



A Message from Our School Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

I am pleased to announce that we will be producing a regular newsletter in an attempt to work in partnership with you, and keep you informed about life in Thornhill during this extended period of remote learning. This is an opportunity to showcase best practice which is being completed across departments and to celebrate and acknowledge the many wonderful examples of learning that our students are engaging in. As COVID-19 continues to affect us all, it is important to recognise and thank you for all your continued efforts to keep your children engaged in their learning during this challenging time. For those who require additional support school is open daily should you need to contact us about anything. I would ask that you do so through at info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk.

Kindest Regards

Ms Sharon Mallett (Principal)



Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing

As a school community we recognise the importance of giving time over to reflecting on and maintaining our health and wellbeing, especially given the challenges we are facing at present. Therefore, following the Christmas holidays and running up until the mid-term break, each week our school community has been and will continue to focus on one of the 5 steps of wellbeing under the guidance of Ms C. Barr (our Designated Child Protection Teacher).

Last week we focused on the theme of **'Give'** with some outstanding examples from our girls and staff of how they contributed to this theme with thoughtful gestures that made their own and others days that little bit brighter.

While this week we focus on the theme of **'Be Active'** with a Zumba Workout for our girls by local Zumba instructor Emma Lindsay, which has been organised by the P.E. Department. We hope you enjoy it girls!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GEZcFOIKM>



Hollie 10C

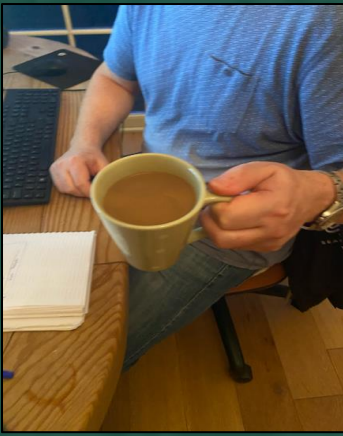


This week while doing my grocery shopping, I bought some extra items to donate to the Foyle Foodbank. Miss C. Stewart



The focus this week was giving. So I gave my sister some help with her homework. Hannah 10B





This week I decided to give back to members of my family as a way of showing how much I love them. Some of the things I did were: making my little brother hot chocolate, making my Dad a cup of coffee after a long hard days work.

Molly 10A



I made scones for my neighbours and they all enjoyed them. Hannah 9B



This week I baked cookies for me and my family. They were super nice and my family loved them! Eoibhlin 8G



Star Artists Gallery



We continue to be amazed by the creative talents of our girls during lockdown. Just take a look at this selection of fantastic pieces of art work from the last week. Well done girls and keep the great work up!!!



Sarah 10B



Lexie 10B



Faye 10B



Lily Mai 10B



Lucie 10C



Cassie 10C



Isabelle 9B



Naomh 9B



Phoebe 9A



Roise 9C



Kayla 9B

1 hour 37mins
Kayla



Ava Roddy 9A
Time taken = 1hr 30 minutes

A Key Stage 3 update

On behalf of the Junior School Pastoral Team, I want to pay tribute to the parents, carers, pupils and staff who have plotted a course through the most difficult of times over the past year. We have all been in awe of your children, they have helped us smile and keep going, even during these challenging times.

Our Year 8's made their way into Thornhill College after leaving their primary schools without the usual parties, shirt signings and school trips that they would have been entitled to. With a whole new vocabulary including words like, 'bubbles' 'self-isolating' 'quarantine' and 'sanitising' our Junior School pupils navigated through the early days of the first term. Undaunted, they made friends, adapted to the new way of working and excelled in their new environment. They continue to engage in their learning full of purpose, curiosity and good humour.

Mercy Day saw the planting of bulbs by the Year 8's, reminding us all that better days will come to life in the months ahead. While our Year 14s took the opportunity at Christmas time to welcome the Year 8's to our school community and connected with them by writing a personal Christmas card to each girl.

