

TWOFOUR

19th September 2024,

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thornhill Community Academy – Channel 4 Television Series

I am writing to you from the television production company, Twofour.

We are the company who made *Educating Yorkshire* for Channel 4 over a decade ago. We are delighted to announce we are working with Thornhill again to make a brand new documentary series for Channel 4. We will be spending the next couple of months getting to know the staff and the students.

For those of you who are not aware, *'Educating Yorkshire'* was a Bafta and Emmy award-winning documentary series that captured everyday life at Thornhill. It featured inspirational teachers who approached their work with passion and enthusiasm and was praised by both audiences and the teaching profession for its sympathetic portrayal of young people. We again look forward to showing what school life is like at Thornhill in 2024/25 in a similar way. The series will be made in full collaboration with the school covering different aspects of school life: from class work and exam pressure, to friendship and fitting in. We have a duty of care to all students and staff and their safety and wellbeing will be our priority. We hope that it will be optimistic and celebratory, and will sensitively explore the experiences of both staff and students at the school.

The main method of filming will be with cameras which we fix to the walls at specific locations around the school. All these locations will be made clear to students and staff in advance of filming. The cameras will not be filming all the time and we will always endeavour to alert staff and students when filming is taking place. This is an unobtrusive way of filming which will allow the staff and students to continue with their school day with minimal disruption. However, this method is not impersonal; we will spend time getting to know students and staff throughout the series, and there will always be members of the team on hand during filming.

In addition to our fixed cameras, we will occasionally do some filming with handheld cameras and interviews with staff and students. This additional filming will primarily take place in the school grounds, outside of lessons to ensure that they are not disruptive to the students' work. However, every so often we may feel it's important and appropriate to follow students in other parts of their lives. If we want to do any filming outside school with your child, we will ensure that you are aware of this. We know that your child's school work is very important and we will ensure that this remains their priority.

Although the filming will be focused on a representative group of students, other students will also feature in smaller, incidental ways (e.g. walking down the corridor, in class or through friendships).

IF FOR ANY REASON YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE APPEAR INCIDENTALLY IN THE SERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE PRODUCTION TEAM EITHER BY EMAIL (school@twofour.co.uk) OR BY PHONE 07387 259 808 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2024.

If you are happy for your child to be filmed there is no need to do anything.

We do not yet know which students will feature prominently in the series. In the coming weeks, we will ensure that we contact parents/guardians of any child that might appear in more than an incidental way.

We expect the series to take place as follows:

- **September to 25th October 2024** - We will spend time in the school meeting staff, students and parents. We will find out which students are happy to be filmed.
- **4th November to 20th December 2024** – The main filming will take place using the fixed cameras.
- **January 6th to end of Summer Term 2025** – It is likely there will be some additional filming with students at other relevant times, such as school trips, the prom and results day.
- The series is expected to be broadcast in the **Autumn of 2025** so that it does not interfere with GCSEs

On Weds 9th October 2024 between 4pm and 7pm we will be holding a drop in Q and A session in the school hall to give all parents/guardians the chance to ask the production team about the series. We hope that you will be able to come.

We hope that this will prove to be an exciting and valuable experience for all involved.

Yours faithfully,

Kate Walker
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