



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

Thornhill Parent Update 26th January 2024

It was lovely to see so many parents and students at our Year 9 parents' evening, ahead of GCSE option choices for these students. This is such an important moment in their education as it is their first opportunity to stamp their own individuality on choices for their future. Careers guidance in school is an important part of the support our students receive at all stages of their time with us.

With respect to careers and personal development it has been a very busy week in school. Year 9 and 10 have been involved in motivational and aspirational workshops from Motivated Me. Year 10 computer studies students had a visit from Software City around careers in this area. On Thursday, all KS3 students were involved in a HERE4YOU mental health session in which the importance of positive mental health was explored.

Saturday, 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. In school this week there have been a number of events and activities to mark this day, led by Miss Harris, our Head of History. There is an article in this newsletter about the events and activities. On Thursday evening, Mr Leadbeater took the school choir to sing at the Minster, in Sunderland as part of their Holocaust Memorial Day events.

It is very special for our students to have the opportunity to perform in such iconic locations. Later this term there will be one of 2 Sunderland schools performing at Durham Cathedral, which is another magnificent building to have the opportunity to perform in.

Next week I am handing my newsletter introduction over to Mr Briggs, our new assistant headteacher for quality of education to introduce himself and tell you a little about his first month in post.

Mrs Sue Hamilton

Headteacher



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Assemblies

Holocaust Memorial Day

This Saturday, 27th of January, marks Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme reflects fragility of freedom, and at Thornhill, we have been spending some time reflecting on our freedom, but also those who risk their freedom for others. During assemblies, we have looked at certain events where freedom has been taken away, but also, where key individuals, such as Nicholas Winton, risked his life to save 669 children from Prague to escape the concentration camps during Nazi occupied Europe. On the back of the assembly, we have been asking students to reflect on freedom and not to take this for granted. During tutor time, students have then been given the opportunity to write a message on a stone, in respect for Jewish bereavement practices, where a stone is seen as eternal. On Friday morning, tutor reps then placed these stones in our memorial that was created in memory of the Holocaust, but in particular, Zigi Shipper, a Holocaust survivor who had visited Thornhill on numerous occasions.

In addition to this, year 9 and 10 students were given the opportunity to listen to children of the Holocaust and how it has affected their life since then.



Year 9 – Vaccination Information

Our Year 9 cohort were fortunate enough to benefit from the expertise of the school immunisation team. We were joined by two nurses from the team, prior to the Year 9 immunisations on 9th February. The two nurses took students through the type of illness the vaccinations prevent. They learned more about the vaccines themselves, and around consent to vaccinations.

Parents and Carers were also invited to take advantage of the nurses' expertise and had an opportunity to answer questions and reduce any misunderstandings around the vaccinations.

CHOIR

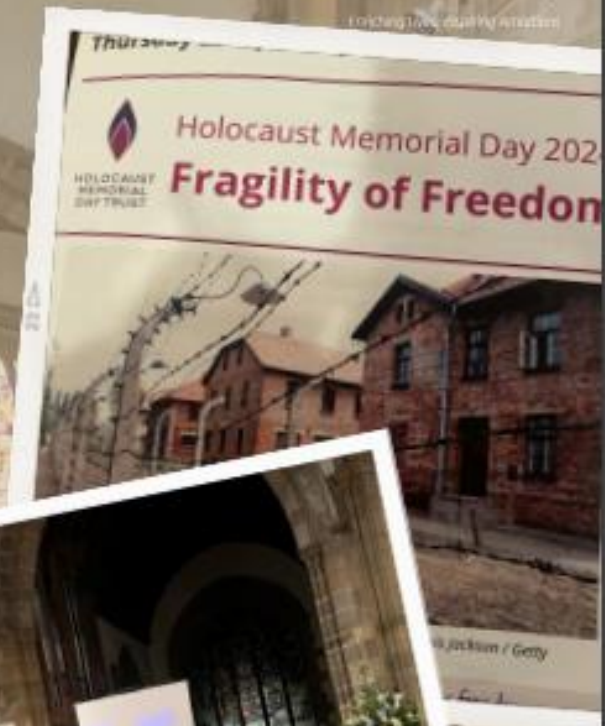
and Caleb



Thornhill
Academy

Forcing Love, Inspiring Attitudes

It was a pleasure to
support Holocaust
Memorial Day as the Choir
and Caleb performed at
Sunderland Minster on
Thursday evening.



Sunderland Minster

Personal development

Guidance Curriculum

A reminder that our online presentation to help us share the details of our guidance curriculum and give an opportunity for any questions to be asked has been postponed due to the change in the Year 9 parent event. The main aims of the presentation are to:

1. Help parents understand what RSE is and what the law says about how it needs to be taught.
2. Communicate to parents the approach we take at our school.
3. Help parents understand the role they can play in their child's education related to RSE.
4. Help parents understand their legal rights.

The presentation, in association with Life lessons, will now take place via Teams on **Thursday, 1st February, at 4:30pm** and will last around 30 minutes, with time for questions afterwards. The Teams meeting ID and passcode will be shared via Class Charts, in the week before the event.

We look forward to sharing this information and supporting parents at this event.



Motivated me

This week we invited the organization 'Resilient Me' into school to talk to our Year 9 and 10 students about motivation. 'Motivated Me' helped students understand what motivation is and where it comes from. Students were encouraged to take personal responsibility for themselves and their futures. Students were asked to think about their future and how to adopt a positive mindset and encourage personal resilience.



HERE4YOU Event

This week, all KS3 students observed a national school broadcast, raising awareness and support for our mental health. On Thursday, 25th January 2024, mental health campaigner Roman Kemp shared a TV broadcast was streamed to secondary schools all over the UK, and across all social platforms. An entire generation stopped on this day with the aim of creating positive solutions to those facing mental health challenges, at a time when it's needed more than ever.



Parents and carers can also watch this broadcast on their website: <https://here4you.co.uk/broadcast/> and support for both students and parents, can be gained from the Charity Partners to this event .



Shout is the UK's only free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Anyone can text 'SHOUT' to 85258 to speak to a trained volunteer at any time of day or night. Since launch, Shout has had more than 2 million conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, suicidal or overwhelmed and who need in-the-moment support.



The Mix is the UK's leading digital charity for under 25s, reaching over 6 million young people each year. Whatever issue a young person is facing, The Mix is always there for them - via our website, over the phone or via social media. Our support is free, confidential and anonymous and can be accessed wherever young people are.



YoungMinds have a range of information, advice as well as resources including things like wellbeing activities, toolkits and webinars to help you support the young people in your lives.



Place2Be is a leading children's mental health charity providing school-based support and in-depth training programmes to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families, teachers and school staff. For almost 30 years, Place2Be has worked with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. The charity currently provides an embedded mental health service in over 520 UK primary and secondary schools, supporting a school community of around 298,000 children and young people.



Joe's Buddy Line's mission is to provide accessible and empowering mental health and wellness support to young people and their communities. Through education, resources, and advocacy, we create environments where mental health conversations are open, accepting and stigma-free.



Mind, the mental health charity, provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. We campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding. We won't give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets both support and respect. mind.org.uk Mind has a confidential information and support line, Mind Infoline, available on 0300 123 3393 (lines open 9am - 6pm, Monday - Friday). Mind has information and advice on its website dedicated to 11-18 year olds.

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 student 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 have launched a national writing competition with all students. The Portico Sadie Massey Awards (PSM Awards) aims to encourage a life-long love of reading and writing in young people.

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 are being supported with this during tutor time, and by our English teaching staff, to ensure all children have an opportunity to enter. Parents can support by asking students about their entries and, perhaps, reading their drafts and plans, and offering advice too.

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 bundles at a Presentation event at The Portico Library. We look forward to sharing some of our entries in a future parent bulletin.

Careers

Workplace experience

Year 10 have begun the process of finding their Workplace Experience. Placements and parents will have received a letter detailing the first steps of this, this week. This experience gives students the chance to find out about themselves, find out about careers, and find future opportunities. Work experience for all of year 10 will take place in the week beginning Monday, 8th July. Students will either spend 5 days out of school completing a face-to-face workplace experience, which they find for themselves, or spend time in school on a range of virtual and in school workplace experience activities.

Further details on our work experience app and next steps will be shared over the coming weeks, in the meantime here is a sample of the experiences gained last year!



Digital Careers

This week, our year 10 computer science class received a talk from Software City. Our visitor shared insights and information regarding careers in the digital sector. In this interactive session, students found out about what careers they might be suited to as well as a glimpse into the future of jobs in the digital sector and the broader skills required for the world of work.

National Apprenticeship Week 2024

The 17th annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place from 5th to 11th February 2024. National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2024 aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by apprentices, employers and their training providers across the country.

The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2024 is 'Skills for Life'.

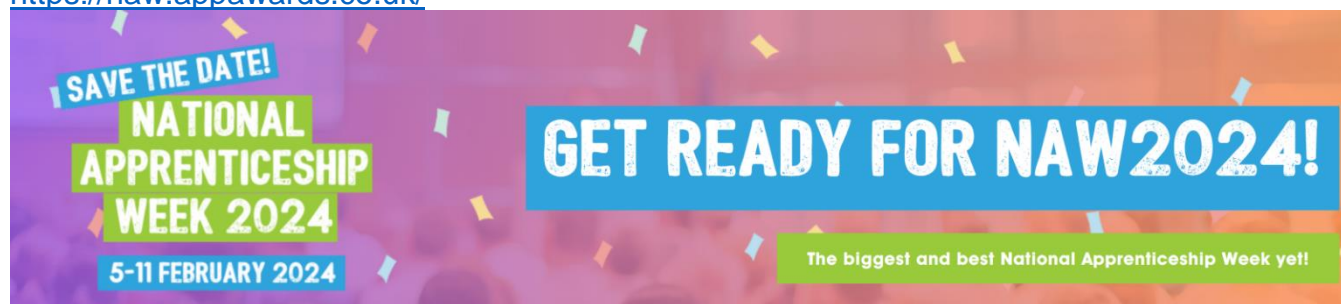
The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, taking place across England, will reflect on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

Thornhill Academy will be hosting our own events during the week, which will include *Assemblies, our business breakfast, tutor time quizzes and subject based activities*. For more information about national events happening during the week, please visit naw.appawards.co.uk

You can also keep up to date with the latest National Apprenticeship Week news by following social media channels: [@Apprenticeships](https://twitter.com/Apprenticeships) and [@AmazingAppsUK](https://twitter.com/AmazingAppsUK) on Twitter and Apprenticeships Gov on LinkedIn.

To find out more about NAW 2024, please visit:

<https://naw.appawards.co.uk/>



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.**



Benefits of an NSBP Breakfast



Nutritional benefits of breakfast

Increasing nutrient intake:

Our bagels and cereals (served with milk/ a fortified alternative such as soy, oat and nut milks) boost: Calcium, Vitamin D, Fibre, Iron and B vitamins. [Read more here.](#)

Energy boost:

Breakfast replenishes your glycogen stores, providing a quick energy boost. This is particularly important for your brain, which relies on glucose as its primary energy source.

Blood sugar control:

Eating breakfast can help stabilize blood sugar levels, preventing spikes and crashes that can occur when you go without food for an extended period.

Metabolism boost:

Consuming breakfast kick-starts your metabolism for the day.

Research shows that a large percentage of children's daily requirements for these vitamins and minerals are met during breakfast time, skipping breakfast leaves a gap in intake.

The NSBP food items have been chosen so they are in line with the [National School Food Standards](#).

There are many long-term health benefits of eating a regular, healthy breakfast. It may help reduce type 2 diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis risk.

93% of Headteachers who responded to a survey in 2023 said they had seen a reduction in inappropriate food coming into school since starting the NSBP

Cognitive benefits of breakfast

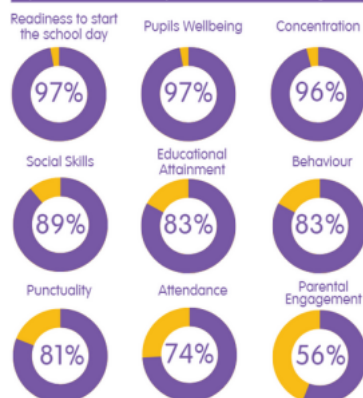
Improved mood:

Eating breakfast can influence your mood by providing essential nutrients that support the production of neurotransmitters such as serotonin, which is associated with feelings of well-being and happiness.

Improved concentration:

Balanced breakfasts can provide complex carbohydrates, protein and healthy fats which can enhance concentration, memory and overall cognitive function.

In 2023 most Headteachers reported they had seen a big improvement or some improvement in the following areas **



** Percentages drawn from 933 responses to this question in our Head Teacher Survey.

Social benefits of breakfast

Breakfast allows for improved social relationships and communication with peers and staff, providing time to check in and express any concerns or issues.

Breakfast interventions are a good place to start discussions about healthy eating and body image.

Breakfast can also be a good place to start putting social and life skills into practice.

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](#)



 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

To view all Parents Letters please click the link below:

Government Advice

Back to School advice - UKHSA

[UKHSA reminds parents of back-to-school advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-reminds-parents-of-back-to-school-advice)