

THORNHILL COLLEGE

'Educating concerned, informed, adaptable members of the world community'



Prospectus 2020

School Prayer

Lord, I give you praise and thanks
at the beginning of this new day
for all the blessings I have received in my life.
Lead me to live fully in the present moment and
enjoy all that is good around me.
Help me to live our school motto,
“Thy Kingdom Come”,
and because you are with me,
let me see you in all those I meet today.

I ask you to bless anyone in our community who is
worried or in need of help.
Teach me to show your concern and care for others.
Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us.
Amen



Welcome to Thornhill College

We are an all girls' Catholic Grammar School established by the Sisters of Mercy. Our Mercy ethos emphasises the values of hard work, achievement, enjoyment of learning and service to our community.

Here in Thornhill College we want every pupil to be *happy, safe, accepted and included*.

We recognise the *uniqueness and individuality of each pupil* in our care, represented in the following poem.



Principal
Ms Sharon Mallett

*A Child is Like
A Butterfly in the wind,
Some can fly higher than others;
but each one flies the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?
Each one is Different!
Each one is Special
Each one is Beautiful*



Our mission is to equip pupils with the skill set *to strive to be the very best they can and realise their true potential*.

As a *Listening school* we value the *partnership we have with parents, pupils and other stakeholders* as we continuously reflect and evaluate our provision to facilitate the best learning experience for each child as they embark on their seven year journey with us.

While academic achievement is central to life in Thornhill College we want to *nurture the holistic development of all our pupils*—emotional, social, physical and spiritual development. Promoting Emotional Resilience and well-being will equip pupils with skills for life. Thornhill pupils are renowned for their generosity of spirit and for their sense of Social Justice for those less fortunate. We are proud of our school and our pupils.

Girls who come to Thornhill College can be assured of a wonderful educational experience. I hope that you enjoy your visit to our school.

Sharon Mallett

A Welcoming School

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is an important decision. Thornhill College offers excellent teaching, outstanding achievements and standards together with fabulous facilities. Pupils and staff work together in an environment which is conducive to enjoyable and relevant learning. Our school aims to educate girls to live confidently, become women of vision, hope and compassion whilst maximising their individual learning potential. We place an emphasis on the attainment of high academic standards, alongside seeking to establish clear moral and spiritual guidelines for all students of Thornhill College.

Making the Transition

In Thornhill College we endeavour to make the transition from primary to secondary level education as smooth as possible for both parents and children. Our induction programme has been designed to be an enjoyable and informative experience for all and to ensure that your daughter settles into her new school.

Our programme includes

- Visits to the feeder primary schools
- Open Evening
- Year 8 Summer School
- First Day Induction Classes
- Service of Light for Year 8 Pupils and Parents



Head Girl

My name is Mekha Ann Saji and it is my great privilege as Senior Head Girl to extend a warm welcome to you, on behalf of all of the girls at Thornhill. I remember being in your position seven years ago deciding which post-primary school to go to, and I can say with absolute certainty that I made the right decision. Becoming part of the Thornhill community from my first day in Year 8 till now in Year 14 has shaped me into the hardworking, enthusiastic and responsible individual that I am today. I can assure you that at Thornhill you will feel safe in a nurturing, caring and supportive environment where you will be provided with every opportunity to achieve your full potential by working together with your teachers and peers.

At Thornhill, while you focus on your school work you will also have an over-whelming sense of school pride at the many achievements that the school has achieved such as, the BBC Choir of the Year 2019. Furthermore, our strong Mercy Ethos is embedded in every girl at Thornhill as we believe in the words of Catherine McCauley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, “to fit young women for Earth without unfitting them for Heaven”.

Looking back over the last seven years, I can say that I have made memories that will last me a lifetime and values that I will carry with me no matter where I go. I am confident that through your Thornhill experience, you will too.

I wish you all the best in this exciting time and we look forward to hopefully seeing you next year!

Mekha Saji
Head Girl





Year 8 Summer School

To welcome our new year 8 pupils into Thornhill College we run a Summer School Scheme at the beginning of July prior to entry in September. All new Year 8 pupils are invited to attend and take part in a varied programme of activities that are designed to help them settle into their new school.

The activities, among others, include:

- Drama
- Dance
- Cookery
- Sports
- Games
- Science
- ICT
- Art



Pupils also get to meet members of staff, navigate their way around and explore our fabulous school building and most importantly get to know their new classmates.

Service Of Light

To formally welcome pupils and parents into our Thornhill College Community, pupils and parents are invited to a Service of Light followed by an opportunity to meet with your child's form teacher in person and to learn more about the journey your daughter will take through school.



Religious Education

As a Catholic school, we understand that parental preference for Thornhill College implies a commitment to the school's Christian ethos and to the Religious Education programme provided in this college. However, the school welcomes pupils from other faith traditions and will make the necessary arrangements to accommodate a person's faith commitment.

Grounded in the Mercy tradition of education, we see religious faith and practice as something which is an integral part of the whole school experience of our students and we aim to foster and promote faith development throughout the entire curriculum and school community.

We are privileged in Thornhill College to have a beautiful Oratory located in the heart of the school building. The Oratory is used for Mass and services for class groups or simply a quiet space where students can go to reflect, pray or just take time to be quiet in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.





A Caring School

Thornhill College has an excellent reputation for providing outstanding Pastoral Care. The welfare of each girl is paramount to everything we do. Placing considerable importance on the welfare of pupils is all pervasive and fully integrated into our daily routines, our curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It permeates all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every teacher in the school.

Thornhill College operates a Year Group system within three schools:

Junior School (Years 8-10)

Middle School (Years 11-12)

Senior School (Years 13-14).

A Year Head has overall responsibility for each respective Year Group and each individual form class is cared for by a Form Teacher. Special responsibilities for each key stage are held by the Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior School and the Senior Leadership Team.



Wellness Ambassadors

The Wellness Ambassadors are a group of pupils from all key stages who come together with the intention of having a visible, positive and supportive presence in our school community. The girls meet on a weekly basis to discuss ideas on how to promote positive mental health. They are extremely proactive and have introduced a range of initiatives including: a lunch-time drop-in clinic, Wellness Wednesdays, worry boxes, facilitated treats and chats during form class lessons, Just-Dance events during assembly to name a few. The girls also take part in various fund raising events throughout the school year to support many good causes.

Student Council

The Student Council is active in Years 9-12 and provides our students with an opportunity to express their views and influence the running of the school. It also provides a forum for the development of a range of skills including leadership and communication. Student Councillors have in the past engaged in a range of activities to advance their skills and benefit the school. They have participated in the Prejudice Face On Programme and most recently The Mock Derry City and Strabane District Council event.



Uniform

Our uniform helps pupils identify with the school and assists in creating a sense of community. The importance of pupils presenting themselves well cannot be over emphasised. Parents will appreciate that the general public make judgements about a school on the basis of how the pupils look and behave while wearing school uniform. Co-operation in the maintenance of high uniform standards and behaviour is greatly appreciated.



School Uniform

- Green pleated skirt
- White blouse
- School tie
- Green blazer
- Grey jumper with striped neckband
- Strong, plain black leather flat-heeled shoes
- Silver grey knee-length socks or plain black tights

PE Uniform

- Green t-shirt
- Plain black leggings
- White socks
- Green and black half zip (optional)



Our School Day

TIME	LESSON
9.15 – 9.25	REGISTRATION
9.25 – 10.00	1st Lesson
10.00 – 10.35	2nd Lesson
10.35 – 11.10	3rd Lesson
11.10 – 11.25	BREAK
11.25 – 12.00	4th Lesson
12.00 – 12.35	5th Lesson
12.35 – 1.10	6th Lesson/ 1st Lunch 12.35 – 1.20
1.20 – 1.55	7th Lesson/ 2nd Lunch 1.10 – 1.55
1.55 – 2.30	8th Lesson
2.30 – 3.05	9th Lesson
3.05 – 3.40	10th Lesson

School Rules



Ready

I will be punctual for all lessons, fully equipped and ready to learn. I will be prepared to meet targets and deadlines.



Responsible

I will take full responsibility for my behaviour and actions and be responsible for my own learning.



Respectful

I will be courteous and polite to all staff, peers and visitors. I will show respect and consideration for our school environment. I will be tolerant of the views, beliefs and cultures of others.



Reliable

I will be dependable and reliable. I will wear the correct uniform and represent my school with pride on all occasions.



Resilient

I will always do my best and embrace challenges. I will learn from my mistakes and be the best person I can be.

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3 (Years 8 -10)

All pupils follow a common programme for the first three years.

SUBJECT	KEY STAGE 3
Art & Design	✓
Citizenship	✓
Computing*	✓
Drama	✓
Employability	✓
English	✓
Geography	✓
History	✓
Home Economics	✓
ICT	✓
Library Skills	✓
Modern Language – French**	✓
Modern Language – Irish**	✓
Modern Language – Spanish**	✓
Mathematics	✓
Music	✓
Personal Development & Social Education	✓
Physical Education	✓
Religious Education	✓
Science	✓
Technology & Design	✓

* Computing – is taken in Year 9

** Modern Languages – 2 languages are studied from French, Irish and Spanish

Leadership

“There is clear evidence of strategic and targeted improvement work, implemented efficiently by the senior leadership team.” ETI



Key Stage 4 (Years 11-12) and Key Stage 5 (Years 13-14)

SUBJECT	KEY STAGE 4	KEY STAGE 5
Applied Health & Social Care (Single and Double Award)		✓
Applied Life & Health Sciences (Double Award)		✓
Art & Design	✓	✓
Biology	✓	✓
BTEC Engineering*		✓
BTEC ICT		✓
Business and Communication Systems	✓	
Business Studies	✓	✓
Professional Business Services		✓
Careers Programme	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓
Child Development	✓	
Drama	✓	
Drama & Theatre Studies		✓
Digital Technology	✓	✓
English Language	✓	
English Literature	✓	✓
Enrichment		✓
Food and Nutrition	✓	
Geography	✓	✓
Government & Politics		✓
Learning for Life and Work	✓	
History	✓	✓
Modern Language – French	✓	✓
Modern Language – Irish	✓	✓
Modern Language – Spanish	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Music	✓	✓
Personal Development & Social Education	✓	
Physical Education	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓
Psychology		✓
Religious Education	✓	✓
Science (Double and Triple Award)	✓	
Statistics		✓
Technology & Design	✓	
Travel & Tourism		✓

* May be offered through the Foyle Learning Community. Further information about curriculum provision is available from the school on request.



Homework

Homework is an integral part of our pupils learning and development. The type of homework set can vary and may include practices such as reviewing what has been covered in class, preparing for the next lesson, completion of written, research and practical tasks.

Homework teaches children to work independently, develop their time management together with consistent study habits and effective study skills. Homework also allows parents an opportunity to learn more about what their child is leaning and play an important role in encouraging good practice and high standards.

Pupil Progress

Assessment is integral to the teaching and learning process. Tracking assessments inform self-evaluation at all levels promoting continuous evaluation and review of our provision for pupil attainment and progression. They provide our pupils with opportunities to reflect on their own learning; to improve the quality of their work and facilitate a focus for professional dialogue to support personalised learning. Tracker results may be accessed by parents through our school app.

Formal whole school examinations are held in January/February. Detailed reports for all students are issued after these internal assessments. Junior school students sit a further set of internal formal assessments in May which are followed by their end of year report. Pupils in Key Stages 4 & 5 continue to work towards externally assessed modular and terminal examinations.



Staying Connected

Communication between pupils, parents and teachers is an integral part of our school practice and we use a number of ways to do this.

The Daybook

The individual day book will be used by all pupils to record homework, receive comments from teachers and to ensure that there are clear lines of communication between home and school. The daybook should be regularly monitored by form teachers and parents/guardians are required to sign it weekly.

There are specific pages located within the pupil daybook that must be used to communicate with the form teacher.



Thornhill College App

The Thornhill College App is used as another method to communicate with pupils, parents and staff. It can be downloaded onto your phone or tablet from either the App or Google Play Store. After downloading the App you will be prompted to set your profile as a parent/guardian. Information about up-coming events in the school are posted here to keep everyone up-to-date with the wide range of opportunities on offer to our students.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/ Teacher meetings are an effective way for both parents and teachers to interact, learn about and discuss a pupil's progress. We recognise that parents play an active role in their child's education and that they can further encourage and influence their child to do well in school.



Twitter

We use Twitter as a means to keep our Thornhill School Community up to date about events and to acknowledge the daily achievements of our students. Many departments have their own Twitter accounts to share the outstanding work that pupils are engaging in.



Follow us on
[@ThornhillDerry](#)

A Successful School

In Thornhill College we believe it is important that our students are provided with opportunities to “Live Life to The Full” and to celebrate all of their achievements. Our students and staff work hard to achieve the high outcomes in all aspects of school life.

GCSE Percentage of Pupils achieving 7+ Grades A*-C including Maths and English		
2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
96.3	98	97

Percentage of Pupils Achieving Grades A*-C	
7 or more	5 or more
97%	98.5%



Outcomes

“Pupils continue to achieve very high outcomes in public examinations at key stage 4 and post-16.” ETI

YEAR 12 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2019			
Subject	%A*-B	%A*-C	%A*-E
Art & Design	72.9	97.2	99.9
Biology	100	100	100
Business Studies	66.7	83.3	100
Chemistry	83.3	100	100
Child Development	76	98	100
Drama	46.7	100	100
English Language	82.9	100	100
English Literature	67.5	98.5	100
French	38.1	67.5	100
Geography	77.1	97.9	100
History	75.8	96.8	100
Information Technology	75	97.5	97.5
Irish	95.1	100	100
Mathematics	86.9	99.0	100
Mathematics Further	60.5	94.3	98.5
Music	81.1	100	100
Physics	94.4	100	100
Religious Studies	84	96	99.5
Science	66	97.5	100
Spanish	59.4	96.8	100
Sport/PE Studies	80	95	100
Statistics	87.5	100	100
Total	75.1	97.3	99.8

A Levels Percentage of Pupils achieving grades A* - C	
3+ A Levels at Grades A*-C	2+ A Levels at Grades A*-E
90%	100%



YEAR 14 A LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2019			
Subject	%A*B	%A*C	%A*E
Art & Design	100	100	100
Biology	75.5	90.6	100
Business Studies	66.6	88.8	100
Chemistry	70.2	86.4	100
Design and Technology	0	100	100
Drama	66.6	77.7	100
English Literature	27	64.8	100
French	100	100	100
Geography	83.3	100	100
Health & Social Care DA	81.1	98.6	100
Health & Social Care SA	95.7	95.7	100
History	67.7	96.8	100
Information Technology	58.8	70.6	100
Information Technology BTEC	100	100	100
Irish	75.1	81.4	100
Life & Health Sciences	95	100	100
Mathematics	83.9	87.1	100
Mathematics Further	100	100	100
Music	33.4	60.1	100
Physics	80	80	100
Politics	72.2	94.4	100
Psychology	50	85.7	96.4
Religious Studies	65.8	87.8	100
Spanish	63.7	91	100
Sport/PE Studies	78.5	100	100
Totals	70.8	88.7	99.8

Top Candidates in Northern Ireland CCEA Examinations

We are delighted to congratulate -

- Sofya Dobrynina who was awarded First Place in A Level French
- Jenny Coyle who was awarded First Place in A Level Double Award Life & Health Sciences
- Sarah O’Callaghan who was awarded Second Place in N Ireland in A Level Physics

All Ireland Scholarship Third Level Education Award sponsored by J P McManus

We are also delighted to congratulate Nicole Gormley and Sarah O’Callaghan on receiving this award.

Rewarding Excellence

In Thornhill College we strive to model positive behaviours and build strong relationships. We encourage students to demonstrate high standards of respect, co-operation and organisation in both their behaviours and academic work. To that end we are committed to recognising and rewarding their motivation, efforts and achievements. Pupils are recognised and rewarded in the following ways:

- Junior School Reward Steps
- Encouraging language
- Personal acknowledgement
- Oral and written feedback
- Displays of work
- Sharing of work with parents/guardians
- Positive comments
- Certificates
- Postcards
- Personalised letters home
- Positive Phone calls
- Pastoral/subject noticeboards
- Attendance awards
- Appointment to posts of responsibility
- School website
- School Twitter account
- QR codes
- Nomination for participation in prestigious competitions and projects
- Invite to #HotChocFri with Ms Mallett
- Intercom announcements
- Achievements celebrated in assembly
- Local media coverage
- Prize-Giving ceremonies



At Key Stage 3 a structured reward system is in place called **Junior School Reward Steps**. Pupils have the opportunity to gain points for a wide range of categories including excellence in class, charitable endeavours, courtesy and kindness. We believe that every student should receive recognition and reward as they progress through the year.



Junior School Reward Steps

40 POINTS	THORNHILL GOLDEN PIN AWARD	Principal Acknowledges Golden Pin Awarded And Letter Sent Home
30 POINTS	THORNHILL REWARD POSTCARD	Head Of School Acknowledges Postcard Sent Home
20 POINTS	THORNHILL REWARD CERTIFICATE	Year Head Acknowledges Certificate Presented At Assembly
10 POINTS	THORNHILL REWARD STICKER	Form Teacher Acknowledges Sticker In Day Book



A Supportive School

The approach to education in Thornhill College is holistic. We endeavour to ensure that all our pupils achieve and reach their full and true potential. We embrace inclusion, striving to guarantee that all students are fully involved in the life of the school and have access to the curriculum and facilities.

Pupil progress is monitored and difficulties identified so that, as far as possible, each pupil has the necessary support to achieve their full potential. While problems relating to work or study will be dealt with through extra guidance from the class teacher concerned, it is recognised that some pupils need extra support. This is provided by the learning support teacher and the classroom assistants to allow remediation in areas where pupils are experiencing difficulties.

The SEND team plays a central role in identifying, testing and monitoring students who may require access arrangements in examinations. They liaise with the Examinations Officer and administration staff in ensuring provision is put in place for students who qualify for it on the basis of medical or learning needs.

Gifted and Talented Programme



Gifted and Talented describes learners who are achieving at a level substantially beyond the rest of their peer group either within their academic setting in school or through their extra-curricular activities. This programme was launched in September 2017 with the aim of encouraging and celebrating excellence in our students. We aim to instil an integral sense of personal worth in the students identified as **Gifted and Talented** while challenging them to engage in a variety of personal improvement strategies, moving outside themselves to prepare them to become active contributors to society.

All departments have identified strategies to promote the advancement of **gifted and talented** within their subject area. The successes of students are celebrated on the school website, Twitter account and publically in school and beyond.



Extra-curricular activities

A wide range of activities and clubs are available to students in Thornhill College and at the start of the academic year and we encourage every year 8 girl to take part in at least one of these. Each year this list is up-dated to take account of the interests of our students.

Getting involved in activities either at lunchtimes or after school is a great way to meet new people, enjoy an activity they are interested in or to take up a new interest. Engaging in extra-curricular activities not only broadens pupil perspectives but also assists them to strike a healthy work/life balance.

DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING 	SCIENCE CLUB 	TECHNOLOGY CLUB 	CEILI DANCING
FRENCH CLUB 	TRADITIONAL MUSIC GROUP 	JUNIOR BOOK CLUB 	FITNESS CLUB
NETBALL 	FICTIONARIES & SCRIBBLES 	NETBALL 	CROSS COUNTRY
CREDIT UNION 	COURSE WORK FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE FOR A HOME COMPUTER! SPEAK TO IT TEC SUPPORT	SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 	ATHLETICS
GAELIC FOOTBALL 	IT ROOMS 	THIRD WORLD GROUP 	SPANISH CLUB
YEAR 8 CHOIR 	SOCCER 	LIBRARY BREAK TIME LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL	JUNIOR CHOIR

“ I enjoy learning new subjects like Science, Drama and Art. In Science we do exciting experiments, in Drama we get to act and in Art we are doing interesting and fun projects. **”**

“ I have really enjoyed Thornhill so far. The amazing buddies really helped us to get to know our way around the school. All the teachers are really kind, supportive and understanding. **”**

“ I have enjoyed my first term in Thornhill so much. I've enjoyed learning new things in fun ways. I can't wait for the rest of my time in Thornhill College. **”**

“ I love how all the staff and other students are so kind and helpful towards our new year group. I love this school! **”**

“ I was nervous to start with, but now I don't know why I was! There are so many opportunities and the school is so welcoming. **”**

“ I really like TD Club, we are currently making our favourite things out of nails. I'm so happy that I went to Thornhill. **”**

“ The canteen food is so tasty and there is plenty to choose from too. **”**

“ My favourite thing in Thornhill is how nice and supportive the staff and buddies have been. **”**

“ There are a wide range of activities to do at lunchtime with your friends and there are lots of after school clubs too. **”**





Fabulous Facilities

In Thornhill College we are delighted to have a wide range of excellent facilities for our students to avail of in addition to the facilities they access through their curricular subjects.

Canteen & Breakfast Club

Our Canteen is open for the Breakfast Club each morning, at break-time, lunch-times and after school before the Homework Club.

Homework Club

Our homework club provides support to students after school. Students can avail of ICT facilities and the school library to complete homework, work on projects and access help from the Homework Club Supervisors.



“The school has prioritised the use of ICT to enhance further pupil engagement and enliven teaching and learning.” ETI

ICT Facilities

Our ICT facilities are open to all students before school each morning from 8.45 am and each evening during the homework club. Pupils have access to a wide range of software and hardware to assist them in their learning and complete work. Students and teachers have access to online learning platforms which make teaching and learning more productive and meaningful. These assist to streamline resources and assignments, boost collaboration, and foster communication between teachers and students in this digital age. Our ICT facilities have been used to run coding and programming workshops with students while Ipads are also available for student use.

Stationery Office

The well-stocked Stationery Shop is located near to the main office and is open daily for pupils to purchase a range of stationery and books at a discounted price. It is the responsibility of all students to make sure they have the necessary equipment and books for each subject. A full price list is on display outside the Stationery Shop and it is open from 8.45am to 9.10am and 11.10am to 11.25 am each day.

Library

Our Library is one of the finest school libraries in Northern Ireland. It has an extensive selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction for a wide range of reading interests, abilities and ages.

All Year 8 pupils receive an intensive Library induction course during their first term at the College and the Library puts together displays of books and other media to bring to pupils’ attention to available resources in different subject areas. Our Library also provides an Inter-Library loan service for pupils and staff.

The Library is fully computerised for everyday management and has monitored internet access for pupils. The Library is open every day, all day, from 9am to 4.45pm.

Music Practice Rooms

Whether for teaching, practicing examination, grade or performance pieces students can request access to a number of practice rooms. Our recording studios allow students to record and digitally mix soundtracks for both examination and performance purposes. A range of music lessons are on offer for students to avail of should they wish to.



Sports facilities

Physical activity is an important part of life. In Thornhill College our students have access to excellent sporting facilities. These include a multi-sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite, athletics track, pitches for gaelic, football and hockey, tennis and netball courts, a rounder’s area and grass cross country running area.

A Local School - A Global School

Thornhill College is not only in itself a thriving community but we are also actively involved in our local community and the wider global community. Our pupils are encouraged to value the contribution of those who have gone before them and, through involvement in a variety of activities with international relevance, to rise to the challenge of becoming concerned, informed, adaptable members of the world community.

Thornhill – An Eco School

As an Eco-Schools Award winner our school has undertaken several key initiatives aiming to make environmental awareness and action for sustainable development an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of our school community. These include: opportunities to promote biodiversity within our school grounds, a reduction in energy use, promotion of fair trade as a theme on global perspectives and our journey to zero waste with the recycling of paper/card, plastics, stationery and batteries. Our school now holds a Silver Eco-Schools Award, the 'Fair Achiever School Award (awarded by the Fair Trade Foundation) and was awarded the 'Best Kept School Award 2018' for Post Primary schools in the Western region.



Business and Industry Links

Over the years Thornhill College has established excellent working relationships with local, national and global organisations and businesses. This has afforded our young people the opportunity to work alongside and learn from some of the leading thinkers and practitioners in their fields.

eTwinning

Our students are active participants in eTwinning, a European Online Community set up to allow schools to find partners and collaborate on projects within a secure network and platform. Language students have taken part in a series of projects which enrich their learning and motivation. The eTwinning National Quality Label is issued to schools that produce outstanding work as part of their eTwinning partnership and to-date we are delighted to have received two awards for our outstanding work.



Third World Enrichment Group

The Third World Enrichment Group takes responsibility for planning, informing staff and students and overseeing several whole school fund-raising projects such as the Shoe Box Appeal, the Advent Global Gifts, the Concern Fast and the Lenten Trocaire / Mercy Appeal. Every year around 500 shoe boxes are sent to children and the elderly in Eastern Europe.

Global gifts of Chicks, School Lunches, Water Pumps and other essential life changing gifts are bought by staff, students, parents and form classes to help improve the lives of people in the developing world.

Through these collaborative efforts, we as a school community aim to embrace the opportunity for Global Citizenship and support the creation of a more sustainable world for our brothers and sisters in addition to providing essential upkeep and maintenance of the Mercy Schools worldwide.



School Trips

School trips both locally and abroad provide our students with a unique and rewarding learning experience. In recent years students have travelled to France, China, Russia, Poland, USA, London, Austria and many other places.



BBC NI SENIOR SCHOOL CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2019



Careers Education

Thornhill College is committed to preparing our students for the rapidly changing skills based global economy. Careers plays a pivotal role in the life of the school. Through high quality careers education, information, advice and guidance we enable students to make informed and realistic decisions at key transition points along their career pathways.

Lessons have been developed to promote self-awareness, career exploration and career management. Through a series of taught lessons students are introduced to Personal Career Planning at Key Stage 3 which involves identifying skills & qualities, the process of target setting, action planning, researching career options and the changing world of work. This process continues throughout Key Stage 4 with a firm focus on Post-16 options. The Year 12 students particularly enjoy the annual Special Career Awareness Day where they can benefit from the first-hand experience of

a range of guest speakers from diverse backgrounds within the world of work.

Timetabled careers lessons are provided in 6th Form where students are engaged in lessons, seminars, university talks, work related experiences and activities exploring the ever-changing labour market. The focus is on the continued development of independent learners. Students are encouraged to reflect on their achievements and after researching the latest labour market information, to make realistic and informed decisions about their Post-18 pathway. All A-level students are given the opportunity to attend Open Days.

Representatives from Higher Level Apprenticeships and many universities visit the school to present the latest updates on courses and employment prospects. Thornhill hosts a range of careers events for local schools in the area.



School Leaver Destinations

CLASS OF 2019



- Anglia Ruskin University
- St Mary's University College, Belfast
- Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
- Deloitte Bright Start Higher Apprenticeship
- University of Manchester
- De Monfort University
- Ulster University
- Edge Hill University
- University of Birmingham
- Gap Year
- University of Bristol
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Cambridge
- Liverpool Hope University
- University of Glasgow
- Liverpool John Moore's University
- University of Hull
- Manchester University
- University of Liverpool
- Northumbria university
- University of St. Andrews
- North West Regional College
- University of Warwick
- NUI Galway
- University of West Scotland
- Queen's University Belfast
- York College
- Stranmillis University College

Admissions Criteria September 2020

THORNHILL COLLEGE Voluntary Grammar School
142 Culmore Road, Londonderry BT48 8JF
Tel No: 028 7135 5800
Fax No: 028 7135 3311

E-mail: info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk
Web: www.thornhillcollege.org.uk
Principal: Ms S Mallett BSSc, MSc, MSc, PGDFHE, PQH
Acting Chairperson of the Board of Governors:
Mrs E McCloskey

Girls Age Range: 11 – 18
Admissions Number: 200
Enrolment Number: 1410
Roll Number: 1400

Open Night Tuesday 14 January 2020 - 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm | Principal's Address - 4.00 pm

To Parents/Guardians naming Thornhill College as a Preference on your child's Transfer Form.

Entrance Test Results

The Board of Governors has determined that admission to Thornhill College in 2020 will be by an Entrance Test. All girls who wish to be considered for admission are advised to sit English and Mathematics tests administered by GL Entrance Assessment on Saturday 16 November 2019 or the supplementary GL Entrance Assessment on Saturday 7 December 2019. Any girl can choose to sit the test in the most convenient venue offering the GL Entrance Assessment Test.

WHEN CONSIDERING WHICH CHILDREN SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WILL ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFORMATION WHICH IS DETAILED ON OR ATTACHED TO THE TRANSFER FORM. PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST THEREFORE ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEIR CHILD AND RELEVANT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS CRITERIA IS STATED ON THE TRANSFER FORM OR ATTACHED TO IT.

Please ensure that you provide the following information on/with your child's Transfer Form:

- The grade achieved in the GL Entrance Assessment Test ie A, B1, B2, C1, C2, D must be recorded in section C of the Transfer Form.
- The original copy of the Statement of Results issued by the Assessment Centre must be attached to your child's Transfer Form.

Special Circumstances

Any parent/guardian claiming Special Circumstances must complete the documentation in the Special Circumstances Pack available from Thornhill College or from the College website. This documentation, Form SC1, together with the appropriate independent evidence which corroborates the Special Circumstances, must be attached to the Transfer Form.

