### THORNHILL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Our Year 9 Digital Futures team worked extremely hard preparing for the Grand Final that took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of June as part of the Digital DNA Conference. The students had to deliver their App pitch to a panel of judges and a large audience. The team did extremely well competing against 5 other schools across Northern Ireland and dazzled the judges with their merchandise and 'Find Your Perfect Future' App Prototype. In a great display of determination, enthusiasm, and knowledge our Digital Futures team emerged as the victors being awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and a trip of a lifetime to Silicon Valley, California in September. The students did a fantastic job and truly deserved this amazing prize! Well-done Rose, Jovita, Precious and Natalia!



#### **Find Your Perfect Future** Our Team

you a deeper insight into the experience of careers.

in our app as choosing a career path is a daunting choice.

The aim of our app is to allow students to explore different careers whilst having fun as choosing a career path is a daunting choice. The game will make students more engaged

Programmers: Rose & Jovita **Creative Director: Precious** Designer: Natalia

#### What is FYPF?

The aim of the App

**Commercial Impact** 

Where can F.Y.P.F be used?





KS3 ICT

The month of June has been an extremely busy month with lots of success for our KS3 ICT students and Digital Leaders.

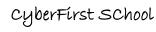






Schools, universities, job centres, post-graduates, apprenticeships, UCAS and CCEA.

We've produced merchandise to promote our app: (@findyourperfectfuture)







Our school has successfully been awarded Silver Status in becoming a CyberFirst School. This will have great benefits for our students by encouraging them to engage with computer science and the application of cyber security in everyday technology and provide opportunities to engage with local and national companies in this field. Our congratulations go to Mrs Sheena Scott (KS3 Digital Lead) for all her work which has been recognised through this award.





### Year 13 Dígítal Leaders



Congratulation to our Year 13 Digital leaders that have successfully qualified as Childnet Digital Leaders by completing their online safety training. They have been busy delivering ICT activities to our junior students. Thank you for all the help and assistance that you have provided this year guiding our KS3 pupils in the world of Digital Technology. Congratulations to our Year 13 Digital Leaders Team!





### Amelía Earhart Competition



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 10 of our Year 9 pupils, accompanied by Miss Casey from the Technology and Design department had the pleasure of participating in the Amelia Earhart Stem Competition, which was held at the University of Ulster, Magee. The students had to a busy day of challenges along with groups from 16 other local schools, activities included model airplane building and design, poster presentation, and formal interview.

A great day was had by all – but it got even better when the Thornhill High Flyers won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall for their effort and bagged a drone for the Technology Department! We are so proud of both teams and their efforts to prepare for this event and absolutely delighted with this wonderful prize. We have been having great fun learning how to fly our new drone (we might need some L plates!).





Team Amelía Aboard





Jovita Biju Aaliyah Pennells Eadaoin Molloy Melete O'Flanagan Kasey Whelan







The Amelia Earhart STEM Challenge











A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.

~Amelia Earhart



Comhghairdeas! Congratulations to our 124 Year 10 students of Irish who passed their Silver Fáinne examination recently and were presented with the 'Fáinne Airgid' at the School Céilí. 10C, 10D, 10F, 10G agus 10H - maith sibh!



Juníor Prefect Team – Water Warríors

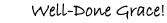


Our Junior Prefect Team recently enjoyed a fantastic day out in the sunshine on the Foyle River with Foyle Sailability as part of the Loughs Agency 'Water Warriors 2023' events. Our thanks go to Mr Emmet McClafferty and Mr Brian McFadden for accompanying the Prefect Team on their adventure!





societies.



Well-done to Grace Mc Ateer 8E who has been a fantastic ambassador for our school through her participation in the Manchester United Female Development Team. Grace has been described by Matthew Lewsley (Foundation Co-ordinator) as a fantastic member of the programme. She has attended every single session of the programme on a Tuesday afternoon since September. Grace recently met Fred the Red the Manchester United mascot when he visited the programme.





We were delighted to welcome students and staff from Davidson

College in the USA who visited Thornhill College as part of their

visit to N. Ireland and investigation into education in divided

Congratulations!

Senior Leadership Pathways



We were delighted to welcome representatives the Education Authority, Mr Brendan McKenna and Mrs Vanessa Goucher to present certificates to 4 of our staff who have successfully completed our in-house Senior Leadership Pathways Course. Well-done to Mrs Moran, Miss Frizelle, Miss Doherty and Mr Morgan.





### Congratulations Sophie!

More fantastic news for our Year 14 student Sophie Parlour who recently won the U19 100m and 200m Northern Ireland and Ulster titles.

Sophie's wins were even more impressive given that she achieved two new personal bests with 12:23s in the 100m and 25:20s in the 200m. What an athlete! Well-done Sophie!



### Retirement of Dr Henry Jeffries (Head of History Department)

On behalf of all within our school community, we want to thank Dr Henry Jefferies for his outstanding service to the school. We are losing one of our longest serving members of staff and what a legacy he is leaving behind. From our unique History textbooks written exclusively for the pupils of Thornhill College, to the countless edited documentaries on all areas of history. We will miss his great sense of humour and quick wit. He has inspired generations of budding historians who were always flabbergasted with his historical knowledge and funny anecdotes. We will all certainly miss Dr Jefferies hugely.

We wish him nothing but happiness, good health and enjoyment in his retirement. The History Department look forward to receiving your updates of your holidays in September. Don't be a stranger Dr Jeffries, you will always be welcome for a coffee, a chat or the odd masterclass for our A-Level History students.





# ": ForSight

### volunteers needed

ForSight is a charity offering funding to groups to provide direct services or clinical research to improve the lives of children and adults in Northern Ireland who are blind or vision impaired.

We have a variety of volunteer roles to choose from:

- Customer service
  assistant
- Stockroom assistant
- Visual merchandiser

To apply email at volunteer@forsightni.co.uk





#### Northwest Schools Swimming Gala



Congratulations to our Year 8, Year 9 / 10 and Year 11 swim teams on their recent success at the Northwest Schools Swimming Gala recently. In the team event our Year 8 Team won overall best school, Year 9/10 came second overall, and our Year 11 team won best overall school.

In the individual events we had a number of successes.

Year 8 Clodagh Quigley - 2<sup>nd</sup> Backstroke Cora Gray - 2<sup>nd</sup> Breaststroke Isla Nash - 1<sup>st</sup> Butterfly Anna Rose McGowan - 2<sup>nd</sup> Freestyle Year 9/10 Amelia Gallagher - 3<sup>rd</sup> Backstroke Kate Strawbridge - 3<sup>rd</sup> Breaststroke Katie Callaghan - 1<sup>st</sup> Butterfly Kaitlin Green - 4<sup>th</sup> Freestyle

Well done to Kaitlin Green (Year 8) who volunteered to compete in the Year 9/10 team at the last minute due to a pupil absence.

Year 11 Maisie Gray - 1<sup>st</sup> Backstroke Ciara Taylor - 1<sup>st</sup> Breaststroke

Taisce McLaren - 1<sup>st</sup> Butterfly Eva Moran - 2<sup>nd</sup> Freestyle



Irísh Schools' Track & Field Success



The track and field season ended on a high in Tullamore on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the Irish Schools' Track and Field Championships. Veronica O'Neill and Sophie Parlour were both crowned All-Ireland Champions in their respective events. Veronica took gold in the senior girls 400m hurdles and Sophie Parlour took gold in the senior girls 100m. A fantastic achievement for both athletes.



The Year 10 relay team put in a season's best performance and placed 4th in the Junior girls relay, missing out in bronze by 0.3 seconds. Team members are Ava Curran, Molly McCullagh, Cara Phillips, Leonelle Atoge and Eireann Dunne (reserve).





Sponsorship Thank You!



The school and in particular the PE department would like to sincerely thank both North-West Plastering and PFS Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors for coming on board and sponsoring our u14 Gaelic and our Cross-Country and Athletic teams new kits this year. It is safe to say the girls loved them! If your business or the business you work for would be interested in sponsoring other activities in our vibrant extracurricular programme, I would be grateful if you would contact me at info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk.

Mr Frank McEldowney Head of Physical Education

thank you





### SPORTS DAY





Our thanks go to the PE Department and all the staff and students who made our Sports Day such a success this year. It was fantastic to see our school community come together for such an enjoyable event at the end of the school year with not only some superb athletics performances but also great fun being had across our novelty events. The perfect way to end a busy school year!

































### SCIPNCE

### Science Fair



The winning project in this year's Science Fair was entitled, 'The Irony of Iron'. The students extracted iron from several different well known breakfast cereals and calculated the percentage composition of the iron. The girls were one of 32 projects from Year 10 that entered the annual competition. Each group decided on a research project which they completed and presented to a panel of judges from education, industry and business. The winning group produced a high standard of scientific research and presented their work in a clear, professional manner to the judges. Their answers displayed an excellent understanding of the work undertaken and they were deserving winners of this year's Science Fair.

Our thanks go to Mr McCloskey for co-ordinating this event, all of the Science teachers for nurturing the Year 10 students through their research projects and of course the wonderful judges on the day who were so generous with the time!











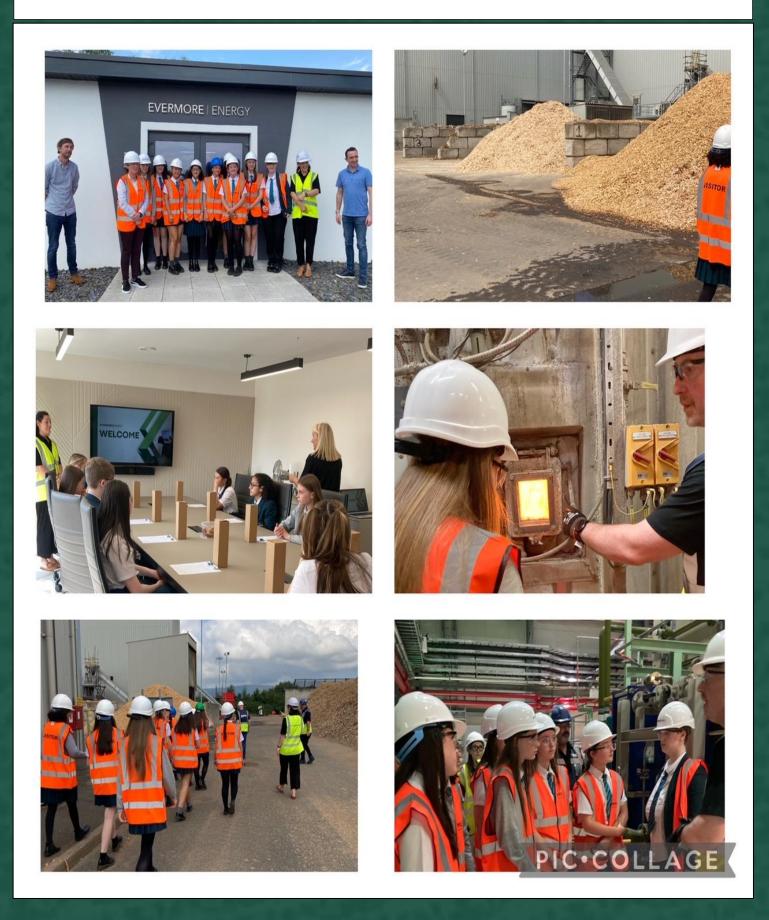
Year 11 Evermore Energy Visit



As part of the IET Open House Week, a group of pupils from the Year 11 Technology and Design class had the opportunity to visit Evermore Energy, which is the largest Biomass Power station in Ireland.

The group enjoyed a presentation by staff on their job roles and a demonstration on how they make electricity.

The group thoroughly enjoyed their behind-the-scenes tour and seeing how the power station made use of waste wood and how no energy is wasted in the production process. Many thanks to Evermore Energy for showing us around.





Congratulations!



Congratulations to the 20 Year 11 students who have completed their Level 2 OCN in Mental Health Awareness for Young People through the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum. To celebrate, the girls were treated to a trip to the bowling alley by the Health Forum for bowls and food. Many thanks to our facilitators, Danielle and Mark for their continued support and encouragement during the programme. The students thoroughly enjoyed the process, not to mention the competitive spirit of the bowling competition! Well done girls on this fantastic achievement.







Many thanks to our Year 11 representatives who volunteered at the Fan the Flame Mass on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June in Celtic Park. You were wonderful ambassadors for our school community ladies! Well done!







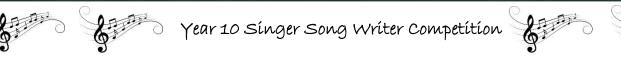












Our congratulations go to the Year 10 students who participated in the Singer Song Writer Competition recently. Special congratulations to Emily Barr, Katie Callaghan, Chloe Crudden, Aine Bryce and Maggie Campbell from 10G who were the winners of the competition. It was wonderful to see such creative and musical talents being showcased!

Our thanks go to the Music Department and all those staff who made the event such a success, including those who performed to the delight of the audience.





### Seamus Heaney HomePlace Summer Events 2023



## Creative Writing for Young Adults (14-18 years old) with Niamh McNally

🛱 17 Jul 2023

Join us on Monday 17th July for a fun and relaxed afternoon of creative writing with Niamh McNally. This workshop is for young adults aged 14-18, and is suitable for writers of all genres as well as those who have not written before.

Niamh McNally is a Belfast-based poet. She completed her MA in Ulster University where she co-created and was a poetry editor for The Paperclip; a student-led, literary publication. Niamh is a workshop facilitator in Seamus Heaney HomePlace and has been published in The Tulsa Review, Tír na nÓg, Capsule Stories, The Galway Review, Snowflake Magazine, Aôthen Magazine, and HOWL: New Irish Writing. Her poetry has featured on the BBC and in two climate crisis films, 'It Seems' and 'Defining Hope'. Niamh's poem 'If Stone Could Speak' was showcased by Bushmills as promotion for The Causeway Collection and her first solo publication 'New Impressions' was published by The John Hewitt Society for the Look North Festival 2023. Twitter @NiamhyMcNally



### Lyric Writing for Young Adults (14-18 years old) with ROE

🛱 7 Aug 2023

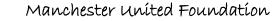


We are delighted to welcome singer-songwriter ROE to Seamus Heaney HomePlace for a two-day lyric writing workshop on 7th and 8th August. Participants will develop their songwriting skills in a relaxed and fun smallgroup workshop. Receive feedback for lyrics you've already written whether complete or just started, or if you're new to songwriting come along and learn how to begin!

Hailing from Derry, ROE left college to travel the world playing festivals and to focus on writing songs that felt grounded. ROE released her debut album 'That's When The Panic Sets In' in September 2022: a truly vibrant release, with rich contrast between ROE's introspective anxieties and the colourful palette that she's thrown across them.

This workshop will take place on 7th and 8th August, 2pm - 5pm. No experience is necessary.







### **Future** Communities **Youth Leadership Development** Programme

Ø Age Group: 8 to 17 Six week program **⊘**3 days per week Ø 10.30am - 3pm

To get involved register at eventbrite.co.uk

02871362184 | 07912295771 nwmf.org.uk info@nwmf.org.uk 10 Fountain Street, Derry/ Londonderry, BT48 6QX



**Starting From** 11 July 2023

Congratulations to our Manchester United Foundation Youth Ambassadors for the commitment they have shown over the course of this last year. These girls met the Mayor recently who presented them with prizes in recognition of all the work they have done over the past year.











Congratulations to all the prize winners in our KS3 End of Year Prize-Giving ceremonies this week. It was wonderful to see the wide range students being recognised for their achievements and fantastic contribution they have made this year to our school community.































### Félicitations aux élèves gagnantes du Spelling Bee!



Our congratulations go to the 6 pupils from year 9 who represented Thornhill College in a Spelling Bee Competition on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June in St. Columb's College. They had stiff competition from Christian Brothers Grammar school, Omagh, Loreto Grammar school, Omagh as well as St. Columb's College. The French team succeeded in winning the overall competition – Félicitations! The team members: Natalia Effirul Ikhwan, 9G, Jovita Biju, 9G and Grace O'Donovan, 9H, thoroughly enjoyed the day out and were awarded Amazon vouchers for taking first place in the competition! Well done to the Spanish team who also performed very well: Maya Ferry 9A, Angelin Thomas 9B and Afrah Khan.

The girls enjoyed integrating with pupils from the other schools and had fun participating in the Ceili and flamenco workshops as well as having the opportunity to learn some greetings in Chinese. We had a fantastic day out. The pupils were inspired by the activities and could see the many advantages of studying a language. Learning a new language is fun and exciting. It also has wonderful benefits at school and in life. We look forward to participating in next year's spelling bee which will be hosted by Loreto Grammar school Omagh and hopefully holding on to the title!





### BELFAST IT GIRLS Summer camp in Cyber Security and E-Sports

belfast met

14th to 16th August 2023 – **E-Sports at E3 Campus** 21st to 23rd August 2023 – **Cyber Security at Castlereagh Campus** 

For girls aged 15 - 18

Time 9:30am to 4pm

#### **Both Courses Are FREE**

Limited spaces available

LEAVING SCHOOL? HAVING A CLEAR OUT? UNIFORM TOO SMALL?

# DO YOUR BIT! UNICYCLE IT!

PLEASE DONATE ANY ITEMS OF UNIFORM THAT NO LONGER FIT BUT ARE STILL IN GOOD CONDITION.

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE WASHED & HANDED INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF TERM

Wishing you all a very happy & relaxing symmer

BRING ON



Pupils finish 11am

Friday 30th June 2023

Congratulations Ava!

Our congratulations go to past pupil and former Head Girl, Ava McGinn who recently gave the keynote address at the Mercy Girl Effect Global Leadership Conference in Philadelphia and received the Mercy Girl Effect Global Leadership Award.