



A Message from Our Head Girl - Emma Corns

Hello to all the members of our school community! My name is Emma Corns and I am delighted to introduce myself as the Head Girl of Thornhill College for this school year 2022-23.

Taking up this important role is such an honour, allowing me to give back to the school that has given me so much, and has been pivotal in shaping the young woman I have become. I am so grateful to have been recognised for this role by my peers and teachers alike and would also like to extend my huge congratulations to my wonderful team of Deputy Head Girls: Abbie Carlin, Benita Biju, Georgia Donnelly, Sadie Sturgeon, Trinity McKeever and Aoife Sargent. I feel so lucky to be joined by these amazing role models, and collectively we are delighted and enthused to represent our school community and to be able play a proactive role in enhancing the daily life of our school family.



Approaching the end of my secondary education, I look back with fondness at my memories and feel so grateful to be chosen as your Head Girl, a role that embodies and celebrates my time as a Thornhill Girl. Six years ago, as I made the daunting transfer from Ballougry Primary school, a tiny rural school of 75 pupils, to Thornhill, I could have never imagined that the nervous first year I once was would have blossomed into the confident and capable individual I am today, being a mentor, role model and ambassador for my school. Being part of a school as special as ours greatly nurtured me and allowed me to realise my full potential, set high aspirations for myself and granted me the opportunity to dream big, something that I wish for all other Thornhill students. These last six years, the friendships I have formed with staff and pupils, (whether it be the lovely girls in my own year group or the new cohort of first years who excitedly wave to me in the corridors,) has filled me with a sense of belonging like no other, making me so proud to be a Head Girl for those who have made my time here so special.

Reflecting on the start of this school year, as we welcomed the Year 8's into our school in September, I introduced myself to them as their big sister figure within Thornhill, somebody they can approach with their worries and someone who is supportive of them in every step they take. My aim is to establish this sense of family and foster a community of togetherness within our school, where everyone feels involved, valued, heard and important.

As we approach the Halloween half term, I would like to take this time to congratulate my fellow pupils for all your hard work and resilience these first two busy months. Keep up your admirable work ethic, stay safe and enjoy this well-deserved break! I hope this next year can be a memorable one filled with friendship, fun and success for all our students, and to my fellow Year 14's, as we embark on this final stage of an unforgettable journey together, I wish you so much joy, laughter and happiness this year and for many to come! I will forever be grateful for the special memories that I have made during my time here, and as I move into this new chapter of my life, I will always remain a proud Thornhill Girl.

Emma Corns (Head Girl)



Thornhill College Senior Prefect Team



2022-23



Emma Corns
Head Girl



Benita Biju
Deputy Head Girl & Middle School Coordinator



Abbie Carlin
Deputy Head Girl & Junior School Coordinator



Georgia Donnelly
Deputy Head Girl



Aoife Sargent
Deputy Head Girl



Sadie Sturgeon
Deputy Head Girl



Trinity McLeever
Deputy Head Girl

Year 14 Formal 2022

Our Year 14 students and staff enjoyed the beautiful occasion of the school formal on Friday 14th October in the White Horse Hotel. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended, with our students acting as fantastic ambassadors for our school community. Our thanks go to the Year 14 Formal Committee for all their work in co-ordinating such an elegant evening.





GCSE Prizegiving 2022

We were delighted to celebrate our GCSE Prizegiving Ceremony on Wednesday 5th October, acknowledging the fantastic achievements of our current Year 13 students. Our guest speaker Barrister, Miss Mary Durkan, gave an inspiring speech encouraging our students to make the most of their time at school and all the opportunities it presents and to play their role in being a strong advocate for others through their involvement in their school and local communities.

We also took the opportunity to welcome Mrs Siobhan Porter to the position of Chair of our Board of Governors and wish her well in her new position.





Middle Prefect Team 2022-2023

Our congratulations go to our new elected Middle Prefect Team. The team includes: 12A Clara McDevitt & Roisin O'Donnell, 12B Bronagh Carlin & Anna Young, 12C Annie Kelly & Kirsty MacHugh, 12D Aine Nelis & Anna O'Kane, 12E Zoe Duffy & Lucie McBride, 12F Sara Lindsay & Jessica Sweeney, 12G Ellen Bradley & Beibhinn McCormick, 12H Katie Hickey & Grace Lily Wilson and 12J Clodagh Barr & Annie Edwards.

We wish the team the very best of luck in their new leadership roles within our middle school.



Summer Challenge Stars

Over the summer, 23 pupils in Yrs 10 and 11, completed the Spanish Summer Challenge. This national event was organised by NICILT (Northern Ireland Centre for Information and Language Teaching and Learning), in conjunction with Queen's University, Belfast and the Department of Education.

Pupils had to complete a number of language-based challenges, such as finding a song in the language and finding newspaper articles and recipes. Twelve pupils in Yrs 10 and 11 gained an outstanding Gold Award and 11 pupils gained a fantastic Silver Award. Many congratulations to:

GOLD: Leah Giboney, Grace McBride, Sarah Duffy, Jewel Ann Saji. Áine Bryce, Eoibhlin McSherry, Oonagh O'Neill, Ava Gillam, Saina Mousavi, Aimee Kerr, Holly Barr, Clodagh Mount Laverty,

SILVER: Dervla Coyle, Mia Bo Cheung, Ria Gallagher, Roxsana Mazdad, Hannah Craig, Cora Carlin, Eabha Redden, Olivia Crossan, Meghan McDaid, Maggie Campbell, Mary Cait Keenan. ¡Enhorabuena chicas!

Mrs V Vega Hurst (Head of Spanish)



Junior Prefect Team Leadership Visit

Our Junior Prefect Team recently enjoyed a Leadership visit to meet with the Mayor, Sandra Duffy, at the Guildhall. The team were joined by Abbie Carlin, their Senior Prefect link, Mrs O'Donnell (Head of Year) and Mrs Wall (Head of Junior School).

The girls enjoyed a 'Halloween story telling' tour of the Guildhall, followed by a leadership Q&A with the Mayor followed by lunch at The Cottage Café in The Craft Village. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 8 and 9 who have reached 10 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps during September and October. These points were rewarded for the students' positive contribution to the life of the school. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!

Year 8: Aoibh O'Donnell 8D & Bella Radcliffe 8D

Year 9: Jovita Biju 9G & Natalia Effirul Ikhwan 9G

Year 10: Niamh Donnelly 10C, Ella Jane Mc Chrystal 10C, Dearbhla Walls 10C & Amelie Ward Gallagher 10C



La Semaine des Langues à Thornhill College

Every year to coincide with the 'European Day of Languages' on the 26th September, Thornhill College celebrates 'La Semaine des Langues' (Languages Week). This year we were delighted to be able to begin our celebrations on the date itself with our popular 'Petit-déjeuner français' (French Breakfast) in the school canteen from 8h30-9h15.

Ablly assisted by our Year 12 French students we were served a delicious array of croissants, pains au chocolat and pancakes!

During the week, a number of competitions were enthusiastically participated in by the whole school community. One such was an identity list of all the staff members from other departments who have knowledge of a large variety of languages.

At Assembly, each year group heard about the usefulness and importance of studying a language and the future benefits it creates.

On Friday, we ended our celebrations with the visit of Dr Maeve McCusker, Head of French in QUB. She met with our French students Yrs 8-12 and enabled them to find out more about continuing the study of French and university and elsewhere.

Friday also saw the amazing efforts of our Junior School who surprised us all with their creativity, imagination, enthusiasm and participation in our 'Bake Off 4 Languages'. It was virtually impossible to choose a winner from all the stunning cakes on display in our Lecture Theatre. A massive well done, 'bravo' and 'merci' to all who took part and made this a very exciting and memorable 'Semaine des Langues'! There were too many great photos to share here so follow us on our @FrenchThornhill Twitter Page to see more!

We were also delighted to appoint our Year 10 Languages Ambassadors for French. They will help to promote the learning and use of French in the school and will organise and lead French events throughout the school year. Great to see so many enthusiastic French students. Bravo!

All in all 'La Semaine des Langues' was a great success and we are very proud of our students who have shown great dedication and hard work already this year. We look forward to many more events to come!

Miss C Montgomery (Head of French)

A Warm Welcome to Our Spanish Assistant

This year our Spanish Language Assistant is Sara Núñez Perez from Zaragoza, Spain. She is so excited to be here for the year to gain experience of working in a secondary school.

She joins us here at Thornhill to help the pupils in Years 13 and 14 shine in their AS and A2 Oral exams in June.

As Year 13 pupils, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to broaden our conversational skills and we are very grateful for her efforts and desire to come and teach us Spanish. She is warm, friendly and enthusiastic and is the perfect Spanish assistant. Just what we need!

In addition to this, Sara will also be spending time with our Year 8 pupils in the weekly Spanish Club which will take place every Wednesday at 12.50 in Language Room 4.

*Robyn Deehan & Beth McCool
(Year 13)*



Tomorrows Engineers and Maths Week Ireland

The Technology and Design Department along with the Mathematics Department enjoyed a great week of fun events and activities.

Mathematics Department

The week got off to a brilliant start at Monday break time with an amazing turn out of Year 8 pupils for the **Year 8 Prime Number Hunt** supported by our Year 13 Numeracy Prefects.