Six of our junior school pupils were selected to become part of the partnership between **Ulster University and the Manchester United Foundation**. They embarked on 3 of the Manchester United Education Academy's latest initiatives: Unified Football, After School Football & The Youth Ambassador project.

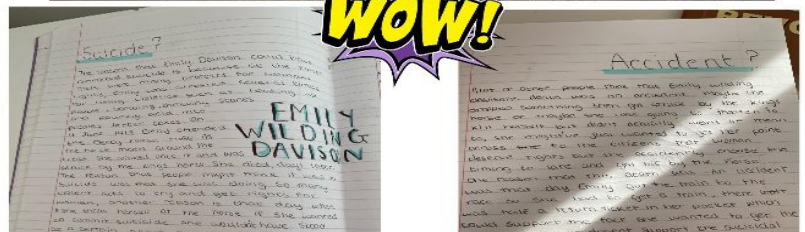
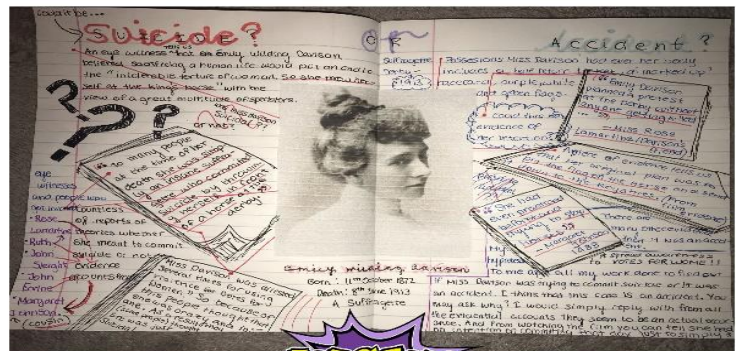
The **Junior Prefect Team** were elected and announced before Christmas and they are now taking up their leadership roles full of hope and enthusiasm. They will endeavour to fund raise for local charities, care for the Junior School Pupils and to make their own mark in Thornhill's history.

Mrs L. Walls (Head of Junior School)



Examples of Excellence in History

Story board on Columbus' discovery of America by Maria 8A.



Examples of Excellence in History







Year 10 crime boards on Emily Davison's death from Emily and Lily 10G. Was Emily's death a deliberate act of martyrdom or a tragic accident?

Counselling

A reminder that Counselling services still remain available during lockdown through Family Works. Referrals can be made by contacting your Form Teacher.



Places to Access Reading Materials for Free!

 <p>https://www.librariesni.org.uk/ Novels, Non-Fiction, Magazines etc. (can be used with the Libby or Overdrive App) *BEST OPTION*</p>	 <p>iBooks App- plenty of classics on here for free!</p>	 <p>https://www.amazon.co.uk/kindle-direct-us Some free classic stories and others on Kindle App (more options if you have Amazon Prime).</p>
 <p>https://stories.audible.com/start-listen Audible by Amazon offering free audio books for children</p>	 <p>Marvel / DC Comics "Free Comics" Section on Android and Apple Devices</p>	 <p>https://manybooks.net/ 50,000 eBooks with a free account</p>
 <p>https://www.storynory.com/ Stories and Audiobooks for children</p>	 <p>https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/ Free eBook library</p>	 <p>Happy Reading!</p>

A Key Stage 4 update

We would like to congratulate the girls in Middle School for all they have contributed to their year group and to the life of the school this year.

Year 11 have adapted very well this year. The girls have taken the big step up from Junior School and are well established Middle School girls now at this stage. They have settled in as one big happy family in their new 'protective bubble' in the Art corridor and despite the social distance and remote learning at present there is a strong sense of community within the year group.

Promoting positive mental health has been a focus in the Pastoral Programme and we are delighted to see Year 11 Form Classes work together and share virtual assemblies on themes such as building resilience, anti-bullying and diversity. We look forward to seeing the girls engage in our 5 Ways of Wellbeing over the coming weeks.