Special Provision

For those pupils currently in P7 in primary schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provision must be made on Form SP1 and attached to the Transfer Form. Form SP1 is available from Thornhill College or the College website at www.thornhillcollege.org.uk. Parents/Guardians wishing to claim Special Provision must also forward a copy of Form SP1 directly to Thornhill College by 2.00 pm on Thursday 27 February 2020. If a child is moving/arrives in Northern Ireland after this date, claims for Special Provision must be made directly to Thornhill College and the EA School Admissions Office notified. N.B. If you are applying for Special Circumstances or Special Provision, relevant information continued overleaf.

The College seeks a Parental Contribution of £50 per family which is

used to enhance and enrich pupils' educational experience through activities that otherwise could not be financed from the school budget.

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2020

The results of the tests will be ranked by GL Entrance Assessment as follows:

A, B1, B2, C1, C2 and D.

- Applicants will be admitted in grade order of priority beginning with grade A and followed by grades B1, B2, C1, C2 and D. Or Applicants for whom Special Circumstances/ Special Provision have been accepted by the authorised Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors and who are deemed to be of comparable ability to those being considered within the relevant Grade boundary.
- If there are more applicants with a particular grade than places remaining, then the available places will be allocated by the application of the following sub-criteria in the order of priority set down below:

- Applicants who have a sister/half-sister/step-sister or legally adopted sister presently enrolled in the College or who will be in the coming year.
- Applicants who are the first girl in the family to transfer to second level education.
- Applicants who are registered for entitlement to Free School Meals at the time of completing the Post-Primary Transfer Form or on any date up to and including Friday 24th April 2020, no later than 4.00 pm and who have communicated within their application that they are listed on the EA register as being entitled to Free School Meals.
- Other applicants ranked by date of birth – eldest first.

In the event of two or more candidates having the same date of birth and thereby qualifying for the last place(s), the award of the remaining place(s) shall be made to the girl(s) who live(s) the shortest distance by road from the College.

If there are places remaining for Year 8 in the College then other applicants will be considered using the following criteria:

- Applicants who have a sister/half-sister/step-sister or legally adopted sister presently enrolled in the College or who will be in the coming year.
- Applicants who are the first girl in the family to transfer to second level education.
- Applicants who are registered for entitlement to Free School Meals at the time of completing the Post-Primary Transfer Form or on any date up to and including Friday 24th April 2020, no later than 4.00 pm and who have communicated within their application that they are listed on the EA register as being entitled to Free School Meals.
- Other applicants ranked by date of birth – eldest first.

In the event of two or more candidates having the same date of birth and thereby qualifying for the last place(s), the award of the remaining place(s) shall be made to the girl(s) who live(s) the shortest distance by road from the College.

DUTY TO VERIFY

THE VERIFICATION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ACTUAL ADMISSION STAGE. ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED AND NOT FACSIMILES OR PHOTOCOPIES. ADMISSION WILL NOT BE FINALISED UNTIL VERIFICATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

Parents/guardians of children transferring should be aware that if they are using criteria relating to a child's age or child's relationship, then that information will be verified. In order to do this, the Board of Governors requests that the parents/guardians of all children coming to Thornhill College provide a certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

All parents/guardians of children resident in Northern Ireland transferring must verify their address in Northern Ireland by providing any two of the following nine documents:

- A bank or building society statement of the Parents/Guardians/Child which shows the address at which the child is resident.
- A utility bill of the Parents/Guardians (electricity, gas, television licence, telephone (landline, Land) and Property Service rate demand) which shows the address at which the child is resident which shows the address at which the child is resident.
- A letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit.
- The child's Medical Card.
- Electoral ID card;
- Driving Licence;
- Addressed payslip;
- Mortgage statement;
- Rental agreement

NOTE

APPLICANTS RESIDENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE TIME OF THE PROPOSED ADMISSION WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE ALL OTHER APPLICANTS.

THE PROVISION OF FALSE OR INCORRECT INFORMATION, OR THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE VERIFYING OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY THE REQUIRED DEADLINE, MAY RESULT IN EITHER THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PLACE OR THE INABILITY OF THE COLLEGE TO OFFER A PLACE.

A WAITING LIST OF PUPILS WILL BE KEPT. SHOULD A VACANCY ARISE AFTER 29TH MAY 2020, ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 8, INCLUDING APPLICATIONS THAT WERE INITIALLY REFUSED, NEW APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS WHERE NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED WILL BE TREATED EQUALLY AND THE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 1-2I-IV APPLIED TO FILL THE AVAILABLE PLACE(S).

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES NOTE: RECEIPT OF CLAIM FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE GIVEN BY THE TEST CENTRE BUT THE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL OF THE SCHOOLS TO WHICH THE CANDIDATE APPLIES.

