

Thornhill Together



Thornhill
Community
Academy

A School • A Family • A Community



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Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a very busy term again at Thornhill Community Academy. Whilst the Academy is working hard to improve the quality of teaching and learning and outcomes for our students, it is heartening to see the wide range of activities our students have also been involved in. This edition of Thornhill Together celebrates our students' achievements within and beyond the classroom. One of the highlights of the term was the Academy Production of Romeo and Juliet, through which many of our students demonstrated their artistic and creative talents. A performance I was immensely proud of. As we reach the final throws of Year 11 it has been pleasing to see so many students attend the new Late Night Lectures and Pizza and Coke Nights through which students have accessed personalised support in order to accelerate their progress ahead of this summer's exams. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and enjoy reading about everything our students have achieved.



Ms Bev Matthews.

Students attend Holocaust Remembrance Event

In January, fifteen Year 9 History students joined students from Royds Hall Community School, for a Holocaust Memorial Event held at Huddersfield University.

The Witness Performance Project involved students recounting their experience of hearing a testimony from Barry Anyst, a Holocaust survivor, in September last year. Students presented two performances at the event, which were devised in order to share personal stories related to the Holocaust.



Students also had the opportunity to meet Barry Anyst again as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association (HSFA).

A Taste of **NHS** Careers

Our students were introduced to the world of physiotherapy at a careers talk as part of the Academy's INSPIRE Programme.

Natasha Maher, lead physiotherapist at Dewsbury Hospital, ran the event aimed at inspiring the next generation of Physiotherapists. The session involved a general talk about a career in physiotherapy, how to enter the profession, and gave students an opportunity to see a Physiotherapist in action.

Natasha, said: "I hope to inspire the next generation of students and to give them a taste of the job and its rewards. I work with not only athletes, but many people from different walks of life."

This proved an ideal opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and an insight into future career prospects in physiotherapy.



Charity Cookbook

Students in the Resourced Provision are taking part in a Plan, Shop and Cook project. The project will see the students create a menu of tasty recipes, all of which will be collated into a fundraising cookbook and sold to raise money for the National Autism Charity.

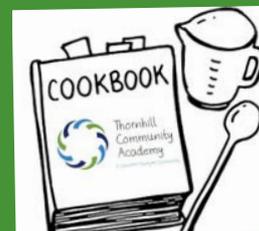
As part of this programme the students have been planning recipes, shopping for ingredients and cooking their culinary creations with our Headteacher.

Ms Matthews, told us:



“It has been fantastic to work with students and create some simple, delicious and healthy recipes that our students, parents and wider community can enjoy.”

The dishes are then sampled by our Senior Leadership Team and their reviews added to the cookbook, creating a lasting keepsake filled with favourite recipes.





Students take to the slopes

Five members of staff took twenty five students to France for six days of skiing in glorious weather.

Students had an incredible experience visiting the ski resort of Risoul, situated high in the Forêt Blanche region in the Southern Alps, offering an amazing array of opportunities for skiers of all levels. Located in a beautiful forest setting the resort had a very French feel, with a variety of local markets and a large choice of restaurants and shops for students to explore.

In preparation for the trip students and staff went to Xscape Ski Slope in Castleford, to brush up on their ski

skills. Having learnt the basics there was no stopping the amount of fun that they could have on the slopes in France.

Beginners were well catered for with large nursery slopes and gentle green runs available to help build their confidence. Students quickly progressed to the gondola which opened up a wonderful variety of blue runs back down to village level.

The more advanced skiers within the group were able to go over the mountains and experience over 3000 feet of vertical descent, from the top of l'Homme de Pierre. Many completed a circuit

around the perimeter of the bowl of Risoul, further pushing their ability levels.

Trip Leader, Mr Burton, told us: "The trip was rewarding, engaging and fun! Students fully embraced the chance to learn a new skill in a beautiful environment."

For all students this was a fantastic enrichment opportunity to improve their skills or try out the slopes for the first time.



Year 9 Get Hands-on with Birds of Prey

Learning has been a hoot for Year 9 Geography students as birds of prey made a flying visit into the Academy.

The feathered visitors included a huge Eagle Owl and Kestrel along with other smaller birds. Students were able to learn all about the British birds, their habitats and the importance of conservation.

Geography Teacher, Miss Stephens, told us:

“Students were completely engrossed and engaged and it’s certainly expanded their knowledge of the natural environment.”

