

# THORNHILL COLLEGE

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



Prospectus 2021



## 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

As you walk through the doors of Thornhill College, an all girls' Catholic Grammar School, the Mercy Ethos permeates all aspects of life. The welfare of every girl is paramount to everything we do and now more than ever our children deserve a calm and caring environment where they can feel safe and secure.

Here in Thornhill College we want every pupil to be happy and to develop meaningful relationships. We are a community which recognises the uniqueness and individuality of each pupil in our care and will reflect upon and evaluate the many gifts and talents of your daughters. Thornhill's welcoming and nurturing environment will provide a multitude of opportunities for our pupils to grasp with both hands. As a listening school we value the partnership we have with parents, pupils and other stakeholders as we continuously reflect upon and evaluate our provision to facilitate the best learning experience for each child as they embark on their 7-year journey with us.

Whilst academic achievement is central to life in Thornhill College we nurture the holistic development of all our pupils – emotional, social, physical and spiritual development. Thornhill pupils are renowned for their generosity of spirit and for their sense of social justice for those less fortunate in our society. Promoting emotional resilience and well-being will equip pupils with skills for life. Now is the time to ensure that we restore mental wealth in our children, so that their aspirations for their future, can be a vision that becomes, one day, a reality.

Girls who come to Thornhill College can be assured of a wonderful educational experience. Our mission is to equip pupils with the skill set to strive to be the very best they can and realise their true potential.

We are very proud of our school and our pupils and in the absence of our traditional Open Day where you would be able to experience this first hand, I would ask that you visit our school website and watch our short video which will give you a flavour of what Thornhill has to offer.

**Principal**  
**Ms Sharon Mallett**



# A Welcoming School

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is an important decision. Thornhill College offers excellent teaching, outstanding achievements and standards together with 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 students of Thornhill College.

## 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. 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.

### 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**





## Year 8 Summer School

To welcome our new year 8 pupils into Thornhill College we run a Summer School Scheme at the beginning of July. All new pupils are invited to attend and take part in a varied programme of activities that are designed to help them settle into their new school.

The activities include:

- Drama
- Dance
- Cookery
- Sports
- Games
- Science
- ICT
- Art

Pupils also get to meet members of staff, navigate their way around and explore our fabulous school building and most importantly get to know their new classmates.



# Head Girl

My name is Taylor Brown and I am absolutely honoured to have been elected Senior Head Girl of Thornhill College. I'm aware of just how challenging it can be to decide which secondary level school is the school for you, even more so during these unprecedented times. However, I can assure you that looking back on my seven years as a Thornhill girl, I cannot speak highly enough of the experiences I gained by attending such a prestigious, yet nurturing and all-inclusive school. I definitely made the right decision.

From the very first day in Year 8, Thornhill provides a hardworking and undoubtedly supportive environment for all students to thrive, both academically and pastorally, as the consistent guidance from teachers ensures that every pupil achieves her full potential. Every member of staff always has pupils' best interests at heart.

In fact, if it wasn't for being an active member of our school community or availing of the wide variety of opportunities Thornhill has provided, then I would not have transformed from a reserved and quiet girl into the confident, caring and determined young lady I am today.

These experiences create a great sense of school spirit and pride, from being a member of the Northern Ireland Championship Bar Mock Trial Team to the school being awarded 2019 BBC School Choir of the Year, the list of opportunities are endless.

I will forever be grateful for the lifelong memories, friends and skills I have developed throughout my time in Thornhill, all of which I will certainly carry into the future. I can guarantee that if you decide to come to Thornhill you will gain the same experiences and sense of fulfilment as I.

I wish you the best of luck with your decision making and I cannot stress enough just how delighted Thornhill will be to have you as a member of our school community.

**Taylor Brown**  
**Head Girl**





A young woman with long red hair, wearing a dark green school blazer, a white shirt, and a blue and yellow striped tie, is speaking at a wooden podium. She is smiling and looking slightly to her right. The background features a large, colorful stained glass window with geometric patterns in blue, yellow, and red. To the right, a large wooden cross is mounted on the wall, and a decorative branch with warm white lights and red berries is visible. A small framed picture hangs on the wall below the cross.

## 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

Thornhill College has an excellent reputation for providing outstanding Pastoral Care. The welfare of each girl is paramount to everything we do. Placing considerable importance on the wellbeing of pupils is fully integrated into our daily routines, our curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It permeates all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every teacher in the school.

**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.**





# 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  
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

## PE Uniform

Green T-shirt  
Plain black leggings  
White socks  
Green and black half zip  
(optional)





# 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.



# Year 8 Words of Wisdom

“I have really enjoyed my time at Thornhill so far. Even though there are some restrictions because of Covid our teachers still manage to make things fun.” **Amelie**

“I enjoy most of my subjects but Art has to be my favourite. I loved when we got to decorate the windows of our form class during World Mental Health Day. It was lovely to see all the messages and images from the different classes. It certainly brightened things up.” **Sophie**

“I was certainly nervous about transferring from primary school to Thornhill but I really shouldn't have been. Everyone is so welcoming and the staff have worked hard to make it enjoyable in these strange times.” **Teaghan**

“It has been great to be introduced to the new subjects. I absolutely love Technology and Design. We get to do and make lots of fun things. We also have a great teacher.” **Nicole**

“I really enjoy when we get to go outside and the orienteering during PE class has been fantastic!” **Maebh**

“Overall my experience has been amazing.” **Ava**



## Top Tips for Primary 7 Girls

- ‘Use your timetable every evening to pack your bag for the next day.’
- ‘Use your daybook to keep track of your homework.’
- ‘Keep your bus pass somewhere safe.’
- ‘If you are unsure of something just ask as the teachers are there to help.’
- ‘If you have any worries or fears chat to your form teacher.’
- ‘Chat with the girls in your class and you’ll quickly make new friends.’
- ‘Treat others the way you wish to be treated’
- ‘Be yourself!’





## 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
- Library Skills
- French
- Irish
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development & Social Education
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology & Design



- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business and Communication Systems
- Business Studies
- Careers Programme
- Chemistry
- Child Development
- Drama
- Digital Technology
- English Language
- English Literature
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- Learning for Life and Work
- History
- French
- Irish
- Spanish



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





- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development & Social Education
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Religious Education
- Science (Double and Triple Award)
- Technology & Design



- History
- 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<br>Percentage of Pupils achieving<br>7+ Grades A*-C including<br>Maths and English |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 2017-2018   | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
| 98  | 97        | 98        |

| Percentage of Pupils<br>Achieving Grades A*-C |           |
|---|-----------|
| 7 or more                                     | 5 or more |
| 98%   | 99%       |



**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                         | 95.2  | 100    | 100   |
| Biology                              | 100   | 100    | 100   |
| Business Studies                     | 72.2  | 88.9   | 100   |
| Chemistry                            | 100   | 100    | 100   |
| Child Development                    | 92.9  | 100    | 100   |
| Digital Technology                   | 93.2  | 98.3   | 100   |
| Drama                                | 86.7  | 100    | 100   |
| English Language                     | 89.4  | 100    | 100   |
| English Literature                   | 83.1  | 99.5   | 100   |
| French                               | 64.5  | 90.3   | 100   |
| Geography                            | 94.3  | 98.1   | 100   |
| History                              | 71.6  | 99.1   | 100   |
| Irish                                | 97    | 100    | 100   |
| Mathematics                          | 89.9  | 99     | 100   |
| Mathematics Further                  | 75    | 97.5   | 100   |
| Music                                | 89.5  | 100    | 100   |
| Physics                              | 100   | 100    | 100   |
| Religious Studies                    | 89.8  | 98.1   | 100   |
| Science                              | 73.3  | 96.1   | 100   |
| Spanish                              | 71.6  | 98.2   | 100   |
| Sport/PE Studies                     | 94.7  | 100    | 100   |
| Statistics                           | 89.5  | 100    | 100   |





## A Level Percentage of Pupils achieving grades A\* - C

3+ A Levels at Grades A\*-C

2+ A Levels at Grades A\*-E

98%

100%

### YEAR 14 A LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2020

| Subject                   | %A*B          | %A*C         | %A*E          |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Art and Design            | 100           | 100          | 100           |
| Biology                   | 75            | 97.2         | 100           |
| Business Studies          | 86.7          | 93.3         | 100           |
| Chemistry                 | 80            | 92           | 100           |
| Digital Technology        | 66.7          | 100          | 100           |
| English Literature        | 75.9          | 100          | 100           |
| French                    | 100           | 100          | 100           |
| Geography                 | 91.9          | 100          | 100           |
| Government and Politics   | 72            | 94           | 100           |
| Health and Social Care DA | 94.4          | 100          | 100           |
| Health and Social Care SA | 100           | 100          | 100           |
| History                   | 80.6          | 100          | 100           |
| Irish                     | 92.6          | 100          | 100           |
| Life & Health Science DA  | 90            | 95           | 100           |
| Mathematics               | 82.1          | 89.3         | 100           |
| Music                     | 72.7          | 100          | 100           |
| Physics                   | 73.3          | 93.3         | 100           |
| Psychology                | 69.2          | 96.2         | 100           |
| Religious Studies         | 77.4          | 98.1         | 100           |
| Spanish                   | 83.3          | 100          | 100           |
| Sport / P.E. Studies      | 100           | 100          | 100           |
|                           |               |              |               |
| <b>BTEC</b>               | <b>%Dist*</b> | <b>%Dist</b> | <b>%Merit</b> |
| Information Technology    | 11.1          | 33.3         | 55.6          |
|                           |               |              |               |



# Parental Viewpoint

'My daughter's first day was preceded by nerves and apprehension. This soon disappeared as she settled in quickly. From the friendly Senior girls showing the class around to her form teacher, everyone was very welcoming.'

'My daughter came home happy and excited telling us all about her new school and the new friends she had made. She has enjoyed starting new subjects and all her teachers have been helpful and supportive since day one'.

'My daughter is enjoying her time at Thornhill College. She has settled very well since term began in September. The support gained from her teachers has allowed her to make the transition from primary school quite easily. She has made lots of new friends in her Form Class. She is enjoying the wide range of new subjects that she is being taught. She is very happy and proud to be a student at Thornhill College'.

'Like all first years, my daughter found the whole journey of starting a new school and meeting new classmates and teachers all a bit daunting at first, and of course this was compounded with the pandemic but we found the communication between school and ourselves to be first class. This gives us confidence that we can build a good relationship with the staff going forward'.

'My daughter has settled really well into Thornhill life. She has progressed well and made new friends. Above all she looks forward to setting off on her school day and returns home laughing and smiling!'





## A Supportive School

The approach to education in Thornhill College is holistic. We embrace inclusion, striving to guarantee that all students are completely involved in the life of the school and have access to the full curriculum and facilities.

Pupil progress is monitored and difficulties identified so that, as far as possible, each pupil has the necessary support to thrive and succeed. While problems relating to work or study will be dealt with through extra guidance from the class teacher concerned, it is recognised that some pupils need extra support. This is provided by the learning support department and the classroom assistants to allow remediation in areas where pupils are experiencing difficulties.

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



# 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.

## The Daybook

The individual daybook 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.



## 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.



## Twitter

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



Follow us  
@ThornhillDerry



# 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
- 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.

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.

School trips both locally and abroad provide our students with a unique and rewarding learning experience. In recent years students have travelled to France, China, Russia, Poland, USA, London, Austria and many other places.



# School Leaver Destinations

# CLASS OF 2020



- Edge Hill University
- Edinburgh Napier
- Glasgow Caledonian
- Kings College London
- Leeds Art University
- Liverpool Hope University
- Liverpool John Moore's University
- Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
- London South Bank
- Cardiff University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Queen's University Belfast
- Queen Margaret Edinburgh
- The University of Manchester
- Ulster University

- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Dundee
- University of East London
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leicester
- University of Liverpool
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Stirling
- University of Sunderland
- University of Wolverhampton
- NUI Galway
- St Mary's University College Belfast
- Deloitte Bright Start Higher Apprenticeship
- North West Regional College
- Gap Year

# Past Pupil Journey

The possibilities and opportunities provided at Thornhill College have enabled me to become a current Medical Student in Queen's University, Belfast. To attempt to tell you about my journey and the opportunities I availed of would require me to write a book, however I would like to share a few of my treasured memories.

Through Junior school I took part in every presentation, competition and trip available and my advice is so should you! Every day was unique and I ended the fantastic three years by being appointed Junior Head Girl. During my middle school years, I suffered with severe acne and the support I received was second to none. There was no problem too trivial. The staff noticed me well before I had time to speak up and I was treated with such care and respect.

My final years in sixth form are my fondest memories of all. Along with the stress that A level study brings I performed in the Christmas Show, danced the night away at our Formal, was placed silver at the Biology Olympiad, became a primary maths tutor and was appointed Deputy Head Girl. I even enjoyed a wonderful trip to Philadelphia and then completed my studies by being awarded the coveted JP Mc Manus All Ireland Scholarship.

Sport was ingrained in me from day one and I was involved in the athletics, cross country and netball teams. I competed at District and Ulster level travelling to Liverpool with the netball team. I may not have been the best in any particular sport, but my closest life-long friends were made during practice that I will cherish forever.

They always say you don't realize how good school is until you leave but this was not the case for me.

I loved every minute of it! Throughout the years there I never realised I was making the memories I did, I just knew I was having fun. As the years progressed what were once teachers are now people I know I will be hearing from for the rest of my life.

Thornhill College shaped me into the young woman I am today. I am proud of who I am and what I have achieved and will achieve and I have to give thanks to such an amazing school for getting me there. They taught me that *Dreams do not work unless you do* and instilled in me a fierce desire to achieve my lifetime ambition of becoming a doctor. I know that they can help you achieve your dreams too.

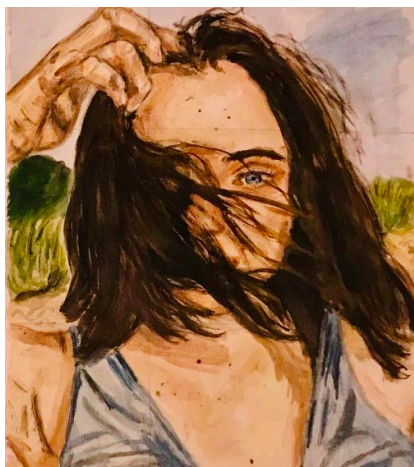


Nicole Hamill Gormley











# Admissions Criteria September 2021

## 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](mailto:info@thornhill.derry.ni.sch.uk)

**Web:** [www.thornhillcollege.org.uk](http://www.thornhillcollege.org.uk)

**Principal:** Ms S Mallett BSc, MSc, PGDFHE, PQH

**Chairperson of the Board of Governors:** Mrs E McCloskey

**Girls Age Range:** 11 – 18

**Admissions Number:** 200

**Enrolment Number:** 1410

**Roll Number:** 1404

**Due to current Covid-19 restrictions this year, we are unable to facilitate our annual Open Night. Prospective pupils and parents, are most welcome to please visit our school website to access video footage for a flavour of all that Thornhill College has to offer: [www.thornhillcollege.org.uk](http://www.thornhillcollege.org.uk)**

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

The Board of Governors has determined that, in light of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, a temporary arrangement has been implemented during the academic year 2021-22 with the removal of academic selection from the Admissions Criteria based on the results of GL Entrance Assessment.

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 2021

- (1) Priority will be given to those applicants who have selected Thornhill College as their 1st Preference school.
- (2) Applicants who have a sister/half-sister/step sister or legally adopted sister presently enrolled in the College or who will be in the coming year.
- (3) Applicants who are the first girl in the family to transfer to second level education.
- (4) Applicants who are registered for entitlement

to Free School Meals at the time of completing the Online Transfer Application or on any date up to and including 12th April 2021, no later than 4.00 pm and who have communicated within their application that they are listed on the EA register as being entitled to Free School Meals.

- (5) In the event of over subscription in any one criterion when applied in the order set, the selection of available places will be carried out using a method of random selection.

The following random selection process will be applied in the event of over subscription in any of the criteria listed based on the initial letter of the pupil's surname as stated on her long birth certificate in the order set below.

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

The order was determined by a random selection of the letters of the alphabet 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.

## ELDEST GIRL 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 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 attached/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:

- a) a primary school principal
- b) a medical practitioner
- c) a solicitor
- d) a clergyman or equivalent

## ADDRESS VERIFICATION

**THE ADDRESS VERIFICATION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ACTUAL ADMISSION STAGE. ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED AND NOT FACSIMILES OR PHOTOCOPIES. 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, Land and Property Service rate demand) showing 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/ ATTACHED 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.**

**A WAITING LIST OF PUPILS WILL BE KEPT. SHOULD A VACANCY ARISE AFTER 19th JUNE 2021, 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 TREATED EQUALLY AND THE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA APPLIED TO FILL THE AVAILABLE PLACE(S).**

**THE COLLEGE SEEKS A PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION OF £50 PER FAMILY WHICH IS USED TO ENHANCE AND ENRICH PUPILS' EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH ACTIVITIES THAT OTHERWISE COULD NOT BE FINANCED FROM THE SCHOOL BUDGET.**

## 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 |
|---------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2018/19 | 200            | 240                                | 203*             |
| 2019/20 | 200            | 210                                | 201*             |
| 2020/21 | 200            | 227                                | 202*             |

**\* 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. If at the time of consideration of applications there are more eligible applicants than places available, criteria 2-4 of the admissions criteria for entry to Year 8 will be applied.





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

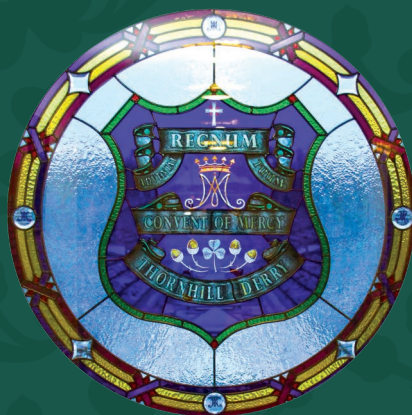
*Some can fly higher than others,  
but each one flies the best it can.*

*Why compare one against the other?*

*Each one is Different*

*Each one is Special*

*Each one is Beautiful*



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