- Special Circumstances are when the parents/guardians of the applicant claim that medical or other problems affected the performance of their child. It is a post examination adjustment to the grade of a candidate who is eligible for consideration. Where a need or problem is identified in advance of the test taking place, candidates must apply for Access Arrangements or, where applicable, take the Supplementary GL Entrance Assessment Test. Special Circumstances should be sought only where events on the day of the GL Entrance Assessment Test or factors unknown at the time are considered to have directly influenced the outcome of the GL Entrance Assessment Test.
- Circumstances relating to the application must apply at the time of the assessment and be supported by all relevant documentation including any and all written evidence to substantiate or support "the circumstances" as set out in the Special Circumstances application. Any written evidence provided by a relevant professional must support the circumstances as set out in the Special Circumstances application and if appropriate originate from the relevant professional with such knowledge of the circumstances. No alteration of grade will be considered without such evidence.
- An initial notification of a claim for Special Circumstances must be made by 2.00 pm on Friday 13 December 2019, using the appropriate form available from the College. The College will acknowledge receipt of such a notice of intent if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. No consideration of the award of grade for this application will be given at this stage.
- All documented evidence in support of any Special Circumstances claim must be attached to the EA Transfer Form, using the SC1 Form and must be forwarded to the College via the EA as part of the normal Transfer process.
- It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure that any claim for Special Circumstances is supported by independent documentary evidence. Please refer to the Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements and Special Circumstances

Policy available from the College or from the College Website.

The following information must be provided on Form SC1 in relation to the applicant:

- All the applicant's school standardised test results in English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy from the beginning of Key Stage 2 period.
- All test results must be dated and verified by the primary school.
- Results from all tests must be accompanied by the name of the standardised test and the supplier of the test.
- Results must include scores for English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy.
- Any other relevant material.

Failure to provide such information will result in the College being unable to consider the application for Special Circumstances.

- Parental/Guardian requests for consideration of Special Circumstances for a child will have their claims considered before the application of the Admissions Criteria.
- The authorised sub-committee of the Board of Governors, on the basis of all documented evidence available to them at the time of reaching their decisions, will decide the grade to be used in the application of the Admissions Criteria to applicants under Special Consideration applications. The Admissions Criteria shall then be applied.

SPECIAL PROVISION

Special Provision will be made by the Board of Governors for:

- Children who are transferring from primary schools outside Northern Ireland or who have recently moved to Northern Ireland.
- Children who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- Children whose educational provision to date has been negatively affected by serious medical or other problems supported by independent, verifiable documentary evidence and who, as a consequence, may have been unable to sit either the GL Entrance Test or the GL Supplementary Test.

Applicants from categories a) and b) above, who wish to apply under Special Provision do not need to take the GL Entrance Assessment or the Supplementary Assessment unless their parents/guardians so wish, in which case the GL Entrance Assessment grade obtained will also be considered.

The parents/guardians of Applicants claiming Special Provision must complete SP1 Form available from the College stating the case for eligibility under this category and return it to the College by 2.00 pm on Thursday 27 February 2020. If a child is moving/arrives in Northern Ireland after this date, claims for Special Provision must be made directly to Thornhill College and the EA School Admissions Office notified. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide precise reasons why the applicant did not take part in the GL Entrance Assessment and to submit appropriate documentary evidence relating to their specific reason for Special Provision application, in order to assist the Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors with its deliberations.

The authorised Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors will expect to see any recent primary school reports and may require an assessment of the applicant's ability to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the College. The Admissions Committee will decide whether applicants shall be admitted on the basis that they fall within the ability range of other pupils being admitted in that year. Thereafter applications will be assessed by the application of sub-criteria as set out above.

NOTE:

APPLICANTS WHO HAVE A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WILL HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH BY THE EA UNDER SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS AND ARE SUPERNUMERARY TO THE COLLEGE'S ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT NUMBERS.

ALL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL OR OTHER APPROPRIATE NATURE MUST BE SUPPLIED TO THE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS OFFICE OF EA IN TIME FOR ITS DISPATCH TOGETHER WITH TRANSFER FORMS TO SECONDARY AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS OF FIRST PREFERENCE.

NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

YEAR	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2017/18	200	240	201*
2018/19	200	240	203*
2019/20	200	210	201*

* Includes figures exceeding the school's approved admissions number due to either stated children or successful appeals.

Admission to Years 9 – 12 Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

- Their admission will not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number;
- Their admission will not cause the particular year group to exceed the admissions number set for it, at its time of entry. This limitation will not apply to pupils recently come to reside in the area;
- In the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Where there are more applicants who meet these criteria than there are places, preference will be given as follows:

- Applicants who held a place in a grammar school elsewhere and who have moved into the catchment area of the College.
- Applicants whose sibling(s) are pupils of the College in the year in which the application is made.
- Applicants who had originally applied for a place in the College and whose grade was equal to that of the minimum scored by those accepted that year.

Applications for admission at the start of a school year will normally be considered in late August. Applications for admission during the school year will be considered as soon as possible after the application is received. If at the time of consideration of applications there are more eligible applicants than places available, sub-criteria number 2 of the admissions criteria for entry to Year 8 will be applied.



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