



Congratulations Roisín!

Our most sincere congratulations go to our very own Year 12 student, Roisín Quinn who appeared on the BBC1 One Show last night for the official launch of this years "Children in Need" campaign. Roisín is one of the team on the 'Surprise Squad'.

Last night we saw a short film which gave us a flavour of the five young people who have been chosen to be part of the Surprise Squad. Next week we are excited to see the additional short films, which will be shown on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to tell each young person's individual story.

Roisín has been an inspiration to us all in terms of how she has faced the challenges of the last few years with her health, following the life changing stroke she suffered. But with the love and support of her family, friends and 'Brain Injury Matters' who deliver a youth empowerment project with funding from BBC Children in Need, she is rebuilding her confidence and looking ahead to the future.

We cannot think of a more deserving young lady to be chosen as an ambassador for the Children in Need Surprise Squad and we know everyone who watches her video will be as inspired by her journey as we are. Congratulations Roisín!

School Uniform

In a move to ensuring **equality and choice** is available to all our pupils, a survey to obtain their opinion on having an option of wearing school trousers was distributed last week. There was an overwhelming positive response to this, with the majority of pupils voting that they would like to see the option of wearing plain black school trousers added into our school uniform policy (please see results below). We hope that this amendment to the school uniform policy will enable all pupils of Thornhill to feel comfortable during the school day. It is important to note that with the addition of plain black straight legged trousers, the remainder of the uniform is as published on our website.

Our thanks go to all pupils who have put their voice to this last week and indeed those pupils who have brought this to our attention over the last while.

Year	Responses	Yes	No
8	161	160	1
9	181	173	8
10	173	170	3
11	157	157	0
12	172	163	9
13	142	140	2
14	129	127	2
Total	1287	1090	25



Mrs Zara Devine
Head of Year 13



School uniform – Listening to the Pupil Voice

I've wanted to address the uniform policy for a number of years, but only had the impulse and initiative to follow through with it within the last few months. Having trousers as an option makes the uniform more comfortable and does give us that element of choice. Only having a skirt meant that there was no gender neutral option without special permission, thus alienating those who asked for it. Therefore, having a school wide change will offer a more inclusive choice. And after seeing the overwhelming support for this cause with the survey results, I am so grateful. Thank you all for helping to make this possible, I know this winter (and the ones following) will definitely be more comfortable now.

Trinity McKeever
Year 13



STEM Outreach Programme



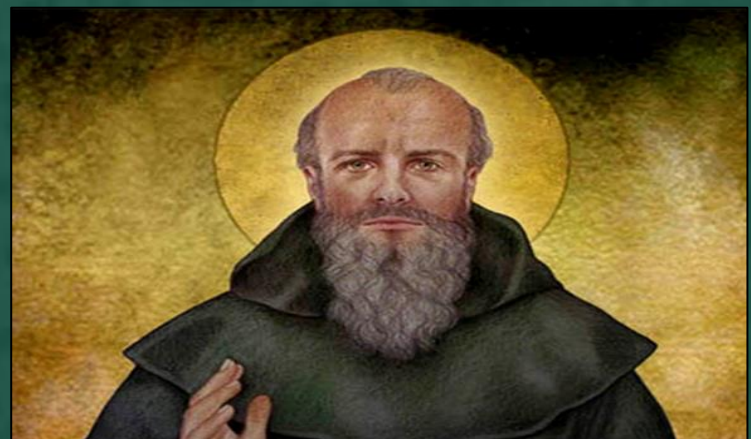
Our congratulations to Mr McCloskey and Ms Duffy who presented an interactive science show as part of the Thornhill STEM Outreach programme to, The Foyle Parents and Friends, Tuned-In Project, supporting people with learning disabilities. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed it!



The Net

Our congratulations go to Mrs Teresa Hodgins our Head of Religious Education for the wonderful article she contributed to the September edition of The Net.

The article celebrated the connected learning project Thornhill College participated in to celebrate the 1500 Anniversary of Columba, co-ordinated by the R.E. Department.



Return to Practical Work in Subjects

We have been delighted to see our students return to the practical work across their various subjects again in recent weeks!! Below are some photographs of our KS3 students enjoying being back in the Technology and Design workshops again. Great work!!!



Fundraising



Many thanks to Mr Liam Morgan and the Mercy Ambassadors / St Vincent De Paul Group and Miss Eimear Lynch and the Pope John Paul II Award students for organising our recent fundraiser for World Homeless Day through the Wear Red Day initiative. In total £700 was raised for Derry's Housing First Service. So well done to all of those who assisted in anyway and of course to all of those who contributed donations!



Wildflower Garden



Our Senior Prefect Team enjoyed sowing the seeds of our new wildflower garden in recent weeks. We look forward with anticipation ladies to seeing the fruits of your labour in the spring and summer!



Black History Month 2021

The theme of this year's Black History Month is 'Proud to Be'. Over the last few weeks during registration, pupils have been introduced to stories of black people who have made significant contributions to society and the world.

Here in Thornhill it is important that we celebrate all members of our community and that the pupils have an awareness of the struggles and successes of others. We must strive to respect everyone, every day and every month of the year.

We are reminded of the words of Amanda Gorman:

*"But one thing is certain,
If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy."*

Proud
to  be
Me

BHM Film Recommendations

Hidden Figures (2016) (Ages 10 and older)

Starring Taraji P. Henson, Janelle Monae and Octavia Spencer, it's the story of African-American women who served as human computers and made other vital contributions to NASA during the '50s and '60s that helped launch the space program.

A Ballerina's Tale (2015) (Ages 9 and older)

This documentary examines race and body image in the elite ballet world with the rise of African-American ballerina Misty Copeland. She was the first principal dancer at New York's American Ballet Theater.

Remember the Titans (2000) (Ages 10 and older)

Denzel Washington stars in the true story of a new African-American high school football coach at a newly integrated school in Alexandria, Va. in 1971. The Titans are struggling to get along and play as a team, divided by racial tensions, when a major player is critically injured in a car accident.

Selma (2014) (PG13)

A critically acclaimed historical drama, "Selma" chronicles the Selma to Montgomery marches led by civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr. (played by David Oyelowo). The marches, held over a period of 18 days, aimed to secure equal voting rights and were met with violent resistance. They contributed to passage of the Voting Rights Act, considered a watershed moment in U.S. history.





Black History Month Celebrations in History



There was a Christmas morning buzz in History 5, following the delivery of 100 books by authors of colour from @penguinrandom. There are a wide range of books within the delivery: poetry, fiction, no fiction, how to guides, graphic novels; something for everyone! The AS History class all chose something to read over half term and couldn't wait to get stuck in.

Initially the books will be available, to year 13 and staff, via a lending library in History 5. The library will operate on a Tuesday during first lunch and Year 13 are welcome to browse and borrow. The long term plan is to have a diversity section in our school library, with guidance on which books are suitable for which Key Stages. It is hoped that the whole school then will be able to access and enjoy the books.

Mrs Louise Quigg



THANK YOU Thanks! THANK YOU

Our most sincere thanks goes to the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership for their very generous donation of laptops for our students. These will make a most valuable contribution to the learning of our students!





Confirmation



We were delighted this week to celebrate the inaugural sacrament of confirmation in our beautiful school oratory of our Year 14 student, Patrick McCloskey. We were delighted to be joined by Patrick's family for this joyous occasion and offer our sincere thanks to Fr Clerkin who officiated the sacrament. Our thanks also go to Bishop McKeown for granting the school permission to host the sacrament and to the RE Department and in particular, Mrs Teresa Hodgins (Head of RE) and Mr Liam Morgan for assisting in the arrangements.



Manchester United Foundation

Manchester United Foundation CEO John Shiels MBE visited on Friday 18th October to meet with participants past and present from the Man United Foundation programmes. Thornhill College pupils in Junior School have been participating in programmes ranging from Female Development, Unified Football and the Ambassador Programme over the past 4 years.

Our newly appointed Ambassadors are, Year 10 pupils Roisin and Cadhla. They have already marked the beginning of their tenure by meeting with their counterparts from schools across the city at Magee College on Wednesday 15th October.

The programmes aim to focus on encouraging pupils to unleash their entrepreneurial skills, build business acumen, develop resilience and learn how to become 'game changers of the future'. With the remarkable talent, ingenuity and enthusiasm that our pupils already have, we have high hopes for what our ambassadors can achieve this year.

Mrs Lucia Walls
Head of Junior School



Foundation



THANK YOU

Thanks!

THANK YOU

Our thanks go to Mr Willie O'Hagan our Technology and Design Technician for his time and skill in producing the beautiful sign for our nurture room 'Cuan'. We are delighted with it!!!!



THANK YOU

Thanks!

THANK YOU

Our thanks go to Mrs Katharine Green our Health Co-ordinator and Dr O'Kane from Park Medical for providing CPR training for our students and staff on World Re-Start a Heart Day 2021.