We are all so impressed by the girls and they must be commended on their efforts, their support to each other and the grace and maturity they have shown this year. We appreciate and value the support of parents especially at this time of transition to a new Key Stage and we look forward to working with you as your daughter progresses through Key Stage 4.

Year 12 have settled very well and it could be said they have 'hit the ground running' this year. They have adapted well to the challenges of new procedures and the health and safety measures that have been put in place in their new Learning Zone. Now, during remote learning, the girls continue to link together as a year group and connect with their Form Teachers and Subject Teachers with enthusiasm. Their commitment to their work never fails to impress us. Generous as always, in addition to the whole school contributions to the HANDS Christmas appeal, Year 12 also donated money to local charities of their choice.

We had the pleasure of announcing our new Middle School Prefect team before Christmas who will take on the important role of Digital Leaders for the future. They will act as representatives for Middle School and we look forward to their contribution to our planning from the pupil perspective.

Year 12 will make subject choices for A Level this term and every girl in Year 12 will, by the end of March, have had the opportunity of an interview with the Careers Advisor in order to ensure that she makes the best possible choices for the future. The Head of Careers has provided a tailored Post 16 Careers programme which started in September and Year 12 Form Teachers will continue to deliver this remotely this term.

We hope that that this year is as positive an experience as it can be for girls in Middle School in adapting to the 'new normal'. We wish you all the best for the term ahead and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Mrs F. Kearney (Head of Middle School)



A Key Stage 5 Update

As we have now completed a full week of online learning, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of Year 13 and 14 on the fantastic start you have made to the new year despite the difficult circumstances we are facing.

By all accounts, the level of effort and engagement with your subject teachers is very high and you have shown a great sense of maturity by taking responsibility for attendance and participation in your Teams lessons and for ensuring that assignments are completed to the best of your ability.

The uncertainty surrounding exams that we experienced in March of last year is back with us but I'm sure that CCEA are working hard to provide us with some certainty in the coming weeks. We will continue to use our Year Group Google Classrooms to keep you informed of any developments and to reassure you about what lies ahead.

Ms Auld and Mrs O'Donnell have already encouraged you to keep communicating with your teachers and I want to repeat the message that we are all here should you need us whether it's a subject specific issue or a health and wellbeing issue that could be preventing you from working to your full potential. No matter what, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Congratulations to the Year 14 's on the completion of your UCAS university applications. I know it will be a big relief for you all to have got these completed and we wish you well with any upcoming interviews you may have in the weeks ahead. Our Careers Department will continue to offer support to you all with mock interviews for example as you proceed through your applications. A gentle reminder for those of you considering making an application through CAO to the universities and colleges in the Rep. of Ireland the deadline is 1st February.

Take care everyone and keep up the great effort!

Mr D. McCay (Head of Senior School)



ParentingNI

Supporting Parents of Teenagers

Being a parent of a teenager can be challenging, especially now with Covid-19. Parenting NI through funding sourced from the Community Foundation New Need Fund are providing the following **FREE ONLINE** sessions for **PARENTS**

Supporting Teenagers Emotional Health
~Wed 10th Feb ~ 7-8pm

Supporting Teenagers with their Body Image
~Wed 17th Feb ~ 7-8pm

Reducing Conflict in the Home
~Wed 24th Feb ~ 7-8pm

Reducing Risk Taking Behaviour
~Wed 3rd March ~ 7-8pm

Promoting Teenagers Resilience
~Wed 10th March ~ 7-8pm

To register: <http://bit.ly/PNIevents>

END RACISM

SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION

We are looking for students (aged 14-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

'LET'S CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM'

The winning entries will be published in the *Far East* magazine and online on Columban websites in Ireland and Britain and shared on Columban social media.

This is a chance to engage with an issue that addresses equality, justice, inclusion and also draws on faith and personal experience.

PRINT PRIZES	IMAGE PRIZES
1st €300	1st €300
2 nd €150 • 3 rd €100	2 nd €150 • 3 rd €100

THE COMPETITION IS BEING LAUNCHED ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2020

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2021

For more information on entry guidelines see: www.columbancompetition.com or email hello@columbancompetition.com

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

parentingni.org

CYPSP
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

THANK YOU!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our friends at Greater Shantallow Area Partnership for their kind donation of laptops. This has been most helpful in supporting our pupils during periods of remote learning.



Our New Prefect Teams

Our congratulations go to our new Junior, Middle and Senior Prefect Teams which were elected last term. We wish all these girls the very best of luck with the responsibilities of their new positions and we look forward to working with them on a variety of areas of school life in the months ahead.

Our Junior Prefect Team

Eliie Owen & Beth Tinney (10A), Sarah Drinan & Hannah Wade (10B), Emily Campbell & Aoibhe Mc Daid Nelis (10C), Grace Doherty & Sinead Moore (10D), Ella Mc Geady & Maebh Coyle (10E), Aimee Doherty & Ellie Halpin (10F), Sosaidh Moore & Ella Wade (10G) and Ellie Vafias & Anna Morrison (10H).

Junior Head Girl – Beth Tinney

Deputy Junior Head Girls – Aoibhe McDaid Nelis & Hannah Wade

Our Middle Prefect Team

Orlaith McCorrison & Madeeha Mohammed (12A), Caitlin McClelland & Beth Gillespie (12B), Abbie Carlin & Mary Kate Graham (12C), Laura McElhinney & Zara Lamberton (12D), Trinity McKeever & Neala McShane (12E), Sophia Byrne & Caoimhe O’Kane (12F), Sophie Parlour & Charlotte McLaughlin (12G), Aoife Sargent & Kate McCloskey (12H) and Katie McWilliams & Sophie Flynn Page (12J).

Middle School Head Girl – Trinity McKeever



Our Senior Prefect Team

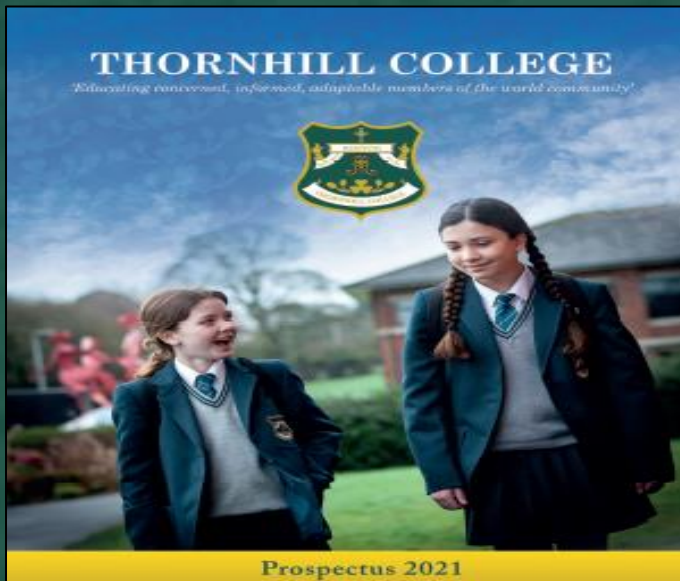
Head Girl – Taylor Brown



Deputy Head Girls – Marta Cunningham, Grace Flynn-Page, Miya O’Brien & Ruby Sturgeon

Coming Soon...!

Keep an eye out for our new prospectus which will be available soon on our school website!



ICT Reminder

Pupils can reset an expired C2k password from home by using the link below. However you will need to know your old password:
<http://services.c2kni.net/ums/>

If a pupil does not know their old password and needs help, send an email from a parents / carers account to the school info account:
info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk