



Welcome Katie!

Katie Parke was very excited to join us in Thornhill College in September 2020. However, due to a medical condition and the ongoing Pandemic she was unable to attend lessons in person and the vast majority of her schooling has taken place via Google Classroom or Teams. Whilst this was very disheartening for Katie, she never let this dampen her spirits and she has contributed greatly to the school community even taking part in the virtual Christmas Show displaying her Irish dancing talent. After nearly two years of working from home or behind a desk in school, Katie who is now Year 9, is going to join her peers in lessons after mid-term and we are so delighted to welcome her back into the classroom. We have asked her to share a snippet of her Journey with you all so that you can see what an inspiring young woman she is.



Hi I'm Katie, when I was three I was diagnosed with Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis.

I had to fly to London to a specialist surgeon in Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children. I have undergone many procedures and till this day I have had nine lung lavage. This is a delicate operation lasting over 6 hours where they wash out my lung with salt water. The first time I had it done I was so small and sick my doctors said that my survival chances was under 30 percent. If you want to learn more about it you can look in my case study for BBC when I was 6: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-34462716>

Due to the current COVID pandemic I have not been able to get into my new school in the two years I have attended Thornhill College, it has all been over a screen and a computer.

Recently I have been beginning to take trips into school and start going in 3 days and in the future I really hope to get in full time.

Katie Parke
Year 8

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

As you are aware, the conflict in Ukraine has created a massive humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe. A Polish shop in Strabane called Basia, is organising help for the people of Ukraine and are appealing for essential items such as:

- Shampoo, soap and shower gel
- Baby wipes and nappies
- Sock, jumpers and warm clothes
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- First aid kits and painkillers
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Cupboard food
- Shower Slippers
- Towels and bedding
- Toys and sweets for young children



We would kindly ask all items for donation are left in **RE Room 5** before the end of the school day on **Thursday 3rd March**. All items will then be transported to Cavan from where they will be taken to the Refugee Centre in Rzeszow in Poland. Our thanks go to Mr Liam Morgan for co-ordinating this appeal within the school.

Junior Prefect Team Visit to the Guildhall

Last week our Junior Prefect Team enjoyed a visit to the Guildhall as part of their programme of seeing 'leadership in action'. The girls enjoyed meeting the Mayor and getting a tour of the Guildhall. The girls were true ambassadors for our school community during their visit.



Year 13 Technology & Design Visit

Our Year 13 Technology and Design students have been investigating suitable materials in school for their product design projects. As part of their research they need to understand how materials will work under certain conditions.

The students have been able to take advantage of the excellent testing facilities at Ulster University to conduct testing on a range of materials which will allow them to make informed decisions when selecting suitable materials for their products.

BBC Irish Language Television Programme

Congratulations to the twelve Year 10, 12, 13 and 14 pupils who took part in filming for the Dearcán Media production for an upcoming BBC Irish Language Television Programme. The girls were outstanding and used as much Irish as possible all day long – which was actually a Sunday! Congratulations to Róise Ó Murchú who sang beautifully and was awarded a Gaeltacht Certificate by Dearcán Media. Maith sibh a Chaíliní – tá sibh ar fheabhas!!



Well Done Saoirse!

Comhghairdeas!! Congratulations to our very talented Year 12 pupil, Saoirse O'Donnell, who was commissioned by Hollybush Primary School to create a painting to present to Steelstown Brian Óg's Intermediate team after their achievement in becoming All Ireland Champions. This is a wonderful privilege and an outstanding creation, maith thú Saoirse!!



Congratulations Molly!

Congratulations to Molly Phelan, Year 12 GCSE Drama student who has successfully auditioned for the British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT). Molly tells us about the project: *"They commissioned 11 plays last year, all of which are original, and auditioned over 700 people across the UK. I was placed in The Legend of White Bear Lake, which was based in Oswestry right beside the border of Wales. We arrived there and auditioned for the roles we would have in the play, and I was lucky enough to get the lead. I was there for a week out of two but it was cancelled half way through with several Covid19 cases in the cast including myself. However, it has been rescheduled for the 1st to the 14th of August this year, and has been relocated to Plymouth where I'll be performing in the Theatre Royal Plymouth. I was one of two Northern Irish girls there and I made loads of friends from Scotland, England and Europe. At the end of every show, you get a Grade 8 certificate in Drama from Trinity for taking part. I'm really excited to get back to it and see all my friends again."*

Congratulations Isabelle!

Congratulations to our talented Year 10 student Isabelle Scott who after winning the Derry round of the Credit Union Art Competition, progressed and won the Chapter round, and then moved on to win the National final for all of Ireland.

On the last day before half-term, Isabelle took part in the final presentation ceremony via Zoom and was declared the overall winner for her age group in Ireland! This is a fantastic achievement, particularly as it is a very popular competition with 1000s of entries in each year group and recognises her truly outstanding talent. Well done to Isabelle and indeed the Art & Design Department.



Ulster University, Department of English, would like to invite Year 8-14 pupils to participate in our Poetry Competition.

BRIEF - 'MY HOME PLACE'

What does your Home Place mean to you? Is it the countryside, the beach, a small town, your city or your school? It could be anywhere from your favourite holiday destination right down to your back garden.

The competition asks entrants to take inspiration from the theme 'My Home Place', and show us what it means to you.

Explore the theme of 'My Home Place' and incorporate its elements into your poem. We want you to be imaginative and creative!

YOU WILL PRODUCE:

One poem on the theme of 'My Home Place', no longer than 30 lines in length with a title.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The competition is open to Year 8-14 pupils in schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and will be judged by a panel from the Ulster University English Literature department.

The closing date is **midnight 13th May 2022**. We recommend all entrants read the rules carefully before entering.

Entries should be emailed to the following email - schools@ulster.ac.uk

All entries will be exhibited at Ulster University Coleraine campus. A selection of entries will be published online and in hard copy.

PRIZES

- **1st Place** - £75 Voucher and a writing set. **PLUS** the Winner's school class will also be invited to attend Seamus Heaney HomePlace. Prize donated by Seamus Heaney HomePlace. Transport covered by Ulster University (max. 35 pupils).
- **2nd Place** - £50 Voucher and a writing set.
- **3rd Place** - £25 Voucher and a writing set.



If you are interested in studying English scan here to view prospectus for English and History BA (Hons) at Ulster University 2022/23 entry.



Anxiety based School Avoidance

FREE Parent and Carer workshop



This online workshop delivered together with **Strive NI** will explore reasons why a child or young person may be finding it difficult to attend school, as well as providing practical strategies for parents/carers to support children to return more willingly to the school environment.

Tuesday 8th March 7pm-8pm
Online via Zoom

Call now for more information or book your place

0808 8020 400



Anything is Possible

Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 8 & 9 who have been awarded 10 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps. These points were rewarded for the students' positive contribution to the life of the school up to half-term. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!

YEAR 8

8A: Ava Cooley, Faye Craig, Heidi Craig, Caoimhe Gallacher, Olivia Goligher, Clara Henderson, Lily Magee, Leah McClenaghan, Eve Ellen McElwee, Anna McLaughlin, Brihanna Meli, Cara Offordile-Anderson & Olivia Ward.

8E: Erin Bradley, Faye Doherty, Anna Gormley & Orlaith Mullan.

8G: Natalia Effirul Ikhwan & Tammie Harper.

8H: Mia Connolly, Sophie Connolly, Eabha Crossan, Millie Doherty, Ella Doran, Eila Doughty, Jodie Lindsay, Sally McDevitt, Aoife Moody, Grace O'Donovan, Anna Petropoulos, Sarah Sweeney, Grace Twells, Ada Tyler & Eliidh Wild.

YEAR 9

9B: Georgia Brown, Mia Bo Cheung, Eve Doherty, Mia Doherty, Ria Gallagher, Rachel McColgan, Mollie May McWilliams & Kate Strawbridge.

9G: Holly Barr & Aine Bryce.



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 Daybook

#ThornhillDerry



Junior School REWARD STEPS

Congratulations Dara!

Congratulations to our Year 14 student Dara McKeever. She has been selected as Vice-Captain of the Derry Minor Panel as they prepare for the first round of their 2022 Ulster campaign against Fermanagh. Well done Dara and the very best of luck!

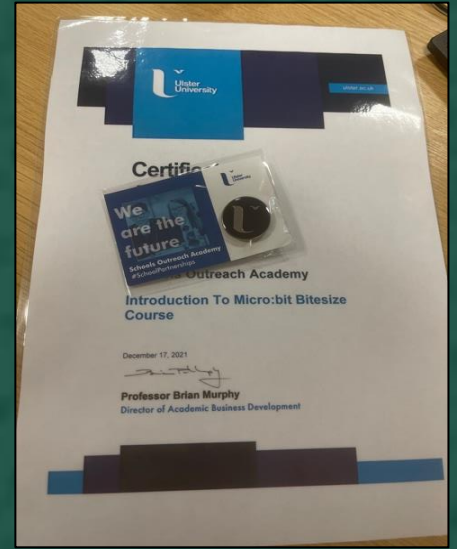


Tree Planting

On behalf of our school community, 9G and Ms Mallett accepted 100 native trees from Musgrave as part of their pledge to plant 50,000 trees this year. This is one of the many environmental projects carried out by Thornhill students in conjunction with the Woodland Trust and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Year 9 ICT

Year 9 students carried out an interactive course using Microbit and coding. This enabled the students to have an introduction into coding and how it can be applied in real life projects. Well done to all the Year 9 students involved in the completion of the Ulster University Outreach Microbit Course.



Crafting for Charity

Well done to our Year 13 Crafting for Charity group who are designing and making bags for medical instruments for patients of the Foyle Hospice.

Our thanks go to Mrs Hodgins, Rosie - our facilitator and Apex Housing Association who are funding the project through the Ballynagard Shared Housing and TBUC Good Relations Plan.



Year 10 WorldWide Quiz Final

Congratulations to 10G, pictured below, who won the final of the Geography Department's WorldWide Quiz Challenge and Runners-up 10E, who were narrowly defeated. A big thank you to all the teams that took part in this year's challenge.



QUB Comes to Thornhill College

The Centre of Biomedical Sciences Education presented a STEM Workshop to 10D, with a lesson on the Chemistry and Biology surrounding Chemiluminescence as part of their engagement programme. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



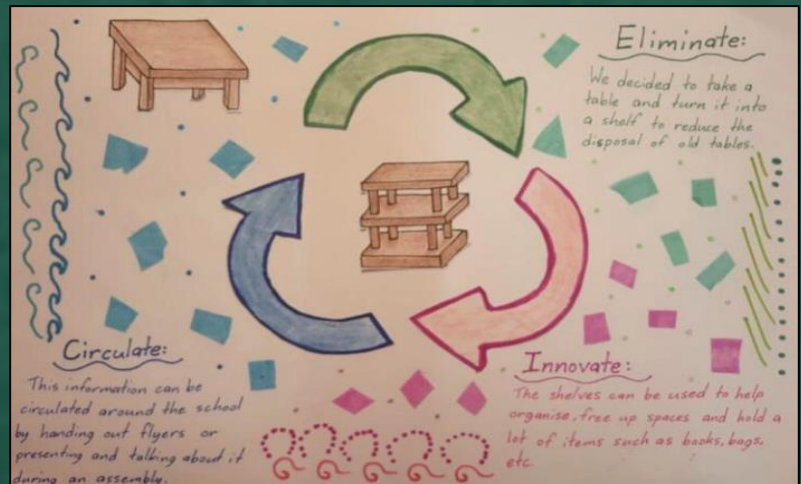
Home Economics

Well done to our Year 8's who displayed fantastic knife skills whilst preparing a health fresh fruit salad in Home Economics over the past week. Keep up the excellent work!



Congratulations Sophia!

Congratulations to our Year 12 student Sophia McCormick on her success at the Ulster Schools Swimming Championships. Sophia won bronze in the 50m butterfly, in a very competitive field.



Congratulations Taylor!

Our congratulations go to our former student, Taylor Brown who has been awarded the Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition Award.

Taylor is currently studying Dentistry in Trinity College.



Eco-Club Success

Congratulations Jovita Biju (Year 8), Natalia Asfi Azraa (Year 8), Rose Abdelsayed (Year 8), Katelyn Austin (Year 13) and Benita Biju (Year 13) who were placed first in the Ulster University 'Circular Economy – Eliminate, Innovate and Circulate' Competition.

The girls came up with an innovative design to transform old wooden / desks into new shelving units in school. They are now the recipients of a £75 voucher, a certificate, as well as some sustainability gift packs for the rest of the Eco-Club.

Well done to all involved and indeed Mr Clyde and Mrs Downey for their work with the Eco-Club!

Year 14 Wellness Ambassadors

During Children's Mental Health Week, the senior wellness ambassadors were busy hosting numerous activities to promote positive mental health in Thornhill College.

They began by delivering mental health education presentations to every junior school class, incorporating interactive elements and topics including the causes of mental health, our natural response, self-regulation techniques, how to spot mental health deterioration and strategies to combat it. The presentations concluded with the appointment of two junior wellness ambassadors per class, all of which possess qualities of confidence, collaboration and commitment, and will begin to meet with fellow senior ambassadors in the coming weeks.

In addition to the presentations, pupils were tasked with the challenge to complete a treasure hunt quiz task! The answers to the questions were scattered across the school grounds, posted up on the walls and doors for everyone to see. Pupils worked in teams and had to add their special touch to the answer sheet by commenting what they did to improve their mental health; answers ranged from going on walks and voicing their thoughts to having a spa day and listening to music!

Each day presented a theme for everyone to follow! For example, we had Mindful Monday, TikTok Tuesday and even Fun Food Friday! Meditation and workout videos were posted on google classroom for everyone to access, and a biscuit treat was delivered to each class of course! The school week transformed into a celebration of self-love - something that should be celebrated every day!

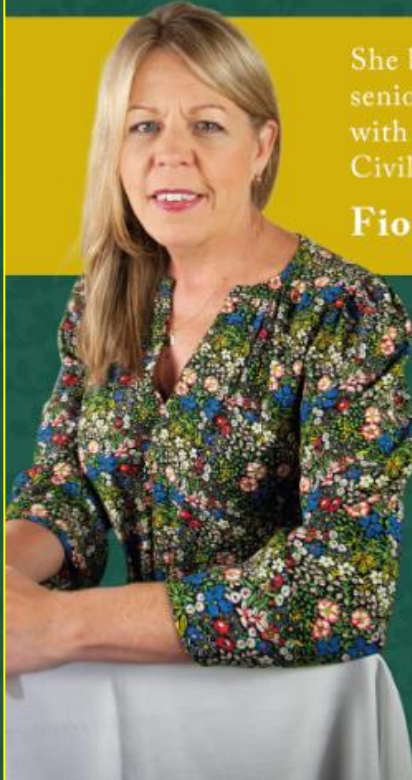
Ava McGinn
Head Girl & Wellness Ambassador



POSITIVETHINKING
POSITIVE THINKING



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



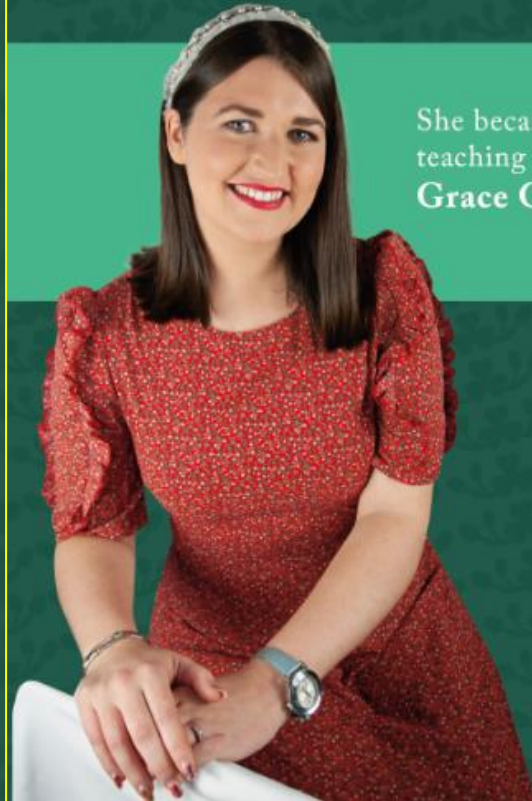
She became a
senior civil servant
with Northern Ireland
Civil Service

Fiona Mc Candless

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became a
teaching assistant
Grace Gallagher

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became
a midwife

Deirdre Gill

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became a
clinical physiologist

Aisling Ni Mhora

#YouCanToo