The project was run by The SMJ team, as part of the Countryside Alliance Foundation which is based near Oxenhope.



Alumni continue to inspire

Alumni of the Academy, Richard Brown, visited his former school recently as a guest speaker, to share with students details of his career and the skills required to be successful.

Richard, who left the Academy in 1997, works as a Horticultural Practitioner for the Horizon Centre at South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust in Wakefield.

Inspired by his voluntary work in a garden for adults with learning disabilities, Richard went on to complete a PGCE in Secondary Science at Hope University in Liverpool, before studying for a Post Graduate Diploma in

Horticultural Therapy at Coventry University. This enabled him to begin his career as a Horticultural Therapist in 2009.

Adding to his achievements, in 2013, Richard became a member of the Churchill Fellowship for his inspirational work, his practices have been adopted by Horticultural Therapists all over the world.

We are always delighted to see our former students achieving great things and thank Richard for giving up his time to share his journey with our students.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Celebration

The hard work and dedication of our students was celebrated earlier this year, as more than ten Year 11s received their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The ceremony at Huddersfield Town Hall welcomed many proud parents, teachers and friends to mark their achievements. All students gained their Bronze Award over the past twelve months.

Over 300 young people from a variety of schools across Kirklees

also attended the event. Guests were treated to an inspirational speech delivered by the speaker David Pearson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, who engaged everyone with his stories.

The whole event was inspiring and we are extremely proud of the achievements of those students who received their award.

We would also like to extend our thanks for all the amazing work our DofE Co-ordinator Miss Baker puts in

week in, week out to organise these wonderful opportunities that make a real difference to students.



World Book Day Celebration

There was a World Book Day buzz around the Academy on Thursday 3rd March. Staff dressed as their favourite characters from the world of Literature, we had a bring and buy book sale at break and every English lesson enjoyed a World Book Day related activity.

Children from local schools; Headfield Junior and Overthorpe Academy were invited to the Library to be involved in the book day bonanza. Assisted by our Student Librarians, the primary children learnt how to use our sophisticated e-book library system and took away with them their chosen e-book from our vast selection to continue their reading at home.

Georgina, Student Librarian, told us: "The children loved using our e-book system! It was brilliant to see them enjoying World Book Day. It has become a big event here now."

English Teacher, Miss Holdgate, told us:

“World Book Day gives us all a chance to do something fun and creative and draw attention to the power of reading and to highlight the importance of reading for pleasure.”





Romeo & Juliet Retold



Students from the Academy have been receiving rave reviews for their stunning interpretation of Shakespeare's timeless love story Romeo and Juliet.

The production was a bold re-imagining, telling the story of star-crossed lovers and family feuds. Scenes were reworked into modern day settings, creatively interspersed with pop classics to add to the drama.

Year 10 student, Lydia Hall brilliantly portrayed the role of Juliet, whilst Uzair Valli, Year 11 student played Romeo. The two performers were also joined on stage by a cast of 17 other talented students ranging in age and experience.

The high energy performance was wonderfully choreographed and the music included reworks of material from artists including Beyoncé, Mariah Carey and many more.

Students showcased preview scenes of the production to the local community, with performances dazzling local primary school children at Thornhill J&I and delighting elderly residents at Field Head Court.

The entire cast and crew worked incredibly hard and proved themselves to be extremely dedicated. Thanks go to Producer and Music Director, Emma Reynolds, Director and Script Writer, Chloe Holdgate and Choreographer, Louise Pringle.



Students launch business at White Rose Centre

A group of Business Studies students have set up their own business through a project run by Young Enterprise. Students have been working extremely hard to come up with a concept for a product and a company which could earn them a profit and stand out in today's competitive business market.

The Year 11 entrepreneurs set up a business called 'Colour Me' selling unique colouring books, which challenge the user to not only colour in the picture templates, but also to re-draw them.

The product went on sale to the general public on Sunday 6th March at the White Rose Centre in Leeds, where students set up a

trade stand in the busy shopping area. The Colour Me books proved very popular and were almost a sell-out. Local MP Paula Sheriff showed her support by attending the event. Paula commented: "It was great to see the students and I was really impressed, definitely budding entrepreneurs! They are a huge credit to the Academy."

Mr Hazi, Business Studies Teacher, told us: "This has been a fantastic project which has given practical hands on experience of the highs and lows of running a company, helping to embed the business skills students have been covering throughout their course."



News in Brief

Budding Engineers take Second Prize in Technology Challenge

Eight Year 7 students were given a demanding set of challenges in an attempt to win the 2016 Rotary Technology Challenge at the Batley Frontier.

Students came runner up, only 3 points behind the winners, Ossett Academy.

Fantastic Results in UK Maths Challenge

We produced some outstanding results in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, winning 2 Gold and 4 Bronze certificates. The Best in School certificate went to Zakaira Ansari in Year 10, who, along with Mohammed Aswat in Year 9, will proceed to the next stage of the competition. Well done!

Geography Students Visit the Beach

Year 10 Geography students recently took some time out of the classroom and visited Ulrome and Bridlington in order to assess the effectiveness of the coastal defences. During the trip, students were able to gather important data for their controlled assessment.

A Maths Boost for Primary Students

This term the Maths Department has been running a series of weekly booster sessions for Year 6 students at Thornhill J & I School. These focus on key areas of the maths curriculum with the aim of improving the students' confidence in maths and their attainment in their SATs. Maths Teacher, Miss Clifton, told us: "We ran the programme last year and the Year 6 students worked really hard and responded positively to a new learning environment and challenging activities. It also formed an extra layer of support for students transitioning to secondary school."

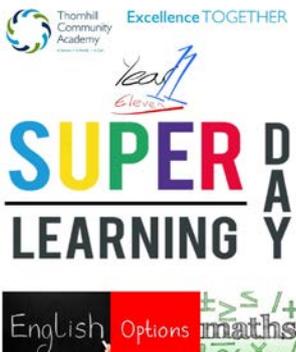
Super Learning Days

This term we have held numerous Super Learning Days.

Super Learning Days are a new and innovative approach aimed at boosting exam performance, providing targeted coursework help and to equip students with essential subject skills.

The timetable is collapsed allowing students to spend all day studying subjects which they need the most help in.

These events are designed to encourage a love of the subject, as well as providing students with a heightened approach to their studies, ensuring they are confident, engaged and motivated to achieve their target grades.



Holiday School

Following the success of previous holiday revision sessions, we have been opening the Academy doors to Year 11 during the Easter and half-term break.

GCSE examinations are getting ever closer and it is important that students are organised and on top of all aspects of their courses. This is a great opportunity for students to access one to one help to improve their examination skills and receive coursework help in a structured working environment, with the support of our committed teaching staff.

It has been proven that ten quality hours of revision can lead to one grade of progress – Holiday School can provide the springboard towards successful outcomes in this summer's exams and ensure all our students reach their potential.



Late Night Lectures

We have been hosting a number of intervention and revision sessions for our Year 11 Cohort. These include a new 'Late Night Lecture' programme. There are two sessions, the first at 4pm followed by a second at 8pm. 'Pizza and Coke Revision Nights' have also been very popular. These booster sessions have attracted high numbers of committed students to come back to school after hours and continue their learning.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

Students in Year 11 were put through their paces in mock interviews which are part of our extensive careers programme.

Over 25 local employers, along with University and College Tutors, and our own Governors, gave up their time over three days, to deliver this opportunity. Interviewers came from a range of backgrounds and their expertise and knowledge is crucial in supporting our students' future

decisions.

Ben Burgin, from Huddersfield New College, told us: "I have been impressed with the calibre of students, all of them have been extremely well prepared, have done a lot of research into post 16 study and have had good things to say. I look forward to some of them joining us next year."

Thank you to all interviewers who gave up their time.





Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight gave students food for thought, during our two week celebration of Fairtrade.

This year, the focus of the fortnight was 'sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers'. We all had the opportunity to support the national campaign by purchasing Fairtrade breakfast juices and Fairtrade confectionary from our canteen, which was specially stocked with exciting Fairtrade products. By purchasing Fairtrade products, we can make a real difference to the lives of producers.



Engineer Day at Primary School

We recently held a hands on primary engineer event at local primary school, Thornhill J&I.

Head of Design & Technology, Mr Isles, visited the primary school with 12 Year 8 students, all previous ex-pupils of the Junior School.

Year 4 primary children were divided into teams of five, each supported by a Year 8 student who helped them create an electric car. The jam-packed and fun-fuelled day finished off with all teams meeting in the atrium of the school to race their motorised models.

Event Leader, Mr Isles, told us: "We hope to encourage greater numbers of young people to become our next generation of engineers and technicians."

