



**Thornhill
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Proud to be part of
**Consilium
Academies**

Thornhill Parent Update 15th March 2024

In the previous two newsletters I have spoken to you about our values of partnership and opportunity. This week, we have witnessed these in abundance with some really big events in school which have given students opportunities to try new things and focus on their futures through a whole host of activities run throughout the week, and in abundance on Inspiration Day. Our school and trust vision is 'Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions' and we can certainly say that we have seen this vision lived out this week. Throughout all these opportunities, our students have demonstrated our third school core value of excellence. Their attitudes and engagement throughout the week, have been fantastic. It's not always easy to meet new people and presenters and engage with what they are asking you to do, but feedback from our visitors into school has been excellent.

I want to publicly thank Mrs Crooks, for the phenomenal amount of work and effort she has put into everything that has happened this week. Without her organisational skills, this could not have happened on such a large scale and been so expertly run. You will find further articles throughout the newsletter, about all the wonderful activities which have happened.

Excellence happens all the time in school, in many different ways, and often it goes unrecognised. This week all of the staff have been given 5 ice cream tokens. Staff give these tokens to students who exhibit excellent behaviours. This could be excellent manners, excellent work in class, excellent attitude or for showing kindness to others. It has certainly created a real buzz around school. Students who are observing Ramadan can save these tokens to exchange at the end of Ramadan, we don't want any of our brilliant students to miss out.

You may also have heard your children talking about wonderful work stickers. Staff are celebrating the excellence of individual pieces of work in students' books, by giving them a wonderful work sticker. Students take their work to Mr Briggs and Miss Harrison on a Friday, to exchange for a small treat. We do this to showcase the excellent work, and excellent work ethic that is shown each day by students at Thornhill.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. We look forward to seeing all our students on Monday for the start of another week of excellence!

Excellence is our third value at Thornhill. This refers to not only academic excellence but in everything we do from pride in our appearance, our positive attitudes and additional achievements.

Many of our students demonstrate this on a daily basis and at times really go above and beyond to show this excellence.

Last week after our year 9 work experience days 3 students demonstrated these values so well they were offered scholarships to the Sunderland Empire Academy. Well done, Owen, Ebby and Janet!



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Thornhill Academy, Thornholme Road
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thr-enquiries@consilium-at.com

Across this week our students have worked with numerous external partners supporting our careers and financial education. Our students demonstrated excellence in their interactions and made a great impression on our visitors.

Mrs S Hamilton


Headteacher

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.

Breakfast Club





**COME AND ENJOY
BREAKFAST**

Where: Thumbprint Restaurant

When: 8:00am

*Everyone
Welcome!*

 
National School
Breakfast Programme

Personal Development

Guidance Curriculum

Please see below for our Guidance lesson Themes from this week

Year 7- Hygiene in puberty

Year 8- Body Confidence

Year 9- Identity and Allyship

Year 10- Gangs and County Lines

Year 11- Gender Stereotypes

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!

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

Enterprise Co-Curricular

Students from year 7-10 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 took part in their first workshop this week,

This is the first year the Social Enterprise Academy programme has run outside of London, and we are privileged to be chosen to take part.



In our first session this week, students explored a range of ideas for supporting our local, national, and even international communities. Clare from the Social Enterprise Academy was very impressed with our students from Year 7 and Year 10. Our next session will help to firm up the students' ideas to enable them to begin raising funds to improve the lives of others.

Financial Awareness Week

We have had a range of different finance related activities for all year groups this week. Our students fed-back to us that they wanted more education on finance, and especially how this can affect decisions for their future. Because of this, as a school, we are growing our financial education programmes within the school and kick starting this with our first Financial Awareness Week!

On Monday, students worked with their tutors to explore a range of different aspects of finance.



Year 7 followed the positive **footprints** looking at budgeting and cost of living.

Year 8 and 9 explored HMRC Tax Facts and what happens to our money!

Year 10 started the ECOMONE programme, where they looked at the full infrastructure of finance, from the bank of England to small businesses- this will be continued in guidance lessons next term

Year 11 explored payslips, and how tax and NI contributions are calculated, getting ready for their first jobs!



On Thursday we welcomed in visitors from The Personal Finance Skills organisation, to work with Year 7 and Year 10. Year 7 learned how to open their first bank account and all of the considerations associated with this, including credit scores. Thank you to Malcom from Foster Denovo financial advisors for delivering this session.



Year 10 learned more about moving on from school, looking at tax and NI deductions, payslips and calculating earnings. Thank you to Sam from Newcastle Building Society for delivering this informative session.

Finally, we ended the week with engaging workshops

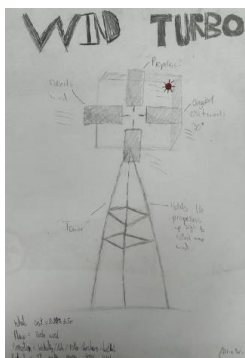
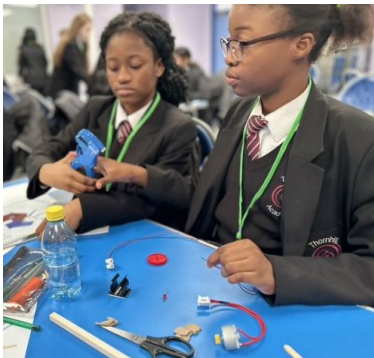
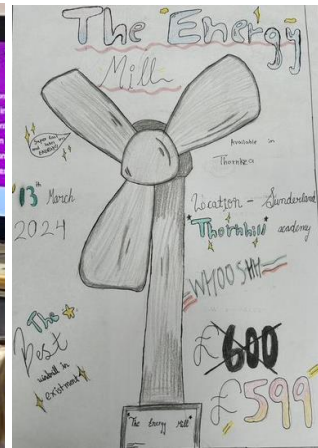
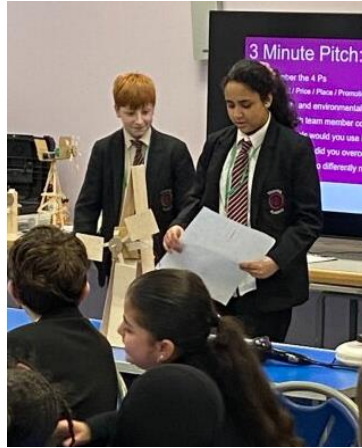
Year 7 and Year 8 became Fraud Scene Investigators, looking at how they can keep themselves, and their finances secure!

Year 9 and Year 10 explored how they can get involved with 'Making a Difference' and designing social enterprise projects.



National Science Week

Thanks to the Platon Family Fund, year 8 experienced a STEM workshop with the Smallpiece Trust, as part of National Science Week. Students designed and constructed a wind turbine, to produce the greatest amount of electricity. They produced a gearing system, designed and constructed turbine blades, all to maximise output. They even created a tower to carry the turbine! At the end of the day, students presented back to the whole group their designs, and Mr Miller, our DT and engineering teacher judged the winners!



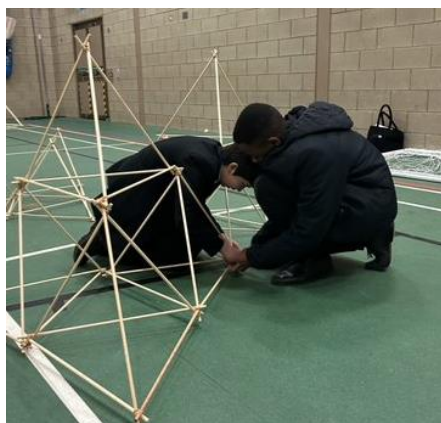
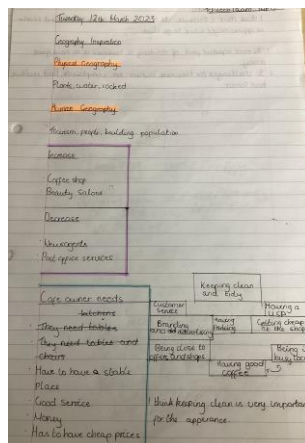
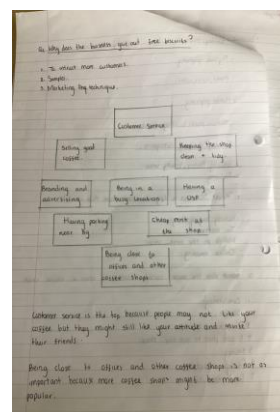
Well done to all of Year 8 who took part, but especially to the following who really impressed us on the day: Vanessa, Negha, Zarin, Samiya, Jenifa, Taieb, Oliver, Jiban, Thamjid, Yousuf, Unus, Yamim, Alfie, Adam and Zak!

More Science Week activities are to follow, with a school wide poster competition and more in class challenges from the science department!

Careers

Following on from National Careers Week, our students continued to gain a wide range of career related experiences with our Inspiration Day! On this day the timetable was collapsed, and many organisations joined us to deliver inspiring careers sessions to all year groups, from a range of different sectors. Read on for some of our highlights of the day!

Year 7 had a carousel of 'Careers in...' sessions linking their curriculum learning to future careers and skills. A highlight was working with the Royal Air Force to evaluate emergency scenarios and plan what actions, jobs and roles would be needed.



Year 8 also explored 'Careers in...' sessions alongside an interactive session with Penshaw View learning about health and safety at work.

Students also developed their team building skills with a tetrahedron activity with Equans,, lots of fun whilst learning about the construction industry.

Year 9 gained an insight into careers in energy with Northern Gas Networks and the world of audio equipment and broadcasting with Canford.





Year 10 engineering students visited the Wates construction site, before returning to school to take part in our sessions with the Department of Work and Pensions. Here students explored employability and teambuilding skills and gained mock interview practice. We were very impressed with the feedback from our visitors who interviewed our students and look forward to sharing this with the students soon.



Year 11 students were involved in sessions with the National Citizens Service. They had a great boost in the middle of a day of intervention and exam preparation, with a high energy presentation about the NCS opportunities in the summer. Great to hear so many students have signed up already.



Boost your confidence. Nurture new skills. Grow your resilience. Be a force for good.
Make a whole new set of friends. When you join an NCS experience, you'll do all that and more.

You can do NCS experiences online, in your local community, and away from home.

In addition, several Y11 students visited Sunderland College City Campus, for a tour around their vocational departments, as well as gaining support with their applications.

Finally, selected students from each year group worked with Newcastle University to get a glimpse into different aspects of university life, and support with raising aspirations for their futures.

Boys Network

This week we held our second Boys Network meeting online with M10. The group are really growing in confidence as they get to know their mentors. This session students explored the concept of resilience. They shared moments where they learned from experiences, discussed how they handle tough times and remain positive. The boys received positive feedback from their mentors and really value these opportunities.



In the summer term, we look forward to running more workshops with M10 and setting up a Girls Network too!

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.

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/>

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

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](#)
