



THORNHILL COLLEGE

'Educating concerned, informed, adaptable members of the world community'



Prospectus 2023

A young woman with long brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a school uniform consisting of a dark blue blazer, a grey V-neck sweater, a white collared shirt, and a blue and yellow striped tie. She is holding a large, light-colored wooden cross in front of her. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a school hallway or library.

School Prayer

Lord, I give you praise and thanks
at the beginning of this new day
for all the blessings I have received in my life.
Lead me to live fully in the present moment and
enjoy all that is good around me.
Help me to live our school motto,
“Thy Kingdom Come”,
and because you are with me,
let me see you in all those I meet today.

I ask you to bless anyone in our community who is
worried or in need of help.
Teach me to show your concern and care for others.
Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us.
Amen

Welcome to Thornhill College

For over ninety years Thornhill College has been educating young ladies in Derry City and beyond. We guarantee that our newest intake will be provided with the same wonderful educational experience that was provided to the original cohort in 1932.

We are a college renowned for academic excellence and want to promote the holistic development of all our pupils from Year 8 until the threshold of young adulthood. This involves their emotional, social, physical and spiritual development.

Our Mercy Ethos permeates all aspects of school life where a welcoming, inclusive and nurturing environment will provide a multitude of opportunities to enable your daughters to be the very best they can and realise their true potential. As a listening school we value the partnership we have with parents, as we aspire to facilitate the best learning experience for each child as they embark on their seven-year journey with us.

We are a community which recognises the uniqueness and individuality of each pupil in our care and will promote the many gifts and talents of all. The welfare of every girl is paramount to everything we do as in Thornhill College we want every pupil to be happy and to develop meaningful relationships. Promoting emotional resilience and well-being will equip pupils with skills for life so that their aspirations for their future, can be a vision that becomes, one day, a reality.

We are very proud of our school and our pupils and look forward to showcasing what Thornhill College has to offer when you visit on our Open Day from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Thursday 26th January, 2023.

I would ask that you visit our school website and watch our promotional video which will introduce you to the essence and ethos of our school.

Principal
Ms Sharon Mallett



A Welcoming School

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is such an important decision and one that takes much thought and deliberation. So why should you consider Thornhill College?

We are proud to say that we offer excellent teaching, outstanding achievements, and fabulous facilities. Pupils and staff work together in an environment which is conducive to enjoyable and relevant learning.

Our school aims to educate girls to live confidently, become women of vision, hope and compassion whilst maximising their individual learning potential. We place an emphasis on the attainment of high academic standards, alongside seeking to establish clear moral and spiritual guidelines for all our students.

Making the Transition

In Thornhill College we endeavour to make the transition from primary to secondary level education as smooth as possible for both parents and children alike. Our induction programme has been designed to be an enjoyable and informative experience for all and to ensure that every girl settles into her new school with ease.

Our commitments to you



**The care and welfare
of all central to our
planning**



**A continued
focus on academic
excellence**



**Clear and regular
communication to help
parents/carers stay engaged,
informed and connected**



**High expectations
from all for all**



Thornhill College Past Pupils #YouCanToo



Thornhill College Past Pupils



She became an
occupational therapist
Megan Divin

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College Past Pupils



She became
a soprano
Margaret Keys

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College Past Pupils



She became an actress,
producer and
New York Times
Best-selling Author.
Roma Downey

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College Past Pupils



She became
a podiatrist
Sarah Black

#YouCanToo

Head Girl

Hello to you all.

My name is Emma Corns, the current Head Girl of our wonderful school and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to you as you embark on this exciting journey into secondary education.

I can vividly remember myself being in your shoes just seven years ago, about to enter a new chapter in my life, slightly uncertain yet optimistic at what the future would hold. Some of you may be feeling the same emotions as I did at that time but let me assure you the choice I made when I chose Thornhill College was certainly the correct one. Coming from a tiny primary school of just 75 pupils to what felt like an enormous building with hundreds of pupils and staff was a daunting prospect! However, it was made all the easier as I immediately found Thornhill College to be a very nurturing and caring environment and I settled in quite quickly.

Being a Thornhill Girl and a member of our school family, not only provides you with the tools and facilities for you to thrive academically, but our dedicated staff allow us to blossom as individuals in an environment centred around pastoral care and support. Our school offers an opportunity for each pupil to dream big, reach their full potential and be celebrated in their successes in their chosen field whatever that might be!

Much like you I am about to move into a new and exciting chapter in my life. Therefore, I look back at the past seven years with a huge smile on my face, a sense of sadness in my heart that my days at Thornhill College are almost at an end and gratitude for all the memories that I will cherish throughout my life. I look back at my younger self who made the decision to come to this school and thank her for making the perfect choice. Our school has made me who am I today - a capable, confident student and a caring member of society.

I wish you all every luck and blessing as you make this next step in your education, and on behalf of the school community we cannot wait to welcome you with open arms and open hearts as you too become proud Thornhill Girls.

Emma





Year 8 30 Seconds of Me

Johanna



Saorla



Starla



Kaitlin



Scan the QR codes above to listen to our Year 8 students

A School of Faith

As a Catholic school, we understand that parental preference for Thornhill College implies a commitment to the school's Christian ethos and to the Religious Education programme provided in this college. However, the school welcomes pupils from other faith traditions and will make the necessary arrangements to accommodate a person's faith commitment.

Grounded in the Mercy tradition of education, we see religious faith and practice as something which is an integral part of the whole school experience of our students and we aim to foster and promote faith development throughout the entire curriculum and school community.

We are privileged in Thornhill College to have a beautiful Oratory located in the heart of the school building. The Oratory is used for Mass and services for class groups or simply a quiet space where students can go to reflect, pray or just take time to be quiet in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



A Caring School

In Thornhill College we are committed to providing outstanding Pastoral Care. The welfare of each girl is central to everything we do. Placing considerable importance on the well-being of our pupils is fully integrated into our daily routines, curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It permeates all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of staff.

We operate a Year Group system within three schools - Junior School (Years 8-10) Middle School (Years 11-12) and Senior School (Years 13-14).

We strive to provide a system of wraparound care and so each form class is cared for by their Form Teacher, Head of Year and Head of School.

We have a dedicated safeguarding team including a designated teacher for child protection who works closely with our staff and a range of agencies and counsellors to support the well-being of our pupils. Our safeguarding ethos is visible throughout the school.





Cuan is our nurture room – a beautiful space tucked away in the Art Department of Thornhill College. The name *Cuan* was carefully chosen by our Irish Department, and translates to mean *Haven* a place of safety, tranquillity and peacefulness. These are evident in its many features, including the gentle mood lighting, relaxing soft furnishings and nature-themed feature wall.

Our nurture room is a safe, confidential and comfortable environment where students can give time to addressing their social, emotional and behavioural needs. It is only natural that students may experience on 'off-day' throughout teenage years, and to have such a dedicated space to escape to and know that the option of stepping back from our everyday chaos within the school grounds is heart-warming. We are very proud to say Thornhill is destigmatising mental health.

While staff and students can visit Cuan and take up to 15 minutes out of a busy day to relieve stress and worries our Mindful Moments Programme has its base in Cuan. This is a bespoke, personalised programme that has been created and delivered by a meditation facilitator for the students of Thornhill College. In the fast paced, ever-changing world that can surround everyday life, our students are provided with a unique opportunity to unwind in Cuan and to explore, learn and develop a range of self-care and soothing techniques including meditation, breathing and yoga which they can draw upon when needed.



Wellness Ambassadors

Our Wellness Ambassadors are a proactive and passionate group of pupils whose aim is to promote positive mental health amongst our school community. The group organise events throughout the school year to raise awareness of mental well-being. These students give their time freely and are fantastic role models for our pupils. Leading by example and designing informative resources they aim to share practical advice and support to help educate and inform others.



Staying Connected

Communication between pupils, parents and teachers is an integral part of our school practice and we do this in a number of ways.

Student Planner

The individual planner will be used by all pupils to record homework, receive comments from teachers and to ensure that there are clear lines of communication between home and school. The daybook should be regularly monitored by form teachers and parents/guardians are required to sign it weekly.



Monthly Newsletter

Each month a vibrant and informative newsletter is shared with pupils, parents/carers and staff. It is used to showcase the wonderful talents and work of our school community whilst also celebrating the outstanding achievements of individual pupils and groups.



Thornhill College App

SIMS App is used as another method to communicate with pupils and parents. Information and notices are posted regularly via the app to keep everyone up to date with all areas of school life. Pupil progress reports which are communicated at various stages throughout the year can also be accessed through the app.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

We recognise that parents play an active role in their child's education and welcome the opportunity to meet personally with parents/carers to discuss their child's progress.



Social Media

Social Media -We use Twitter and Instagram as a means to keep our school community informed about events and to acknowledge the daily achievements of our students. Many departments and pastoral areas also have their own accounts to share the outstanding work that pupils are engaging in.



Follow us
@ThornhillDerry

Our School Day

TIME	LESSON
9.15 – 9.25	REGISTRATION
9.25 – 10.00	1st Lesson
10.00 – 10.35	2nd Lesson
10.35 – 11.10	3rd Lesson
11.10 – 11.25	BREAK
11.25 – 12.00	4th Lesson
12.00 – 12.35	5th Lesson
12.35 – 1.10	6th Lesson/ 1st Lunch 12.35 – 1.20
1.20 – 1.55	7th Lesson/ 2nd Lunch 1.10 – 1.55
1.55 – 2.30	8th Lesson
2.30 – 3.05	9th Lesson
3.05 – 3.40	10th Lesson

School Rules



Ready

I will be punctual for all lessons, fully equipped and ready to learn. I will be prepared to meet targets and deadlines.



Responsible

I will take full responsibility for my behaviour and actions and be responsible for my own learning.



Respectful

I will be courteous and polite to all staff, peers and visitors. I will show respect and consideration for our school environment. I will be tolerant of the views, beliefs and cultures of others.



Reliable

I will be dependable and reliable. I will wear the correct uniform and represent my school with pride on all occasions.



Resilient

I will always do my best and embrace challenges. I will learn from my mistakes and be the best person I can be.

Uniform

Our uniform helps pupils identify with the school and assists in creating a sense of community. The importance of pupils presenting themselves well cannot be over emphasised and we encourage the girls to wear their uniform with pride.

School Uniform

Green pleated skirt
Black straight leg trousers
White blouse
School tie
Green blazer
Grey jumper with striped neckband
Strong, plain black leather flat-heeled shoes
Silver grey knee-length socks or plain black tights

Suppliers

Max Fashions 44-46 Waterloo Street 71373818

Select Kidz 53 Spencer Road 71313344

PE Uniform

Green T-shirt
Plain black leggings
White socks
Green and black half zip
(optional)
Official stockists
MFC Sports
(A link will be sent at a later date for purchasing of PE uniform)





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
an astrophysicist

Dr Erin Higgins

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



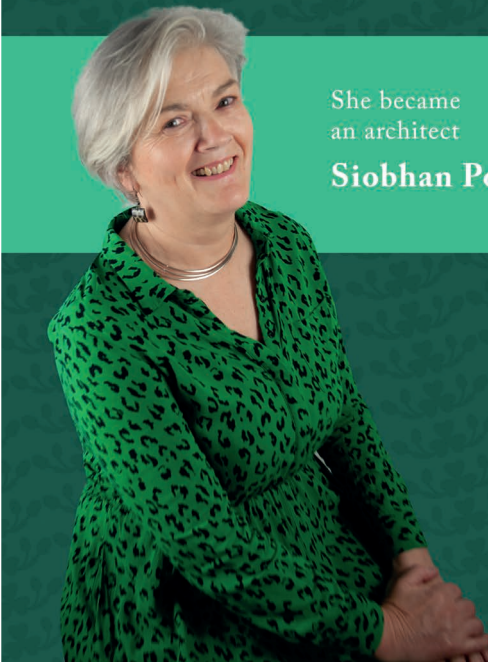
She became
senior corporate
counsel

Rachael McChrystal

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became
an architect

Siobhan Porter

#YouCanToo



Rewarding Excellence

In Thornhill College we strive to model positive behaviours and build strong relationships. We encourage students to demonstrate high standards of respect, co-operation and organisation in both their behaviours and academic work. To that end we are committed to recognising and rewarding their motivation, efforts and achievements. Pupils are recognised and rewarded in the following ways:

- Junior School Reward Steps
- Personal acknowledgement
- Oral and written feedback
- Displays of work
- Sharing of work with parents/carers
- Positive comments
- Certificates
- Postcards
- Personalised letters home
- Positive phone calls
- Pastoral/subject noticeboards
- Attendance awards
- Appointment to posts of responsibility
- School website
- School Twitter account
- Nomination for participation in prestigious competitions and projects
- Achievements celebrated in assembly
- Local media coverage
- Prize-Giving ceremonies

At Key Stage 3 a structured reward system is in place called **Junior School Reward Steps**. Pupils have the opportunity to gain points for a wide range of categories including excellence in class, charitable endeavours, courtesy and kindness. We believe that every student should receive recognition and reward as they progress through the year.



Junior School

Reward Steps

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 Day Book

Curriculum Across all Key Stages



- Art & Design
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Drama
- Employability
- English
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- French
- Irish
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development & Social Education
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology & Design



- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Communication Systems
- Careers Programme
- Chemistry
- Child Development
- Digital Technology
- Double & Triple Award Science
- Drama
- English Language
- English Literature
- Food and Nutrition
- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- History
- Irish
- Learning for Life and Work
- Maths
- Music



- Applied Health & Social Care (Single and Double Award)
- Applied Life & Health Sciences (Double Award)
- Art & Design
- Biology
- BTEC ICT
- Business Studies
- Professional Business Services
- Careers Programme
- Chemistry
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Digital Technology
- English Literature
- Enrichment
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- History



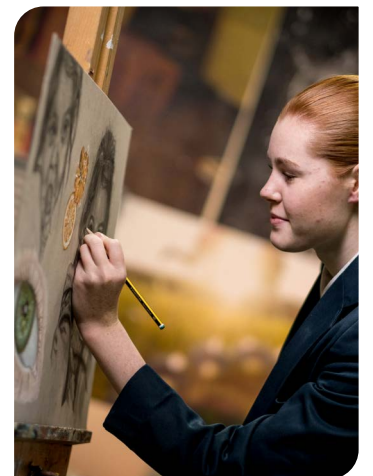
- Personal Development and Social Education
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Religious Education
- Spanish
- Statistics
- Technology and Design



- French
- Irish
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology

- Religious Education
- Statistics
- BTEC Travel & Tourism

Other subjects can also be accessed through the Foyle Learning Community. Further information about curriculum provision is available from the school on request.



A Successful School

In Thornhill College we believe it is important that our students are provided with opportunities to “Live Life to The Full” and to celebrate all of their achievements. Our students and staff work hard to achieve high outcomes in all aspects of school life.

GCSE Percentage of Pupils achieving 7+ Grades A*-C including Maths and English		
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
98%	98.5%	98.5%

Percentage of Pupils Achieving Grades A*-C	
7 or more	5 or more
99%	100%



Outcomes

“Pupils continue to achieve very high outcomes in public examinations at key stage 4 and post-16.” ETI

YEAR 12 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2020			
Subject	%A*-B	%A*-C	%A*-E
Art & Design	95	100	100
Biology	94.4	100	100
Business Communication Systems	85	100	100
Chemistry	88.9	100	100
Child Development	86.2	100	100
Design and Technology	71.4	100	100
Digital Technology	83.3	100	100
Double Award Science	66.8	98.9	100
Drama	90.9	100	100
English Language	78.4	100	100
English Literature	92.1	100	100
Food and Nutrition	76.9	100	100
French	71.4	100	100
Further Mathematics	86.2	100	100
Geography	91.1	98.2	100
History	77.4	96.4	100
Irish	96.4	100	100
Learning for Life & Work	97.1	100	100
Mathematics	93.6	100	100
Music	95.5	100	100
Physical Education	93.8	100	100
Physics	94.4	100	100
Religious Studies	84.7	97.5	100
Spanish	78.5	100	100
Statistics	83.3	95.8	100
Total	83.2	99.3	100



A Level Percentage of Pupils achieving grades A* - C

3+ A Levels at Grades A*-C	2+ A Levels at Grades A*-E
89%	99%

YEAR 14 A LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2020

Subject	%A*B	%A*C	%A*E
Art & Design	100	100	100
Biology	73.5	92.6	100
Chemistry	62	82	100
Digital Technology	54.5	72.7	100
Drama	100	100	100
English Literature	78.3	100	100
Geography	86.4	100	100
Government & Politics	80.8	96.2	100
Health & Social Care	97	100	100
Health & Social Care (DA)	76	90	100
History	72.4	82.8	100
Irish	100	100	100
Life & Health Sciences (DA)	70	93.3	100
Mathematics	84.8	84.8	100
Mathematics Further	100	100	100
Music	83.3	100	100
Physics	47.6	71.4	90.5
Professional Business Services	68.4	100	100
Psychology	50	70	100
Religious Studies	69.2	87.1	100
Spanish	100	100	100
Sport/PE Studies	94.1	100	100
Travel & Tourism	60	100	100
Total	75.2	89.7	99.7

THORNHILL COLLEGE

SENIOR PREFECT TEAM 2022-2023



Head Girl
Emma Corns



Deputy Head Girl - Middle School Coordinator
Benita Biju



Deputy Head Girl - Junior School Coordinator
Abbie Carlin



Deputy Head Girl
Aoife Sargent



Deputy Head Girl
Sadie Sturgeon



Deputy Head Girl
Georgia Donnelly



Deputy Head Girl
Trinity McKeever



Leading The Way

Our students contribute to school life by leading in various capacities. This can include as Class, Junior, Middle and Senior Prefects, Digital Leaders, Librarians, Wellness Ambassadors, Eco Prefects, Student Council Representatives, Sports Ambassadors, Anti-bullying Ambassadors, Young Entrepreneurs, Mercy and St Paul Ambassadors to name a few.

A range of programmes supported by external organisations also provide unique opportunities for our students to participate in a variety of experiences beyond the curriculum and in their own specific areas of interest.



Debating Society



Anti-bullying Ambassadors



Mercy Ambassadors



A Supportive School

Thornhill College strives to achieve a fully inclusive learning environment to allow all pupils to make outstanding progress. We have a holistic approach to learning to ensure each pupil has access to the full curriculum and facilities. We understand that each pupil is unique and our Learning Support Team work tirelessly to adopt a personalised approach to support pupils in a wide variety of settings. We work closely with pupils, staff and parents to provide additional support when needed.

SEN provision is a key priority in Thornhill College and is embedded in all teaching and learning. The learning experience is further enhanced through our tailored Learning Support lessons which provide an opportunity for Key Stage 3 pupils to develop Literacy and Numeracy skills. Any pupils that are identified as needing extra support can avail of these lessons.

We liaise with a variety of external agencies to cater for the needs of all pupils so they can access any additional support that may be required.

Our aim is to support all pupils across the Key Stages so that they have the most enjoyable learning experience here at Thornhill College.

The **SEN** department plays a central role in identifying, testing and monitoring students who may require additional support to achieve their true potential.



Fabulous Facilities

In Thornhill College we are truly blessed to have such outstanding facilities to enhance the educational experience of our pupils. Many of these are used as part of our extra-curricular provision too.

These include:

- ICT suites
- Oratory
- Cuan Nurture Room
- Library
- Homework club
- Music practice rooms
- Stationery shop
- Lecture theatre
- Green room
- Multi-sports hall
- Gymnasium
- Fitness suite
- Athletics track
- Pitches for gaelic, football and hockey
- Tennis and netball courts
- Cross country running area



Extra-curricular activities

A wide range of activities and clubs are available to students in Thornhill College and at the start of the academic year we encourage every year 8 girl to take part in at least one of these. Each year this list is updated to take account of the interests of our students.

Getting involved in activities either at lunchtimes or after school is a great way to meet new people, enjoy an activity they are interested in or to take up a new interest. Engaging in extra-curricular activities not only broadens pupil perspectives but also assists them to strike a healthy work/life balance.





A Local School - A Global School

Thornhill College is not only in itself a thriving community, but we are also actively involved in our local and indeed wider global community.

As an Eco-Schools Award winner our school has undertaken several key initiatives aiming to make environmental awareness and action for sustainable development an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of our school community. One initiative, which was undertaken by our Eco Prefects, was an awareness campaign which encouraged our school community to take part in Earth Hour in March by switching off their lights and digital devices for an hour.

Over the years Thornhill College has established excellent working relationships with local, national and global organisations and businesses. This has afforded our young people the opportunity to work alongside and learn from some of the leading thinkers and practitioners in their fields.

CLASS OF 2022

Leaver Destinations



- Aberdeen University
- Aberystwyth University
- Amherst College (USA)
- Arts University Bournemouth
- Barcelona College of Chiropractic
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Cardiff University
- Gap Year
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Liverpool Hope University
- Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Northumbria University
- North West Regional College
- Queen Margaret University
- Queens University, Belfast
- Sheffield Hallam University
- St Mary's College Belfast
- Trinity College, Dublin
- University of Bath
- University of Chichester
- University of Glasgow
- University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- University of Hull
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Salford
- Ulster University
- University of West England

Past Pupil Ava McGinn

Class of 2022

Although almost seven years ago, I remember that exact feeling of nervous energy surrounding your secondary school decision; questioning future friendships, subject challenges, whether you'll make the bus in the mornings! Choosing a secondary school is a daunting task as you think about launching into new environments and experiences, and we are truly blessed to be surrounded by the many soft landings of schools across the city and beyond.

When reflecting on my time at Thornhill College, it fills me with a great sense of gratitude and pride. I entered as a young teenager drowning in both my own nerves and uniform and left as a mature young woman equipped to take on university life. The endless opportunities are designed to nurture your qualities and make them stronger. I've watched my maturity strengthen from a girl who once refrained from speaking aloud in class to delivering my final Senior Head Girl address this year. I've witnessed my confidence soar from a girl who performed on her primary school stage to winning the title of BBC School Choir of the Year as a member of the Thornhill Chamber Choir. I've felt my passion for education strengthen from a girl who didn't know the opportunities possible to continuing my studies as a psychology undergraduate at the University of Bath.

Thornhill College educates young women for life, encourages young women to be confident, and equips young women to fulfil their potential. The school community is strongly rooted in its Mercy Ethos, evident in the invaluable friendship bonds developed with pupils, staff and parents, and the strong pastoral and academic support network surrounding each pupil. Not only are pupils provided with support from their form teachers

and year heads, but they are equally encouraged to support one another, for example through the wellness ambassador and prefect teams. The school strives to uphold a balance between academics, health and fun as demonstrated through the annual Christmas show and the 2017 colour run, a personal highlight of mine!

Now it is your turn to begin the secondary school adventure and I promise - you are ready. The staff and student friendships, the continuous academic support, the precious experiences all have culminated in the happiness that I experience today. Be proud of yourself, be excited, and get involved; this adventure is for you to decide, make it your own and Thornhill College will be delighted to nurture it and welcome you.



Ava McGinn





Admissions Criteria September 2023

THORNHILL COLLEGE

142 Culmore Road, Londonderry BT48 8JF

Tel No: 028 7135 5800

Fax No: 028 7135 3311

E-mail: info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk

Web: www.thornhillcollege.org.uk

Principal: Ms S Mallett BSSc, MSc, MSc, PGDFHE, PQH

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs Siobhan Porter BArch, DipArch

Girls Age Range: 11 – 18

Admissions Number: 200

Enrolment Number: 1410

Roll Number: 1402

Open Night

Thursday 26 January 2023 - 3.30pm – 5.30pm Principal's Address - 4.30pm

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMING THORNHILL COLLEGE AS A PREFERENCE ON YOUR CHILD'S TRANSFER FORM.

Entrance Test Results

The Board of Governors has determined that admission to Thornhill College in 2023 will be by an Entrance Test. All girls who wish to be considered for admission are advised to sit English and Mathematics tests administered by GL Entrance Assessment on Saturday 12 November 2022 or the supplementary GL Entrance Assessment on Saturday 10 December 2022. Any girl can choose to sit the test in the most convenient venue offering the GL Entrance Assessment Test.

WHEN CONSIDERING WHICH CHILDREN SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WILL ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFORMATION WHICH IS DETAILED ON OR SUBMITTED WITH THE ONLINE TRANSFER FORM. PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST THEREFORE ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEIR CHILD AND RELEVANT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS CRITERIA IS STATED ON THE ONLINE TRANSFER FORM BEFORE THE ONLINE PORTAL APPLICATION DEADLINE AT 4.00PM ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023.

Please ensure that you provide the following information on/with your child's Online Transfer Form:

1. The grade achieved in the GL Entrance

Assessment Test i.e. A, B1, B2, C1, C2, D must be recorded in the Additional Information section of the Online Transfer Form.

2. A copy of the Statement of Results issued by the Assessment Centre must be submitted with your child's Online Transfer Form.

Special Circumstances

Any parent/guardian claiming Special Circumstances must complete the documentation in the Special Circumstances Pack available from Thornhill College or from the College website. An initial notification of a claim for Special Circumstances must be made by 2.00 pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022 (time being of the essence), using the appropriate form available from the College. This documentation, Form SC1, together with the appropriate independent evidence which corroborates the Special Circumstances, must be submitted with the Online Transfer Application Form. Any claims for Special Circumstances received after that will be considered out of time and will not be considered.

Special Provision

For those pupils currently in P7 in primary schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provision must be made on Form SP1 which is available from Thornhill College or the College website at www.thornhillcollege.org.uk. Parents/Guardians wishing to claim Special Provision must forward a copy of Form SP1 directly to Thornhill College by 2.00 pm

on Friday 17 February 2023 in addition to the Online Transfer Application Form. If a child is moving/arrives in Northern Ireland after this date, claims for Special Provision must be made directly to Thornhill College and the EA School Admissions Office notified.

N.B. If you are applying for Special Circumstances or Special Provision, relevant information is continued overleaf.

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2023

The results of the tests will be ranked by GL Entrance Assessment as follows: A, B1, B2, C1, C2 and D.

- 1 Applicants will be admitted in grade order of priority beginning with grade A and followed by grades B1, B2, C1, C2 and D.
Or
Applicants for whom Special Circumstances/ Special Provision have been accepted by the

authorised Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors and who are deemed to be of comparable ability to those being considered within the relevant Grade boundary.

2 If there are more applicants with a particular grade than places remaining, then the available places will be allocated by the application of the following sub-criteria in the order of priority set down below:

(i) Applicants who, at the date of application, have a child of the family* currently enrolled at the College or who will be in the coming year.

(ii) Applicants who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible** to apply for admission to the College.

*Child of the family as defined in DENI Circular 2022/15. The Department considers that “child of the family” covers:

- a child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership;
- a child born to a co-habiting couple;
- a child born to a single parent;
- a child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship;
- a child living with a couple who has been treated as a “child of the family” whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not;
- a child living with an individual, who has been treated as a “child of the family”;
- an adopted or fostered child; or,
- a situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family.

The child should be a child of the family as at the date of application.

** Eldest child of the family eligible to apply for admission as defined in DENI Circular 2022/15. This wording covers:

- “only” children and is also intended to treat twins (or multiples) as joint eldest;
- Eldest can include eldest girl in the case of single sex schools;
- Where a family has not had the opportunity to have an elder child already and currently enrolled e.g. in the cases where a child is more than 7 years younger than their next sibling; cases where a family has moved residence; or cases where an older sibling cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

3 . In the event of oversubscription after the application of sub-criteria 2 (i-ii), applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter(s) of surname as entered on the pupil’s long birth certificate in the order set out below:

T M A P Z H L M c X W V M a c J U K D C S F R E O I G Y N B Q

This order was determined by random selection and witnessed by an independent adjudicator.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order.

In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of forenames will be used. In the event of the forenames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the forenames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of identical surnames and forenames, the initial of the second forename will be used. If any of these applicants do not have a second forename they will be placed ahead

of those with a second forename. If applicants have identical surnames and forenames, they will be placed in rank order of eldest child by date of birth as stated on their birth certificate and admitted in this order. If, after this process, any applicants still tie for a final place, the place(s) will be allocated by random computerised selection.

4. Applicants other than those satisfying criteria 1 – 2 (i-ii) above.

5 . If there are more applicants meeting criterion 4 above than places remaining, then the available places will be allocated by the application of the following sub-criteria in the order of priority set down below:

(i) Applicants who, at the date of application, have a child of the family* currently enrolled at the College or who will be in the coming year.

(ii) Applicants who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply** for admission to the College.

*Child of the family as defined in DENI Circular 2022/15. The Department considers that “child of the family” covers:

- a child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership;
- a child born to a co-habiting couple;
- a child born to a single parent;
- a child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil

- partnership or relationship;
- a child living with a couple who has been treated as a “child of the family” whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not;
- a child living with an individual, who has been treated as a “child of the family”;
- an adopted or fostered child; or,
- a situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family.

The child should be a child of the family as at the date of application.

** Eldest child of the family eligible to apply for admission as defined in DENI Circular 2022/15. This wording covers:

- “only” children and is also intended to treat twins (or multiples) as joint eldest;
- Eldest can include eldest girl in the case of single sex schools;
- Where a family has not had the opportunity to have an elder child already and currently enrolled e.g. in the cases where a child is more than 7 years younger than their next sibling; cases where a family has moved residence; or cases where an older sibling cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

6. In the event of oversubscription after the application of sub-criteria 5 (i-ii) applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter(s) of surname as entered on the pupil’s long birth certificate in the order set out below:

T M A P Z H L Mc X W V Mac J U K D C S F R E O I G Y N B Q

This order was determined by random selection and witnessed by an independent adjudicator.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of forenames will be used. In the event of the forenames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the forenames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of identical surnames and forenames, the initial of the second forename will be used. If any of these applicants do not have a second forename they will be placed ahead of those with a second forename. If applicants have identical surnames and forenames, they will be placed in rank order of eldest child by date of birth as stated on their birth certificate and admitted in this order. If, after this process, any applicants still tie for a final place, the place(s) will be allocated by random computerised selection.

CHILD OF THE FAMILY CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR WHO WILL BE IN THE COMING YEAR VERIFICATION

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of children transferring should be aware that if they are using criteria relating to child of the family currently enrolled at the College or who will be in the coming year, then that information will be verified. At the time of the Online Transfer Application, it is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure full details of any child of the family currently enrolled at the College (name and class) or who will be in the coming year is submitted/uploaded to the Online Transfer Application.

ELDEST/FIRST GIRL / AGE VERIFICATION

Parents/guardians of children transferring should be aware that if they are using criteria relating to a child’s age or child’s relationship, then that information will be verified. At the time of the Online Transfer Application, a copy of the child’s birth certificate and a verifying letter stating that the child is the eldest girl and that the family is known to the verifier must be submitted/uploaded to the Online Transfer Application. The verifying letter must be written on headed notepaper and signed by one of the following who is not a member of the applicant’s family:

- (i) a primary school principal
- (ii) a medical practitioner
- (iii) a solicitor
- (iv) a clergyman or equivalent

ADDRESS VERIFICATION

AT THE TIME OF ONLINE TRANSFER APPLICATION, ADDRESS VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED/UPLOADED TO THE ONLINE TRANSFER APPLICATION. ADMISSION WILL NOT BE FINALISED UNTIL VERIFICATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

All parents/guardians of children resident in Northern Ireland transferring must verify their address in Northern Ireland by providing any two of the following nine documents:

- (i) A bank or building society statement of the Parents/Guardians/Child which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- (ii) A utility bill of the Parents/Guardians (electricity, gas, television licence, telephone (landline), Land and Property Service rate demand which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- (iii) A letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;
- (iv) The child’s Medical Card;
- (v) Electoral ID card;
- (vi) Driving Licence;

- (vii) Addressed payslip;
- (viii) Mortgage statement;
- (ix) Rental agreement.

NOTES

APPLICANTS RESIDENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE TIME OF THE PROPOSED ADMISSION WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE ALL OTHER APPLICANTS.

WHEN CONSIDERING WHICH CHILDREN SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WILL ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFORMATION WHICH IS DETAILED ON THE ONLINE TRANSFER APPLICATION. PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST THEREFORE ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEIR CHILD AND RELEVANT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS CRITERIA IS INCLUDED/ SUBMITTED ON THE ONLINE TRANSFER APPLICATION.

THE PROVISION OF FALSE OR INCORRECT INFORMATION, OR THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE VERIFYING OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY THE REQUIRED DEADLINE, MAY RESULT IN EITHER THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PLACE OR THE INABILITY OF THE COLLEGE TO OFFER A PLACE.

THE COLLEGE SEEKS AN ANNUAL VOLUNTARY PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION. THE PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023 HAS BEEN SET AS FOLLOWS: £50 FOR 1 CHILD; £80 FOR 2 CHILDREN AND £100 FOR A FAMILY OF MORE THAN 2 CHILDREN. THIS IS USED TO ENHANCE AND ENRICH PUPILS' EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH ACTIVITIES THAT OTHERWISE COULD NOT BE FINANCED FROM THE SCHOOL BUDGET.

A WAITING LIST OF PUPILS WILL BE KEPT. SHOULD A VACANCY ARISE AFTER 20 MAY 2023 ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 8, INCLUDING APPLICATIONS THAT WERE INITIALLY REFUSED, NEW APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS WHERE NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA (1-6) ABOVE WILL BE APPLIED TO FILL THE AVAILABLE PLACE(S).

YEAR 8 POST PRIMARY ONLINE PORTAL APPLICATION PROCESS OPENS FROM 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2023 AND CLOSES AT 4.00PM ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

NOTE: RECEIPT OF CLAIM FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE GIVEN BY THE TEST CENTRE BUT THE INFORMATION MAY BE SHARED WITH ALL OF THE SCHOOLS TO WHICH THE CANDIDATE APPLIES.

AN APPLICANT WHO APPLIES FOR ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ENTRANCE TEST CANNOT THEN APPLY FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE SAME REASON.

- Special Circumstances are when the parents/guardians of the applicant claim that medical or other problems affected the performance of their child. It is a post examination adjustment to the grade of a candidate who is eligible for consideration. Where a need or problem is identified in advance of the test taking place, candidates must apply for Access Arrangements or, where applicable, take the Supplementary GL Entrance Assessment Test. Special Circumstances should be sought only where events on the day of the GL Entrance Assessment Test or factors unknown at the time are considered to have directly influenced the outcome of the GL Entrance Assessment Test.
- Circumstances relating to the application must apply at the time of the assessment and be supported by all relevant documentation including any and all written evidence to substantiate or support "the circumstances" as set out in the Special Circumstances application. Any written evidence provided by a relevant professional must support the circumstances as set out in the Special Circumstances application and if appropriate originate from the relevant professional with such knowledge of the circumstances. No alteration of grade will be considered without such evidence.
- An initial notification of a claim for Special Circumstances must be made by 2.00 pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022 (time being of the essence), using the appropriate form available from the College. The College will acknowledge receipt of such a notice of intent if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. No consideration of the award of grade for this application will be given at this stage.
- All documented evidence in support of any Special Circumstances claim must be submitted with the Online Transfer Application, using the SC1 Form and must be forwarded to the College via the EA as part of the normal Transfer process.
- It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure that any claim for Special Circumstances is supported by independent documentary evidence. Please refer to the Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements and Special Circumstances Policy available from the College or from the College Website.

The following information must be provided on Form SC1 in relation to the applicant:

All the applicant's school standardised test results in English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy from the beginning of Key Stage 2 period.

- (a) All test results must be dated and verified by the primary school.
- (b) Results from all tests must be accompanied by the name of the standardised test and the supplier of the test.
- (c) Results must include scores for English/Literacy and Mathematics/

Numeracy.

(d) Any other relevant material.

Failure to provide such information will result in the College being unable to consider the application for Special Circumstances.

- Parental/Guardian requests for consideration of Special Circumstances for a child will have their claims considered before the application of the Admissions Criteria.
- The authorised sub-committee of the Board of Governors, on the basis of all documented evidence available to them at the time of reaching their decisions, will decide the grade to be used in the application of the Admissions Criteria to applicants under Special Circumstances applications. The Admissions Criteria shall then be applied.

SPECIAL PROVISION

Special Provision will be made by the Board of Governors for:

- a) Children who are transferring from primary schools outside Northern Ireland or who have recently moved to Northern Ireland.
- b) Children who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- c) Children whose educational provision to date has been **negatively** affected by serious medical or other problems supported by independent, verifiable documentary evidence and who, as a consequence, may have been unable to sit either the GL Entrance Test or the GL Supplementary Test.

Applicants from categories a) and b) above, who wish to apply under Special Provision do not need to take the GL Entrance Assessment or the Supplementary Assessment unless their parents/guardians so wish, in which case the GL Entrance Assessment grade obtained will also be considered.

The parents/guardians of Applicants claiming Special Provision must complete SP1 Form available from the College stating the case for eligibility under this category and return it to the College by 2.00 pm on Friday 17 February 2023. If a child is moving/arrives in Northern Ireland after this date, claims for Special Provision must be made directly to Thornhill College and the EA School Admissions Office notified. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide precise reasons why the applicant did not take part in the GL Entrance Assessment and to submit appropriate documentary evidence relating to their specific reason for Special Provision application, in order to assist the Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors with its deliberations.

The authorised Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors will expect to see any recent primary school reports and may require an assessment of the applicant's ability to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the College. The Admissions Committee will decide

whether applicants shall be admitted on the basis that they fall within the ability range of other pupils being admitted in that year. Thereafter applications will be assessed by the application of sub-criteria as set out above.

NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS APPLICANTS WHO HAVE A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WILL HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH BY THE EA UNDER SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS AND ARE SUPERNUMERARY TO THE COLLEGE'S ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT NUMBERS.

YEAR	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2020/21	200	227	202*
2021/22	200	228	203*
2022/23	220	263	222*

* Includes figures exceeding the school's approved admissions number due to either statemented children or successful appeals.

Admission to Years 9 – 12

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1. Their admission will not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number;
2. Their admission will not cause the particular year group to exceed the admissions number set for it, at its time of entry. This limitation will not apply to pupils recently come to reside in the area;
3. In the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Where there are more applicants who meet these criteria than there are places, preference will be given as follows:

- (i) Applicants who held a place in a grammar school elsewhere and who have moved into the catchment area of the College.
- (ii) Applicants whose sibling(s) are pupils of the College in the year in which the application is made.
- (iii) Applicants who had originally applied for a place in the College and whose grade was equal to that of the minimum scored by those accepted that year.

Applications for admission at the start of a school year will normally be considered in late August. Applications for admission during the school year will be considered as soon as possible after the application is received.



*A child is Like
a butterfly in the wind.*

*Some can fly higher than others,
but each one flies the best it can.*

Why compare one against the other?

Each one is Different

Each one is Special

Each one is Beautiful



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became
a midwife
Deirdre Gill

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils

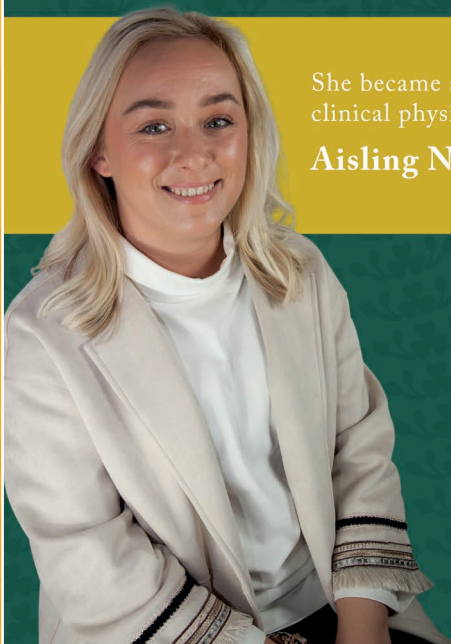


She became a
university professor
and Mental Health
Champion for N Ireland
Siobhan O'Neill

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became a
clinical physiologist
Aisling Ni Mhora

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils



She became
a barrister-at-law
Linda Robinson

#YouCanToo



THORNHILL COLLEGE
142 Culmore Road, Derry. BT48 8JF

T: 028 71355800

F: 028 71353311

E: info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk

Principal
Ms Sharon Mallett BSSc MSc MSc PGDFHE PQH



@ThornhillDerry