



6th July 2026,

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 the last two series of *Educating Yorkshire*. Following on from the success of the last series, which received a BAFTA nomination and was widely acclaimed, we are delighted to confirm that we are back working with the school, to make a new series for Channel 4.

We will be spending the rest of term carrying out research and 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, first broadcast in 2013 and then again in 2025. 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 recommend you watch the previous series, available on Channel 4 on demand. With our new series, we look forward to showing what school life is like at Thornhill in 2026/27 in a similar way. The series will be made in full collaboration with the school covering different aspects of school life: for example from class work and exam pressure, to friendship and fitting in. We have a duty of care to all students and staff that take part and their safety and wellbeing will be our priority. We hope that the series will be optimistic and celebratory, and 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. 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 and agree to it. We know that your child's school work is very important and we will ensure that this remains their priority.

Our filming is planned to take place for seven weeks from early September 2026 until the Autumn half term. We will be in touch over the next few weeks with more information about the production and we may speak to your child in school and/or contact you over the next few weeks to discuss the series.

As in previous series, filming will be focused on a representative group of students, and other students will also feature in smaller, incidental ways (e.g. walking down the corridor, in class).

IF FOR ANY REASON OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO LET US KNOW THAT 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 FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2026.

If you are happy for your child to be filmed there is no need to do anything and we will be in touch at a later date with more information.

On both the 7th and the 14th of July 2026 between 4pm and 6pm we will be holding a meeting in the school to give all parents/guardians the chance to meet the production team and raise any questions you may have 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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