



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

Thornhill Parent Update 2nd February 2024

Hello everyone,

As Mrs Hamilton mentioned in last week's bulletin, I am Mr Briggs, the new Assistant Headteacher for Quality of Education at Thornhill.

I previously worked at St Michaels Catholic Academy in Billingham, and the first thing that I noticed, being a Sunderland resident, is how nice it is to see the traditional pink slice on the menu at lunchtime.

I have received an excellent welcome from the students at Thornhill. Its inspiring when you walk into a new school, start to teach new classes, and see the drive and commitment the students have, to be excellent in everything that they do. A school is about more than just excellent exam results, although they are important, it is also about the memories students make, the friendships they forge, and the opportunities they have to thrive at extra-curricular activities and experiences. It is apparent that we also show our students the values needed, to make a positive contribution to society.

The staff here at Thornhill have been brilliant with me. I would like to thank Mrs Hamilton and the rest of the senior team, the teaching staff and the support staff for helping me to start so seamlessly. I've noticed that the staff here really want what is best for the students, they are working tirelessly for every one of them.

My ambition is to highlight the excellence here at Thornhill, to promote and reward the students here who work hard each day. Whose excellence is more than just academic, whether that be the students who show resilience, who behave perfectly on such a vast site, who are courteous and polite to staff, who turn up to Thornhill and want to be the best version of themselves. I think these students need to be promoted and rewarded.

Mr A Briggs

Assistant Headteacher



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Year 11 Period 6

Year 11 have displayed exemplary behaviour throughout their mock examination, and we are proud of how they have applied themselves to their studies. Period 6 has resumed, and the timetable is below. We encourage all Year 11 pupils to attend a session each night, where possible, to benefit from the available support.

| Days | | | |
|--------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1Mon | Science/Drama | | |
| 1Tue | History/Music | | |
| 1 Wed | | Maths | |
| 1 Thur | | English | |
| 1 Fri | Engineering | IT/Computing | Sports |
| 2Mon | Science | | |
| 2 Tues | RS/MFL/History | | |
| 2 Wed | | Maths | |
| 2 Thur | | English | |
| 2 Fri | Art | Business | Food |

Assemblies

LGBTQ+ History Month

Together for Children came to school this week to support our assembly programme and sharing the importance of LGBTQ+ history Month which falls in February. It is important for us to remember the achievements of the past, and the additional barriers faced by our peers in the LGBTQ+ community over the years.



Year 11 assembly – Durham Sixth Form



We were pleased to invite Durham 6th form into school this week to speak to our Year 11 Students. This is a highly commended Post 16 provider, with a lot to offer our students. All year 11 students should be applying for college, 6th form, or training opportunities this term. For additional support we have our Careers Cafe in the LRC every Tuesday, our careers advisor is in every Thursday, or students can contact Mrs Crooks with any questions. Parents can also feel free to contact Mrs Crooks at cherry.crooks@consilium-at.com for any queries regarding careers and Post 16 destinations.

Personal Development

Guidance Curriculum

Thank you to the parents who joined us for our online presentation, to share the details of our guidance curriculum. Through the presentation we communicated:

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

We will look to share the full resource on our website soon.



Smashed Live

As part of their health and wellbeing education, Year 7 enjoyed a fun and interactive performance from 'Smashed Live' this week, introducing students to the dangers of alcohol. Below is a link to a parent's guide to support any conversations at home, including any tricky questions you may be asked.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/f985b63f-c5ac-47f7-b78c-1247d0888d2b>



Co-Curricular

Our co-curricular timetable has been updated for this half term, 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 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.

Company Programme

Company Programme launched on Class Charts this week, we are recruiting for our 'Company Programme'.

This is a co-curricular group for students who want to set up and run their own business with help from volunteers from Young Enterprise, and other business people in the region.

'Company Programme empowers young people to set up and run a student company under the guidance of a volunteer. Students make all the decisions about their business, from deciding on the company name, managing the company finances, and selling to the public. Participants gain practical business experience and key skills.'

This opportunity is ideal for any current or aspiring business students in year 9 or 10 but spaces are limited!!

By taking part you will:

- Gain first-hand experience of the world of work and working as part of a team
- Develop the qualities and skills that employers value and be able to evidence examples of these skills
- Explore self-employment and entrepreneurship as possible career pathways
- Be able to provide evidence of valuable experience and skills development for future applications to education, training providers and future employers.

Students can sign up by messaging Mrs Crooks on Class Charts and looking out for our launch date!



Careers

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week 2024!

The 17th annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place from 5th to 11th February. We are really looking forward to celebrating and sharing all things related to apprenticeships across the week. Students will engage in assemblies and quizzes in form time, lesson activities in different subject areas, and a great opportunity to talk to apprentices and their employers at our business breakfast Tuesday morning from 8am.

Students should look out for extra games on Class Charts and displays across the school to learn more about apprenticeships.

Key stage 4 students may want to further explore their options for studying and working together Post 16 at Springpod via this link.

<https://unlocked.springpod.com/>

Students and parents can also find out more via our website here:

<https://www.thornhillschool.org.uk/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=126>



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

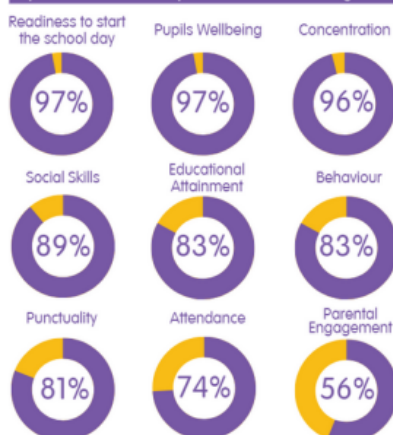
Improved mood:

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 | After School Detention – 30 mins |
| C5 | Reflection – Whole Day | |
| C6 | Cool off | |
| C7 | Suspension | |

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.

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.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 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 |

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](#)



DIY TRIP TO EDINBURGH
With History and Music

| Six Musical | Edinburgh Dungeons | Mary's King Close |
|---|---|---|
| <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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ultimate underground journey into Edinburgh's dark past.• A thrilling DROP RIDE• Scary fun for all! | <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. |

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:

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/back-to-school-advice)
