



A Welcome Message from Our Head of Year 8

As Head of Year 8, it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to welcome our Year 8 pupils to Thornhill College. The term began with a great opportunity to meet parents and guardians who valued the chance to speak to Form Teachers and to immediately seed good relations between home and school.

Term 1 has been a very busy one for this year group already. They have impressed us from the outset with their excellent behaviour, courteous manners and positive outlook. The girls are doing themselves, and their parents and guardians, very proud in the way they have embraced transition from Primary to Secondary School with great courage and determination.

Our first, year group assembly focused on the concept of 'Time'. My wish is for all our Year 8 pupils to make the most of their time at Thornhill College. To embrace the many varied opportunities that will be afforded to them over the next 7 years, so that they can grow to become independent, kind, happy and well-educated young people, ready to make their mark on the world.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

J. R. R. Tolkien

Mrs Katharine Green (Head of Year 8)





Senior Prizegiving 2022

We were delighted to welcome back a number of our Class of 2022 for our A-Level Prizegiving Ceremony on Wednesday 14th September to acknowledge their wonderful achievements. Our guest speaker Ms Eimear McCauley, Director of Finance, ICT and Contracting at the Western Health and Social Care Trust and member of our Board of Governors gave an inspiring speech encouraging our students to be the very best version of themselves as they leave us to follow their own individual career paths and to seize the opportunities which hard work, a positive outlook and generous spirit will bring their way.

We also took the opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Chair of our Board of Governors, Mrs Elizabeth McCloskey as she steps down from her role after many years of loyal service to our school community.





Congratulations
CLASS OF 2022

Health & Social Care Work Experience Placements

We were delighted to see the return of our Year 13 student placement visits to various care settings this week, after two years of Covid 19 restrictions. 74 of our students attended care settings such as residential care homes for older people, primary/nursery schools, and Sure Start Services, where they applied the skills they learned in class to work-related scenarios and developed aptitudes and values for employment in the health, social care and early years sectors.

Our students had the opportunity to practice their communication skills from AS Unit 2 and they explored the values of care and learned how legislation impacts on health from AS Unit 1.

We are very grateful to all the care settings for welcoming our students and for giving their time to facilitate such a valuable experience for our students. Well-done everyone!



SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Mrs O Donnelly
Vice Principal
Designated Teacher

Mrs S Byrne
Senior Teacher
Deputy Designated
Teacher

Ms N Johnston
SENCO
Deputy Designated
Teacher

Ms S Mallett
Principal
Deputy Designated
Teacher

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN THE ROLE OF EVERY ADULT

Safeguarding &

Child Protection Team

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Child Protection Team here at Thornhill College.

We want you to know that we care about you and we want you to feel happy and safe at school. If you have any concerns about yourself or another person in our school community, you can talk to us or any other member of staff that you feel comfortable talking to. The safety of the pupils in Thornhill is our paramount concern. We treat all individuals in our school with respect and also provide a safe environment for any individual to talk openly.

Safer Schools N.I.



We would like to encourage all members of our school community to download Safer Schools App NI. This app is to assist schools to safeguard children and young people when online.

The Safer Schools NI app is a one-stop-shop digital library of age-appropriate safeguarding resources for teachers, parents/carers and young people.

The Safer Schools NI app is free to download at the App store and Google Play stores for teachers, parents/carers and children & young people. As a parent/carer you should use the unique login code for Thornhill College which is **5067**.



WE CARE ABOUT

YOU!

1 Childline
0800 1111

2 Lifeline
0808 808 8000

3 Samaritans
0845 790 9090

4 Barnardo's
0800 1577015

5 Aware NI
028 9035 7820
info@aware-ni.org

P.E. Department Achievements

Thornhill had a great day at the annual cross-country event held in the Finn Valley centre on Thursday 15th September. Our Year 8 runners got their first taste of running cross country for Thornhill and they all ran a fantastic race. The team were Saorla NcChaiside, Kaitlin Green, Clodagh Quigley, Ayla Beagan, Cara Conway, Farah Downs and Alex O'Donnell.

Both the Year 9 and Senior team finished in 3rd place and the Year 10 team finished in 2nd place. There were also a number of Individual medal winners: Hannah Wade, Year 12 took the gold medal in the senior race, Laura McGeady took silver in the Year 9 race and Ava Curran finished 4th in the Year 10 race.



Year 8 Team



Year 9 Team



Year 10 Team



Senior Team

Sponsorship Opportunity

As you will be aware, PE and sport are a fundamental area of our school's provision and offers vital experiences, skills and opportunities to all young people at our school. We are beginning a project to engage with local businesses and entrepreneurs to support the students at our school by sponsoring our teams. If your business or the business you work for would be interested in this opportunity I would be grateful if you would contact me at:

info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk

Mr Frank McEldowney
Acting Head of PE Department



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Devine and Mr McCloskey from the Chemistry Department who were successful in securing a £2000 grant for Elevating Chemistry from the Royal Society of Chemistry. The Chemistry department will run a series of practical based activity days for their A-level students to support the development of practical skills impacted as a result of Covid-19 measures.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Doherty from our Home Economics and Health & Social Care Departments. Miss Doherty has been recognised as a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert for her skill in the use of ICT in her teaching.



Debating and Public Speaking Society

On Saturday 1st October our Debating and Public Speaking with Confidence Society travelled to Dublin to attend 'Ireland's Future' a high profile event to discuss the future of the island of Ireland. The students, studying a range of subjects such as Politics, History and English listened to strong, robust and highly informed speakers debating and discussing a very interesting and thought-provoking subject – the constitutional future of the island of Ireland.

Our students also met with Professor Luke O'Neill eminent leading Immunologist for a tour of Trinity College.

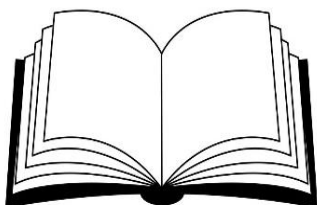
Our sincere thanks go to local business, Airporter, who kindly provided free transport and sponsored a meal for the students on the journey home.

Follow our Debating & Public Speaking Society on Twitter: @ThornhillDebate

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to two of our Year 9 students who have taken 2nd and 3rd place in the Waterside Theatre Book Cover Competition.

Well-done Grace O'Donovan and Jodie Lindsay on your achievements!



Junior Prefect Team

Congratulations to our newly elected Junior Prefect Team pictured here with our Head of Junior School, Mrs Lucia Walls. The very best of luck in your new leadership roles ladies!





**THE FASHION & TEXTILE
DESIGN CENTRE**

**BEGINS 4TH OCT 2022
8 WEEKS
4PM TO 6PM**

AFTER SCHOOL SEWING CLASSES

TUESDAYS AT THE FTDC



£40

31 33 Shipquay Steeet, Derry / Londonderry BT48 6DL

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 5th October
Middle School Prizegiving

Friday 14th October
**INSET Day (Pupils do not attend
school on this day)**

Friday 14th October
Year 14 Formal

Saturday 15th October
Deadline for UCAS Early Applications
(Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary
Medicine / Oxbridge Applications)



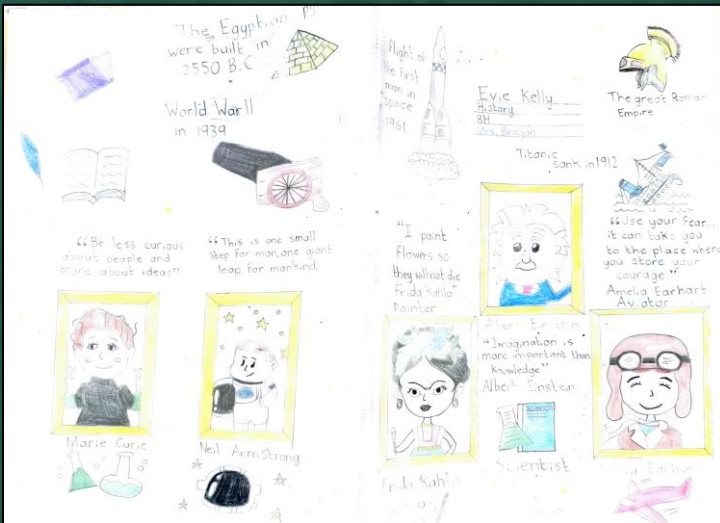
University Open Day

A group of our Year 14 students recently attended the Open Day at St Mary's University College Belfast with Mr Deane to learn about the different courses on offer at the college.



Creativity in History

Mrs Brogan's History class had lots of fun decorating their History exercise books where they showcased their own history and showed a connection with historical moments. Well-done to the worthy winners of the competition, Lila Conaghan and Evie Kelly.



Congratulations

Congratulations to our Year 14 student Aoife Sargent who recently attended a celebration event at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University to mark her completion of the Pelican Programme.

Through this 8 month super-curricular programme, Aoife engaged in research and discussion surrounding a number of academic texts on History. Well-done Aoife on your fantastic achievement.



90th Anniversary of Thornhill College



This year we are celebrating 90 years of Thornhill College on the Culmore Road.

There was an expansion of Thornhill buildings in the old school 1932 - 2003. Then we moved to the new school building.

Miss O'Hara reflects on some of the history of Thornhill.

As I walk around the school, I am reminded of various items which were in the old school building which shows a continuity between the old school and the new school. Thornhill College was founded by the Sisters of Mercy. Their Mercy Cross is shown on the entrance to the school and on the chairs in the oratory.

The two stain glass windows in the locker area "Art" and "Science" were part of the "New Block" built in the old school on the Culmore Road around 1933.

In the staffroom there is an abstract picture showing parts of the original school building, which was the stables owned by the Watt Family, the previous owners of the land at Thornhill. This picture was on the cover of the Thornhill Christmas Card in 1992.

The round blue stain glass window outside the boardroom is a reminder that the school colours used to be blue and yellow. There is a blue blazer and a blue and yellow scarf now in the Thornhill archives.

The statue of Our Lady in the foyer was presented by the Thornhill College Past Pupils Union and stood in the foyer of the old school.

Most of the past pupils highlighted in the Past Pupil Poster Corridor were pupils in the old school building.

In the boardroom are photographs of some of the former Principals of the old school. Near the locker area is a tapestry made to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the opening of Thornhill 1932 - 1992. It shows school buildings and a statue of the Our lady which is in the convent grounds.

The Thornhill College Year Book is on the Thornhill website. You can read the history of the school in one of the articles.

There are several aspects of school life which have continued seamlessly from the old school to the new school: the school motto "Adventiat Regnum Tuum" on the school blazer, the School Song, and most important, the friendliness of the pupils and staff. In September 2023 we will mark twenty years of life in the new school building, but that is a story for another day, as they say.