



Thornhill
Academy
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Parental Newsletter

Message from Head Teacher

Last night, we welcomed back last years, year 11 students for our Class of 23 awards. This was an opportunity for them to receive their GCSE certificates and a whole host of awards from staff for their phenomenal attitudes and efforts last year.

It was lovely to hear about all the things they had done since leaving us last summer and where they were studying or working now. Many spoke very fondly about their time with us at Thornhill, and how much they truly appreciated everything we had done for them.

Flight lieutenant John Richardson, a past student of Thornhill, was our guest speaker. He spoke to the students about what he had achieved since leaving our school. This talk was very motivational, and he told our students to follow their dreams and always keep on trying for the things they want to achieve.

This was such a lovely evening, and it will now be a yearly event on our calendar. As we move closer to the end of term, we have started our celebration assemblies, there are so many achievements to recognise. It's great to see our students truly appreciating their achievements and those of other students.

There will be further planned activities next week, as we move towards the end of term, but can I also remind parents, and students that lesson time will be normal curriculum time, right up to the end of term, so every day next week is as focussed in class, as it has been since September and therefore student attendance is vital.

School will finish at 1pm on Wednesday 20th December, we return on Monday 8th January.

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

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, 15th 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.

A reminder that the daily School Breakfast Club starts at 8.00 am each school day. Students will not be able to access the club before 8.00am



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.**



This week all year 8 and year 9 students took part in a science, careers live stream event. A link to watch the recording again, for those interested, is below:

“Dive into the extraordinary world of Polar Marine Biology with Prof. Lloyd Peck! Join his captivating talk, ‘The science is just so ridiculously good.’ Explore the wonders of icy ecosystems, cutting-edge research, and the thrill of discovery. Don’t miss the chance to have a peak at the science and hear about marine biology as a career!”



<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration-inspiration/professor-lloyd-peck-polar-marine-biologist/>

Well done to Thornhill Netball teams for this last term, in both KS3, and KS4. You have represented the school fantastically, and shown great team spirit, as well as demonstrating our schools core values. You have played with your heart and souls. Congratulations on winning your final game this year, and let’s keep up this winning streak as the seasons restarts after the holidays.



Co-Curricular

Our co-curricular timetable will be updated for next half term, and we look forward to sharing a great range of activities for the new year, alongside competitions and other events that students can get involved in outside of lessons.

It has been fascinating hearing from students about the activities they participate in outside of school too. Many of our students commit to Islamic lessons outside of school. Below, Sawdah Year 9, shares with us, some of what she is working towards:

"I do a Sanatayn course which is where you learn Arabic rules on how to read and pronounce words in the Quran, spirituality in Islam and the core beliefs and principles that Muslims hold. Last week there was a gathering at Baytulilm Academy which is the place where I study. I prepared and presented a speech about my feedback and how I am finding the course. On Sunday I completed my first exam. This course has increased my knowledge about my religion. I am finding Arabic language challenging although I can read it, I don't always understand it. This is a two year course and once I pass all of my exams I will get a Diploma in July 2025."

These additional experiences and events support our students' personal development, and prepare them well for their future. We look forward to hearing more and celebrating our students' wider experiences.

Assemblies

This week our assembly theme was, Christmas and, was led by Mr Rice along with a group of students. Students were asked to reflect on what Christmas time means to them. For some, this is spending time with family, and friends. Some people like the feasts and gifts they receive whilst others take joy in giving and helping others. For Christians, this is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember the gift of Jesus to the world.

In the assembly some of our students who are practising Christian students spoke proudly about what Christmas means to them. Thank you to Catherine, Alex, Lateefat and Jessica for your excellent personal readings throughout the week.



Careers

Pathways

As part of our tutor programme, we are introducing students to Pathways. This is an interactive careers tool embedded in our school website. You can find this in our Careers 'Explore by Career'.

<https://www.thornhillschool.org.uk/page/?title=Explore+by+career&pid=119>



Bella Marie Academy

We are pleased to have been able to offer some of our students the opportunity to apply for the Bella Marie Academy Winter HAF programme. This is for 3 half days during the Christmas Holidays.

The programme will cover makeup, nails, and 2024 vision boards. With a commitment to attend all 3 sessions, a gift bag will be presented to those completing the programme. This is a great opportunity for students to indulge in their creative interests as well as develop their employability skills.



