



**THORNHILL
COMMUNITY
ACADEMY**

A SHARE Academy

PROSPECTUS

BE NICE, WORK HARD



OFSTED QUOTES

“ Homework is a regular and purposeful activity that builds on pupils’ knowledge or prepares them for the next step in learning.

“ Pupils are polite and respectful of one another’s differences. They are developing into citizens with personal and social skills that are an asset to their community and country.

“ Pupils appreciate leaders’ and staff’s consistent application of the school’s rules. The school is a calm and orderly place.

“ Leaders’ drive to raise standards is based on an accurate understanding of the school’s current performance. They know what needs to be done and systematically plan and introduce new approaches.

“ The student well-being service ensures that pupils’ emotional and mental health needs are well supported.

WELCOME TO THORNHILL COMMUNITY ACADEMY

At Thornhill Community Academy we have a firm commitment to achieving our goal of becoming an outstanding Academy at the heart of our community which is embodied by our motto of 'A School, A Family, A Community'.

Our vision is to ensure that we improve the life chances of all our students by ensuring that excellent teaching and learning, within a safe and inclusive environment, is at the heart of everything we do.

We have two very simple rules that any person who steps into the Academy abides by, and that we fundamentally believe are of the utmost importance...

...WORK HARD, AND BE NICE.

Strong classroom practice, combined with an appropriate and personalised curriculum, rigorous monitoring of progress, positive behaviour for learning and support from home ensure the best possible outcomes for all. Our Academy is a caring and ordered community with an atmosphere of calm and purposeful learning. Students are treated as individuals; we recognise and celebrate different abilities and interests and believe that everyone can fulfil their potential through dedication and hard work.

We aim to create a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for achieving excellence. We work hard to ensure every young person is happy, safe and successful by living our values and working together. Students are motivated by a strong desire to be the best they can be; they leave as good human beings capable of changing the world.

WHO WE ARE, AND WHAT WE DO...

The drive behind everything at Thornhill Community Academy.



OUR MISSION

All students, no matter what their background or circumstance, gain the skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications they need to lead happy and successful lives and to contribute positively to society.

WHAT WE ARE

A SCHOOL

All students receive the best education possible that facilitates them to achieve their full potential in a safe, stimulating, aspirational and purposeful environment.

A FAMILY

Every member of the Academy family plays a significant part in its success. Together we achieve excellence, celebrate diversity and succeed within a harmonious environment.

A COMMUNITY

We all share a love for, and a commitment to, the community we serve. We promote fairness, cohesion, cooperation and community spirit in all that we do.

BE NICE

WHAT WE DO

Being nice is about committing to ensure that we will be the very best version of ourselves. Kindness is incredibly important in an ever-changing, challenging world, and our students and staff commit to ensuring that we do our little bit to make the world better for each other where we can.

This could be simply holding a door for someone, asking about someone's day, making sure our friends and family are proud of us, working incredibly hard in something we are struggling with or always giving 100% to allow everyone to participate and excel. It is about being honest, open and proud of our achievements, and celebrating others' successes, as well as our own.

WORK HARD

There will always be aspects of being at school that are a challenge, and that is very normal. We recognise the need to always give our very best efforts however we feel, or whatever challenges we are facing. Whether it's revising for an assessment, completing a tough piece of homework or pushing ourselves to improve our attendance, hard work is at the core of all we do. It's something we work on, pride ourselves on and understand the benefits of.



A POSITIVE COMMUNITY

We strive to help students to develop a sense of social responsibility and global citizenship through engagement with our local community and partnerships with local primary schools.

Thornhill Community Academy is very much an Academy at the heart of our community and a variety of local organisations and cultural groups visit us to lead assemblies and activities. The PE Department organises events for local primary schools through our Sports Leadership Partnership and students benefit from our excellent links with local, regional and national organisations.

Student Voice

We value the input of students in the current life and future direction of the Academy as our students are at the centre of all we do. Our Student Leadership Programme offers opportunities to serve on the Academy Parliament and Junior Leadership Team, and students are encouraged to take on a range of responsibilities including Head Boy, Head Girl and Academy Prefect roles. Students also enjoy actively getting involved in charity work and fundraising days, and their opinions are crucial.

Partnering with Parents

Strong partnerships and engagement with our parents and carers are vital in ensuring students thrive at Thornhill Community Academy. Indeed, the 'triangle of trust' - between parents and carers, Academy staff and students - is critical in ensuring students are happy, safe and achieving well. Parents and carers take a crucial role in ensuring that our extremely high expectations are met.

Parents have access to their child's form tutor, their teachers and their child's Student Manager, who provides a point of contact when communicating with the Academy. They also receive regular progress reports which indicate whether progress is in line with expectations. Regular Consultation Evenings provide an opportunity for parents to meet with all of their child's teachers and we strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We believe that all young people deserve the highest quality of education which will engage, inspire and challenge and ultimately lead to academic excellence.

We are committed to being an inclusive Academy for all. Every student is encouraged to aim high and is motivated to achieve their full potential. We provide a rich, broad and balanced curriculum which promotes success for all students.

Key Stage 3

Students in Key Stage 3 study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Spanish, French or Urdu, Music, Art & Design, Physical Education, Information & Communication Technology and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education.

Additional support and alternative provision is provided for those students who may need it in order to ensure excellent progress is made by all.

Key Stage 4

Students in Key Stage 4 study the following core subjects:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Physical Education (PE)**

In addition to this students can select to specialise in following a wide range of exciting and diverse subjects from both an academic and vocational pathway.

Alongside option choices for Key Stage 4, students are provided with independent careers advice and support to ensure that they make good decisions to prepare them appropriately for future study.



EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT

Behaviour

Behaviour is a crucial part of ensuring that a school operates in a way that teachers are able to teach, and students are able to learn. At TCA, we have extremely high expectations of students' conduct and have very clear systems in order to ensure that low-level disruption does not affect students' learning. Classrooms and corridors are quiet and purposeful and excellent behaviour is driven by students and staff working together towards our common goal.

Care and support

We are committed to providing exceptional care and support, ensuring our students' well-being is the foundation of their success. We believe our nurturing pastoral care and bespoke student support, combined with our rigorous standards of behaviour, help to ensure that all students achieve their full potential.

We promote students' wellbeing and mental health through a wide range of support systems and are committed to ensuring that students attend an Academy where hard work, excellent behaviour, mutual respect and awareness of all members of the Academy are celebrated. We look after each other, and support students through the ups and downs of their time with us. We expect them to be nice and work hard, and will ensure that we do the same for them.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

We have a dedicated, non-teaching pastoral team who play a key role in providing support and guidance for our students. Our Student Manager Team monitor students' progress academically, but also work hard to ensure that behaviour and engagement are exceptional. A strong sense of belonging is important, and the pastoral team will ensure that students know where to go, what to do and who to speak to, should they need any help at all.

Excellent Careers Guidance

We have an award-winning careers service and support network in place at the Academy. Students benefit from our excellent links with employers and education providers, providing many opportunities to enrich their knowledge and understanding of post-16 education and the world of work. Through our excellent careers advice service we are able to ensure the best outcomes for all students and a large percentage of our students continue their journey on to higher education.





ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Learning beyond the classroom is a really important aspect of our Academy. We provide a wealth of enriching opportunities that extend learning, improve teamwork and enable students to develop broader personal and social skills alongside academic rigour. Overseas excursions and educational visits deepen cultural understanding and broaden horizons. Within the Academy, regular enrichment days and visiting speakers further enhance the skills and aspirations of our students.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Every day the Academy provides the opportunity for students to participate in one of the many clubs and societies held before the Academy day, during social times or at the end of the day. Utilising our first class facilities we aim to inspire students and to build on their talents with a range of extra-curricular opportunities, encouraging all students to be involved.

Our thriving Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been very popular, giving students the opportunity to travel, develop a wide range of skills and be successful in all areas of this award.

Sporting Excellence

A range of sporting teams compete all year round, both locally and nationally, with opportunities for all students to take part. Our excellent indoor facilities include a four court sports hall for badminton, basketball, indoor football and indoor cricket, plus a gymnasium, which is utilised for trampolining,

fitness and dodgeball. Outdoor facilities boast two football pitches, athletics track, training grid, rounders pitches and a multipurpose, all-weather games area for hockey, netball, football and cricket.

Additional Tuition

In addition to normal lessons, many students also receive supplementary support either through small group or individual tuition sessions during the Academy day or after school. This may be, for example, to support a child to be a more confident reader, or it could be to support a student as they prepare for examinations. Support is available, encouraged and is designed to genuinely benefit students.

SHARE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



John McNally
CEO of SHARE MAT

Our trust aims to provide the very best education we can for all the children and young people we serve, regardless of background or ability. We want your son or daughter to enjoy coming to school, to feel safe and experience an exciting curriculum that stimulates their interests, develops their skills and prepares them for the next stage of their education.

Being a member of a multi-academy trust brings many benefits. Our staff work together, to share expertise and resources, supporting each other to be the very best we can be, never forgetting that we are here to help pupils get the very best start in life.

I do hope I get the chance to meet you shortly and you can see for yourself the fantastic work Royds Hall does for our students every day.

Our Vision

We want to transform education for the better, raising aspirations in our diverse communities, increasing knowledge and developing the skills our children and young people need to make their lives rewarding and successful.

Our schools will be the first choice for parents because we provide a safe, nurturing environment, excellent academic standards, a rich curriculum, first class support and a wealth of opportunities to learn and grow.

We believe that helping people feel valued increases the chances of them achieving their personal best, which is the highest standard we can expect anybody to achieve.

Our Mission

We seek for every one of our students and members of staff to enjoy coming to our schools and for all of us to try our very best in everything we do.

We help everybody gain the knowledge, skills and habits that can lead to a happy and successful life, both now and in the future.

We summarise this mission as:
**VALUING PEOPLE, SUPPORTING
PERSONAL BEST**

Discover

Our students should:

- Discover the interests and talents that will help them be successful now and in the future;
- Never stop learning about themselves and the world around them.

Our staff should:

- Continuously seek and test out best practice, always seeking to improve the education and support we can offer all our pupils.

Commit

We all should:

- Try our best in every activity and keep trying until we cannot reasonably do any more;
- Accept responsibility for our actions and efforts;
- Provide moral leadership and act when we can change something for the better.

Care

We all should:

- Respect and care about ourselves, our environment, our future and our personal wellbeing;
- Care about the wellbeing of others;
- Live by the shared values that are necessary for a healthy community;
- Provide a safe and caring environment for learning and work;
- Be respectful of different cultures, beliefs or personal characteristics.



OUR STAFF

We are the Teaching School Hub for Calderdale and Kirklees. As such, we are at the forefront of new initiatives to improve professional development opportunities.

In our first year, we recruited over 500 teachers to our early careers programmes and over 250 to National Professional Qualifications (NPQs).

We believe high quality training is essential to deliver our aim of offering the best possible education for our pupils. We will invest in staff career development and give them the opportunity to develop colleagues in turn.

