on your timeline for offers, prize draws and useful information in the app. If you don't register with a Sunderland postcode but work or study in the city, enter the referral code **BPSOOA**

Download the free app and track your trips to earn rewards and help to make Sunderland a happier, healthier, greener place to live, work and study.



Download  
the free app

Let's talk about...

**SPEED**

“

A few miles an hour  
won't make much  
difference will it?

”

**Every day, five people die on UK roads.  
Speed is a factor in every crash.**

Every 1mph increase in speed, increases crash frequency by 5%.\*

Whoever you are, however you travel,  
**we need to talk about speed.**

\*Finch et al. (1994) TRL Project Report 58: Speed, Speed Limits and Accidents



Join the conversation  
[www.brake.org.uk/RoadSafetyWeek](http://www.brake.org.uk/RoadSafetyWeek)  
[#RoadSafetyWeek](https://twitter.com/RoadSafetyWeek)

**ROAD  
SAFETY  
WEEK**

Organised by



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Supporting





**The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.**

**We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.**

**This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.**

**Scan the QR code to  
take part**



**[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)**



Help at Hand is a service for children and young people in care, leaving care, living away from home or working with children's services. If you are a young person and would like any help or assistance, you can call 0800 528 0731 or email [help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](mailto:help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

## **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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complete-routine-immunisation-schedule)

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

[MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it)

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

[What do I need to know about the MMR vaccine? - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk/2018/05/what-do-i-need-to-know-about-the-mmr-vaccine/)

## **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.

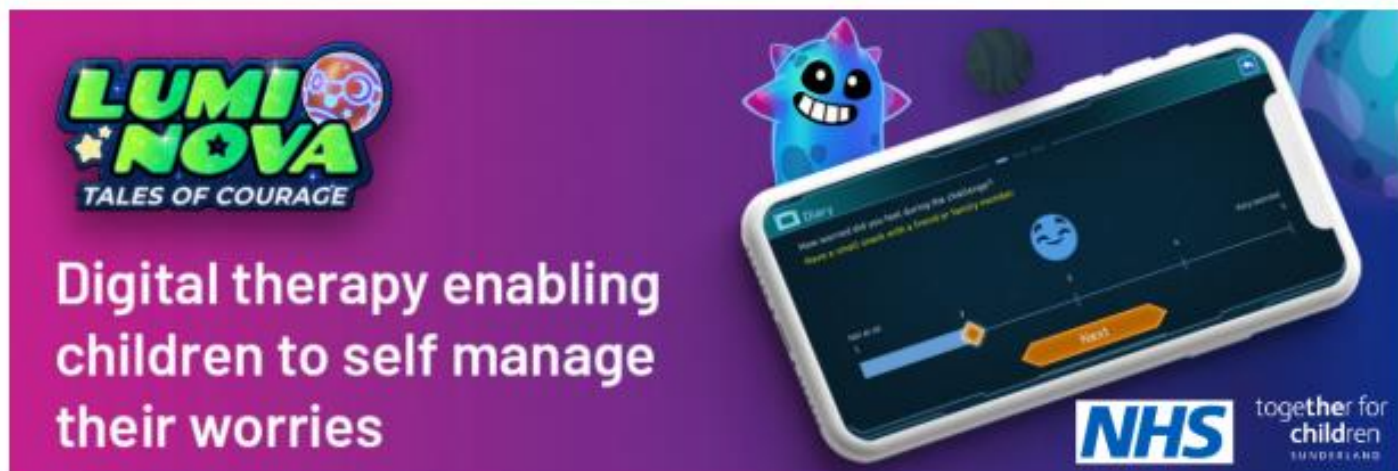
Answer just one quick question and be in with a chance of winning one of five **£50 Amazon Vouchers**.



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.



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](https://luminova.app) or reach out to us via our email address:  
[luminova@bfb-labs.com](mailto:luminova@bfb-labs.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.