Nail Technology



Makeup Training

Year 11 Leavers Awards Ceremony

We were really proud to welcome back our class of 23, to receive their GCSE certificates, and other subject awards this week. This was a lovely opportunity for students to see their old classmates and teachers, as well as receive recognition for their hard work and commitment during their time at Thornhill Academy.

Rewards

Our end of term rewards have begun with, trips to the Panto for both Year 7 and Year 11.

On Tuesday, 19th December 2023 we have our festive rewards day. Pupils will be taken off timetable for 2 lessons to do an activity of their choice. This is to say thank you for the dedication, and commitment they have shown towards their education over the first term of the academic year. Well done Thornhill we are so proud of you all!



Business Breakfast



Students at Thornhill Academy

Pupils' business breakfast

THORNHILL Academy has established a regular Business Breakfast initiative to inspire its students to plan ahead for an ambitious career, in collaboration with further education providers and local businesses.

The termly event was open to the entire school community and was set up to provide students with valuable insights into diverse career paths and opportunities.

Students from the Sunderland school were welcomed to join a relaxed conversation with exhibitors at the Breakfast Club, held from 8am to 9am to gain insights and

information on diverse roles and sectors.

Featured exhibitors included: Sunderland College: Further education; East Durham College: Further education; Springboard: Training and apprenticeships; Sunderland Care and Support: Health and social care; and the RAF.

Ft Lt John Richardson RAF said: "I was a student of Thornhill from 1987-92 and had a really great time. The opportunity to come back and offer anything that may be of help to the school is both an honour and a privilege. Thank you for having me."

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**

2024 Teaching Awards now open for nominations

Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a special teacher, colleague, or friend for the 2024 Teaching Awards. The nominations are free and there are 16 categories to choose from, including individual, team and support staff awards. This is a great way to show someone you appreciate their outstanding work and commitment.

Nominate someone for a National Teaching Award

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/bulletins/37c18d6>

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/>

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

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.

If a child fails to engage, or fails to attend the detention, then there will be an escalation

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

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 significant 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.

Christmas Events



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](#)



**DAY TRIP TO
EDINBURGH**
*With History
and Music*

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

 **Thornhill Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

See Miss Harris/Mr Leadbeater for more information.

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

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

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

#RoadSafetyWeek

ROAD
SAFETY
WEEK

Organised by



Sponsored by



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.

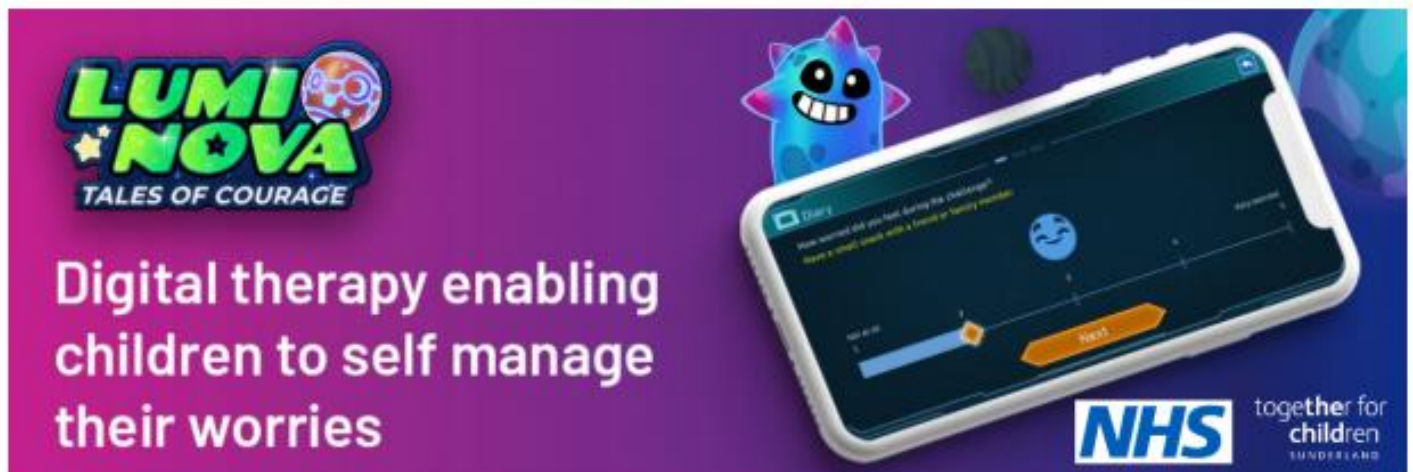
**Scan the QR code to
take part**



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



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



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

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.