

Excellence TOGETHER



Thornhill
Community
Academy

A School • A Family • A Community



SETTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At Thornhill Community Academy we have a firm commitment to achieving our goal of becoming an outstanding Academy at the heart of our community. Our vision is to improve the life chances of all our students by ensuring that excellent teaching and learning, within a safe and inclusive environment, is at the heart of everything we do.

Our Academy is a caring and ordered community with an atmosphere of calm and purposeful learning. Students are treated as individuals; we recognise and celebrate different abilities and interests and believe that everyone can fulfil their potential through dedication and hard work. We aim to create a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for achieving excellence. We work hard to ensure every young person is happy, safe and successful.

Strong classroom practice, combined with an appropriate and personalised curriculum, rigorous monitoring of progress, positive behaviour for learning and support from home ensure the best possible outcomes for all.

Our motto is 'A School, A Family, A Community' and we look forward to you becoming part of it.

Ms Bev Matthews
Headteacher

“ The Academy works well with parents and the wider community. ”

Ofsted 2015





I really liked the teaching style of the Academy and chose it over my catchment school.

Parent



OUR VISION AND VALUES FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

At Thornhill Community Academy our vision is to create a thriving, successful and happy community. At the heart of our mission lies our philosophy of "A School, A Family, A Community". Our TOGETHER values of Trust, Openness, Generosity, Equality, Tolerance, Humility, Emotional Intelligence, and Resilience underpin this philosophy and contribute to a cohesive and happy Academy community.

A SCHOOL

The Academy is, first and foremost, a School and will remain faithful to the true values of what a School should be. We will offer the very best education possible to ensure every student achieves his or her potential in a safe, stimulating and purposeful environment.

A FAMILY

Every member of the Academy family has a significant part to play in our successes. The Academy is committed to ensuring students, staff and parents work together effectively, sharing each other's successes.

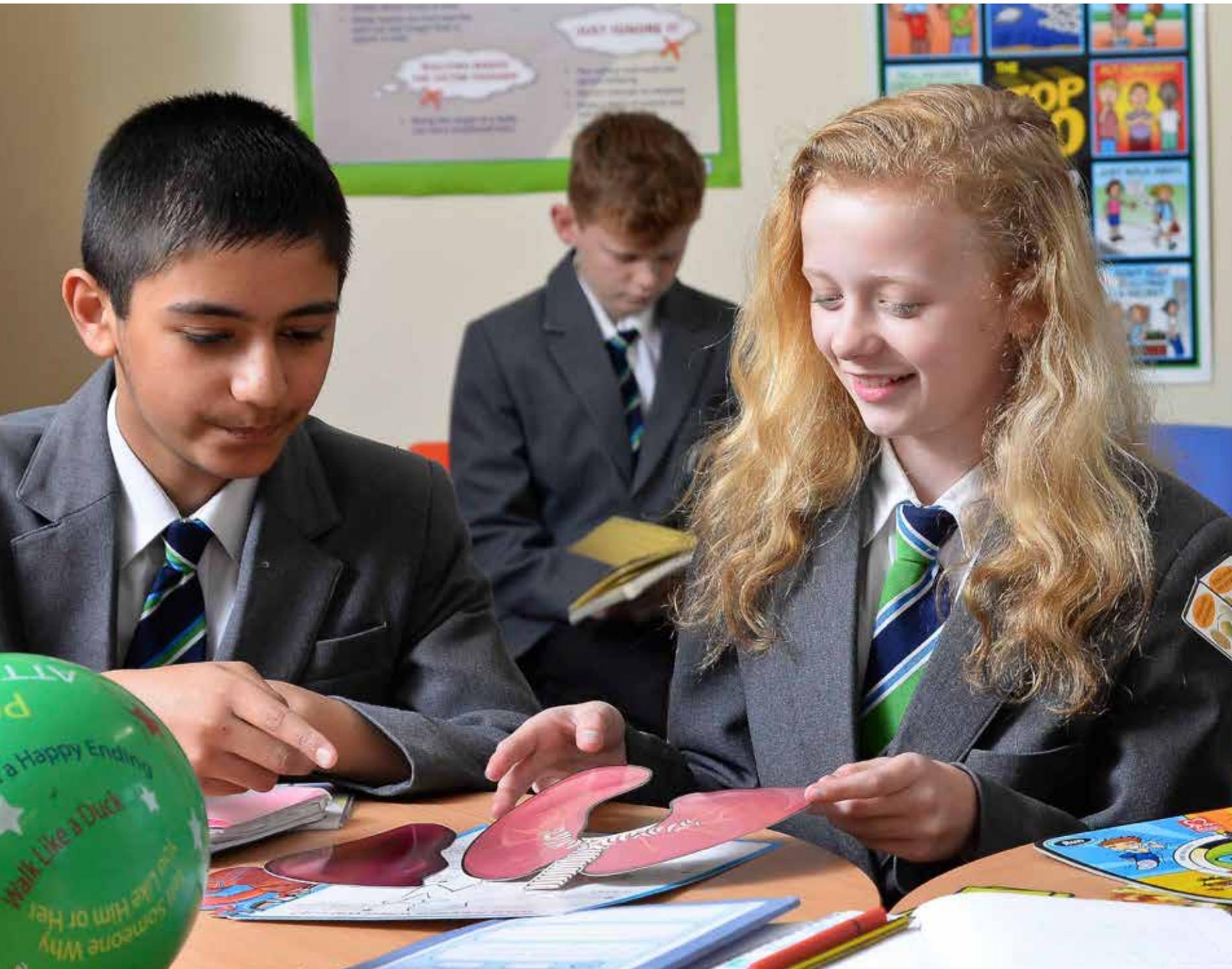
A COMMUNITY

The Academy will strive to offer students a broad, balanced and rich curriculum which promotes fairness, cohesion, cooperation and community spirit.

We want to ensure our students and staff are proud of the community to which they belong, and work hard to improve the life chances of everyone in it.

A culture of high expectations and high aspirations for all ensures that TOGETHER, all students will excel.

Excellence TOGETHER



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Students have positive attitudes to learning fostered by clear behaviour management procedures.
Ofsted 2015
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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We believe that all young people deserve the highest quality of education which will engage, inspire and challenge and ultimately lead to academic excellence. We are committed to being an inclusive Academy in which every student is encouraged to aim high and is motivated to achieve their full potential. We provide a rich and broad curriculum which promotes success for all students.

KEY STAGE 3

Students at Key Stage 3 study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Design & Technology, French or Urdu, Music, Art & Design, Physical Education, Information & Communication Technology and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education. Additional support and alternative provision is provided for those students who may need it in order to ensure good or better progress is made by all.

KEY STAGE 4

Students at Key Stage 4 study the following core subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religion and Life Issues

In addition, students select other subjects to study from a range of options, such as History, Geography, Business Studies, Information Communication Technology, Physical Education, French, Spanish, Arabic, Product Design, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles, Food Technology, Health & Social Care, Art, Ceramics and Construction.

The solid base of core subjects together with differentiated learning and accurate assessment means that the curriculum is designed to ensure that all students make the best possible progress.

Gifted and talented students enjoy a range of additional challenges through our INSPIRE programme, where they are nurtured and stretched to achieve, while those needing extra support in their learning benefit from receiving additional specialist help.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Our relentless focus on delivering exceptional Teaching and Learning ensures we are able to achieve the best outcomes for all students. By recognising the achievements of our students, we aim to promote motivation and resilience whilst raising aspirations. Whether it is through the awarding of certificates, celebration assemblies, trips or a positive mark in a student's planner, we strive to celebrate all positive aspects of Academy life.

“ There is a great deal of support available to help us with our studies including extended lessons, breakfast club, lunch time lessons, workshops and after school classes. Teachers are always on hand for extra support any time we need them. ”

Student at TCA





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ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES

Learning beyond the classroom is a critical aspect of our Academy. We provide a wealth of enriching opportunities that extend learning, improve teamwork and enable students to develop broader personal and social skills alongside academic rigour. Overseas excursions and educational visits deepen cultural understanding and broaden horizons. Within the Academy, regular enrichment days and visiting speakers further enhance the skills and aspirations of our students.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Every day the Academy provides the opportunity for students to participate in one of the many clubs and societies held during lunchtime and after school. Utilising our first class facilities, we aim to inspire students and to build on their talents with a huge range of extra-curricular opportunities, encouraging all members of the school community to be involved.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has been very popular at the Academy. It has given students the opportunity to travel and develop a wide range of skills.

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

A plethora of high standard sporting teams compete all year round, both locally and nationally, with opportunities for all students to take part. Our excellent indoor facilities include a four court sports hall for badminton, basketball, indoor football and indoor cricket, plus a gymnasium, which is utilised for trampolining, fitness and dodgeball. Outdoor facilities boast two football pitches, athletics track, training grid, rounders pitches and a multipurpose games area for hockey, netball, football and cricket.

ADDITIONAL TUITION

In addition to normal lessons, many students also receive supplementary support either through small group or individual tuition sessions during the Academy day or after school.

“The Academy has helped me, not only to develop academically, but as a person too. Through having the opportunity to enjoy life experiences, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and prefect leadership responsibilities, I have learnt lifelong skills.”

Student at TCA





The positive ethos of the Academy, the opportunities for students to take on responsibilities and the range of extra activities contribute well to students' behaviour and their good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Ofsted 2015





“

Great school, great teachers, great ethics. Well done, keep it up.

Parent

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EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT

We are committed to providing exceptional care and support, ensuring our students' well-being is the foundation of their success. We believe our nurturing pastoral care and bespoke student support combined with our rigorous standards of behaviour, help to ensure that all students achieve their full potential.

Promoting hard work, excellent behaviour, mutual respect and awareness of all members of the Academy is vital. It is the Academy's relentless drive to further improve the highest levels of achievement within a cohesive and inclusive learning community that makes Thornhill Community Academy what it is: A School, A Family, A Community.

OUTSTANDING PASTORAL CARE

We have a dedicated, non-teaching Head of Year Team who play a key role in providing support and guidance for our students. The team monitor not only students' progress academically, but also socially within the Academy environment, ensuring they have a strong sense of belonging and that they enjoy school life.

EXCELLENT CAREERS GUIDANCE

We have an award-winning Careers Advice Service and support network in place at the Academy. Students benefit from our strong links with employers and education providers, providing many opportunities to enrich their knowledge and understanding of post-16 education and the world of work. Through our excellent careers advice we are able to ensure the best outcomes for all students and a large percentage of our students continue their journey on to further and higher education.

“ I feel really supported here. We have our own Head of Year who is always available for us if we need help with lessons, homework or if we just need cheering up. ”

Student at TCA





A POSITIVE COMMUNITY

We strive to help students to develop a sense of social responsibility and global citizenship through engagement with our local community and partnerships with local primary schools.

Thornhill Community Academy is very much an Academy for the community, and a variety of local organisations and cultural groups visit us to lead assemblies and activities. The PE Department organises events for local primary schools and students benefit from our excellent links with the local Rotary Club.

STUDENT VOICE

We value the input of students in the current life and future direction of the Academy as our students are at the centre of all we do. Our Student Leadership Programme offers opportunities to serve on the Academy Parliament and students are encouraged to take on a range of responsibilities including Head Boy, Head Girl and Academy Prefect roles. Students also enjoy actively getting involved in charity work and fundraising days.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

We enjoy strong partnerships and engagement with our parents and recognise the importance of developing and maintaining strong home/school links. Parents have access to both their child's form tutor and the Head of Year who provide a point of contact when communicating with the Academy. Parents receive a regular progress report which indicates whether progress is in line with expectations. Parent Consultation Evenings provide an opportunity for parents to meet with all of their child's teachers.

“The teachers interact positively with students and we have a voice. We have a student parliament to suggest improvements and our opinions always count.”

Student at TCA





The Academy works well with parents and the wider community.

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