This project is to be repeated at Headfield Junior School later in the year, as part of our commitment to sharing our specialist skills.



Wear Red Day

We had a rocking Wear Red Day on Friday 5th February raising £630 for the Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF).

The Academy turned into a sea of colour as students donned red garments including tights, shirts, nail varnish and ties,

The CHSF is a charity very close to the hearts of the school community, as Year 11 student, Ellie Glew's younger sister Damie, is a local heart patient.

Ellie told us: "I wanted to raise as much money as I could for the CHSF, to say thank you for the help and personal support they have given

me and my family."

We also welcomed Ellie's sister, Daime and her mother, Vicky, to see for themselves our students fundraising efforts. We also enjoyed a surprise visit from CHSF mascot, Katie Bear.

The CHSF helps local children who are born with congenital heart defects.



Language Leaders

Fourteen of our Year 10 Spanish students visited Overthorpe Academy to deliver a Spanish Taster Session to 75 primary students.

Throughout the afternoon the primary children were involved in a range of cultural activities, practicing their linguistic skills by learning numbers, colours, and body parts in Spanish.

The session was organised and led by our Year 10 students, who did a great job preparing the resources, presenting and engaging the younger children.

Mrs Walker, Head of MFL, told us: "All the students were a credit to the Academy and I was proud of their attitude and confidence, it was

lovely to get such positive feedback from teachers at Overthorpe. The primary students worked very well and showed a real ability for languages."

We value our links with our primary colleagues and the afternoon was a wonderful opportunity for us all to get together and have fun learning about different languages and cultures.



Chair of Governors Wins Celebrating Excellence Award

We are proud to announce that Brian Hagger, Chair of Governors, has been awarded the Mid Yorkshire NHS Celebrating Excellence Volunteer of the Year, in recognition of his work in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit at Dewsbury Hospital.

Brian, who has been Chair of Governors for 7 years, told us: "I am very honoured to have received this award on behalf of the rest of the team of volunteers at the Cardiac

Rehabilitation Unit, being a former patient it allows me to empathise with the patients and I find that helping them to recover is really rewarding and we also have some fun on the way."



Basketball Winning Streak



Congratulations to the Year 11 basketball team who have won all their games so far this season, remaining undefeated in the Spen Valley League.

Without a single defeat to mark their record, the basketball boys have won matches against Westborough, Upper Batley and Whitcliffe Mount.

Team captain, Bradley Toohey, has been keeping the team motivated and making sure they train hard.

Head of PE, Mr Caldwell, told us: "Henry Sherwood, Callum Gamble, Bradley Toohey, Luke Rayner, Callum Byrne and Adelino Cande' have made a fantastic contribution to the team, playing with great skill and fluidity. A great team effort overall this season— well done!"



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Year 7 Footballers Fly High

Our budding Year 7 football team recently reached the quarter finals of the Spen Valley Cup.

There was only one team in the way of their semi-final hopes, St John's Fisher. Our team put in a fantastic effort, and were just behind at half time. The tenacious Year 7s were not ready to give up.

With some encouragement from the captain, Oliver Robson, and some terrific passing play between Luke Chapman, Corben Greaves and James Blakeway,

Thornhill were able to score 3 times and Kieran Duxbury achieved a hat trick.

Unfortunately, the boys were unable to equalise and the game finished 6-5 to St John's Fisher. Well done to the Year 7 team who put in great performance.



Shuttle Skills



Our badminton team triumphed in the Kirklees District Badminton Tournament this term. The Year 11 boys have been undefeated in all their games, enabling them to reach the finals of the tournament.

In the run up to the final, the boys beat some tough competition from the other Kirklees schools. Throughout the tournament the boys demonstrated fantastic skills and team spirit. Charlie Whitlam, Sam Bellamy and Matthew Briggs' shuttle skills stood out and they worked really well together.

Mr Caldwell, Head of PE, said

"We are fortunate to have a very talented crop of badminton players, particularly in the upper years at the Academy. Our students performed extremely well in this competition and managed to maintain their focus and concentration throughout."

Badminton is a popular sport here at the Academy and our Badminton Club, which is run by a professional coach, takes place every Wednesday after school attracting over 40 students.



Sport Clubs a Hit

Our Academy sports enrichment activities are very popular. The PE Department run Table Tennis Club every morning, which students across all year groups enjoy. Other popular clubs include; Basketball, Indoor Football, Cheerleading and Badminton.

