



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

Thornhill Parent Update 12th January 2024

Here we are at the end of the first week back after Christmas. I hope you all had an enjoyable festive period. I think many of our students found an 8.40am start a little tricky after 2 weeks of holidays, but we are back in the routine again now.

Thank you for supporting school by ensuring your children arrive in their full uniform, minus the Christmas gifts of non-uniform such as jewellery, shoes, coats, and jumpers they may have wanted to try to wear for school!

Our concert at 17Nineteen on the last evening of term was beautiful, and once again showcased the phenomenal talents of our young people. A huge thankyou goes to Mr Leadbeater and Miss O'Neill for their tireless efforts and support of our students to be ready to perform. This was a lovely way to start the Christmas period.

The start of the new term has brought no rest for Year 11, who have entered their mock GCSE exam period. We are really proud of the mature way they are approaching these exams.

The coming months will see us fine tune them ready for the GCSE series that starts in May.

In the last newsletter, I told you about the staff who were leaving us, today I am sharing with you the staff who are joining us, these are:

Mr Briggs – Assistant Headteacher of Quality of Education

Mr Postlethwaite – Associate Assistant Headteacher for Science

Miss Anderson – Head Practitioner for English

In addition, Mr Taylor, who joined us in September for a term, as an Assistant Headteacher, will be remaining with us for the rest of the academic year. His support and wide experience across a number of key areas is helping us sustain our rapid improvement journey.

As always, all systems go here at Thornhill.

Mrs Sue Hamilton

Headteacher



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Thornhill Academy, Thornholme Road
Sunderland, SR2 7NA
0191 500 7981
thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

ParentPay App

Student Information – PLEASE UPDATE NOW

It is important that we have up to date information on your child. This includes correct address and telephone numbers, emergency contact details, medical updates, including allergies, etc.

Much of this can be updated by parents/carers through the ParentApp. Please log into ParentApp and check that all the information that we hold for your child is correct and update where necessary.

If you are unable to access ParentApp, please contact the main school office who will be happy to assist by making the changes and helping you set up ParentApp for future use.

Free School Meals

Please see the school details for information around Free School Meal entitlement. If you are not currently entitled to receive Free School Meals, complete the form and if, in the future, circumstances change, the entitlement could automatically start for your child.

Lunch Accounts

We are currently looking at all student lunch accounts and will be contacting parents/carers where there is significant debt on a student's account. We will no longer be able to provide meals for those students who have considerable debt on their accounts and who make no payment to reduce the balance.

Please clear any overdrawn balance now or contact the main school office if this will cause undue financial burden.

Breakfast Club

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.



Student achievement

Alanna M



I received an achievement trophy at my local Boxing club. This was for my resilience to keep going to improve my footwork, stance, and technique, when punching the boxing bags. I also received this for my effort, leadership, and teamwork, when coaching the younger squad to help them with their own technique. I worked with 3 younger members to help them improve their punching techniques and footwork. My coaches were really impressed with my confidence and motivation to help other members. I really enjoy going to Boxing, I train twice a week and in the future hope to develop my fitness and technique so that I can enter different competitions.

Assemblies

This week, year group assemblies welcomed back our students and re-established our expectations for the new year. This was also shared in a letter to parents as working together, we can achieve the excellence our students deserve.

*We are what we repeatedly
do. Excellence, then, is not an
act, but a habit.*

~ Aristotle ~

In other words: Excellence isn't this thing you do one time. It's a way of living. It's the foundation of success. By focusing on achieving their basic standards each day, and on their best work and progress in lessons, our students will have the foundations upon which to thrive in 2024!

Form time and personal development

Delulu

As well as getting organised with our new timetables, we have explored the topic of Delulu!

- The term “delulu” is a form of the word “delusional”
- It was first used in 2013 in the K-Pop scene, and entered the mainstream in 2023, describing an overly optimistic mindset and having the confidence to set unrealistic goals for yourself, believing you can achieve anything
- On TikTok, the hashtag #delulu has over 5 billion views

Students discussed how to balance thinking positively and setting high aspirational goals with how to make these realistic and achievable, as well as building more confidence to achieve.

Positive affirmations can help us turn doubts into positive thoughts - research has shown that repeating them in your head can train your mind to become more optimistic and feel more confident.

Blue Monday

Monday 15th January is known as 'Blue Monday', supposedly one of the most depressing days of the year. Whilst we don't believe that calendars decide whether we are having a good or bad day, January can be a particularly difficult time of the year for some who might struggle with the return to school or work, and with cold, dark days.

So, here's 5 top tips to look after your wellbeing.

Looking After your Wellbeing

Here are 5 easy tips from Life Lessons to help your wellbeing.
Small changes can help us with stress relief, mental wellbeing and wellness.



Stay Hydrated

01

Drink plenty of water to prevent headaches and dehydration. Being hydrated also improves your serotonin production.

Try to relax before you sleep to ensure a better quality of sleep. Most people need 7 hours of sleep a night to function well.



Get a Better Quality of Sleep

02



Enjoy some Fresh Air

03

Go for a walk outside to benefit from some fresh air and exercise. Fresh air can rejuvenate the mind and improve alertness.

Doom scrolling getting you down? Try to have 30 minutes of no screen time, maybe before bed or when you go for a walk.



Limit Screen Time

04



Seek Support

05

Reach out to family, friends or organisations like Young Minds for support.





www.lifelessons.co.uk

Co-Curricular

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

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

Competitions

This half term we will be launching a national writing competition with all students. Portico Sadie Massey Awards (PSM Awards) aims to encourage a life-long love of reading and writing, in young people from all backgrounds.

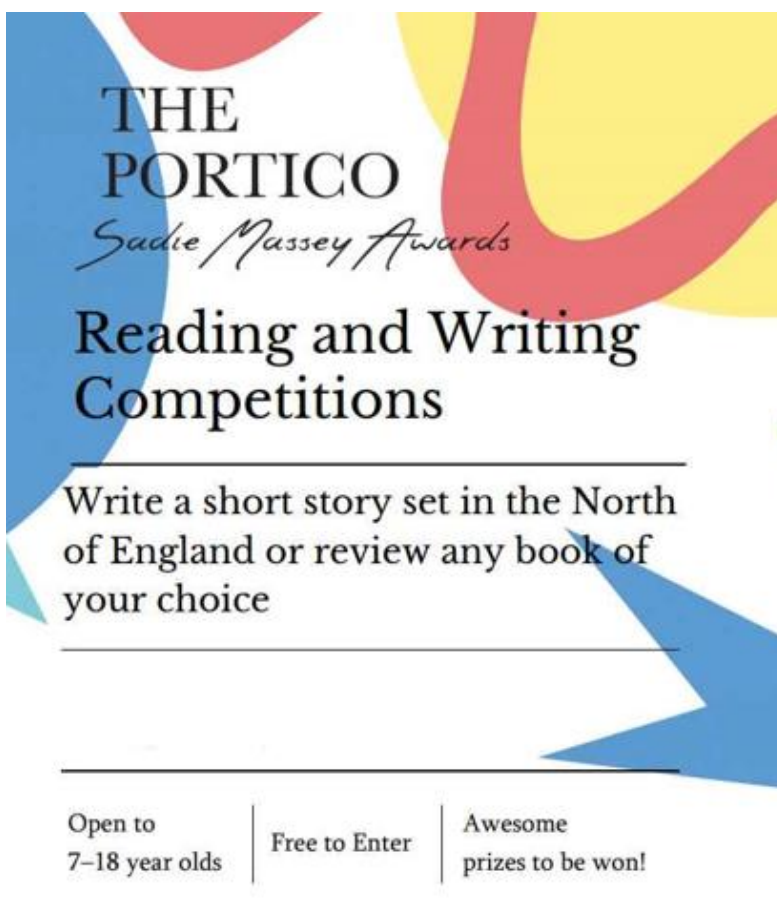
There are 2 competitions that students can enter:

- 1) Write a story about the North of England. What is meaningful to you?
- 2) Write a book review. Choose any type of book, one you are reading for pleasure or one you are studying - it's up to you!

Students will be supported during tutor time and by our English teaching staff, to ensure all children have an opportunity to enter.

Everyone entering the competition this year, will receive a Portico Library gift pack, including a notebook and bookmark.

Winners and Highly Commended entries will receive books and PSMA gift bundle at a Presentation event at The Portico Library.



THE PORTICO
Sadie Massey Awards

Reading and Writing Competitions

Write a short story set in the North of England or review any book of your choice

Open to 7–18 year olds | Free to Enter | Awesome prizes to be won!

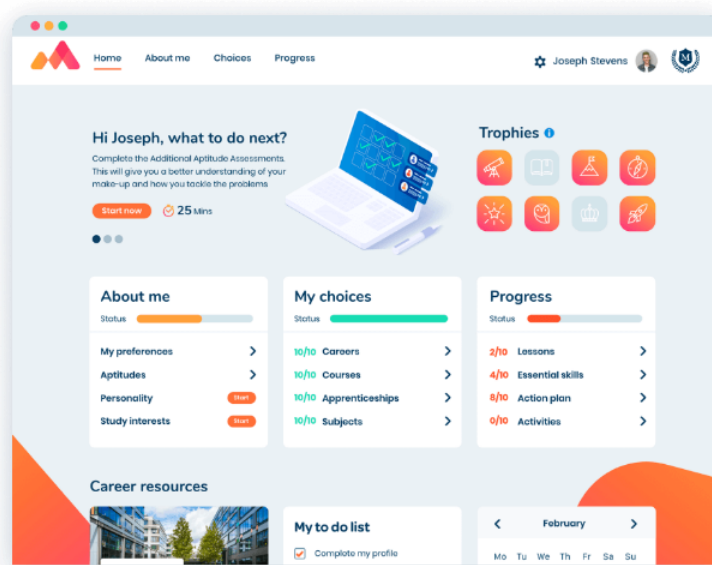
Careers

Year 9 Options

This half term year 9 will be focusing on exploring their future pathways before choosing their KS4 options. There will be a number of events to support students in making these important decisions, and the first of this was this week an additional assembly with Sunderland College helped students see connections between their future aspirations and the pathway that could lead them there.



Next week Year 9 will have a workshop with local universities to further explore courses and pathways leading up to our parents evening where subjects can be discussed directly with teachers at our parents Evening on 25th January.



Students were also reminded about their Morrisby Account, where they can find out about careers and interests. Ask your child to share with you their suggested careers, and look together at the different routes and qualifications that could lead them to their dream jobs!

Another great resource is BBC Bitesize Careers. Here students can explore different careers that link with their favourite subjects as well as finding out more about different types of qualifications at key stage 4 and beyond.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

Jobs that use... >

Explore jobs that use your favourite school subjects.



History



PE



Food and nutrition



Media studies



Art and design



Design and technology



Modern languages



English and Drama



Geography



Science



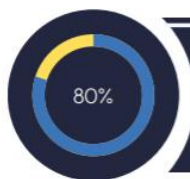
Computing and ICT



More subjects

M10 Boys Network

Year 10 Boys who meet key criteria will be invited to an introductory session to the Boys Network. This is a highly successful mentoring programme aimed at improving confidence, motivation and preparedness for future work and employment for our young men. We really look forward to students signing up and making the most of this fantastic opportunity.

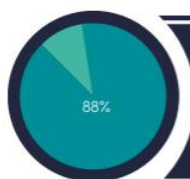


STUDENT CONFIDENCE

80% of students* feel that, through The Boys' Network, their confidence has increased.

FOCUS AND PURPOSE

76%* believe that they are now **more focused** in lessons because they have a greater understanding of the **purpose** of their education and how it can impact their **future**.



"HOW POSITIVE DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR FUTURE NOW YOU HAVE HAD SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FROM YOUR MENTOR?"

Raising aspiration and confidence about students' futures is a key objective for TBN. **88%** of students* said they feel much **more positive** about their future through having a mentor.



NHS Roadshow

On Wednesday, all of year 8 will participate in the Annual NHS Roadshow. This follows on from their 'Step into the NHS' careers competition work in guidance lesson last half term. Students will learn about the wide range of careers and opportunities available in one of the world's largest organisations.



Skills for Life: it all starts with skills

Whether you're growing your business, changing your career or just starting out, it all starts with skills.



Skills for life

On Thursday, 4th January 2024, the Department for Education launched a new multi-channel marketing campaign, Skills for Life: It All starts with skills. It encourages and motivates young people, adults and businesses, to find out more about government skills and technical education offers.

The campaign highlights the range of training and employment schemes available, including apprenticeships, T Levels, Skills Bootcamps, Multiply, and Higher Technical Qualifications. The call to action encourages people to search "Skills for Life" or to visit [Skills for Careers](#), a new website where they can explore information about skills training options and careers.



Pathways

A reminder that Pathways, 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>

Explore by career

Filter by job sector

All sectors

Filter by keyword

e.g. engineer



Acupuncturist

Salary: variable

[Information & courses →](#)



Admin assistant

Salary: £14,000 to £20,000

[Information](#)



Advertising account executive



Youth offending team officer

Salary: £21,000 to £38,000

[Information & courses →](#)



Youth worker

Salary: £18,500 to £33,000

[Information & courses →](#)



Zookeeper

Salary: £14,000 to £25,000

[Information & courses →](#)

Here you can
explore over 800
jobs and careers!

Or find careers based on your interests

[Take the profile quiz](#)

To make it more
personal to you,
take the profile
quiz.

This is similar to
what you have
completed on
Morrisby too

Based on your answers your personality type is

A Doer

You are a practical problem solver who likes to work with hands-on problems and answers. You do not like careers that involve paperwork or working closely with others. You like working with plants and animals; real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery; and outside work.



Careers for you

1 to 36 of 48 careers



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.

Thornhill Academy PE Kit

What you need for PE:

- Navy Blue polo shirt
- Navy Blue shorts
- Navy Blue tracksuit bottoms or
- Navy Blue / Black Leggings
- Navy Blue Football socks
- Pair of trainers

What you need for Swimming:

- Swim shorts / trunks
- Swim costume
- Towel
- Goggles (optional)
- Swim Cap (optional)



Thornhill Academy PE Expectations:

- PE Kit needed each lesson
- PE Kit should be loaned if forgotten
- Long hair must be tied back
- All Jewellery must be removed
- Mobile phones are not permitted
- Chewing gum is not permitted

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

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 process and the detention will be extended. The next stage will be implemented the following day in school.

C1	Warning
C2	Second Warning
C3	Teacher Conversation
C4	Intervention - Relocation or Reflection
C5	Reflection – Whole Day
C6	Cool off
C7	Suspension

**After School
Detention – 30 mins**

Lates

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for

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

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.

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

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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

To view all Parents Letters please click the link below: