



**Thornhill  
Academy**  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*



Proud to be part of  
**Consilium**  
Academies

## Thornhill Parent Update 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Last week, I talked about the importance of our students taking up every opportunity they are given and trying new things. Opportunity is one of our school and trust values. This week, I want to focus on another value, that of Partnership. There are so many ways in which we work in partnership for the benefit of our students and the local community. This week has been no exception.

A group of our Y9 students have had an amazing opportunity to spend a week at The Sunderland Empire on work experience. The 30 hours of intensive industry insight, has enabled them to investigate a wide range of careers within the theatre industry.

Our partnership with the Empire is extensive and includes funding to introduce students into theatre through tours, theatre visits and workshops. Our proximity to the city centre makes this and other partnerships so easy.

Also this week, our Y10 Health and Social Care students have had the opportunity to visit our partners at Sunderland University, and learn about careers in nursing, by examining the interactive dummy patients. This enabled them to explore anatomy and physiology of the human body.

This week, I was invited to the International Bangladeshi Centre to their celebration of International Women's Day. This was an opportunity to network with a number of our community partners, leading to further work to support our students and families, both in school and in the community. This event focussed on celebrating the achievements of women globally and promoting discussions on gender equality.

Next week is a huge week for partnership and opportunity, when we embark on our inspiration day Financial Awareness workshop.

I look forward to sharing news next week about these events and how they have linked to our third value of excellence.

Mrs S Hamilton

Headteacher



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## Free School Meal Vouchers

We have received confirmation from the Local Authority that they will, once again, be supporting families with the cost of meals over the Easter school break. Vouchers of £60 will be issued to families for each child in school who is in receipt of free school meals.

If you do not currently receive free school meal entitlement, please check via FSM checker ASAP and you may be able to claim free school meals and the £60 voucher for Easter.

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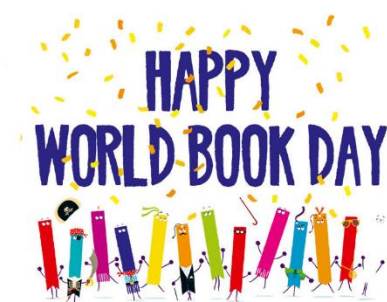
## Assemblies

This week's assembly celebrated World Book Day, this exposed students to the adventures that reading can bring, as well as the benefits to their education and lives after school. There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others. Below are a few ways in which parents can encourage their child's reading habits.

- **Set aside a special time** – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.
- **Get caught reading yourself** – show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.
- **Read to each other** – if your child really doesn't want to read on their own, then read together. You read a page, then they read a page.
- **Value the books they choose to read** – all reading is valuable for a child's development. Some of us prefer non-fiction; some of us prefer comics. One child might like superhero books; another might like a book of football statistics.
- **Reading buddies** – reading to a younger sibling can boost your child's self-confidence and communication skills.
- **Audiobooks** – audiobooks allow children to experience a book above their own reading level. It also allows you to share a book together or make the most of those car journeys. Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage deeper comprehension.

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## Tutor time



On World Book Day, students were given a book themed quiz during tutor time, to celebrate some classic literature texts and win prizes. There was also a treasure hunt in the library where students had to use clues to find golden tickets, hidden in

books. The creation of this task was supported by year 8 students, and the library was open for anyone to participate with the winners receiving a mysterious book prize. Additionally, selected classes have had additional reading and creative writing in their lessons to celebrate and enhance their literacy skills.



## Personal Development

### Guidance Curriculum

Please see below for our Guidance lesson Themes from this week:

<b>Year 7</b>	Healthy Diets
<b>Year 8</b>	Media Influence
<b>Year 9</b>	Developing sexuality
<b>Year 10</b>	Modern Slavery
<b>Year 11</b>	Developing sexuality

## active Sunderland



We were pleased to invite Active Sunderland into school over this half term, to work with Year 7 students on their healthy lifestyle's topic. It was fascinating to hear from Kay about healthy eating, and in particular the amount of sugar we would find in everyday products! Well done to year 7 for engaging so well!



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!

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## Co-Curricular

We have been asking students for their feedback on our co-curricular clubs and activities. We hope to broaden the number of lunchtime activities over this half term!

	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 Cricket	Badminton Hidden Histories Further Maths Drama	Ukulele Friday

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## Enterprise Co-Curricular



Enterprise Academy programme has run outside of London, and we are privileged to be chosen to take part.

Students from year 9 and 10 have made a great start to their Young Enterprise. Company programme. We have also recruited 18 students to be part of our Social Enterprise group. Students will take part in their first workshop next week, where they will begin to share ideas for developing products or services, that will benefit our local community. This is the first year the Social



**SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
ACADEMY**  
One becomes many

## Careers

This week was National Careers Week, #NCW. We hope you enjoyed the updates, and resources shared on social media and Class Charts across the week.

In school, staff shared their own career journeys and took part in activities to help reflect on careers, and what they are hopeful for in their futures. Some of the highlights of the week were:

## Sunderland University Visit



Year 10 Health and Social Care pupils learning about the role of a nurse and what careers you can have in this field. Pupils extremely enjoyed how practical the course was, and found that University life isn't what they have originally perceived it to be. Throughout the day pupils were given the opportunity to explore the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Pupils were also allowed to take on the role of a nurse and examine dummy patients. All year 10 pupils worked extremely well together in teams and have enjoyed the nursing experience.





## Year 9 Work Experience



Thornhill Academy partnered with the Sunderland Empire Theatre to broaden students' horizons and offer new and exciting opportunities. Funded by Arts Council England, 'Work in Theatre' is a nationwide careers programme, to improve access to theatre careers for young people and emerging artists across the UK. As part of the programme, Sunderland Empire Theatre delivered 30 hours of intensive insight into a wide range of careers within the theatre industry, and hands-on work experience for Thornhill students.

Students participated in Disney's Insight Day, they found out more about the touring production of Aladdin. This exclusive event included a backstage tour, interactive demonstrations, and a chance to watch the performance, followed by a Q&A session, providing invaluable exposure to the inner workings of theatre.

Opportunities like this are so important for students. It allows them the chance to talk with industry professionals, and explore career pathways they have never considered. Half of the students participating haven't seen a live show before, so there's an added layer of excitement and anticipation.

Kayden, a Year 9 student, shared: "I have really enjoyed looking around the theatre today and learning about its history." Similarly, Sara, also from Year 9, expressed her excitement: "I am really looking forward to seeing Aladdin and getting to see backstage! I want to see how things work; I find it really interesting!"



## Year 7 Teambuilding



Three, year 7 classes engaged in an interactive session with the Royal Navy, to explore careers and take part in team building activities. They gained an insight into the life in the military, the hard work and commitment, as well as the adventures and travels. Students also took part in games and activities to build discipline. The sessions ended with a teambuilding tower challenge, in which they all performed really well in. We hope this was a memorable experience for our students.

We would like to start by sharing a range of events available to students and parents ran by a range of companies and sectors.

Next week our careers education continues along with a focus on financial education. Students will take part in finance workshops, STEM and enterprise activities across the week. The highlight will be our Inspiration Day on Tuesday 12th. On this day the timetable will be collapsed, as we will have many organisations taking part to deliver inspiring careers sessions to all year groups from a range of different sectors. This will be a busy but exciting week for all of our students!



## 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.***

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## 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 13<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**



Please contact Thornhill Academy for more details on **0191 500 7981** or email **thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com**

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### 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/>

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### 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



### 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

#### What you need for Swimming:

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

## 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](mailto: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 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

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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](mailto: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](#)**

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## Sunderland Rowing Club

Discover rowing with Sunderland Rowing Club. Are you an adult looking to dive into the exhilarating world of rowing? Or perhaps you're a junior aged 12 – 18, eager to explore sport. If so, why not join us at Sunderland Rowing Club and unlock the excitement of rowing on the picturesque River Wear.

Every weekend, our dedicated team of volunteer coaches opens our doors to aspiring rowers of all ages and skill levels, for free learn to row sessions. Come and experience the joy of rowing, in a supportive and inclusive environment, guided by passionate individuals who love to share their expertise.

### Program Highlights

- Improved fitness and well-being – experience the physical and mental benefits of rowing, while getting in shape.
- Competitive opportunities – take part in local and national regattas and challenge yourself in friendly competitions.
- Teamwork and communication – learn essential life skills as you collaborate with your crewmates on the water.
- New friendships – connect with like-minded individuals and build lasting friendships in our welcoming community.
- Expert guidance – our dedicated volunteer coaches bring their experience and passion to every session, providing comprehensive instruction and support.
- All equipment provided – no need to worry about gear – we will supply everything you need to get started.

A promotional poster for the Sunderland Rowing Club. At the top, it features the club's logo with a sailboat and the text 'SUNDERLAND ROWING CLUB' and '1889'. Below this, two young men are smiling and holding oars. The main headline reads 'JOIN OUR FREE LEARN TO ROW SESSIONS!'. To the right, there is a QR code with the text 'scan me to sign up'. Below the headline, there are three small photos showing groups of rowers. The text 'ARE YOU READY TO ROW?' is followed by 'Unlock Your Potential' and a paragraph about the free sessions. Contact information is provided, including a phone number, email, and address. Training fees for Juniors and Adults are listed, along with a note that the first 4 sessions are free. The bottom of the poster includes the website 'SunderlandRowing.co.uk' and social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.

**SUNDERLAND ROWING CLUB**  
1889

**JOIN OUR FREE LEARN TO ROW SESSIONS!**

scan me to sign up

**ARE YOU READY TO ROW?**

**Unlock Your Potential**

Join Sunderland Rowing Club for our **FREE!** Learn to Row sessions every weekend. Discover the thrill of rowing in a supportive and friendly environment. No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm!

Sign up now by scanning our QR code

**Contact us**

☎ 07885628432  
✉ [contact@sunderlandrowing.co.uk](mailto:contact@sunderlandrowing.co.uk)  
📍 Sunderland Rowing Club  
Riverside Park, South Hylton, SR4 0RT

**Juniors Training**  
£12.50 / monthly    £150 / yearly

**Adults Training**  
£15 / monthly    £180 / yearly

**First 4 sessions are FREE!!!**

SunderlandRowing.co.uk

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to explore a new sport and become part of our vibrant rowing family.

To reserve your spot, simply fill out the Learn to Row form on the following website:  
<https://forms.gle/91dZMeDEwHbdTj2X6>


For further details, visit our website:

<https://sunderlandrowing.co.uk>


or reach out to us via email:

[contact@sunderlandrowing.co.uk](mailto:contact@sunderlandrowing.co.uk)

We will be thrilled to welcome you aboard at Sunderland Rowing Club!



**GIRLS RUGBY**  
**SUNDERLAND RFC**  
**@ASHBROOKE SPORTS CLUB**  
**MONDAYS 19:00 - 20:00**  
**free - ages 11+**



### **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)

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