On Tuesday Year 9 students had a fun filled day of puzzles and challenges at their **Happy Puzzle Day**.

Classroom Door Decorations

The Maths team along with T&D team got very creative and decorated their doors to tie in with the week of celebrations. We had fantastic help from our talented students and below are a few examples.

Mr White very kindly judged the doors and decided upon the winners. **Mrs O'Donnell was announced as the winner with a special artistic placing for Mrs Franey's door.**

Piku Competition

Well-done to everyone who entered, it was great to see so many of our students turn their imagination to this competition. The standard was extremely high and huge congratulations to our winners.

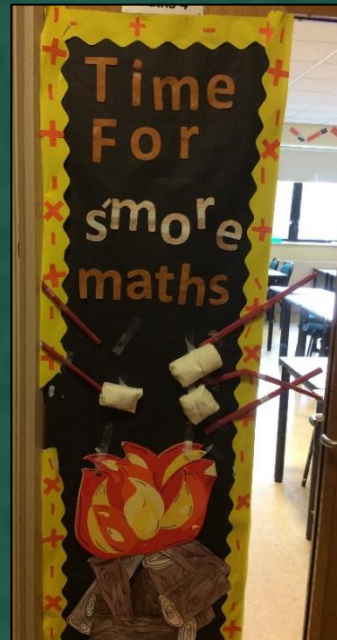
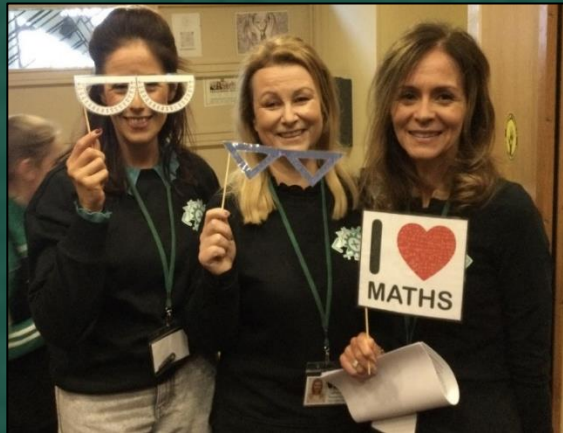
1st Place – Roxsana Mazdai 10A

2nd Place – Hannah Drinan 10C

3rd Place – Jovita Biju 9G

Daily Maths Puzzles

Mrs Gorman provided registration puzzles every day and many congratulations to 12G who were the overall winners from all the Form Classes.





YEAR 9 PUZZLE DAY WINNERS



Tomorrows Engineers and Maths Week Ireland

Technology & Design Department

On Wednesday Year 10 pupils took part in a STEM Design and Build challenge, working in teams to build a spooky Halloween tower. We had some "eggsellent" design ideas and were blown away with the range of structures produced.

Pupils also got creative with each team producing their own Halloween inspired egg which is now proudly displayed on our Halloween tree.

As part of Tomorrow's Engineers Week, two of our Year 12 pupils, Beth and Clara took part in part in the online Future Minds event with 50 other pupils across the UK which involved young people meeting with inspiring engineers to discuss how engineering will help change the world around us in the future.

On Friday the Technology & Design Department hosted a special break time celebration for all the Year 11-14 Technology and Design pupils and got to enjoy some sweet treats and finish off the weeks festivities.



**Technology & Design
Year 9 Mechanisms**

We have been getting into the Halloween mood in the Technology and Design Department as we begin our Mechanisms unit.

The Year 9's have been busy applying their design flair to the mechanical bats.

Once again we are AMAZED at the creativity of our pupils. Here are just a few examples of some of the amazing work produced by Year 9!



Halloween Display

Well-done to 12J who created a fantastic Halloween window display based on *Macbeth* and the supernatural with Mrs Brogan.



STEM Outreach Programme

Our Science and Technology and Design Departments enjoyed welcoming the P6 and P7 pupils of Steelstown Primary School to Thornhill College as part of our STEM Outreach Programme. This event was sponsored by a grant from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Our thanks go to Mr McCloskey, Mrs Rooney, Mrs Scott and Miss Casey for making the event such an enjoyable learning experience for all involved!



Year 8 Drama Costume Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Year 8 Drama Costume Competition. We were delighted by the creativity shown in all the entries.

- First Place: Caragh Conway 8H**
- Second Place: Olivia Sargent 8F**
- Third Place: Hannah Lyttle 8H**



Lunchtime Supervisors Required

Do you enjoy working with young people? Why not join us at Thornhill College! We have vacancies for lunchtime supervisors and are looking for enthusiastic and caring individuals to join our fantastic team! If you are interested, please contact our main office and leave your name and contact details (Tel: 02871355800) or email us your name and contact details to: info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk

