



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
Consilium
Academies

Thornhill Parent Update 9th February 2024

This week has seen us achieve the International School Award, run by the British Council. We are very proud of this achievement, which demonstrates our commitment to embedding international awareness and understanding within our school.

Our strong motivation for this award, comes from our culturally diverse student population, who come from over 25 different countries. We are proud to be this vibrant and diverse community, with a school culture in which we celebrate, learn from and embrace our differences. This brings such a richness to our school and makes us very unique in our local area.

As is always the case at Thornhill, we have welcomed lots of visitors to our school. This week has been National Apprenticeship week, which has seen a variety of activities in school, raising awareness about apprenticeships, and our business breakfast, also focusing on apprenticeships.

On Tuesday, we had the first large on-site meeting of the initial team involved in our new school build. In total, 18 people from a whole host of organisations and building professions toured our site and met in the afternoon to discuss the next steps. Currently we have no plans of where or designs to look at, but that meeting did really make it come to life. I will keep you all updated as we move forward.

It seems hard to believe that we have one week to the half term break. Please can I remind you all that every day in school is important and good attendance supports good academic achievement, the curriculum is planned over 39 weeks and the lessons next Thursday and Friday are just as important as those on the first Monday back. Let's end the term with a strong overall school attendance.

Mrs S Hamilton

Headteacher

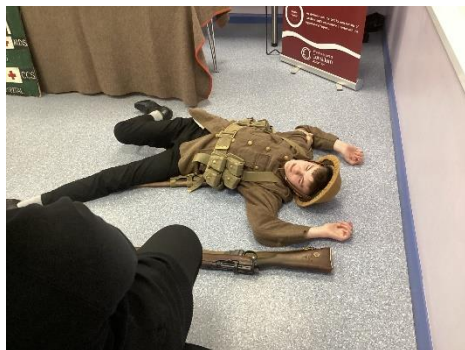


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Frontline History

On Thursday, our year 11 historians had the opportunity to take part in a workshop delivered by Frontline History. During the session, students had the chance to handle artefacts from the battlefields of WWI and learn about how soldiers recovered from their injuries. This session was beneficial to help students towards their medicine through time exam, where they were able to recall knowledge and skills for their history curriculum.



Assemblies


National Apprenticeship Week #NAW2024

This week's tutor time assemblies with Mrs Crooks were focused on National Apprenticeship Week 2024! As part of student's careers education, they learn about the many different pathways they have ahead of them. Thinking about A levels, Btecs, T Levels, and Apprenticeships is not just for year 11. Building our knowledge and making ourselves aware of the possibilities is important even in year 7. The poster summarises the key benefits of the apprenticeship pathway.




WHY BE AN APPRENTICE?


Achieve your career goals

Paid employment while you train 

Professional qualifications available in some sectors

Real jobs and a real future 

Employment prospects: 90% of apprentices stay in employment

No limits: from nursing to nuclear engineering 

Transferable skills for life

Improved employability through real work experience

Career progression from intermediate up to degree

Employers you know: from Sky to British Airways to the BBC 

Brought to you by
National
Apprenticeship
Service

To find an apprenticeship visit GOV.UK
and search for apprenticeships

One key message to all students, of all years is, beyond their qualifications, what else will they have to offer employers in the future. What skills will they develop? What experiences will they take to help develop these skills? What will make them stand out from the crowd?

Year 11 assembly – Operation Capio

This week, Year 11 took part in an informative and reflective session from the anti-social behaviour team at Northumbria Police. The focus was on the use of mopeds and e-scooters; the law surrounding this, and the potential consequences. It is important for students to be aware of the fact that, any motorised vehicle has restrictions on how, and where they can be used. This is outlined below.

E-BIKES

- Do I need a Licence - Yes
- Do I need insurance - Yes
- Can you ride on a public road/places - No
- Is it a Motor Vehicle - Yes



E-SCOOTER

- Private land only
- Illegal on public highway
- Can not get insurance to ride on a road.
- Rentals - must hold a provisional license



Electronically Assisted Pedal Cycle

E A P C

- Do I need a Licence - No
- Do I need insurance - No
- Can you ride on a public road/places - Yes
- Is it a Motor Vehicle - No



CONSEQUENCES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Criminal record | • Reported |
| • Prosecution | • Interviewed |
| • Bike crushed | • Arrested |
| • Loss License | • Court |
| • Financial implications | • Death |

The police also shared some of the consequences of using motorised bikes, which is a focus of the police task force. It was made clear to students that arrests would be made, and bikes confiscated or even destroyed as a result of illegal use.

The presentation went on to share the more personal consequences of anti-social behaviours and whilst, in the short-term, young people can see this as a laugh and a joke, longer term there are significant impacts on lives. This was a hard-hitting assembly and students took the messages seriously, making a promise to their loved ones about keeping themselves safe.

Personal Development

Guidance Curriculum

Please see below for our guidance lesson themes from this week

Year 7	Friends and Frenemies
Year 8	Disabilities
Year 9	Gender based violence
Year 10	Divorce and marriage
Year 11	Sexual health and STIs

Parents can support their child's learning in their Personal Development education by:

- **Celebrating individual differences** to promote a greater sense of belonging for everyone in society.
- **Talking openly** with your child to model confidence in discussing tricky topics.
- **Listening to your child** without judgement.
- **Engaging** with the school's parent consultations about RSE topics.
- **Staying up to date** with what is being taught, and when, so you can follow up on these topics at home.
- **Asking for support** if you need it - you are not expected to know everything!

Student Leaders

At Thornhill we are keen to develop students' responsibility and independence and want to re-introduce our student leader's programme. We would like to invite students from all year groups to apply to become one of our new Literacy Leaders.



As a literacy leader, you will receive:

- Exclusive access to the library at breaktime and lunchtime
- A literacy leader lanyard
- Priority on literacy leader trips
- Make decisions about the library and other initiatives in school

If you consider yourself to be a dedicated role model that would like to support others too, then we want you!

Please complete an application form and submit to Miss N Anderson (R12) by the **deadline on Monday 26th February 2024.**

Application forms can be collected from the library.

Do you want to be able to access the library at break and lunch time? If so, become one of our literacy leaders!

As a literacy leader, you will be responsible for creating and actioning initiatives in school which improves reading, writing and speaking and listening for everyone.

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

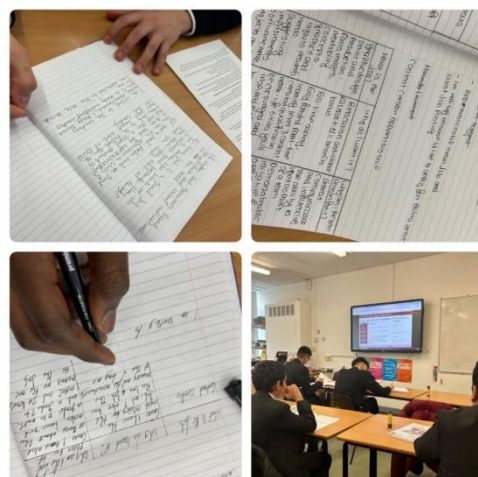
Netball

Well done to the Y7 and Y8 netball teams in last night's matches. They worked extremely well and worked effectively as a team. They took the lead very early on in the match, however just missed out on the win in the final minutes of the second half. Great effort, keep it up.



Competitions

Next Friday is our deadline for our whole school writing competition. Students have been working on this in their tutor time, as well as in their own time. We really look forward to submitting entries, sharing great stories, and issuing prizes next half term. Good luck to all students!



Careers

National Apprenticeship Week 2024!

Thornhill celebrated the 17th annual National Apprenticeship Week this week, with a wide range of activities and challenges. In addition to our assemblies students took part in quizzes and activities in different subject areas across the week.

On Tuesday, we hosted an apprenticeship focused Business Breakfast. Our guests were, again, so impressed with the level of engagement from our students, especially from year 8 who attended during registration too.

Well done to our Business Breakfast winners for recording some excellent feedback from our visitors. Honour, Lilly,



Alfie, Elizabeth and Desire, your prizes will be with you next week!

Students and parents can also find out more about apprenticeships via our website here:
<https://www.thornhillschool.org.uk/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=126>

The links below will also take you to specific guides for both apprenticeships and T levels
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2022/01/Apprenticeship-Hints-Tips-for-Parents-Carers-V2.pdf>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2024/02/T-Level-Parents-and-Carers-Guide.pdf>

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.



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**

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](#)

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:
[View Parents Letters](#)

Half term Activities:

Book now at: <https://www.exposunderland.com/programme>

[@exposunderland](#)

[#comeandplay](#)

[@sunderlanduni](#)

[Explore our future](#)

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)
